



# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

# MARCH 2015

## NEWSLETTER



## MARCH

### Repotting Deciduous Trees, Advanced Soil Theory, Pot Selection

It's Early Spring in the bonsai calendar, and the busiest time! We are committed to upgrading our skills, enhancing our trees and perfecting their display. Bob Dietz will feature THE deciduous classic, the Japanese Maple in a demonstration designed to help newer members learn the right techniques for repotting deciduous bonsai and how to employ better bonsai soil. More experienced members will welcome ideas on pot selection. Feel free to bring in YOUR Japanese Maples for tips and techniques. Shake off the winter blahs; bring in your trees and tools. As always, PBS has tools and wire available.



**March 25, 2015 • Wednesday • 7:00pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside**

### It's a Two-Part Scots Pine Workshop!

## APRIL

Bob Dietz will have a quantity of Scots Pines available following a brief presentation on successfully growing and styling this mainstay of any bonsai collection. You can do preliminary work on your pine, than bring it back for Part 2 later in the year. The modest materials fee will be announced at the March Meeting!



**April 15, 2015 • Wednesday • 6:30pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside**

**Please check our ever-evolving website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>  
Also visit us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pittsburghbonsai](http://www.facebook.com/pittsburghbonsai)**



## The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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Jay Miller

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:



## A Planting Bed at The Grealish Farm

Okay, unless you are a native of Oymyakon, Russia (the coldest inhabited place on earth) you have to be happy that this past winter is over. As of this writing, I am not sure what the toll on my collection will be, but if it's anything like last winter, I'll have room to buy more trees.



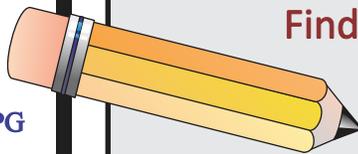
*~photo by Cindie Bonomi*

The society will have several great opportunities to increase your collection as well, from workshops throughout the year to buying from vendors at the spring show and picnic. One other source will be a planted bed of trained trees that you can help guide to great material from early planting stages. The group has decided to purchase a large selection of starter material and plant a bonsai bed out at the Grealish Farm. Bob Grealish has graciously given us ample space to prepare and plant the bed with an eye to the future. Members will be asked to help prepare, plant and maintain the area, all the while learning how to train trees for bonsai and not for landscape plants. You'll learn the techniques for getting great root structure and proper branching right from the beginning. We'll keep track of volunteer hours and you'll be rewarded with great bonsai when it's time to dig them up. The more time you invest, the better the material.

Find out more at the March meeting!

Dave Metzgar

[bannerdave@aol](mailto:bannerdave@aol) 412-956-2482



## You Have Just Found The Cure For Bad Advertising

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Cindie Bonomi • 335 Newburn Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15216 • Phone: (412) 561-2057

## Haiku Corner

The bright moon:  
On the tatami  
The Shadow of the pine-tree

- Kikaku

# The National Bonsai Exhibition: Climbing the Ladder



~by Dan Yobp



In 2008, I went to the First international Bonsai exhibition in Rochester, NY. Since I had only been doing bonsai for about three years then, I was amazed by the quality of the bonsai there and the obvious time and dedication the artists put into the trees on display. I remember thinking "I got to get better at Bonsai!"

Well, in the Spring of 2010 I left for Japan and the three years I spent there learning Bonsai were invaluable. After working on exceptional trees and going to all of the famous exhibitions, I looked back on the 2008 Rochester show with disappointment. I realized that we as American bonsai enthusiasts were lagging way behind. I felt this way until I revisited the National show this year in September, and wow, what a difference!

Although we still need to improve quite a bit as a Bonsai culture, American Bonsai is improving in leaps and bounds. It was exciting to see native collected trees like Ponderosa pine, Rocky mountain Juniper, Sierra Juniper, Tamarack and Pitch Pine being styled and displayed well, and it was very apparent that the newer generation of Bonsai artists, such as Ryan Neil, Michael Hagedorn and Peter Tea have really contributed in helping folks understand how to style such collected material. We are blessed as a bonsai culture to have such great species to work with and I can't help but think that with proper instruction and dedicated enthusiasts, we can some day reach the realm of Japanese bonsai. So, with that being said, Don't get lazy this Winter!! Read up on some bonsai books and surf the net for good videos. It's always good to be inspired and the 2014 National Bonsai Exhibition was just that for me; truly inspirational.



~photos by Cindie Bonomi and Dan Yobp

# Some Pictures From Our November Meeting: Dan Yobp: Styling in Context



*~photography by  
Cindie Bonomi*





OUT HERE

# Member Survey

Please take a moment and help us with your comments.  
We want to make your membership year as productive as possible

## How did you originally learn of The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society?

- from a friend    newspaper article    PBS website    the Internet    PBS Facebook  
 Bonsai Classes at Phipps    a flyer    from a Garden Center

Would you like to receive your newsletters electronically?    yes    no

If yes, Name

E-mail Address

Are your bonsai skills:    beginner    intermediate    advanced

## Please tell us what programs you'd prefer:

- lectures    workshops with your trees    demonstration & workshops    Bonsai Basics

Other Suggestions: .....

