



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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



JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER

COME JOIN US FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL
Spring Bonsai Show

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday May 19th 10-5 &
Sunday May 20th 10-4 2008

The Society For Contemporary Craft

2100 Smallman Street Pittsburgh, PA 15222 (Strip District)

EXHIBIT OF TREES • DEMONSTRATIONS • SALES

SALE: Starter plant material, finished trees, pots, tools & accessories.

CLINICS: Bring in your own tree. We will answer questions and offer suggestions on styling and care- Free of charge.

OPPORTUNITY: To learn about and join the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society.

**Any potential vender must contact Dave Metzgar at:
bannerdave@aol.com or call him at : 412 795-0800**



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

A Note From Bob

I hope that everyone has had fun, learned something, and now have more plants in their collections. You may not know how hard it is to find plants the size and cost that we have had at the last two meetings, so enjoy.

As you all know that the show is Fathers day weekend, I hope that many of you will be able to attend and tell your friends, about it.

Since this is a new type of presentation for our display, we are being asked for the first time to limit how many plants that we can show. "Aprox. 35 to 55 in total."

This is because of the way they wish to set up the presentation. I know that we are always asking our members to bring as many plants as possible, but if we have to cut back, please pick only the best plants for display.

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



Bonsai In The Burgh

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

Monthly Question And Answer Box

Do you have a bonsai related question?
Mail or E-Mail your question to:

Bob Dietz
1525 Connor Rd.
South Park, Pa.15219
dietz4771@comcast.net



Your question and the answer will
appear in the next news letter



Just A Few Shots From Last Year's Show



The latest on the Spring Show...

Plans are now final for the 50th year show. As we told you in the last newsletter, the show will be held at The Society for Contemporary Craft Gallery in the Strip District of Pittsburgh on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15. Hours will be from 10am until 5:00pm on Saturday and 10am until 4pm on Sunday.

In honor of the society's 50th year, a special gallery opening will be held on Saturday from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. All members who wish to show up and see their creations on display in a gallery setting can stroll among the trees and enjoy wine and hors'd oeuvres. Please wipe the mud off of your knees before entering.

The gallery is in the heart of the Strip District. If you can find your way downtown, take Grant Street towards the Strip until it turns into Liberty Avenue. Make a left onto 17th Street and then a right onto Smallman Street. The address is 2100 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh 15222. The building is across from St. Stanislaus Church and the phone number is 412-261-7003.

Because of the nature of this year's show, we will need to know in

advance how many trees are coming. The gallery is graciously handling much of the setup as well as advertising and they need to know what to expect. If you are planning to show any trees, you must call Dave Metzgar during the week at work at 412-795-0800 or evenings and weekends at home at 724-733-2406 before Friday, June 6. Due to the unique setup we cannot have any unexpected trees show up and we would hate to have to turn you away. We would like to have the trees delivered as early on Friday as possible. We are also looking for trees that were worked on during any of our workshops for a display area that shows trees in development. Members who wish to sell any items should also respond by the same date as the vendor space is limited.

There will be a Juniper workshop on Sunday at 1:00 for the first 15 people to register at the show. Also available from different vendors will be trees, tools, and supplies, along with a Chinese Auction.

This will be a special event so do not miss it!

Dave Metzgar

Early Summer

In The Bonsai Calendar



Whew! There's never enough April and May to get all of your springtime bonsai tasks done perfectly, but by early summer, all your bonsai should be in their display conditions in your garden or deck. Most of your trees area above ground level on tables, stands or structures so they'll receive even sunlight, good ventilation and easy access. Don't forget light shade for some species and some protection from strong winds.

It's time for pine maintenance. Check your wiring; is it cutting into the branches? Our classes were taught to remove wiring on pines by the Fourth of July, and that's just ahead of us. Cut the coils, don't try to unwrap the wire. Two-needle pines such as Scots pine, black pine, mugo pine, etc. respond to a phased pinching program, starting with the bottom of the tree, then middle two weeks later, then the top vigorous growth two weeks later. Yes, you can remove the entire candle on a two needle pine branch.

Reverse the process on a five-needle pine, such as white pine, starting with the top growth first. And remove only a third of each candle.

By now your feeding schedule is established, with the exception of summer-flowering species like satsuki azaleas. Feed evergreens every two weeks, alternating between granular and liquid foliar feeding. Your really old trees require less feed than younger bonsai.

Your pruning schedule is now down to trimming long shoots on the deciduous trees, and you are cutting the shoots to just above a bud which faces in the direction you want for new growth. If your fingers now have a good callus on the tips, carry on with finger pinching new growth on junipers. Ouch!

Remember at the last meeting Bob Dietz showed the concept of "slip-potting", where you can repot your azaleas after flowering or a workshop, by using a container just slightly larger, lifting the azalea without disturbing the roots.

Lastly, continue your spraying schedule for critters and fungus with a balanced rose spray containing systemic insecticide and fungicide. You can find spray containers in most garden centers and hardware stores.

