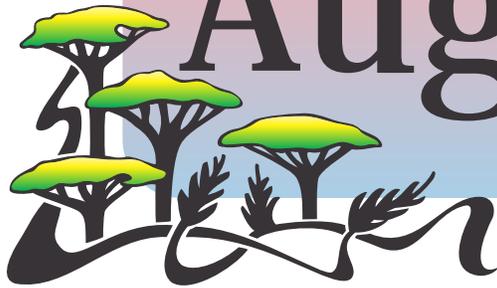


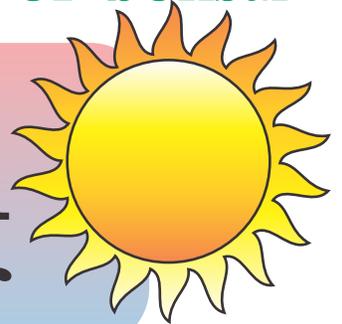


# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

...to disseminate knowledge, encourage others  
and create interest in the art of bonsai



## August 2011 Newsletter



### NEXT EVENT

## The Annual PBS Picnic And Flea Market At The Grealish Farm

See page 5 and 6  
for directions

Saturday, August 13, 2011 • Starting at 11am

Bob & Rose Grealish are hosting our annual Society picnic at their idyllic country farm, where you can admire superior bonsai, horse-trade with your fellow PBS members and pick up tips and trees. Bring your family and help us celebrate summer, pack a swimming suit and enjoy the pool. Bring chairs, a table if you want to sell stuff, plus the customary \$10.00 PBS table fee and



Photo by Cindie Bonomi

something delicious to share with old and new bonsai friends. (a tithe for President Dave in the form of a Chocolate Chip Cookie is always appreciated!) There is ample parking. PBS provides snacks and soft drinks.

### NEXT MEETING

## Trash To Treasure

No, not dumpster diving!

But do check out the late summer deals at local garden centers and bring in your deals/steals for a major make-over into a potential bonsai show tree!



Wednesday, September 21, 2011 • 7pm • Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

Please check our newly updated website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>



# The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

**Editor:**  
Cindie Bonomi

**Copy Editor:**  
Jay Miller

**Graphic Design:**  
Cindie Bonomi

**Contributors:**  
Jay Miller  
Dave Metzgar  
Mike Stern  
Linda Veltri

**Photography:**  
Cindie Bonomi

**Publishing & Circulation:**  
Jay Miller

Published periodically (10 issues a year) by PBS for members and other bonsai enthusiasts. It's our sixth decade of advancing the art of bonsai in the Tri-State area.

**Deadlines:**  
Generally two months prior to issue date.

**Submissions:**  
Please submit Photos or Artwork in JPG format and Copy in Microsoft Word.

## A Note From Dave:

In the heat of August.....

Things tend to slow down a bit in the heat of summer. That doesn't mean you can neglect your trees, not even for a day. Just as you don't want to be out in the afternoon sun all day when the temperature soars into the 90's, your trees may not be too happy either if left out there to bake. The location, size of the tree, type of tree are all factors in how much water they need. Know your trees. Check them in the morning for dryness and also in the afternoon. If the soil is dry a half inch down, water them until water drains out of the bottom of the pot. If you are using a soft nozzled hose or watering can, thoroughly soak the pot. To be sure it is properly watered, you can wait a few minutes and water again. If the pots are small enough, you can place them in a shallow pan and soak for a few minutes. You may be watering several times a day. You can wet the area around the trees to keep it as humid as possible, depending on what the tree is displayed upon. Remember, solid surfaces can get very hot and most pots are dark colors, so that's a lot of heat absorption. Some of the more sensitive trees like maples could use some afternoon shade. Watch for leaf burn at the tips and you'll know that it could use a break from the hottest part of the day.

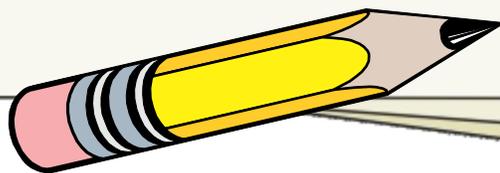
On the other hand, don't treat your trees like newborn babies and feed them six times a day. One of the signs of over watering is the yellowing of leaves.

If you are going on vacation, either take your trees with you (my wife won't let me), or find someone VERY reliable to take care of them. If you can, move them to a semi-shaded area on the ground where the animals won't get to them. Show your caretaker exactly how to water the trees, especially if you are going away for a long period of time during very hot weather. I was recently given some very empty pots by a neighbor named Walter, a 90 year old gentleman who had them in storage for 50 years because he went on vacation to Europe for a month in the middle of summer and the friend who was supposed to water them thought that Walter was leaving the following month, so he didn't show up to water at all. Walter lost over seventy trees, many that were brought back from Asia, but he says he kept the friend anyway.



