



# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

## July 2011 Newsletter

### NEXT MEETING

And the hammer falls...

## The Great Bonsai Auction

All Bonsai related items: pre- and finished bonsai,  
pots, books, tools, pins, jewelry, etc.



See page 3  
for more info

July 20 • 7pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

### NEXT EVENT

See page 3  
for more info

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

Saturday, August 13, 2011 • Starting at 11am



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



# The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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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:

[pittsburghbonsai.org](http://pittsburghbonsai.org)

If you haven't browsed our website recently, go take a look. We are making an effort to keep it as updated as possible, with information on meetings, events, seasonal tree care and anything related to our group.

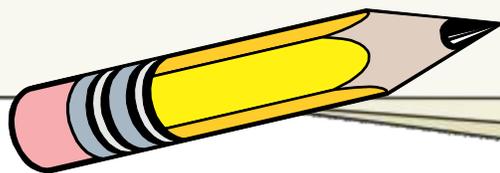


Photo by Cindie Bonomi

Most of the topical information, including details about the upcoming meeting, is on the front page, but the bulk of the website can be found following the links towards the bottom of the page. The "Schedules" link lists the monthly meeting topics with dates and times for the whole year. Under the "News and Resources" link you can find a wealth of information including past newsletters. A must for beginners, Bob Grealish's how-to booklet "Beginning Bonsai" is a great reference. Keith Scott has some writings under the title, "Narrative of An Itinerant Bonsai Man", where his wit and teaching style are very evident in his writing. He has also written care sheets for many types of trees which were originally published in past newsletters. The "Photos" link is still a work in progress. There are a few galleries up now, and we hope to have more available soon, including highlights of the Spring Show. If you follow the link called "Links", you will find other bonsai websites and options are endless. The last link, "Tree Calendar", will give you pointers on seasonal care, including what to do with workshop trees.

So make a habit of checking the website when you want information on bonsai. If you have any suggestions, please send them along. You can email me at [bannerdave@aol.com](mailto:bannerdave@aol.com).

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



Photos from 2010 auction by Cindie Bonomi

# The Great Bonsai Auction

Going...going...gone! Our annual auction takes the place of the regular meeting this month. No committee reports, no minutes from the last meeting, no wiring workshops...just frenzied bidding. Bring your check books and cash and take home finished trees, pots and other bonsai related items. If you are bringing in things to sell, please arrive early so we can catalog them and get off to a quick start. Remember, a 15% commission goes to the society on all sales. Anything bonsai related: trees, pots, books, magazines, tools, viewing stones...bring some in to sell, bid high enough and take some home.

*-Dave Metzgar*



Photos from 2010 picnic by Cindie Bonomi

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

Saturday, August 13, 2011 • Starting at 11am

Look at your bonsai collection, think about what you'd like to sell. Then daydream about what you really want to buy, raid the piggybank and come on out!

Bob & Rose Grealish have an idyllic country location, where you can admire superior bonsai, horse-trade with your fellow PBS members and pick up tips and trees. Not to mention munchies and a swimming pool.

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. (a tithe for the President in the form of a brownie is always appreciated!) The Society provides snacks and soft drinks.

# Workshop



## MUGO PINES

- Jay Miller

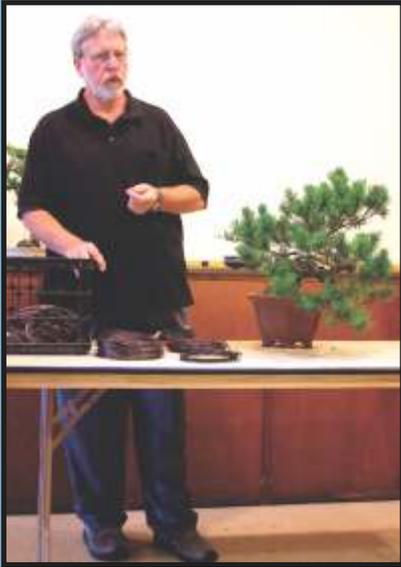
A good crowd, 26 bonsai enthusiasts, attended our June Mugo Pine Workshop. Bob Grealish talked about the Mugo Pine's characteristics: two-needle, dwarf growth, ie. slow, styling by wire, pruning and pinching. His demo tree was planted in a fairly deep container; pines require deep, well-drained soil. Mugos can be repotted in early spring or late summer, every 2-3 years for the young workshop specimens. Since pines are acid-

loving plants, you can use a half-strength solution of Miracid every two weeks in the spring and fall. Don't feed during July and August. In response to a question, Bob showed how and where to prune and pinch his older Pine. Pinch by shortening the new candles in the spring, the stronger candles first, then the weaker candles a week later. He also showed how thinning needles can allow more light to reach the lower branches. The workshop commenced, and a lot of additional questions were fielded by Bob Grealish, Bob Dietz, Dave Metzgar and other "Old Hands".