Questions: .....

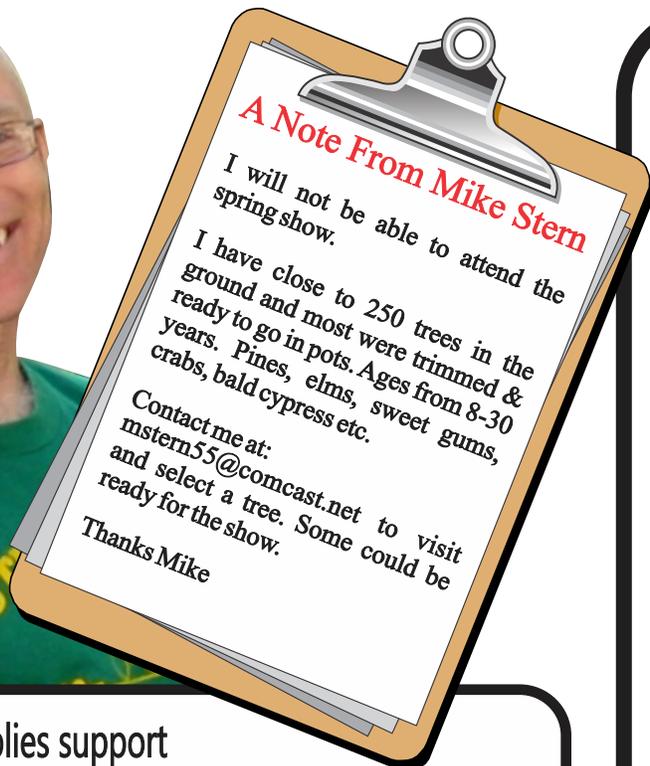
# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society • 2015 Calendar of Events

- Wed.....March 25...7:00 PM... Japanese Maples!  
Repotting, styling, etc.
- Wed..... April 15...7:00 PM... Scots Pine Workshop  
Part One
- Wed..... May 20 ...7:00 PM
- Fri. Sat. Sun.. May 29-30-31..... 34th Spring Show
- Wed.....June 17...7:00 PM
- Wed.....July 15...7:00 PM
- Sat.....July 25.....Auction@ Phipps Garden  
Center
- Aug.....TBA..... Annual Picnic
- Wed.....Sept. 16...7:00 PM
- Wed.....Oct. 21...7:00 PM
- Wed.....Nov. 18...7:00 PM



All events, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Phipps Garden Center, starting at 7:00pm Phipps. Garden Center, 1059 Shady Avenue, 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.



### A Note From Mike Stern

I will not be able to attend the spring show.  
I have close to 250 trees in the ground and most were trimmed & ready to go in pots. Ages from 8-30 years. Pines, elms, sweet gums, crabs, bald cypress etc.  
Contact me at: mstern55@comcast.net to visit and select a tree. Some could be ready for the show.  
Thanks Mike

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



Bob Dietz



## Bonsai In The Burgh

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

# Yea! We Got Shirts! Good Shirts!



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](mailto:annaclaus55@hotmail.com)

-photos by Cindie Bonomi and Anna Domasky

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Coming Events:

32nd Annual Spring Festival - MABS. April 24-26 2015. The Spring Festival of the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies will commence Friday evening, April 24, 2015 and run through Sunday afternoon, April 26, at the Fairbridge Inn (formerly Ramada Hotel) in East Hanover, NJ. [www.midatlanticbonsai.org](http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org) More information to come.

38th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit. August 14-16 2015. Their August show has the longest history, going into year 38 in 2015. It is one of the biggest regional shows in the nation. Centered on the Chicago Botanic Garden's Permanent Collection, featuring almost 50 world-class trees, it's a showplace of trees from across the midwest. Enthusiasts from five states bring their trees to be judged in the main hall at the Garden's Regenstein Center. There are no residency or membership restrictions for entering the show - any tree that can make it to Chicago is welcome to be entered. Along with this fabulous display of regional talent, there are over a dozen national vendors, workshops, free demonstrations, and a banquet with a silent auction. For more information go to: <http://www.midwestbonsai.org>

## 2015 Calendar Note:

Artisans Cup of Portland, "American Bonsai Reforged and Refined", Portland OR September 26th-28th 2015, Portland Art Museum, 8:00am-5:00pm; 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland. The Artisans Cup of Portland Bonsai Exhibition is the showcase of America's new movement to raise aesthetic appreciation and craftsmanship in the art of bonsai. The show's venue in the renowned Portland Art Museum catapults bonsai into the world of fine art. Event Website: <http://www.artisanscupofportland.com/>

## April 2015 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the April 2015 PBS Newsletter are due no later than March 27, 2015.

Compiled by Jay Miller  
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**DUES ARE DUE! RENEW NOW!**



*~photo by Cindie Bonomi*