



# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

# June 2012 Newsletter

## 31st Annual Spring BONSAI SHOW

**THIS MONTH**



- Setup: ..... Friday June 1st 12 noon-8pm Bring Your Trees!
- Saturday June 2nd 10-5:..... 11:00 am Watch a Juniper Styling Demonstration  
1:00pm Style a Juniper procumbens nana for \$25.
- Sunday June 3rd 10-4: ..... Demonstration at 11:00am  
1:00pm Style and repot a tropical tree.

Call 412 795-0800 for more information, or to reserve a spot in the limited space workshops.

**NEXT MONTH**

## TWO EVENTS?

- Jul 14.....Sat.....Slab Workshop at Bob Dietz'
- Jul 18.....Wed.....7pm.....Tropicals Workshop Phipps  
Garden Center, Shadyside  
Details TBA

Please check our newly revamped 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:

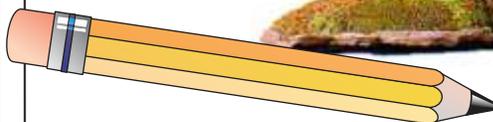
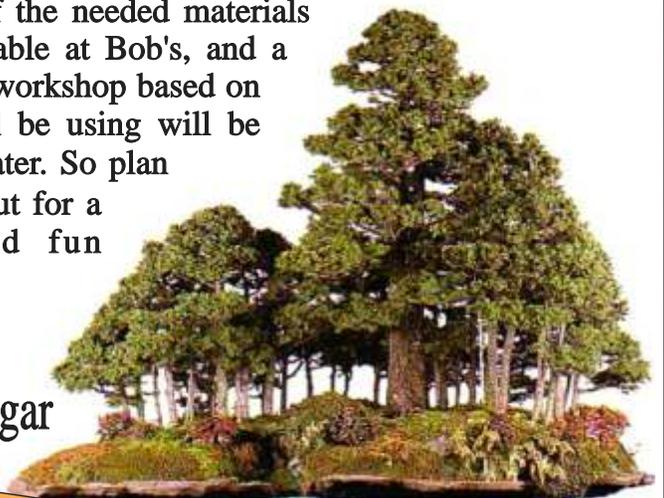


*Photo By Cindie Bonomi*

With the Spring Show a few days away, I hope you have your trees ready for display. And I don't just mean the members who bring trees every year, but those of you newer members who may have some interesting works of art. If it is something you have been working on for a while and it looks like a showable tree, bring it to the garden center on Friday June 1 between noon and 8pm. Just a friendly suggestion: if there are coils of wire on a tiny tree that weighs more than the tree itself, maybe wait a few years for it to fill out.

With the show falling into June this year, our monthly schedule is a bit out of balance. The show takes the place of the regular monthly meeting, so the next monthly meeting is the July workshop on tropicals, on Wednesday the 18th. A week before that, on Saturday the 14th, we are planning a slab making workshop at Bob Dietz's house in the South Park area. For those of you unfamiliar with a bonsai slab, a grove or single specimen tree is planted on a very flat rock, or in this case, a constructed slab of concrete. We will be mixing up a fiberglass reinforced concrete, laying it on a bed of sand, and sculpting it to look realistic. We will be drilling holes in the bottom for drainage and attaching wires to hold the tree in place. It does take some time to cure, so depending on conditions, you may have to leave your slab at Bob's place to fully cure. The finished slab should cure the rest of the year to allow the chemicals to leach out, and you can use it next spring. All of the needed materials will be available at Bob's, and a price for the workshop based on what we will be using will be determined later. So plan on coming out for a relaxed and fun experiment.

Dave Metzgar



*A Grove of Trees Planted on a Slab*

# Some Photos From The May Meeting: WIRING OF SCOTS PINES



Dave opens the meeting and Bob begins talking about needle pinching and wiring.



After Bob's lecture, everyone begins to work on the tree they picked at the beginning of the meeting.





# Mike's Corner

## Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern



Spring came four weeks early. I was forced to dig up trees and repot trees much earlier than I have ever had to do in the past. In the process of doing that, I anticipated that I would be moving trees in and out of my garage to deal with the frosts that were sure to come in April and May. Having to move trees in and out of the garage to avoid frost saved me going to the gym a number of days.

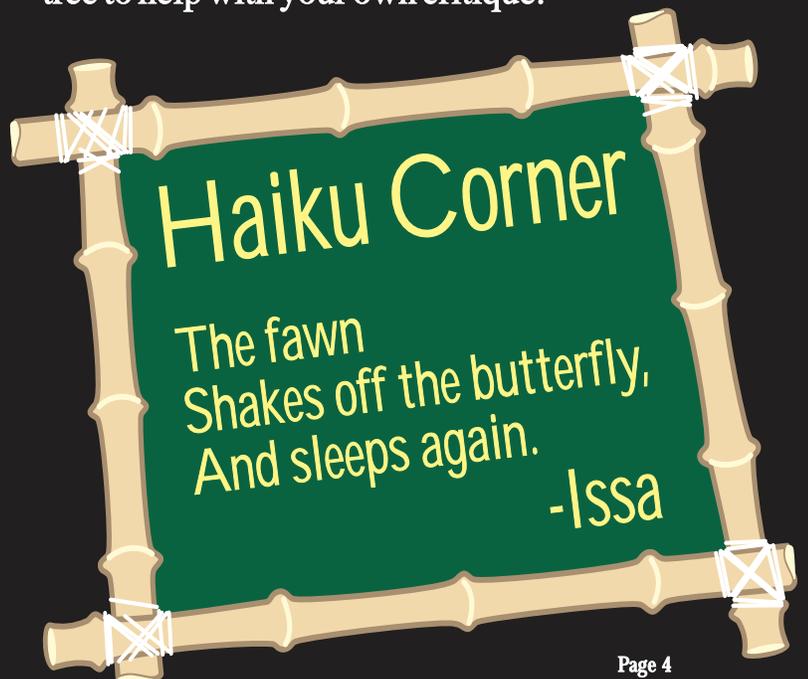
The trees that I have found especially sensitive to frost are ginkgo and honey locust. Trees that seem more tolerant are Crabapple and elms. I did not mind the frost killing the buds of some of my mature trees such as Yews as it saved me from pinching them. Along those lines, I have also learned to appreciate Japanese beetles nearly defoliating some of my Siberian elms. The second set the leaves come out much smaller. Some disasters can be opportunities.

