



# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

## August 2015 Newsletter

### AUGUST

### The Annual PBS

### Picnic and Flea Market at The Grealish Farm

Saturday, August 8, 2015 • 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, pack a bathing suit to enjoy the pool and help us celebrate summer.

Bring chairs, a table if you want to sell stuff, (plus the customary \$10.00 PBS table fee) and something delicious to share with old and new bonsai friends. There is ample parking. PBS provides snacks and soft drinks.

See you on August 8th!!!



*-Photo by Cindie Bonomi from 2011 picnic*

Please E-Mail Cindie Bonomi at: [cindiebonomi@yahoo.com](mailto:cindiebonomi@yahoo.com) for directions.



*~Photo by Josh HousiauxSteward*

### Styling Scots Pines Part 2

### SEPTEMBER

You repotted and established a literati style Scots Pine at our April 15, 2015 Workshop. As part of your homework assignment, it's time to bring it back and refine your vision in this workshop. You may also bring in other pines from your collection for additional tips and techniques.

Wednesday • Sept. 16 • 7:00pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

Please check our ever-evolving website for updates: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>  
Also visit and "like" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PittsburghBonsai](http://www.facebook.com/PittsburghBonsai)



## The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society (PBS) was organized July 10, 1957 to disseminate knowledge, encourage others and create interest in the art of bonsai through meetings, workshops, newsletters and guest speakers. It's our sixth decade of advancing the art of bonsai in Pittsburgh and the Tri-State area. The membership year is January 1 to December 31. For details on events, Society membership or general information, see the Society's web page at <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>. Our newsletter is published periodically, 10 issues per year.

### Deadlines:

Generally two months prior to issue date

### Submissions:

Submissions are encouraged. Please submit Photos or Artwork in JPG format and Copy in Microsoft Word.

# A Note From Dave:



## The Annual Picnic...

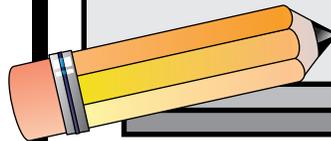


~photo by Cindie Bonomi

When I first joined the PBS, one of the first events I attended other than monthly meetings was the annual picnic. It was held at Bob and Rose Grealish's house, just as it is now. I was fairly new to the group and remember being shown around and introduced by long-time member Don Gould. The people there must have made a good impression on me because I haven't missed a picnic since then. I have always found the members to be warm and welcoming. The picnic is a great way to meet and talk to PBS members in a way that you won't get at the meetings. So if you are just learning about bonsai, make sure you make an effort to come, not only to enjoy the socializing and food, but also to see one of the best bonsai collections around. It's also a chance to see long-time members who don't always make it to meetings. See you there.

Dave Metzgar

bannerdave@aol 412-956-2482



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

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

# My Bonsai Garden Retreat

~by Louise Means



I started on my Bonsai Garden Retreat after my retirement on April 1 of 2014. The yard had been in a state of flux for a long time. I never seemed to have the opportunity to do the big projects I wanted to do. My plan was to create a sitting area under the new patio roof, a nice area in which to have a picnic and enjoy my bird watching, and finally, I wanted to make a Bonsai Garden. Picture number 1 became my immediate project in March 2014.

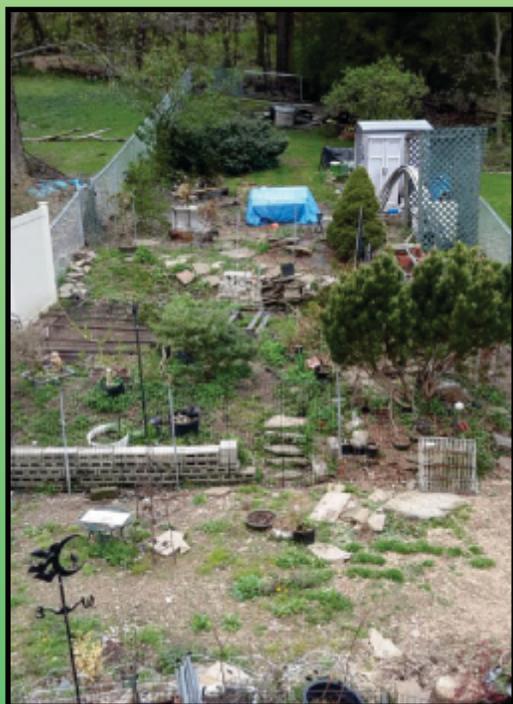
Because I am a procrastinator, my first goal was to hold a family picnic on June 29 in order to push myself to get things done. Come April 2nd, I was out in the yard. I got up early, had my coffee and then went to do the necessary work.

