



# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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



## June 2011 Newsletter

**NEXT MEETING**

**Workshop**

Wednesday  
June 15, 2011  
7pm



Mugo Pines  
Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

**NEXT EVENT**

Make sure you don't miss the

**Annual Bonsai Auction**

July 20 7pm at Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

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 one month prior to issue date

**Submissions:**  
Please submit Photos or Artwork in JPG format and Copy in Microsoft Word.

## A Note From Dave:

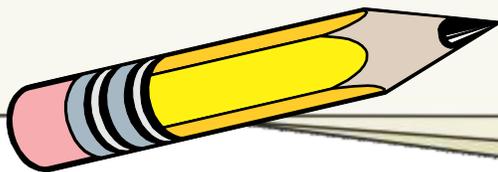


Another spring show has come and gone, and again it seemed like all of the preparation before-hand took a lot longer than the show itself, which felt like whirlwind of a few hours each day. The turn-out both days was impressive, thanks in part to good weather and other events in the area. A great display of trees and a good supply of vendor and consignment material hopefully kept everyone happy. Remember you can call Bob Dietz at Bonsai in the 'Burgh for pots and supplies all year round at: 724-348-4771 and not just wait for the show every year to buy your bonsai materials.



*Photo by Cindie Bonomi*

The biggest reason the show was successful was due to the commitment of volunteer members who helped set up the event, brought trees in to display, welcomed visitors, sold consignment material, brought in cookies and cake, and finally helped take down the show. Thanks to everyone who took part in some way, big or small. Let us know of any ideas to make next year's event better. The bigger the show, the more people are exposed to the art of bonsai. And maybe the starter tree that someone took home over the weekend will be the highlight of a future show.



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

# Keith Scott

-Kelley Adkins

## A remembrance...

Keith grew up in Salem, Ohio where his father worked in one of the potteries common to that area at the time. His father had also done missionary work in Japan and often described to him the miniature trees he had seen there. Being stationed in Japan during the Korean War gave Keith the opportunity to see these trees first hand and to develop his lasting appreciation for Japanese aesthetics and traditions as well as providing a basic understanding of the language.

Upon returning to the U.S., Keith attended Purdue University and obtained a Masters Degree in English Literature. Keith taught English at Youngstown State University and eventually settled on a teaching position in the Shaker Heights School system at a time when it was considered one of the 10 best public school systems in the country.

In 1961 Keith joined the Cleveland Bonsai Club and began a serious pursuit of the art of bonsai. He would

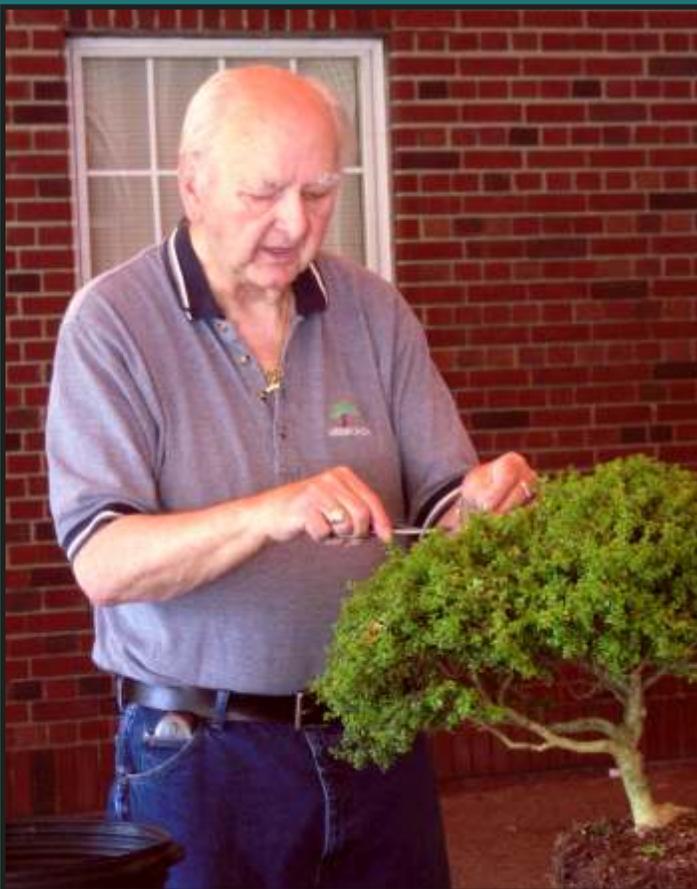


Keith at the 2005 Bonsai Picnic at Grealish's

eventually start a nursery and import business that established him as one of the very first Americans to deal in Bonsai stock, pots and tools. At this time he also established his reputation as one of the most prolific bonsai writers with his frequent contributions to the bonsai journals being established during this period.

His reputation grew as an artist, writer, lecturer and authority on all things related to bonsai and suiseki. His approach to bonsai was unique and Keith always valued original work over to the refining of imported stock. It needs to be noted too that his wit and talent as a lecturer took him all over North America as one of the most popular speakers the world of bonsai has ever produced. His knowledge and reputation eventually lead to his being selected to curate the Bonsai Collection at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh.