Photo by Cindie Bonomi

Dave Metzgar



For your Bonsai supplies support

the store that exists for the society



## Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771

Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants

# Going, Going...Gone!

Bonsai is both a meditative and therapeutic hobby, a surcease from the rush of modern life in the nurturing of your bonsai. But a PBS auction can also stimulate your competitive juices as you bid on a "must have" tree for your collection. Many times members have vowed to reduce the number of trees, then happily walk away from the Auction with new treasures! It's always worthwhile just to watch Mike Stern's bonsai balancing act.

*-Jay Miller*

## The Great Bonsai Auction

This year's auction featured the president, Dave Metzgar, as auctioneer. Philip Gallo assigned individuals their auction number as they arrived. Bob Dietz and Debbie Brys made sure that the items and sales were accurately recorded. Mark Berbach made sure the trees, stones, and other bonsai related items were immediately available to be shown by Michael Stern. The total number of items seemed less than the previous year. Despite that the auction still went till 9:15. There were specimen trees, small starters, the nursery stock, junipers, pines, spruces, cedars, larches, Azaleas, box-woods, Japanese maples, sweet gums, trumpet vines, and crab-apples, etc. Nearly all of the items were sold with a few stragglers left behind (a peacock plate). A ginkgo in a Japanese pot and a viewing stones brought some of the highest prices. The ginkgo was a tree trained by Della Griffith, a past member and president of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. Also the viewing stones were a hit (despite one taking a hit) and there was competitive bidding on a number of the stones.

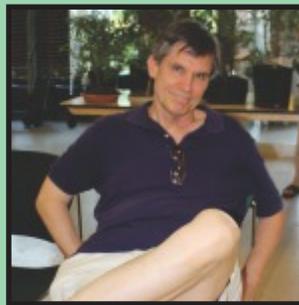
This year we decided not to identify the reserve before the bidding started in hopes that bidding might allow the reserve to be reached. This is a similar procedure done on E-Bay. It seemed that it was effective. If the reserve was not reached the last bidder was offered the opportunity to bid the reserve price. I am convinced a few trees sold as a result of the new strategy. Had the reserve price been initially presented bidding might have never been started.

It was interesting to note that if certain long-term members of the society would bid for an item, it tended to encourage more bidding by other members. Their interest in the item helped increase the item's value.

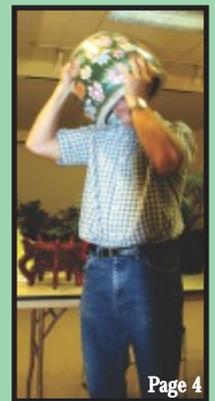
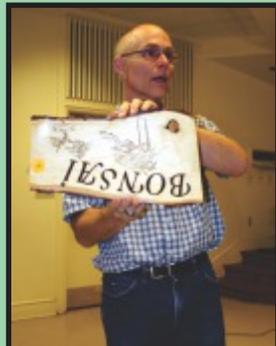
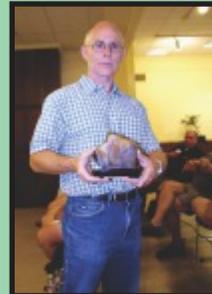
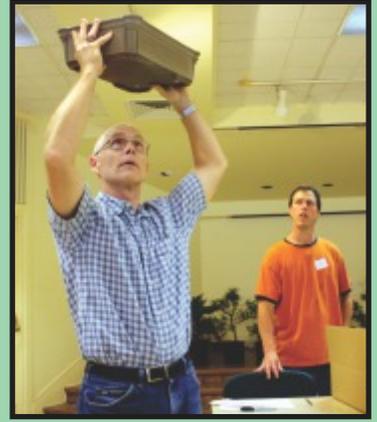
At the end of the evening everyone left smiling. Either their items were sold at acceptable prices. Individuals walked out with items at prices they determined, and the society received 15% of the sales to continue its mission. The deals provided by the auction are always great. Many of the specimen trees that are sold at auction might go a 3 to 5 times that price at a retail bonsai nursery.

The event was digitally preserved by Cindie Bonomi.

*-Mike Stern*



# ...And Let the Bidding Begin



# Bonsai Today-Bonsai Focus Magazines

Linda Veltri has a complete collection of Bonsai Today Magazines for sale, from the first edition through the period when magazine changed its name to Bonsai Focus Magazine. These high quality magazines are full of great articles and photos from masters all over Europe and Asia. The cover price for each magazine started at \$8 each. Linda has 119 issues and is asking you to make an offer. You can call her at 724-468-4066 and maybe you can take home over three boxes of great inspiration.

*Photos by Cindie Bonomi*



For  
**SALE**

Come and Celebrate Summer at our Bonsai  
Flea Market & Picnic Saturday, August 13, 2011 11am "On"

## The Grealish Farm

Bob & Rose Grealish's House:  
39 Henry Road, Tarentum, Pa.  
Phone: 724 265-4535

This is a great opportunity to buy, sell or trade bonsai trees, training stock, tools, pots, soil, wire and countless other bonsai-related items.

