



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

November

2015 Newsletter

WINTER PREP TIPS! ALSO, FEATURED ANNUAL ELECTIONS!

NOVEMBER

BRING YOUR OWN TREE IN FOR ADVICE!



~photography compliments of <http://www.bing.com/images>

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 7:00 PM AT PHIPPS GARDEN CENTER, SHADYSIDE

DECEMBER

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's

HOLIDAY DINNER!

Details and Registration Form on Pages 5 and 6
Wed. December 16 • 6:30 pm • Phipps Garden Center

Remember: No Meetings in January 2016

Please check our ever-evolving website for updates: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>
Also visit and "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PittsburghBonsai



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society (PBS) was organized July 10, 1957 to disseminate knowledge, encourage others and create interest in the art of bonsai through meetings, workshops, newsletters and guest speakers. It's our sixth decade of advancing the art of bonsai in Pittsburgh and the Tri-State area. The membership year is January 1 to December 31. For details on events, Society membership or general information, see the Society's web page at <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>. Our newsletter is published periodically, 10 issues per year.

Deadlines:
Generally two months prior to issue date

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



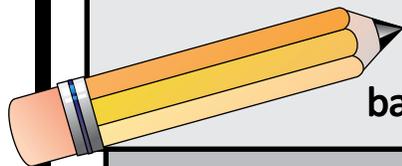
A Note From Dave: PBS Mentoring Program...



We are fortunate that many experienced PBS members have volunteered to be mentors to our newer bonsai enthusiasts. The list of these people and their specialties will be published on the website. The preferred means of contact will be through email, and, if they are willing to take calls, their phone numbers will also be available. This way, any time you have a question about one of your trees, you'll be able to get the right answers. The information will be listed under the "Membership" tab, right under the names of the officers. Don't forget about the Bonsai Barn tab on the website. Several members have listed items to be sold, but you can also get in touch with members and get help. Our Facebook page is also active, so you can post photos or ask bonsai questions there. We'll give you plenty of opportunities to ask, and we have plenty of great bonsai experts who are willing to help. Thank you to everyone who is participating in this exciting new program!



~photo by Cindie Bonomi



Dave Metzgar
bannerdave@aol 412-956-2482



October Events At Your Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

~by Lisa Borman Bednar



~Photo by Lisa Borman Bednar

Bob Grealish's Big Bonsai Sale, October 10, 2015



Jim Schultz and Joshua Hagen.
"Did anyone bring snacks?"



"Eenie, meenie, miney, moe..."
Dan Yobp examines the selection
for his next bonsai treasure.



We had a great turnout for the sale,
and a beautiful day as well!

October Meeting with Young Choe, October 21, 2015

We had an enjoyable and informative evening with our special guest, Young Choe. Ms Choe is a renowned Kusamono artist. Kusamono is a Japanese botanical art that was developed as a companion to bonsai, but is now also an art recognized in its own right. Ms Choe gave a presentation about her art work, and also a live demonstration of how she creates it. Everyone had a great time, learning about Kusamono with Ms Choe, and watching her work!



Ms Choe's
impressive array
of tools for
Kusamono.



Ms Choe after her
demonstration, with
her two sample
creations.

She carefully
arranges soil and
moss around the
small plants in her
selected pot.



The second
example she made
for us was a moss
ball Kusamono.



Visit to the National Arboretum, Washington DC

~by Kat Bednar

On September 18, my mom, sister and I went to the National Arboretum to see the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection. When we first arrived, we saw many old and beautiful trees. The oldest was in training since 1625. It was a Japanese White Pine, a gift from Masaru Yamaki in 1976. Some of my favorite displays were of forests. They were all amazing, and some included stones

or rocks. Some even had small plastic people. Seeing all these bonsai, it made me realize how long it can take to make a bonsai beautiful, and how much dedication it takes to care for them. Here are some pictures of my favorite bonsai.



~Photo by Lisa Borman Bednar

Toringo Crab Apple, in training since 1905. Look at that trunk!



Japanese White Pine, in training since 1625.



Chinese Juniper Forest, in training since 1953. This was my favorite forest planting.



Another great grouping of Chinese Juniper, on a landscape with rocks. In training since 1970.

