



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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



November 2013 Newsletter



Winterizing Techniques for Beginners Plus Elections!!!

NOVEMBER



Techniques to help your bonsai survive the icy winds, hungry critters and blizzards!

Advanced Styling for Pines! While your deciduous trees are tucked away, veteran bonsai folks use this time to continue pine development by planning, plucking and wiring. Here's a

chance to enhance your pine, by design. BYOP (Bring Your Own Pine) for a critique.

Plus, it's election time! Get more involved with YOUR Society for 2014! If you don't want to be an officer, then volunteer to help with the Spring Show, the Welcoming Committee, our Website, Public Relations or (you fill in the blank!)

Wednesday • November 13, 2013 • 7pm • Phipps Garden Center

DECEMBER

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's

HOLIDAY DINNER!

Details and Registration Form on Pages 5 and 6

Wed. December 11 • 6:30pm • Phipps Garden Center

Please check our evolving website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>
Also visit us on Face book: www.facebook.com/PittsburghBonsai



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:



When it comes to bonsai, you can't rely on your calendar for all of your seasonal tasks. This past year has provided ample proof of that. If you took your tropical bonsai out too early in the spring, I am sure you made several trips back inside when the temperatures dipped below the 40's.



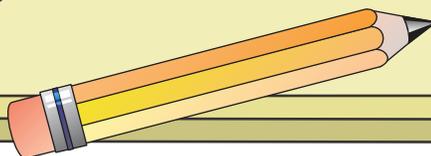
~photo by Cindie Bonomi

Some things budded when they shouldn't have, grew when you thought they wouldn't, slowed down or even drowned with all of the June rain.

You can't predict when the first frost will come either, so make sure the tropicals are back in when it gets too cool. You have to look carefully at your own microclimate and let your trees tell you what they need. I bought a larch from Dave Ruffaner who lives an hour away. Larches need repotting right before the buds turn green or it's too late. I repotted mine at least 3 weeks before Dave did, part of the reason being that Dave spends the winter down South and doesn't get back to uncover his trees until the golf courses up here open for business.

The topic for November is winter care. It's an important one for beginners, because with the right techniques, you can keep your bonsai healthy and alive year after year.

Dave Metzgar



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Boxwood 101

~by Dave Metzgar



~photography by Cindie Bonomi

On Wednesday, September 21, long time PBS member Armand Latour spoke to a room filled with bonsai enthusiasts about one of his favorite topics: boxwoods. Armand has been growing this great little tree for many years and has amassed a very large collection, many from cuttings that he has started himself and some from various landscape

digs over the years. A large part of his collection consists of the very small leafed variety named "Kingsville", developed at a nursery in Kingsville, Maryland.

Armand brought with him a dozen or so bonsai, from very small mame trees to a large one over 36" wide, collected from a dig many years ago. Explaining that boxwoods grow very slowly, he said that training them takes many dedicated years. A shallow and fibrous rooted tree, the roots reflect the many branches, so finding or developing a single trunk specimen is a difficult task. A relatively easy tree to care for, the boxwood doesn't have many pests or diseases in our location. Southern states are losing them to boxwood blight, but it is not a problem here. Cuttings take very readily, so one tree in your collection can turn into many if you have the patience. Armand keeps his boxwoods in a cold frame in winter very successfully and has very little trouble with animals. He mentioned that the wood is one of the hardest woods in the tree family and that the leaves are poisonous if eaten, which explains why nothing seems to munch on them.

Many members of the audience had questions about this beautiful little tree that can look like a bonsai at a young age. With all of the interest, we hope to see more boxwood bonsai in future shows from some of Armand's converts.

Thanks, Armand!



Boxwood Workshop



With Armand providing minimal instruction everyone picked out their trees and pots and got right to work



The little pill bug even seemed to enjoy the meeting



It was also Gilda Koskoff's birthday, her husband Ted brought a cake in to surprise her. He also brought some drinks and all of us helped them celebrate

~photography by Cindie Bonomi

November (Late Autumn) Notes

~by Jay Miller

Do not feed trees this month -- but some evergreens in development may benefit from one light application of a balanced fertilizer.

Protect trees, particularly dormant deciduous species, from excess rainfall. Do not allow soils to become water logged.

When leaves have fallen it is so much easier to analyze the structure of deciduous trees, so planning any major alterations are best determined during these months. Remove any remaining leaves on deciduous trees, and from

soil surfaces, they may harbor overwintering pests and insects.

However, beech and some oak varieties retain old brown leaves during winter. This helps to protect next year's buds. Protection will now be required for delicate semi-tropical species, trees in shallow pots and on rocks, and those with fleshy roots, like Chinese elm, trident maple, Ginkgo, yew, etc.

Guard azaleas from early frosts, otherwise the flower buds may fail in the new season.

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The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's Annual

HOLIDAY DINNER!

The Holiday Dinner will be held at the Phipps Garden Center on Wednesday December 11 at 6:30 pm. The event will be catered by Atria's again this year because we liked them so well last year.

The menu this year will consist of pot roast with roasted red skinned potatoes, sole stuffed with crabmeat in lobster sauce, chicken parmesan over penne pasta, chopped salad and roasted vegetables, rolls and butter.

A cake and cookies will be served to satisfy the sweet tooth.

