



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

July 2013 Newsletter



**THIS MONTH
"WE'RE 56!"**

Immersion In The Art Of Bonsai; Three Years In Japan!



~photo by Dan Yobp

PBS member Dan Yobp details the myriad experiences of a bonsai enthusiast/student in the world of bonsai, from the culture to the exhibitions, to behind the scenes life at a bonsai nursery! Don't miss this program!

See Note From Dan On Page 2

July 17, 2013 • Wednesday • 7:00pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

NEXT MONTH "IT'S A TWO-FER"

Going, Going, Gone!

The Great Bonsai Auction



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

Saturday, August 3 • 10am • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

The Annual PBS Picnic and Flea Market at The Grealish Farm



Sat. Aug. 10, 2013 • Starting at 11am

Our Annual Laid-Back Summer Bonsai Picnic and Swap Meet surrounded by superior bonsai, fellow enthusiasts and great munchies! Member/Guest Directions inside.

~Photos from last year's picnic by Cindie Bonomi

Please check our evolving website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>
Also visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PittsburghBonsai



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:



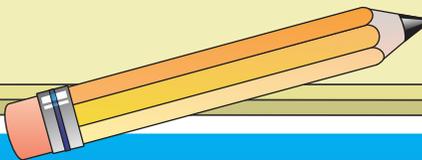
With this first newsletter after the Spring Show, I want to thank all of the members who made the event one of the best in recent memory. Great trees, great displays and plenty of things to buy hopefully made the steady crowds happy. It takes many hours of work to set up the show, staff all of the various positions and finally take everything down. It is all of that work to showcase your trees, which I'm sure you spent many hours (years) to make them into quality bonsai.



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

As in the past, we tend to have an increase in members after the show. The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society is a great place to learn. We have members who have been practicing for many years and members who joined last year, and plenty in between. A good reference for everyone is our website, pittsburghbonsai.org. It has the most current information on meetings and events, some great picture galleries, a tree calendar giving seasonal advice on what to do with your trees, and under the "Resources" tab, a must for beginners, Bob Grealish's web book, "Beginning Bonsai".

So to the new members, come to the meetings and events, bring your bonsai in for advice, ask questions, and visit the website. Soon your collection will grow from a few to more than you can handle. Like the Japanese saying goes, "A man should only have as many bonsai as his wife can water".



Dave Metzgar

A Note From Dan Yobp

Hello,

I'm honored and delighted to be presenting at the July PBS meeting. Thank you, it's a wonderful opportunity

The last three years of my life were spent living and working in Japan. During that time, I was lucky enough to be able to take advantage of Japan's wonderful world of bonsai by traveling to bonsai villages, attending and working at national exhibitions, haggling with bonsai vendors



~photo by Dan Yobp

at markets and working for a year at a professional bonsai nursery in Osaka. These experiences, big and small, helped me to understand bonsai not as just a hobby, but as an art and business. I relish the opportunity to share my passion and love for this great art with as many people as I can.

My presentation will be about my experiences as a westerner relearning bonsai in Japan and how that has changed my views about what bonsai truly is. I would also like to spend time discussing bonsai as an art, rather than hobby, and how culture affects our bonsai art.

Thank you for reading and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Cheers,
Dan Yobp





Some Pictures From Our: **SPRING BONSAI SHOW**



Setting Up



Dropping Off Trees



Greeting Table



Bonsai In The Burgh



Meehan's Miniatures



Member Consignment



Snack Bar



Pictures Continued On Page 4

~photography by Cindie Bonomi

Spring Show Pictures Continued:



Bob's Juniper Workshop



Martha's Tropical Workshop



Steve Plays The Flute



...And Now The BEST PART:
THE TREES



Pictures Continued On Page 6

~photography by Cindie Bonomi

A Success

~By Karen Means

For over 30 years the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society has displayed their trees for the general public to enjoy in the Spring show. I'm sure there were always several or many beautiful bonsai displayed. Always volunteer members of their group put it together to make it happen. But this year's event on June 1st and 2nd, 2013, was something grand.

