



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

December 2012 Newsletter

THIS MONTH

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's

**HOLIDAY
DINNER!**

Details and Registration Form on Pages 7 and 8

THURSDAY, December 6, 2012 6:30pm at Phipps Garden Center

Remember: No Meetings in January or February 2013

Our first meeting in 2013 will be Wednesday, March 27th at 7:00pm

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



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

Editor:
Cindie Bonomi

Copy Editor:
Jay Miller

Graphic Design:
Cindie Bonomi

Contributors:
Cliff and Anna Domasky
Dave Metzgar
Jay Miller
Debi Brys
Gage Eckley
Karen Means

Photography:
Cindie Bonomi
Karen Means
Gage Eckley
Cliff and Anna Domasky

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:

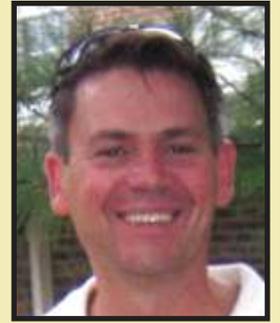
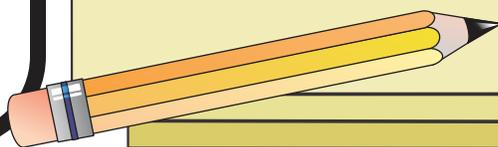


Photo By Cindie Bonomi

December always means it's time for the bonsai enthusiast to put away his trees and look for other ways to spend his time. Unless you're lucky enough to have some tropicals to look at (and keeping some tropicals healthy through the winter is tricky, except for the always easy ficus), you may be stuck with flat images of trees on paper or the computer. So now is the time to explore the web and get some inspiration for next year. One site worth visiting is The Art of Bonsai, @ <http://www.artofbonsai.org/>. It is full of great galleries and articles from some of the best artists around today. Bonsai 4 me is a very informative site that has many how-to articles, galleries and species guides, and you can find it at <http://www.bonsai4me.com/>. The site centered in England, which seems to have a milder and wetter climate than here, but most of the information is relevant.

If the internet can tide you over until February, you can visit Phipps Conservatory's annual Orchid and Tropical Bonsai Show. On display will be Phipp's impressive collection of tropical trees which are not always available to the public. Many of them were cared for by our late friend Keith Scott. Bob Dietz and I will be hosting weekend lectures during the month, so check the Phipps Conservatory website for details.

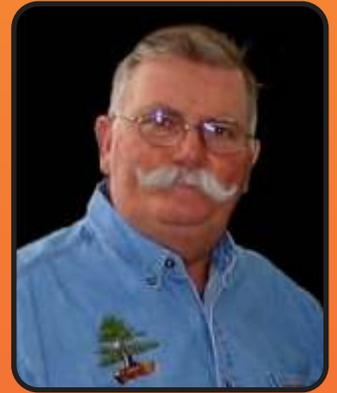
Dave Metzgar



“Trash to Treasure II”

-By Jay Miller

Wow, what a great October Meeting! About 30 avid “Collectors” brought in a wide variety of Trash With A Lot Of Potential. Prez Dave showed several Treasures (One year later) that demonstrated just what bonsai enthusiasts can accomplish. After a short business meeting and a discussion of November's PBS Election, everyone set to work with pruners, saws, concave cutters, and the results were amazing. Reduction in foliage, branching and overall size bodes well for next spring; it also made for an easier fit through hatches and into seats for the ride home!



-photo by Cindie Bonomi



-photography by Cindie Bonomi

"Trash to Treasure II Photos Continued"



Some
Before



And



After Shots

-photography by Cindie Bonomi

Winterizing Techniques for Beginners

-By Jay Miller

Twenty-two of the Faithful gathered at Phipps Garden Center on November 14th for the PBS Meeting. Following the Committee Reports and the Treasurer's update, Dave Metzgar moved to Nominations for 2013 Officers. Inga Jensen volunteered to take over the Recording Secretary position from Debi Brys and Cindie Bonomi will be Corresponding Secretary. All officer candidates approved by voice vote! Cindie gave an update on the Holiday Party on THURSDAY, December 6th at 6:30pm. Many people took advantage of the sign up forms to make reservations. Naturally, the White Elephant swap came up for discussion; you could see many in the audience mentally

inventorying their attic for suitable selections.

Bob Dietz and Bob Grealish led a "Winterization" discussion for those assembled, made suggestions for winter care and optimum storage for deciduous and conifers. Bob Dietz stressed protection from wind; he will turn his display benches on their sides as an effective windbreak, using poison specifically for mice, and using leaf mulch as bedding material. Watering means knowing your trees' needs: you mustn't over-water, but beware the wind and the possibility of the trees drying out. Spraying the trees with deer and rabbit repellent works until the critters are so hungry they eat anything.