Soda pop and coffee will be provided but make sure you BYOB if you would like an alcoholic beverage.

We will also have the traditional White Elephant Exchange where you bring an item from your home that you no longer wish to see around the house. Wrap or disguise it so some lucky person will be surprised when they pick it.

Please send your reservation in with a check for \$12.00 per person. Dec. 9th is the deadline, so act quickly!!!

Make checks payable and mail to:

Cindie Bonomi
335 Newburn Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15216



Photograph and Photo Manipulation by Cindie Bonomi



Reservation Form On Page 6 Phone: 412 561-2057

A Word About Getting Involved

Any bonsai organization, like PBS tries to satisfy the members' interests. This covers a variety of skill levels, time and space to devote your hobby (obsession?)

If you have a topic or subject that you would like to see in the coming months, send your ideas for consideration to Bob Dietz or Dave Metzgar. AND, if you are interested in presenting a program with a specific topic, please let us know. We'll help you create an informative lecture for all levels of our members.



Have You Moved?



If you have recently moved or are planning to move, please let PBS know! Contact our treasurer, Mark Berbach, with your new address, E-Mail address and phone number.



E-Mail: berbachm@yahoo.com or call 724 492-1318

BONSAI HOLIDAY DINNER!

Reservation Form

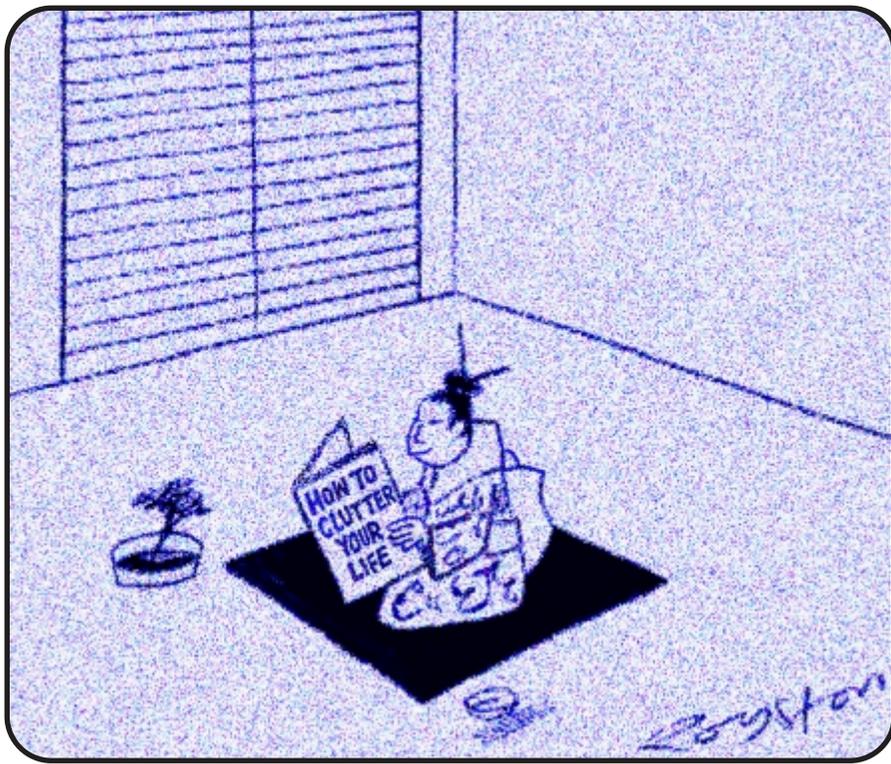
\$12 Per Person

Name Number Attending



TOTAL

\$



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Events:

31st MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival April 25, 2014 - 8:30am to April 27, 2014 - 4:30pm. The Festival will be held at the Ramada Hotel in East Hanover, NJ. Featured bonsai artists are, Takashi Iura from Japan, Corin Tomlinson from the UK, and Suthin Sukosolvisit from the US. The Festival features Friday workshops, members' bonsai exhibit, raffles of demo material, silent auctions, exhibit critiques (Sat.), banquet and live auction, and a large vendor area. For more information go to: <http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com>

May 2-4, 2014 Potomac Bonsai Association Spring Bonsai Festival, Washington DC at the National Arboretum.

37th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit August 15-17, 2014. Our August show is our show with the longest history, going into year 37 in 2014. 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-with this year's Guest Master Rodney Clemmons. 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>

Mark your 2014 Calendars:

A switch from Spring to Fall for the 4th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, 13 to 14 September 2014 in Rochester, NY. Details next spring.

Holiday Party:

You'll notice that your reservation for the Holiday Party is included in this issue. Be sure to get your reservation in early!

December 2013 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the December 2013 Newsletter are due no later than November 14, 2013. The March 2014 issue deadline is February 20, 2014.

Compiled by Jay Miller
suisekifan@yahoo.com



Wear Your Pride!



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

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 the store that exists for the society



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

PBS • 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

Nov 13	Wed 7pm	Winterizing; Advanced Styling plus Elections
Dec 11	Wed 6:30pm	Annual Holiday Party
Jan & Feb 2014.....		No Meetings
Mar 19.....	Wed 7pm	TBA
Apr 16	Wed 7pm	TBA
June 6 ,7, 8.....		33rd Annual Spring Show



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.