Months of planning paid off. Our member seamstress, with donated vinyl, sewed floor length table covers, rounding off the corners to soften the formal décor. Wooden black stanchions made by our own multi-talented President held the rods and white backdrops. The effect was that each tree was viewed against a white background, instead of back-to-back trees detracting from one another's glory. Each was an individual, yet still part of the whole.



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

Every lighted cubicle had its own pastel backdrop and light, lining both side walls. And towering above all on center stage was a magnificent Siberian elm.

Before the show opened at 10, and the day before, muscled members greeted those of us who pulled up in front of the building with a welcome "Can I help you unload anything?" Some of those trees are truly heavy!

The food preparers set up early and faint smells of coffee and simmering Sloppy Joes, were soon evident.

The back rooms were filled to the brim with consignment material and hand done monogrammed polo shirts supplied by members as well as the professional couple who travel from Maryland each year to sell their quality materials in a room that smelled wonderfully like cedar. (It was their shelves) And this year a talented new member of the society sold lovely affordable bonsai stands he made of wood like oak, black walnut, and rare purple heart.

Our dynamo refreshment director/photographer hustled about doing her thing, always a smile for everyone as she served lunches and took pictures simultaneously. And of course our vintage "Pot Man" occupied his usual spot with its array of every material, color, shape, and size bonsai pots known to us small tree aficionados, with free advice to novices as to which container was best suited for their particular newly purchased tree.

New members and old made it all happen this weekend, with laughter, cooperation, and gentle direction (when needed) by our aforementioned Prez. (Some of us were told by his Mother that he was a prize-winning artist while still in kindergarten)

When the visitors arrived they stepped into a room transformed: classy elegance. Pink and white Azalea blooms added pizzazz to the many shades of green foliage. Each tree framed by white. Each bonsai, large or small, literati, upright, a grouping, on a rock, or cascading down in soft clouds... was a work of art: living sculptures. Nature moved indoors to temporarily strut its stuff.

My 9 yr. old grandson commented that he would like to live in that room. I pretty much agreed.

Some other comments I overheard from the folks at the show:

-"I've been here many times but this is the best I've ever seen!"
-"Last year I went to the New York show and this is just as good."
-"I look forward to this every year and love these little trees."
-"I just bought this little tree. Can you tell me how to grow it?"
-"Can you help me find the men's room please?"



The two demonstrations by our veteran teachers were well attended, and the enthusiastic attendees were pleased with their first attempt to bonsai a tree; they proudly showed them to me as they carried them out the door past the front desk where I positioned myself as a greeter. Both days another new member shared his musical talent as he played the flute; it completed the gently oriental theme.

But all good things must end, and so the Spring Show did. The financial end will be tallied by our dedicated treasurer and results reported at the next meeting.

All in all, it was fun to be a part of a wonderful weekend of sharing our love of bonsai with the public.



PROFILE: Bill Thomas

By Dave Metzgar

Family, home life, occupation: Bill is originally from the Boston, Massachusetts area and graduated Carnegie Mellon with a degree in architecture. He currently lives in Squirrel Hill and has his own architecture firm, doing work in Pittsburgh and the east coast.

~photo by Bill Thomas

Other interests: A Germanophile, Bill enjoys the outdoors, including hiking and taking his single scull on the Allegheny River.

Your first tree: A tropical Ficus

Favorite variety/style: Larches, trees in the semi-cascade and Literati styles.

How many in your collection: Ficus, Vietnamese water jasmine, larch and azalea.

Anything new or experimental: Bill planted his workshop larches in the ground with hopes of making great bonsai in the future.