The first challenges for me were the heavy lifting and moving things from one end of the yard uphill to where they were needed. Periodically, I had help from my favorite handyman/landscaper and two of my nephews, but mostly I was the one doing everything. I had to move block, stone, and the still packaged pergola that I'd purchased a year or two previously. I also had to move the Bonsai trees out of harm's way. And I had weeds. Oh my, did I ever have weeds!

Clearing those weeds took a bit of time, as I am unable to kneel, but I worked around my physical limitations and got to work. I added soil and fill to areas that needed it, and leveled the area for the pergola. I had to build the roof for it, then I needed help to get it into place. Once that was done I laid landscaping cloth, got loads of mulch, and started placing Bonsai in this section of my terraced yard. I also had to fence the area because of my furry kids, but I solved that problem with 4 x 16 foot sections of a doggie x-pen with metal conduit as poles. The poles are easy to remove when needed and the x-pens fold up for storage and have proven to be durable.

I ran into a slight problem with the pergola. When it rained, the nylon roof would sag and collect water. After some thought, I purchased some reed fencing and placed it diagonally across the roof trusses. I secured it with zip ties, then put the canvas back on. That worked out really nicely, because it lent the area an additional authentic Bonsai look.

In the winter I now have the back side of a large Mugo Pine to help protect my trees. I bury most of the pots in the mulch. Between with the pine and the fencing, my trees are pretty well covered.



Yard March 2014



Yard June 2014

# My Bonsai Garden Retreat Continued...

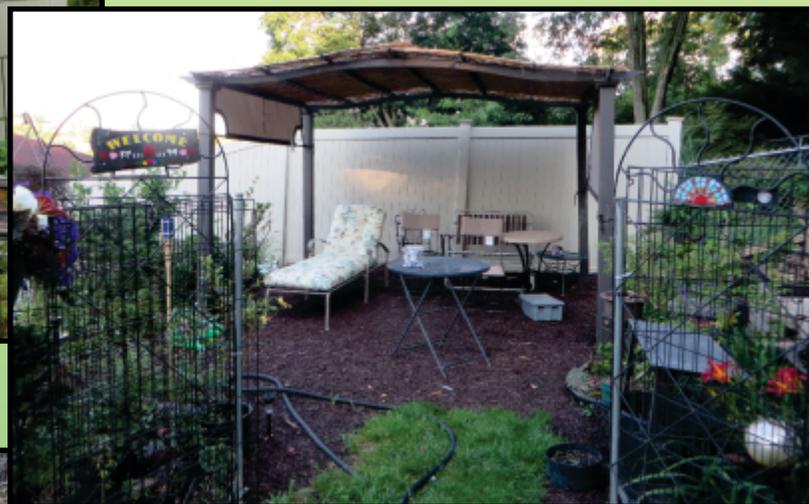
*~by Louise Means*

A section of the Bonsai Garden is my nursery, and the hillside is my main display area. In the corner I still have bricks, block and stone which will be used to make a patio under the pergola and to build a more permanent area for working on trees.

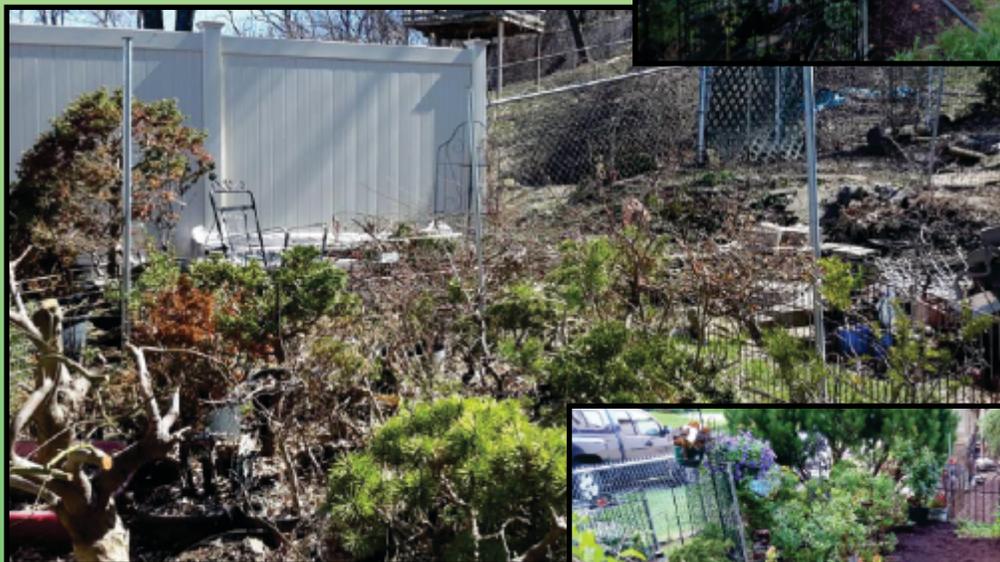
By June 2015, the area was done. Mulch was laid, trees were in place, and relaxing areas were in abundance. This year, I plan to move the existing pond to the Bonsai area so that I can remove the dog deterrent grate from it. Watch for FB pictures!



