



# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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



## THIS MONTH WIRING OF SCOTS PINES



Scots Pines are hardy, available from nursery stock, collectible in the wild and great bonsai material. Trees provided at cost. Don't forget to check the Tree Calendar on the Website for additional tips!  
May 16, 2012 • Wed. • 7pm at Phipps Garden Center

**31st Annual Spring BONSAI SHOW** **NEXT MONTH**

Setup: ..... Friday June 1st 2-8pm 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.



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



# The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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Cindie Bonomi



**Publishing & Circulation:**  
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 two months prior to issue date.

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

Page 2

## A Note From Dave:

This year's Spring Show will be held at Phipps Garden Center on Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2. It follows on the heels of May's meeting date, so now is the best time to remind everyone of what is involved in setting up the show. Setup will be Friday from noon until 8pm, so please have your trees here early. If you have something that you haven't displayed in a while, please bring it in.



*Photo By Cindie Bonomi*

For the best display possible, trees should be in excellent shape. Remove any dead leaves and branches, and wire any branches that need re-positioned. The pots should be cleaned. Bring along any accent plants or stands that you'd like your trees to be displayed upon.

Don't forget to bring in some bonsai related items for the Silent Auction. If you have plant material to sell, we'll handle it at the consignment area. There will be food available, and as always, you can donate baked goods. Anyone interested in helping with the setup or take down, please show up early and stay late. We will have sign-up sheets at the next meeting to keep track of volunteers who want to help at the show.

Dave Metzgar

# SPECIAL SALE!

Bob Grealish is holding a special one-day tree sale! Details on page 5.

For your Bonsai supplies support

the store that exists for the society



## Bonsai In The Burgh

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

# Ruffaner Repots, Repots Repots Conifers!

-by Jay Miller

A large crowd assembled on April 18th to hear, watch and pepper Dave Ruffaner with questions about conifers! Dave talked a little about specific characteristics of male and female larches, then discussed soil requirements for conifers, indicating that he uses more haydite and composted pine bark in his mixture.

He then demonstrated how to remove a rather root-bound Mugho pine from a bonsai pot with an inward-curving lip: a broomstick, referred to as a "Texas nose-picker", which popped the Mugho out with a few sturdy blows! Dave trimmed the root mass 1" around the sides. He used the old hardware cloth for bottom screens, then rubbed mycorrhiza off the trimmed roots into the bottom of the pot. After the mugho's repotting was complete, Dave said that he waters in conifers with Superthrive.

He bought the next conifer, a "Little Gem" spruce from Pikes Peak Nursery on Rt 422 East of Indiana, PA. Answering a question from the audience with a story about John Naka, who was asked the latest time to repot conifers, "Go by the Buds". Each species buds at a different time in different micro-climates.

His third demo tree, a Scots pine, was "potted down" into a small oval pot, and modified from the original semi-cascade style by pruning and wiring.

The group then broke up into individual repotting efforts for the balance of the evening.



Photo of Dave by Cindie Bonomi



# Elmer A. Furedy

March 4, 1929 - April 11, 2012

-by Jay Miller

On April 11, 2012 PBS veteran member and former Treasurer Elmer Furedy died. Barbara, his wife of 55 years, told me that his bedroom window overlooked the backyard koi pond and his bonsai collection. A former middleweight boxer in his youth, he never gave up, and was probably planning his spring repotting schedule when the end came.

Elmer was by nature methodical; his lawns were immaculately trimmed, as were his trees. Many members first met Elmer at the old Swissvale classes. He told me he first encountered bonsai during the Korean War, while his USAF bomber crew was stationed at an airbase in Japan. The supervisor of Japanese base laborers, Chigaki, invited Elmer to his house, where Elmer was fascinated by his host's bonsai collection. You can see by the photo supplied by Barb, that he appreciated Japanese culture! His bonsai memory never faded, and after visiting the Phipps Collection, he found out about the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society, our classes, joined up and became one of our most enthusiastic members. It was

enlightening hearing the war-story trading with another Korean vet, Keith Scott.

Elmer's memory was amazing. Over coffee, with me he explained that his sister was always asking him who lived where in 1930s Hazelwood, their hometown. An expert draftsman, he produced a map showing their neighborhood, identifying each householder, and all the businesses at that time. His hand-drawn genealogical charts from his Hungarian roots were equally meticulous.



Photo of Jay by Cindie Bonomi

Good memories of a coffee & teeny tree buddy. He'll be missed.