Any trips to see bonsai elsewhere: Enjoyed the collection at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

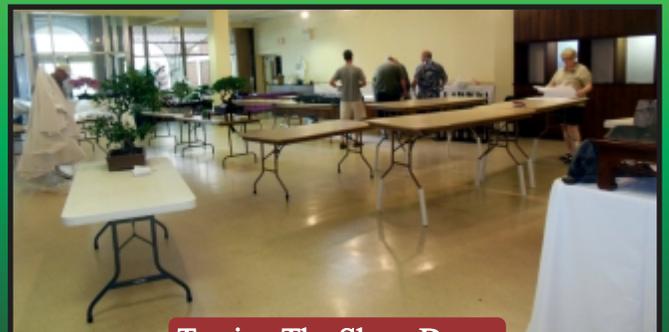
Spring Show Pictures Continued:



The Trees!



Haiku Corner
 Not yet become a Buddha,
 this ancient pine tree,
 dreaming. ~Issa



Tearing The Show Down

~photography by Cindie Bonomi

Welcome New Members!

We're happy to welcome the following new members for 2013 to the Society as of June: Cheryl Abels, Nickolas Ahlf, Brandon Arroyo, Barbara Bailey, Debra Bishop, Ray & Bernice Budd, Herbert Chester, Gail Coopey, Mike Cornell, Graham David Donohue, Gage Eckley, Kevin Finn, Jonathan & Lori Graham, Richard Graham, Kyle Heisey & Kellie Staab, Inga Jensen & Steve Sciulli, Steve Kann, Alex Kirkpatrick, Eli Kranjec & Family, Robert Lauth, Barb & Charles Lim, Paul Lipkind, Jonathan Martin, Michelle McMaster, Raymond Moody, Jeff Oravik, Joseph Pedulla, Nicholas Rosselle, Richard Tumulo, David Weber, Timothy Wyant and Dan Yobp.

Wear Your Pride!



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

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



Bonsai In The Burgh

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonsai Workgroup:

The work group meets every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm 6 - 10PM. The next several dates are July 11 & 25. If you are interested in sharpening your skills, call Bob at 412 977-0077.

Bonsai Barn:

Whether you want to buy, sell or trade any bonsai-related material, take advantage of the "Bonsai Barn" on our website: www.pittsburghbonsai.org You can also list regional/national bonsai events that your fellow PBS members might find interesting.

Spotlight Trees:

Remember to bring your spotlight trees to a meeting for "show & tell". It's a great way for new members to learn about new (to them) species; their TLC requirements and the story of your tree.

Coming Events:

20-21 July 2013 Columbus, OH: The Columbus Bonsai Society's 40th Annual Bonsai Show. 10:00am-4:00pm at the Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East Broad St., Columbus, OH 43203. 614 645-8733 pconservatory.org Go to: www.columbusbonsai.org for more information.

Fri., Sat. & Sun., Aug. 16-18 - Midwest Bonsai Society presents the Mid-America Bonsai Show The 36th Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit will be held at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Go to: www.midwestbonsai.org/show.htm for more information.

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 12-15 - ABS Learning Seminar. The 2013 American Bonsai Society Learning Seminar in Saratoga Springs, NY. For more information go to their website: <http://www.loveofbonsai.com/>

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 If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at: cindiebonomi@yahoo.com

August 2013 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the August 2013 Newsletter are due no later than July 5, 2013.

Compiled by Jay Miller
suisekifan@yahoo.com





Pittsburgh Bonsai Society
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Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society • 2013 Calendar of Events

July 10 1957 • Pittsburgh Bonsai Society organized • It's our 56th Birthday!

Jul 17.....	Wed 7pm.....	Immersion In The Art Of Bonsai with Dan Yobp
Aug 3.....	Sat 10am	Auction
Aug 10.....	Sat 11 am	Picnic at the Grealish Farm
Sep 18.....	Wed 7pm	TBA
Oct 16.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA
Nov 13.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA plus Elections
Dec 6.....	Wed 6:30pm	Annual Holiday Party



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.