**Bonsai Pergola Before**



**Bonsai Pergola After**



**Bonsai Area March 2014**



**Bonsai Area June 2014**

*~Photography  
by Louise Means*

# Some Photos From Our April Meeting



~Photography by Josh HousiauxSteward



## Styling Scots Pines Part 1

# Talismans and Technology

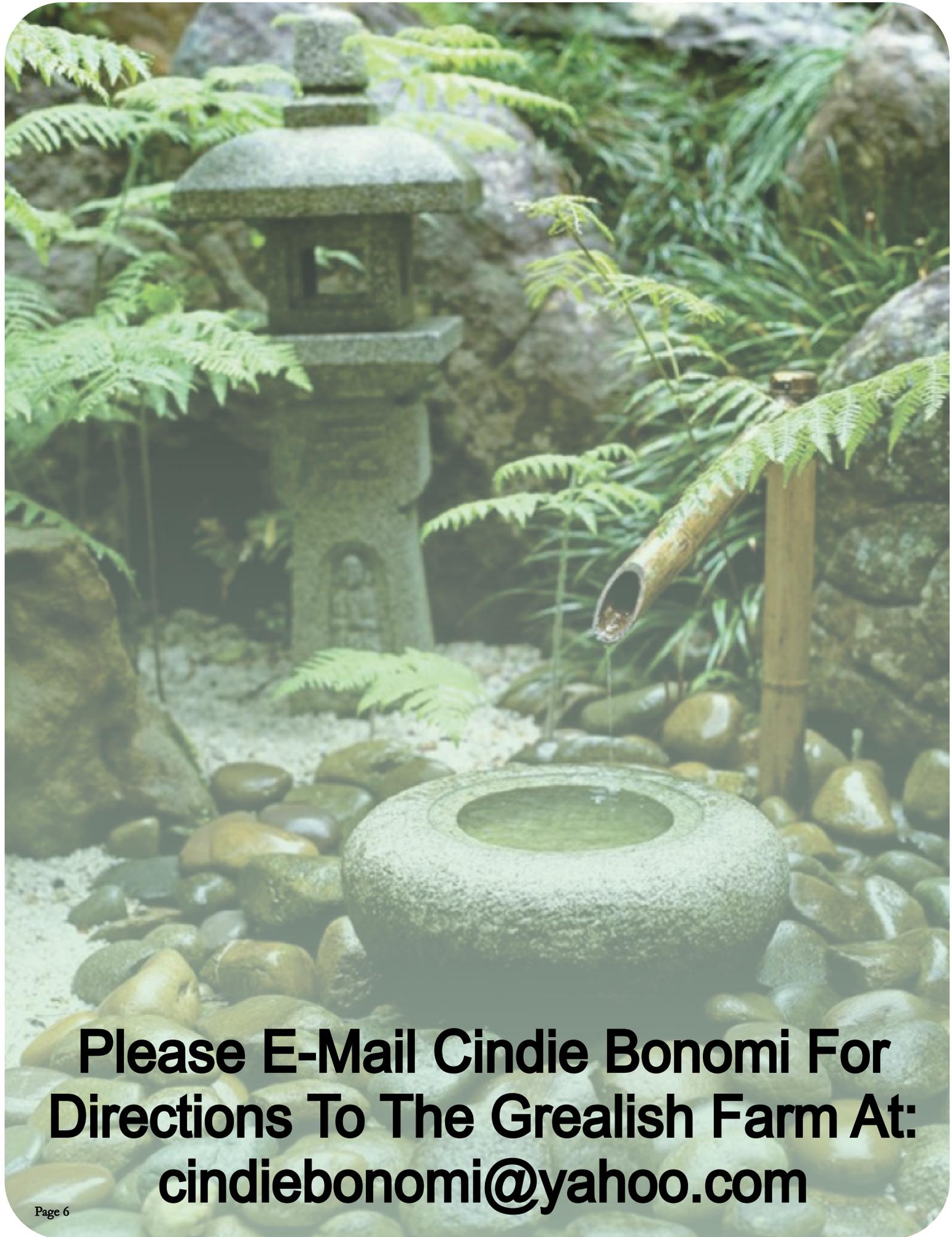
If you combine the ancient art of bonsai and modern technology, the result can be pretty cool. These talismans are the result of a combination of ultra-high pressure water, the semi-precious stone garnet ground to a fine sand, a computer controlled machine, and a dash of creativity. The first step in the process is to create the pattern and turn it into a numeric computer program. Next, the machine is set up for each piece and the water is pressurized by way of a hydraulic pump, up to 60,000 psi. To give an idea of how much pressure that is, keep in mind that the average home water pressure is around 45 psi. The last step is the cutting process, in which the water and ground garnet are mixed at the cutting head in a loud and aggressive fashion in order to produce these stainless steel and solid copper decorations. If anyone is interested in the stainless steel pieces of the Society Logo, they are available from Ray Moody at most meetings. Any copper pieces can be cut to order. Other patterns or ideas can be discussed, as this process can cut most materials such as stone and wood in virtually any two dimensional pattern.