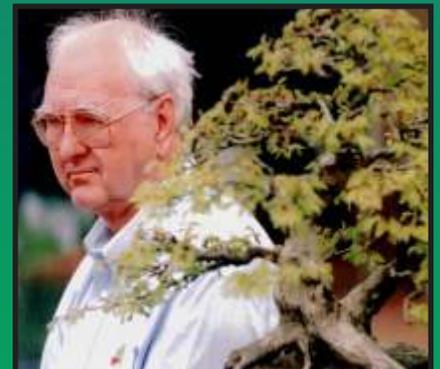
Even though bonsai was his main artistic outlet, Keith was a man of many interests. He was a serious and accomplished potter, a knife and tool maker, a wood worker, a gardener and always a lover of great literature. Keith was a uniquely talented and intellectually gifted man who touched the lives of many people and who leaves this world a much richer place.



Teaching a Boxwood workshop at the Spring Show in 2009



One of his many trips to Japan



Keith and his Trident Maple from his spiral bound booklet: *Tricks The Books Never Taught You*

# 2011 Spring Show Photos

-Cindie Bonomi



Norb's dog "Tina"



We had a great turn out and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time this year at our Spring Weekend/Show



The Members



A lot of us pitched in and helped out



Bob Dietz and Bonsai In The Burgh



Snacks



Jane Crompton: the winner of the door prize tree poses with Autumn Eckley



The Vendors

# 2011 Spring Show Photos Continued:

## Lectures And Workshops



Bob Grealish demonstrated how to style and wire by making the door prize tree "donated by Mike Stern" look gorgeous



Dave Metzgar ran a "hands-on" Juniper workshop outside behind the garden center



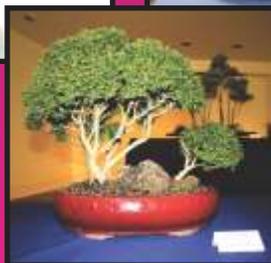
Keith (Guardian of the Spirit)  
 I created you in my peaceful garden  
 I cut you, I split you, I trimmed you  
 I wired and wired, discipline was hard  
 Remember, I never stopped loving you  
 You responded, you were faithful  
 You grew and grew accepting your faith  
 Now, your future is bright and hopeful  
 You are the guardian of the spirit



Keith will always be remembered:  
 We had a space dedicated to him and photos  
 Everyone took turns sharing their Keith stories

...And last but not least:

## Our Show Trees



# MEMBER PROFILE: DAVE RUFFANER

by Dave Metzgar



My Larch

photography by Cindie Bonomi



**Family, home life, occupation:** I am a retired Earth-Space Science teacher and am married to Christine, who has little interest in bonsai. We have a daughter and two grandchildren.

**How many years interested in bonsai:** I first saw bonsai being grown by my father-in-law and thought it was so “cool”. I joined the PBS in the early 80's and became president in 1987 for the 30th anniversary and “Big Party”!

**First tree:** I collected my first Scots pine in 1974 and it is still alive.

**Favorite variety/style:** My favorite tree is the Larch, which influenced the name of my nursery, “Karamatsu-en”, which means “Larch Garden”. I also have many large Japanese black pines in pots and in the ground that are 30-35 years old.



## Haiku Corner

The cool breeze  
Fills the empty vault of heaven  
With the voice of the pine tree.

- Onitsura

**How many in your collection:** I probably have 175 trees in pots, of which 30-40 could be called bonsai.

**Any trips to see bonsai elsewhere:** I went to my first American Bonsai Society convention in 1978 and the guys I hung around with eventually became officers in the ABS.

**Anything you'd like to see the society do in the future:** I think our society should become more involved in national societies and clubs, like ABS and BCI ( Bonsai Clubs International).

# The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's 2011 Calendar Of Events

Jul 20.....	Wed 7pm .....	Auction!!!
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
No Meetings.....	.....	January & February 2012
Mar 21.....	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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Bonsai Workgroup:

The work group will meet every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm 6 - 10PM. The next sessions are June 16 and 30, July 14 and 28. If you are interested in sharpening your skills, call Bob at 412 977-0077.

## Coming Events:

16-19 June 2011 Louisville KY  
"Bonsai in the Bluegrass" ABS Convention & Learning Seminar; Fern Valley Hotel and Convention Center, Louisville  
[www.bonsaiinthebluegrass.com](http://www.bonsaiinthebluegrass.com)

## 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 successful species, their requirements and the story of your tree.

## Have You Moved?

If you have recently moved or are planning to move, please let PBS know! Contact our Membership Chair, Meg Vates-Amoudi, with your new address, email address and phone number.  
Email: [meg\\_bonsai@hotmail.com](mailto:meg_bonsai@hotmail.com) or call 412 477-7231.

## 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 [susekifan@yahoo.com](mailto:susekifan@yahoo.com) If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at: [cindiebonomi@yahoo.com](mailto:cindiebonomi@yahoo.com)

## July 2011 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the July 2011 Newsletter are due no later than June 16, 2011.

Compiled by Jay Miller



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*Photo manipulation by Cindie Bonomi*

In Memoriam:  
**Keith B. Scott**  
September 11, 1930 – May 5, 2011

