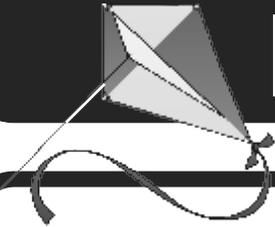




# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

## Mar·Apr 2007 Newsletter



### NEXT MEETING

## Date Change! Date Change! Date Change!

Workshop: **MONDAY March 26, 2007, 7:00pm at Phipps Garden Center Botany, Chemistry and how they relate to your tiny tree obsession! Date Change! Date Change! Date Change!**

Workshop: **MONDAY March 26, 2007, 7:00pm at Phipps Garden Center Botany, Chemistry and how they relate to your tiny tree obsession!**

## APRIL MEETING

Azalea Workshop! Wed., April 18, 2007, 7:00pm at Phipps Garden Center. A favorite species for bonsai enthusiasts, these are hardy Zone 5 nursery stock. A modest \$10.00 materials fee applies. Please bring your tools and supplies.

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

### NEWS OF MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES

PBS members are teaching bonsai techniques this spring:

- Dr. Norbert Pietrzak has three sessions scheduled for Phipps Conservatory
  - Sat April 14th Bonsai Basics
  - Sat April 21st Studio Work (intermediate)
  - Sat April 28th Forest Planting
  - Materials Fee. Pre-registration required
- Kevin Haughey, Bonsai Manager at Phipps Conservatory, presents Introductory Bonsai at Phipps
  - Sat May 19th Two sessions
  - Materials Fee. Pre-registration required.
  - Pre-register at Phipps 412 622-6914

# In Memory of Michael Matic

February 26th 2007 was a sad day for the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. Former treasurer and friend- Michael Matic lost his battle with cancer.

Michael was born October 22, 1963. Everything Michael decided to do, he did with great passion. A lover of outdoor sports, Michael was an expert skier, kayaker, and cyclist. His love of nature and the outdoors naturally drew him to and interest in bonsai. From one small bonsai, given as a Valentine's Day gift, so began Mike's collection of over 300 trees all meticulously organized in true Japanese fashion.

In the year 2000, Mike was diagnosed with cancer which was successfully treated. During remission of his cancer, he attended CCAC-IUP to become a school teacher. He graduated with honors and will receive his degree and teacher's-license posthumously this coming spring.

In July of 2006, Michael's cancer reemerged. Reentering the hospital, he underwent extensive treatment including a bone marrow transplant; however, it was to no avail. On February 26, 2007, Michael succumbed to pneumonia and passed away.

He will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife Michelle, father John, step-mother Karen Matic, mother Suzanne Miller, sisters Anne, Kate, Lindsay, and brother John. His memory will also live on through his many friends, including those of the Bonsai Society.

## When I Am Gone...

When I am gone, release me,  
let me go.  
I have so many things to see  
and do.  
You must not tie yourself to me  
with tears.  
Be happy that we had so  
many years.  
I gave you my love, you can  
only guess,  
How much you gave to me  
in happiness.  
I thank you for the love each  
have shown,  
But now it's time I traveled  
on alone.

-Michael Matic

-Mark Wazenegger



Mike and Keith Scott at  
Spring Show 2006



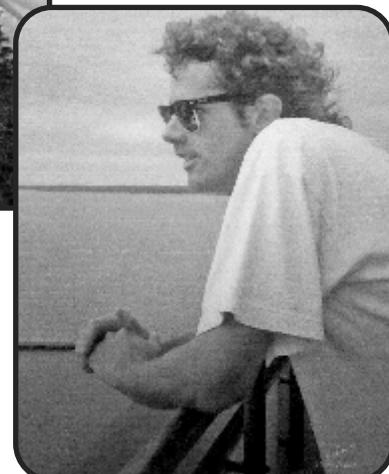
Mike teaching a class to the  
*Acorn Garden Club*



Inside one of Mike's  
poly-houses



Mike in the hospital



Michael Matic 1963-2007

# Mike's Corner

Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern

## Bonsai In The Ground (Part II)

Once you have created a deep bed of organic well-drained soil for your "in the ground bonsai", you need to consider when to plant and what material to plant. I have found it best to plant trees in the very early spring or late summer. The rate of root growth is greatest at those times. Therefore, the needs for regular watering are reduced. Hopefully, the spring will provide us with a copious amount of rain to water your freshly planted trees. In the late summer, you will be required to provide some regular watering. However, that will diminish as the temperature cools and the precipitation increases.