Bring chairs, a bathing suit and a table & the \$10.00 fee if you want to sell stuff.

Ample parking, snacks and beverages will be available. However, please feel free to bring something to share with your friends, old and new.

### **From Pittsburgh:**

Route 28 North to the Cheswick Exit. At end of ramp, turn right and go to the first stop sign. Turn right on Russelton Road (at Bocheck's Auto Repair). Go 7.4 miles, through Rural Ridge and Russelton and past the Red Belt sign There will be a sharp left bend and go across a small bridge to the stop sign. Turn right on Saxonburg Blvd. (There's a Culmerville gas station across the street.) Go 1 mile to Henry Road (small green sign on left, easy to miss!). Turn left and go 1 mile to the brick farmhouse on the right. 39 Henry Road sign on house, mailbox across from driveway, driveway past house.

### **From Route 8:**

Go east on Bakerstown Road (Red Belt) to Saxonburg Blvd (Culmerville gas station on right). Turn left on Saxonburg Blvd and go 1 mile to Henry Road (small green sign on left, easy to miss!) Turn left and go 1 mile to the brick farmhouse on the right. 39 Henry Road sign on house; mailbox across from driveway, driveway past house.



# Deciduous Species Suitable For Broom Style Training

-by Jay Miller



Chinese Elm ..... *Ulmus parvifolia*

Japanese Gray-Bark Elm ..... *Zelkova Serrata*

Chinese Hackberry ..... *Celtis sinensis*

Japanese Maple ..... *Acer palmatum*

Trident Maple ..... *Acer buergerianum*

Japanese Hornbeam ..... *Carpinus japonica*

Red-Leaf Hornbeam ..... *Carpinus laxiflora*

Korean Hornbeam ..... *Carpinus coreana*

Dwarf Stewartia ..... *Stewartia monadelph*



CUT HERE



## Map To The Grealish Farm



# The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's 2011-2012 Calendar Of Events

Aug 13.....Sat 11am.....Picnic at the Grealish Farm

Sep 21.....Wed 7pm.....Workshop: "Trash to Treasure"  
(working with orphans, strays  
and castoffs)

Oct 19.....Wed 7pm.....TBA

Nov 16.....Wed 7pm.....Split Meeting: Winterizing for  
Beginners plus Elections

Dec 7.....Wed 6:30pm... Annual Holiday Party

No Meetings.....January & February 2012

Mar 21.....Wed 7pm.....TBA

All events, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Phipps Garden Center, starting at 7:00pm Phipps Garden Center is located at the edge of Mellon Park in the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh. At the Phipps Garden Center sign on Shady Avenue, just south of the intersection of Fifth and Shady Avenues, turn into the cobblestone driveway. Park in the metered lot. Walk 50 yards farther down the cobblestone lane. The Garden Center is the red brick building on your left.

#### Severe Weather & Emergency Information:

PBS Meetings and Special Events at Phipps Garden Center will take place as scheduled except in the event of severe weather or emergency. Unsure? Call their Emergency Phone Number: 412 441-4442 for updates.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Bonsai Workgroup:

The work group will meet every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm 6-10pm. The sessions run through September. If you are interested in sharpening your skills, call Bob at 412 977-0077.

#### Coming Events:

June 9-10, 2012 Rochester, NY  
3rd U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition  
Questions? Go to:  
WNV@internationalbonsai.com

#### Under the Weather:

Former PBS Treasurer and long time PBS member Elmer Furedy is "under the weather" his wife Barb reports. You can send a card or letter to Elmer at: 5372 Greenridge Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15236.

#### Newsletter Information:

It's easy to make an announcement or contribute to the PBS Newsletter. If it is text only, call Jay Miller at 412 481-4540 or e-mail: [suisekifan@yahoo.com](mailto:suisekifan@yahoo.com)  
If it is a sketch or photo, e-mail: Cindie Bonomi at: [cindiebonomi@yahoo.com](mailto:cindiebonomi@yahoo.com)

#### September 2011 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the September 2011 Newsletter are due no later than August 12, 2011. The October issue deadline is September 15, 2011.

Compiled by Jay Miller  
[suisekifan@yahoo.com](mailto:suisekifan@yahoo.com)



## You Have Just Found The Cure For Bad Advertising

- Logo Design
- Magazine Ads
- Full Color Brochures
- Illustrations
- Product Illustration
- Displays For Trade Shows

Website: <http://www.graphicdesigngeeks.com>

E-Mail: [cindie@graphicdesigngeeks.com](mailto:cindie@graphicdesigngeeks.com)

Or: [cindiebonomi@yahoo.com](mailto:cindiebonomi@yahoo.com)

Cindie Bonomi • 335 Newburn Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15216 • Phone: (412) 561-2057



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society  
c/o Cindie Bonomi (Editor)  
335 Newburn Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