Flathead borers on the other hand were not a natural disaster for which I found redeeming qualities. Approximately 15 years ago I had numerous hornbeams that

## Spring, Pests and the Art of Showing Trees!

were killed by borers. It was too late when I found tiny saw dust piles at the base of the trunks and pinholes in the trunks. They revisited me this spring and I only lost about six trees before I found them. In the early spring, it is wise to get down on your hands and knees and look at the base of the trunks searching for sawdust and pinholes. I was able to treat them with Lindane. I think I stopped other trees from being attacked.

The spring show will be upon us soon. As you are selecting your trees to show evaluate them as a piece of fine art. Consider the presentation of the tree and be meticulous in your preparation. Clean the outside of the pot. Utilize a product such as Armor All to leave the pot looking shiny and new. The frame is equally as important as the picture in the frame. Make sure that debris at the base of the trunk is cleaned up and fresh potting soil has been applied. Trim out small dead branches and dying leaves. Though we do not have the competition, imagine the tree is in a competition and you wanted to look the best possible. Have a friend critique your tree and make suggestions to improve its appearance. Also take a photo of the tree to help with your own critique.



# MidAtlantic Bonsai Spring Festival

-By Dave Steidl



-Photo by Dave Steidl

I had a chance to attend this year's MidAtlantic Bonsai Spring Festival on April 21st. I don't usually attend the lectures and workshops but there is a \$10 entrance fee to the Member's show, the vendor area, and Professional Invitational Exhibit. Again this year, a remarkable set of events just to browse. (see photos) I included one photo from the member's show, mostly because of the pot in the display. A spherical pot that sits in an adjustable base. Most of



the comments I heard were, "How do you get the tree out?"

One of the guest lecturers was Isao Omachi from Sendai, Japan. He is a well respected bonsai artist and travels to Korea annually to maintain one of that country's major collections. I wanted to mention Mr. Omachi, because last year according to the program his home and entire nursery were swept away by the tsunami.



The vendor area showed amazing collections of pottery, tools, soil, trees, stones, and miniatures. I spoke to Sara Rayner a potter from Minnesota. She said she had called Don Gould (late member of PBS) for advice before she first got into the business of being a full time potter. I decided to buy one of her pots.



# Some Highlights From Last Year's Spring Show

Photos By Cindie Bonomi



## Pittsburgh Bonsai Society 2012 Calendar of Events

- Jun 1-3 ..... Fri-Sun ..... Spring Bonsai Weekend
- Jul 14 ..... Sat ..... Slab Workshop at Bob Dietz'
- Jul 18 ..... Wed 7pm ..... Tropicals
- Aug 11 ..... Sat 11am ..... Picnic at the Grealish Farm
- Sep 19 ..... Wed 7pm ..... TBA
- Oct 17 ..... Wed 7pm ..... TBA
- Nov 14 ..... Wed 7pm ..... TBA plus elections
- Dec 6 ..... THURS 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.

# Charles R. "Charlie" Stenger

April 20, 2012

Long-time Pittsburgh Bonsai Society member, Charlie Stenger of Crafton Heights, a Navy veteran of the Korean War, died last month at age 83, his wife Betty Jane reported. Charlie and Betty Jane loved bonsai, enthusiastically attended most PBS events, bus trips and workshops. He was also a member of the Orchid Society of Western PA.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Bonsai Spring Workgroup:

The work group meets Thursdays, May 24; June 07 & 21 2012 at Bob Grealish's farm 6-10pm. If you are interested in sharpening your styling, wiring or maintenance skills, call Bob at: 412977-0077.

### Bonsai Barn:

Whether you want to buy, sell or trade any bonsai-related material, take advantage of the "Bonsai Barn" on our website: [pittsburghbonsai.org](http://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:

09-10 June 2012 Rochester NY "3rd U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition", The Fair Expo Center; 9am to 5pm. Daily admission \$15. More information and registration forms at: [www.internationalbonsai.com](http://www.internationalbonsai.com) 585-334-2595, fax 585 334-6239

21-24 June 2012 Denver, CO "Visions of the American West" ABS Convention & Learning Seminar; Denver Marriott Tech Center More information and registration forms can be found at: <http://www.bonsai2012.org>

04-07 October 2012 Grantville, PA "International Stone Appreciation Symposium", Holiday Inn, Harrisburg/Hershey. The largest show devoted to suiseki and stone appreciation in the West; More information and registration forms at: [www.stoneshow2012.com](http://www.stoneshow2012.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](mailto:suisekifan@yahoo.com) If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at: [cindiebonomi@yahoo.com](mailto:cindiebonomi@yahoo.com)

### July 2012 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the July 2012 Newsletter are due no later than June 13, 2012.

Compiled by Jay Miller  
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