When planting in the spring, be careful with seedlings. Late frosts can cause the soil to heave and expose fragile roots. (This can also occur with larger trees.) If you are planting seedlings or young trees that you have purchased through mail order and they have already begun to leaf out, make sure that you cover them when there are threats of frost. If you are planting dormant seedlings or dormant young trees, frosts are usually not a problem if they have not begun to bud. Once they have begun to bud protect them from late frosts as you would your bonsai. (If you have as many as I do, there are too many to cover and sometimes you suffer the loss of your initial growth.)

I have had more success with two or three-year-old trees than with delicate young seedlings. I would be tempted to leave young seedlings in larger training pots for a year or two to increase root growth. Trees with heavier root systems allow the tree to remain more stable in an environment which is not always

protected. They are more resilient to environmental fluctuations. These young trees will be exposed to frost, wind, and heavy rains. It would be wise to stake these young trees until they have established a good root system. Additionally, consider placing a rabbit proof fence around the seedlings or your trees will be prematurely pruned.

Consider placing a flat piece of plastic in the ground, a few inches below the root system directly under the trunk. You could fold up a plastic trash bag in a manner that would prevent roots from growing straight down into the ground. This will force more roots out to the side and provide a more attractive base. It also allows for a shallow root system that more easily transplants into a bonsai pot.

In addition to planting seedlings and saplings, consider planting larger trees that have been growing in nursery pots or bonsai pots. These trees already have extensive root systems and will quickly adapt to their new environment. If you plant them in early spring, lightly root prune these trees before placing them in the ground. Avoid circling root systems. Consider placing a square piece of plastic under these trees as well. The depth at which the plastic should be placed is about the depth of pot you hope to utilize in the future. The placement of a plastic barrier will increase the amount of time the tree will need to stabilize itself in the ground.

Finally, consider planting larger trees or trees that you hope to promote significant growth approximately 4 feet apart.

More on this in the next edition.

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# Spring Fever Zone 5 Style

A few warm days in a row and you get the urge! You wanna take your bonsai out of the cold frames or poly houses, put them in the fresh air and sunshine and let the blooming begin! Not so fast. Remember that the average date of the last killing frost in the Pittsburgh area is April 21st, not March. Yes, Keith told the classes you can start to feed your ficus plants around March 15th, and you can collect maples from the wild (your neighbor's yard??) around the same time, but you're trying to ensure your collection's survival, right? Pour another cup of coffee, roll up the sides of your poly house during the day. Clean those display benches, start to repot, based on last year's notes, don't start your feeding schedule until the first shoots appear, and begin your spraying schedule against the chewers, suckers and critters!

- Jay Miller





Pittsburgh Bonsai Society  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15216

# Calendar of Events

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Mon Mar 26</b>        | <b>Workshop 7:00pm<br/>Phipps Garden Center Shadyside</b>   |
| <b>Wed April 18</b>      | <b>Azalea Workshop, 7:00pm Phipps Garden<br/>Center, Shadyside \$10 materials fee</b>   |
| <b>Sat/Sun May 19-20</b> | <b>Annual Spring Show, 10-4, Free &amp; Open to the Public!<br/>Exhibition of bonsai, Vendors, Demonstrations<br/>Drew Mathieson Center</b> |

## Other Events

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>April 20-22</b> | <b>Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Symposium (NJ)</b> |
|--------------------|---|

All PBS meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Phipps Garden Center, starting at 7:00pm. Emergency Phone: 412 441-4442.

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.