Ray and Molly Moody



~Photography by Ray and Molly Moody



**Please E-Mail Cindie Bonomi For  
Directions To The Grealish Farm At:  
[cindiebonomi@yahoo.com](mailto:cindiebonomi@yahoo.com)**

After eleven years, this is my last issue as Co-Editor and Copy Editor of the PBS Newsletter. I've learned a lot about this hobby/obsession and the fascinating mix of bonsai enthusiasts who practice this living art form. So,

**THANK YOU!**

FOR supporting your Society newsletter through the years, not only for Cindie and me, but for former Editors Howard Shifrin, Keith Scott, Evelyn Christie and Donna Ramsey.

FOR contributing articles and photos.

FOR generously sharing your tips, techniques and resources with your fellow members.

Cindie will continue her creative graphics and Lisa Borman Bednar will succeed me as Co-Editor and Copy Editor. They will appreciate your continuing support.

Putting the quill away, now.  
Jay Miller



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Bonsai Workgroup:**

Meets every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm, after 6:00pm. BYOT (Bring Your Own) Trees, tools, soil and wire. For updates, check the PBS website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org> the day of class.

### **Coming Events:**

38th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit August 14-16 2015. Their 2015 38th August show is one of the biggest regional shows in the nation, centered on the Chicago Botanic Garden's Permanent Collection, featuring about 50 world-class trees. For more information go to: <http://www.midwestbonsai.org>

Artisans Cup of Portland, "American Bonsai Reforged and Refined", Portland OR. September 26th-28th 2015, Portland Art Museum, 8:00am-5:00pm; 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland. The Artisans Cup of Portland Bonsai Exhibition is the showcase of America's new movement to raise aesthetic appreciation and craftsmanship in the art of bonsai. Event Website: <http://www.artisanscupofportland.com>

### **Staff Vacancy:**

**Two jobs taken, one to go!**

We still need a Publisher! You'll pick up the hard-copy newsletter from the printer, prep it for mailing (we call that "licking and sticking") and deliver the folded, sealed, labeled and postage affixed newsletters to the Post Office. Interested in joining the Newsletter Team? Anxious to see your name in the masthead? For further information contact Jay Miller at: [suisekijay@gmail.com](mailto:suisekijay@gmail.com)

### **September 2015 Issue Deadline:**

Submissions for the next PBS Newsletter are due no later than August 14, 2015.

Compiled by Jay Miller  
[suisekijay@gmail.com](mailto:suisekijay@gmail.com)



## Yea! We Got Shirts! Good Shirts!



Now you can proudly show your enthusiasm for Bonsai and the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society with golf shirts from members Anna and Cliff Domasky.

Available in white, tan and taupe. \$25 each, including three-color embroidery.

You can also supply your own quality shirt; have it embroidered for a modest \$10 charge. For more details contact Cliff or Anna at:

[annaclaus55@hotmail.com](mailto:annaclaus55@hotmail.com)

*-photos by Cindie Bonomi and Anna Domasky*

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Bob Dietz



## Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771  
Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants



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

## Pittsburgh Bonsai Society • 2015 Calendar of Events

Aug. 8 ----- Sat. -- 11:00am ----- Annual Picnic at the Grealish Farm

Sept. 16 ----- Wed. -- 7:00pm ----- Scots Pine Styling Workshop II: BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree) Your April 2015 Literati Workshop Tree

Oct. 21 ----- Wed. -- 7:00pm ----- Wiring Basics Workshop BYOT

Nov. 18 ----- Wed. -- 7:00pm ----- BYOT for advice; Wintercare; Elections

Dec. 16 ----- Wed. -- Time TBA -- Holiday Party

### 2016 Event Dates

Mar. 16 ----- Wed. -- 7:00pm ----- TBA

Apr. 20 ----- Wed. -- 7:00pm ----- TBA



All events, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Phipps Garden Center, starting at 7:00pm. Phipps Garden Center, 1059 Shady Avenue, 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