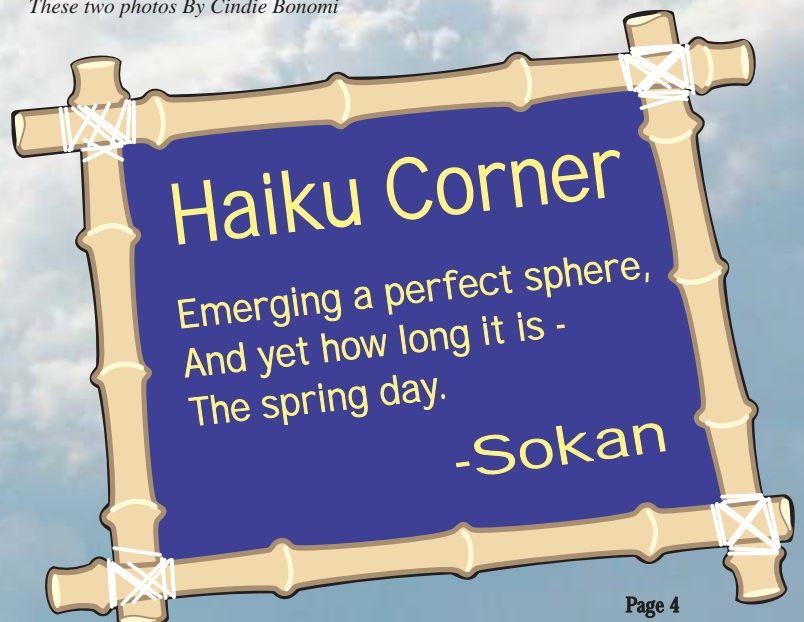
Elmer and Dave Ruffaner at the 2007 Holiday Party.



Elmer and Dave Metzgar at the 2010 Picnic at Grealish's.



These two photos By Cindie Bonomi





CUT HERE



Membership Application  
or Renewal Form

# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

Membership Year: January 1 to December 31 Your continuing support is greatly appreciated

**PLEASE PRINT NEATLY**

Name (One Letter or Number Per Box)

Address (Number and Street, Rural Route or Post Office Box)

City or Town State Zip

Phone

Individual Membership.....\$30.00

Family Membership.....\$40.00

E-Mail (Email address is used for membership database and member correspondence only. The Society will keep this info **CONFIDENTIAL**. (Please include!))

Date Signature

I am a New Member

I am Renewing my Membership

Make your dues check payable to the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society and send it to:

Mark Berbach

Email:

markberbach@yahoo.com

1031 Windance Drive  
McDonald Pa 15057  
Phone: 724 492-1318

Membership Year:  
January 1 to December 31



Photo By Cindie Bonomi

# SPRING SALE!

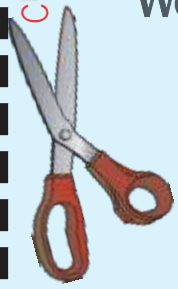
A very special sale by Bob Grealish on Saturday, May 12, 2012, starting AFTER 9:00am! Pre-Bonsai stock, intermediate and finished trees will be available. Some very old, very large bonsai from this significant collection will also be offered. If you've never attended our Annual Picnic at the Grealish Farm and need directions, call Bob at 412 977-0077.



These two photos complements of Bob's Facebook

# 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  
 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

Questions: .....

## Pittsburgh Bonsai Society 2012 Calendar of Events

- May 16.....Wed 7pm.....Wiring of Scots Pines/Trees provided at cost  
 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.

## Ruffaner Repots, Repots Repots Conifers!

Continued from page 3



Photography By Cindie Bonomi

### What's Kevin Doing?

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Schenley Park in Oakland, 1:30pm in the Palm Circle of the Tropical Forest Conservatory, long-time PBS member and Phipps Bonsai Manager Kevin Haughey will present an "Introduction to Bonsai", the basics of this ancient art form. It's free with admission, and a great overview for your curious friends and neighbors, who can then attend the PBS Spring Show in June!

### BOX: Last Newsletter Notice:

If there is a check mark in the box next to your address label on the back cover, our records indicate that you have not paid your dues for 2012. This is your last newsletter. To avoid missing a newsletter and losing your other membership benefits, send your dues to the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society, c/o Mark Berbach, Treasurer, 1031 Windance Drive, McDonald, PA 15057. Checks should be made payable to the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. Individual \$30, Family \$40.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Bonsai Spring Workgroup:

The work group meets Thursdays, May 10 & 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: 412 977-0077.

### The Bonsai Barn:

Whether you want to buy, sell or trade any bonsai-related material, take advantage of the "Bonsai Barn" on our website: [www.pittsburghbonsai.org](http://www.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: [www.bonsai2012.org](http://www.bonsai2012.org)

### 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)

### June 2012 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the June 2012 Newsletter are due no later than May 16, 2012.

Compiled by Jay Miller  
[suisekifan@yahoo.com](mailto:suisekifan@yahoo.com)



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



This is your last  
Newsletter if there  
is a check mark in  
the box to the left.