Dave Metzgar Opened The Meeting And Mark Berbach Gave Us Some Information On His Spot Light Trees





Bob Grealish Demonstrated Clipping And Wiring Technics

After Bob's Lecture, Everyone Got Right Down To Working On Their Trees





Photos by Cindie Bonomi

## MUGO, MUGO: WHAT WAS I WORKING ON???

### It's Always A Good Idea To Go To A Respected Source For Species' Information

I went immediately to *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs*, by Michael A. Dirr. He describes *Pinus mugo*, or Swiss Mountain Pine as follows: "Somewhat of an anomaly in American gardening. The dwarf types of this pine are often sold as the typical species, even though the true species can grow to 75 ft. high and the forms in cultivation are generally 10 ft. or less and quite shrubby. In the native populations of the species that I have seen in the Swiss Alps, no two plants were exactly alike. The medium to dark green, 1- to 2- (to 3-) in. long needles occur in fascicles of two. The species and its cultivars are extremely adaptable and will prosper in Maine, Iowa or

Maryland. Quite adaptable to extremes of soil, pH, and climate. Use for massing and foundation plantings, or in rock gardens, perennial borders, and containers. To maintain a dwarfed condition, prune the new candles (shoots) when the needles are half their mature length. Grows 15 to 20 ft. high and wide; can grow 30 to 80 ft. Zones 2 to 7. Mountains of central and southern Europe".

What did we learn? Your June Work-shop tree can be pruned in the same way as a Scots Pine. It's hardy in our Tri-State Zone 5, so you can plant it in your garden to increase trunk size and it doesn't care what soil you have. Use Bob Grealish's tips and you're on your way to a impressive bonsai.

- Jay Miller



# Midsummer Meanderings

by Jay Miller



Photo by Cindie Bonomi

Lots of care and maintenance in July, folks. Keith Scott used to say "Cut the wire off your pines by the Fourth of July".

Copper wire is an excellent heat conductor. Give your wired trees a rest during July

and August. Rewire in the fall. Rotate your trees now for consistent growth, and watch for signs of heat stress. (Watch for signs of heat stress in you, too.) A few days' vacation in the shade is good for your bonsai.

Your mother told you to keep hydrated in the summer and that goes for your bonsai! Water twice and even three times daily and keep a mister handy.

Remember that the Average Hottest Period in the Tri-State area is 12 July to 01 August, with the hottest two days 21-22 July, according to Air Science



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Bonsai Workgroup:

The work group meets every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm 6 - 10pm. If you are interested in sharpening your styling, wiring or maintenance skills, call Bob at 412 977-0077.

### Welcome New Members!

We're happy to welcome the following new members for 2011 to the Society as of June 14th: Dave Barowich, Kathleen Blee, Gary Coddington, Maxence Crossley, Tamara Dulaney, Walter Good, William H. Jackson III, Ann G. McStay, Patrick M. Reig, Madelyn Reilly & Robin Girdhar, Thomas Richardson, Stacie Sacco & Chuck Conto, Jim Schulz, Bob Swetz.

### Newsletter Copies:

Do you want to send a complimentary issue of the newsletter to someone interested in bonsai? Give their name and "snail mail" address to Jay Miller.

### 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](mailto:suisekifan@yahoo.com)

If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at:

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

### August Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the August 2011 Newsletter are due no later than July 1, 2011.

Compiled by Jay Miller

[suisekifan@yahoo.com](mailto:suisekifan@yahoo.com)



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

July 10, 1957 Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Was Organized. It's our 54th Birthday!

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
Jan 2012.....	.....	No Meetings
Feb 2012 .....	.....	No Meetings
Mar 21 ,2012 ..	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.