Compiled by Jay Miller



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

BONSAI CARE AND MAINTENANCE FORM



Species _____ Cultivar _____ Number In Collection _____

Source: Propagation/Nursery • Stock/Collected/Bonsai • Supplier/Other: _____

Cost _____ Date Acquired _____ Pot _____ Height _____ Trunk Diameter _____

Removed From Collection: Date _____ Reason: Sold/Gift/Died _____

YEAR 1

Height _____ Trunk Diameter _____ Photographed Date _____ Repotted Y/N • Root-Pruned Y/N • Change Of Pot Y/N

Fungicide Treatment Dates _____ Insecticide Treatment Dates _____

Fertilizer: Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____

Training: Wire Applied Date _____ Wire Removal Date _____ Major Pruning Date _____

Exhibited: Where _____ Date _____ Where _____ Date _____

Notes For Next Year: _____

YEAR 2

Height _____ Trunk Diameter _____ Photographed Date _____ Repotted Y/N • Root-Pruned Y/N • Change Of Pot Y/N

Fungicide Treatment Dates _____ Insecticide Treatment Dates _____

Fertilizer: Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____

Training: Wire Applied Date _____ Wire Removal Date _____ Major Pruning Date _____

Exhibited: Where _____ Date _____ Where _____ Date _____

Notes For Next Year: _____

YEAR 3

Height _____ Trunk Diameter _____ Photographed Date _____ Repotted Y/N • Root-Pruned Y/N • Change Of Pot Y/N

Fungicide Treatment Dates _____ Insecticide Treatment Dates _____

Fertilizer: Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____

Training: Wire Applied Date _____ Wire Removal Date _____ Major Pruning Date _____

Exhibited: Where _____ Date _____ Where _____ Date _____

Notes For Next Year: _____

YEAR 4

Height _____ Trunk Diameter _____ Photographed Date _____ Repotted Y/N • Root-Pruned Y/N • Change Of Pot Y/N

Fungicide Treatment Dates _____ Insecticide Treatment Dates _____

Fertilizer: Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____

Training: Wire Applied Date _____ Wire Removal Date _____ Major Pruning Date _____

Exhibited: Where _____ Date _____ Where _____ Date _____

Notes For Next Year: _____

YEAR 5

Height _____ Trunk Diameter _____ Photographed Date _____ Repotted Y/N • Root-Pruned Y/N • Change Of Pot Y/N

Fungicide Treatment Dates _____ Insecticide Treatment Dates _____

Fertilizer: Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____ Type _____ Date _____

Training: Wire Applied Date _____ Wire Removal Date _____ Major Pruning Date _____

Exhibited: Where _____ Date _____ Where _____ Date _____

Notes For Next Year: _____

Mike's Corner

Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern

“Collection Aftercare”

When you get your collected tree home what should you do with it?

Some people leave the tree in the burlap and set it on the ground and surround it with chips or mulch and keep it moist. Some people will set it in a large training pot and put soil under and around the outside. Other people will set it in the ground in a very sandy soil to let it recover. Impatient people may attempt to wash off the soil and replace it with potting soil. Those are the people who are likely to have material for a Phoenix graft. The first three options are the best options. Do not disturb the root ball and give the tree a chance to put out new feeder roots to support the branches. Make sure that the tree is stable and will not bend, tilt, or well over in the wind. Stake it if necessary. Otherwise, fragile forming roots could be broken off if the tree is blown over.

I have read and have utilized the strategy of initially placing the tree in a shady location. Also I have attempted to protect evergreens from strong winds. The logic is to reduce moisture loss. I have also read and followed the rule of not fertilizing newly root pruned trees. These strategies have been successful. As with many things that I read, I believe everything and I believe nothing.

I have read articles that have encouraged top pruning of the tree to balance the recent root pruning that has occurred. I have followed that advice with success. Later, I read articles encouraging you to leave as many of the branches on as possible. The logic is that the more photosynthesis occurs the more root growth will occur. I also have followed that advice successfully. I currently follow that advice. I figure if the roots cannot support the branches, the

branches would naturally die back and balance themselves. Otherwise, I want to encourage as much new root growth as can be accomplished following transplantation.

I recently read some articles encouraging the freshly dug trees to be placed in sunny locations and fertilized with mild fertilizers. The logic is that the sun encourages photosynthesis which encourages more top growth which in turn encourages more root growth. Mild fertilizers provide necessary nutrients to provide balanced growth. I have begun to follow that advice and have found it to be successful.

Placing a tree in the shade has worked and it would likely continue to work.

Let the tree grow the first year with no pruning or attempts to train the tree. Survival and health of the tree is always the first and most important issue. Artistic needs should take a back seat. After the first year of recovery and assuming the tree is growing vigorously, one can begin to selectively prune to encourage the tree to bud back. As with any tree, knowing its habits and tendencies will determine when you begin doing significant training and pruning.

I continue to follow the advice that the roots should not be too wet. Roots require water and air to adequately survive. Placing a freshly collected tree into a pot that is only large enough to handle the root ball is a mistake. Natural soil is not a good medium when the tree is growing in a pot.



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

Calendar of Events

June 14-15.....Sat/SunAnnual Spring Show.....The Society for Contemporary Craft
2100 Smallman Street
Pittsburgh 15222 (Strip District)

July 16Wed. 7pmBYOT Workshop!Phipps Garden Center
Bring Your Own Tree Bring your Tools!

All PBS meetings, 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.