Bob Grealish indicating it's still a good time to work on pines, cleaning up old needles and lower needles. Protect Black Pine and White Pine. Let Scots pines and Ponderosa pines sit on the ground, mulched to the top of the pot. Bob Grealish also revealed there are over 500 types of fungus. Make sure your leaf mulch doesn't contain evidence of fungus

Shade cloth and white poly material were discussed, for formal use in poly houses and more casual structures. Lots of questions about tropicals were answered, with your individual home features a determining factor for the best setup. Following the discussion, Bob Grealish announced a "Dig" in April 2013. More details in the March Newsletter.



-photography by Cindie Bonomi

PBS November Elections!

Society Officers for 2013



President ----- Dave Metzgar ----- 

Vice President ----- Bob Dietz ----- 

Treasurer ----- Mark Berbach ----- 

Recording Secretary ----- Inga Jensen ----- 

Corresponding Secretary ----- Cindie Bonomi ----- 

Standing Committees

Spring Show ----- Co-Chairs: Debi Brys, Dave Metzgar -----  

Program ----- Chair: Bob Dietz ----- 

Newsletter ----- Co-Chairs: Cindie Bonomi, Jay Miller -----  

Publicity ----- 

Membership ----- 

New Tablecloths

Are Being Sewn By Debi Brys For The Spring Show



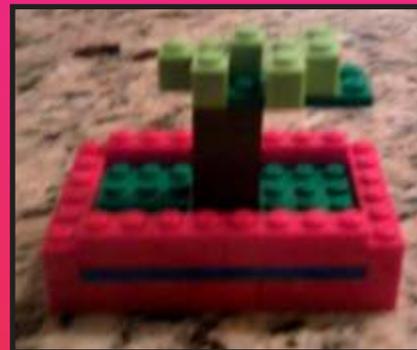
The material, which will be off-white and flannel-backed was generously donated by Jill Eckley from Three Rivers Supply in Pittsburgh.

-submitted by Karen Means

Many thanks to Jill, and Debi for helping give our tables a new, more elegant look for the Spring Show!

The Lego Bonsai Tree

-submitted by Karen Means



Actually, I got the idea of a Lego Bonsai from googling it under "Lego Bonsai" on the Internet.

There are many reasons why this type of Bonsai is easy to take care of:

1. It does not need watering, ever.
2. Repotting is not done.
3. It doesn't need to be put in the ground for winter.
4. You do not have to prune roots or branches at all.
5. You can save a lot of money on wire!
6. And it is so pretty!

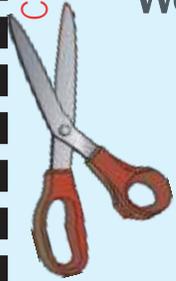


-Gage Eckley: Age 8-1/2

Member Survey

Please take a moment and help us with your comments.
We want to make your membership year as productive as possible

CUT HERE



How did you originally learn of The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society?

- from a friend
- newspaper article
- PBS website
- the Internet
- Bonsai Classes at Phipps
- a flyer
- from a Garden Center

Would you like to receive your newsletters electronically? yes no

If yes, Name E-mail Address

Are your bonsai skills: beginner intermediate advanced

Please tell us what programs you'd prefer:

- lectures
- workshops with your trees
- demonstration & workshops
- Bonsai Basics

Questions:

BONSAI HOLIDAY DINNER!

Reservation Form

\$12 Per Person

Name Number Attending



CUT HERE

TOTAL

\$

Welcome New Members!

At the risk of repeating ourselves, we are pleased to welcome the new members of the Society for 2012. You've already demonstrated your enthusiasm by attending meetings and workshops, working and learning. Our society grows with your talents, while we grow with our trees.

Anthony Bruno, Gerry Carr, Glenn Dobbs, Shawn Gold, Robert W. & Kathi Lambert, Darsie O'Connell, Joel Ulrich, William

Karnavas & Family, Jim Martin, Domenic & Francine Sacchetti, Fletcher Wilson, David Wolf, Lon Wright, William Myerburg, Aaron & Oleysa Barr, Carl Gabauer, Kara Cater, Kristan Courtney, Joe Schneler, Jon Sweany, William Thomas, Anthony Trozzi, Nick & Shannon Williams, Jon & Jack Orle, The Kandel Family, Marlene Myers, Wendy Reuter, C. J. Mostel, Noah Elste, Brandon Arroyo and Kyle Helsey & Kelle Staab.

Fothergilla Gardenii (Dwarf Fothergilla)

-by Jay Miller

Keith Scott told me that autumn coloration was a major factor in choosing unsung deciduous bonsai material; a progression of color even better. Shortly after, I found 2 Dwarf Fothergillas in a nursery and they are a visual joy in the fall.

Michael A. Dirr, "Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs" wrote: "A magnificent shrub that offers superb flowers and foliage in both summer and fall, as well as sun and shade tolerance...The habit of Dwarf Fothergilla is significantly variable, from a small, finely twiggy, rounded shrub to a more open, suckering, colonizing form. The 1 to 2-1/2 inch long, dark blue-green leaves turn shades of fluorescent yellow, orange and red in fall, with all colors present in the same leaf. The leaves hold late, and fall color is expressed over a long period.

White, fragrant flowers occur in 1 to 2 inches long, bottle-brushlike inflorescences in April and May, before or as the leaves develop...the greatest success is with acid, moist, organic-laden, well-drained soils.

Plants flower and color best in full sun, but respond quite nicely to half shade...Fothergillas do not have a bad season. Zones 5 to 9.

Spring: white bottle brush-like inflorescences



Fall: dark blue-green leaves turn shades of fluorescent yellow, orange and red



-photos compliments of the internet

Winterizing

The time has come, my Bonsai said, to think of winter things.
Of tucking me away again, and see what winter brings.

But first I'll have my branches trimmed, and a root prune wouldn't hurt.
I wouldn't mind a poly house; I'm also fond of dirt.

So tuck me in and tuck me deep; I do not mind the cold.
I'll sleep just fine with all my friends, be they young or old.

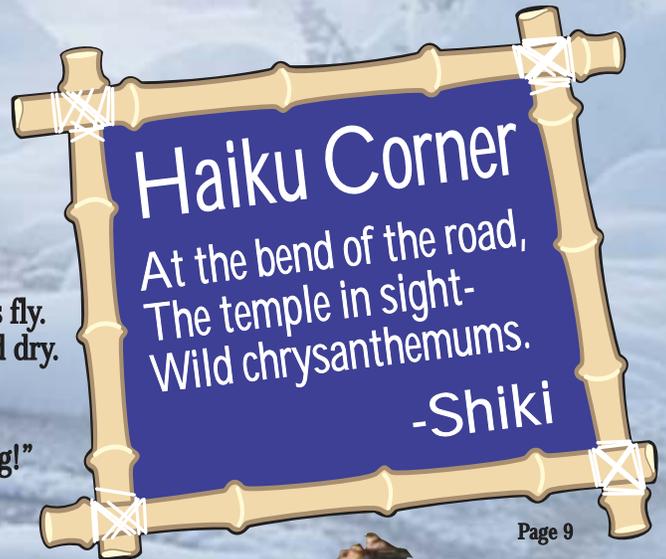
My leaves will fall, my needles drop, my branches will be bare.
Just gaze upon my pretty trunk, for there is beauty there.

I need my nap, so now it's time...to leave me for a while.
I'll dream a dream of what it's like to have a different style.

Do glance my way from time to time, and watch the snowflakes fly.
Remember that, beneath the ground, my roots are warm and dry.

Enjoy your time, and have some fun. Don't worry 'bout a thing.
Cause I will need some TLC when you fetch me in the spring!"

- Karen Means



Page 9

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society 2012 & 2013 Calendar of Events

Dec 6	THURS 6:30pm	Annual Holiday Party
No Meetings	January & February 2013
Mar 27	Wed 7pm	TBA
Apr 17	Wed 7pm	TBA
May 15	Wed 7pm	TBA
May 31	Setup	
June 1 & 2	Spring Show 2013	
Jun 19	Wed 7pm	TBA
Jul 17	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.

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

-photos by Cindie Bonomi and Anna Domasky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Events:

19-21 April 2013, Grantville (Harrisburg/Hershey) PA MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' 30th Spring Festival, Holiday Inn, Harrisburg/Hershey. Featuring Kunio Kobayashi/Japan; Peter Warren/United Kingdom; Ryan Neil/USA;

<http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/fescurr.htm>

TBA May 2013 Potomac Bonsai Association Spring Festival Washington, D.C. at the National Arboretum www.potomacbonsai.com or www.usna.usda.gov

Saratoga in 2013
For the Love of Bonsai
12-15 September 2013
Learning Seminars given by The American Bonsai Society & Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society, Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY. Info at www.loveofbonsai.com.

Mark your 2014 Calendars: A switch from Spring to Fall for the 4th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, 13-14 September in Rochester, NY. Details next spring.

Newsletter Information:

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

Easy Gifting:

Christmas is a great time to buy bonsai pots, soil, tools, wire. Bob Dietz at Bonsai in The Burgh will be happy to help you fill your wish list for the coming year.

March 2013 Issue Deadline:

There are usually no meetings in January or February. Too Cold!!!
Submissions for the March 2013 Newsletter are due no later than February 21, 2013.

Compiled by Jay Miller
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

Or: cindiebonomi@yahoo.com

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

For your Bonsai supplies support
the store that exists for the society



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