~Photos by Lisa Borman Bednar

Bonsai Society Member Profile Of The Month: Jay Miller

Q. Family, home life, occupation:

I retired after close to 40 years in Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations. I am the father of two, grandfather of four, companion of Joyce and resident of Chatham Village, Mt. Washington, for over three decades.

Q. How many years interested in bonsai/how many years in our group:

In 1998, attending a May Market demonstration, I was fascinated by Keith Scott's radical pruning, potting and wiring a Scots Pine. I joined PBS and attended the bonsai classes at the Swissvale Library. In 2004, Cindie Bonomi and I took over creating the Society Newsletter. I organized bus trips to the National Arboretum, Washington, DC and Dawes Arboretum, Newark, Ohio. I've been a PBS member for about 17 years. Wish I had started bonsai sooner.

Q. First tree:

A "Charlie Brown" looking Scots Pine. Its subsequent death was not premeditated.

Q. Favorite variety/style:

Amur maple: a hardy Zone 4 alternative to Trident maple, good autumn color, but unfortunately it is a Bambi snack. Style: Informal upright.

Q. How many in your collection:

From a high of 75, deer, winter damage and critters like squirrels and chipmunks have reduced it to 24. Winter protection poly houses are not permitted in Chatham Village.

Q. Anything new or experimental:

I'm considering crossing buckthorn with spiny cactus. (LOL)

Q. Any trips to see bonsai elsewhere:

I've enjoyed opportunities for visits to the National Arboretum's Bonsai, Penjing and Suiseki collections which are amazing. My bucket list includes the bonsai collections at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden/NYC and Toronto.

Q. Best source of inspiration/information:

I've found inspiration in books, magazines, bonsai shows and some videos. The best source of information is right here in the Society. The gardens of Bob Dietz, Bob Grealish, Norbert Pietrzak and Mike Stern are visually stimulating. Each demonstrates a different area of specialization and they are generous with tips and techniques. I give special thanks to Evelyn Christie and the late Keith Scott for guidance during my bonsai newbie-ness. (I'm still in that phase...)

Q. Anything you'd like to see the society do in the future:

Use the Society's 60th birthday year (2017) to increase awareness of bonsai in the Tri-State area.



~photo by Cindie Bonomi



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

Christmas Wish List for the Bonsai Enthusiast

~By Bob Dietz

The beginning bonsai enthusiast needs three basic tools: shears/scissors, concave cutters, and wire cutters. The shears come in a variety of sizes, with long or short handles. Buy the best quality you can afford, as these are an investment in the long term. Carbon steel is one of the better options for sharpness and durability, but can develop rust. If you purchase carbon steel tools, when your trees are put away for the winter, clean and polish your tools using sandflecks, wipe with small machine oil, and put them away where they will stay clean and dry until spring.

Other useful tools include a root hook or rake, a tool pouch, and knob cutters. Knob cutters are also available in a variety of sizes. Some other handy items are wire pliers, and a jinning tool, used for jinning the tree (i.e., pulling off bark to create an aged look). One may also purchase root cutting tools, sharpening stones, soil scoops, a brush for cleaning the bark or soil. Sieves can also be used to screen the soil before using for the bonsai. Stainless steel is recommended for the soil sieves.

Those who have multiple bonsai may also want to consider purchasing watering devices to make this job easier. A useful tool is a watering wand, which creates a fine mist and does not disturb the soil. Lastly, bonsai books can easily be put on any Christmas wish list!



~photo compliments of the internet

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's Annual

HOLIDAY DINNER!

The Holiday Dinner will be held at the Phipps Garden Center on Wednesday December 16 at 6:30 pm. The event will be catered by Atria's again this year.

The menu this year will consist of pot roast with mashed red potatoes and skins, chicken parmigiana, and tilapia piccata with lemon butter sauce. We will also have a chopped salad and roasted vegetables, rolls and butter.

A cake and cookies from Grandview Bakery 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. Friday, Dec. 11th is the deadline, so act quickly!!!

Make checks payable and mail to:

Cindie Bonomi
335 Newburn Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Chris "Kringle" Treloar
Holiday Party 2014



Photo by Cindie Bonomi



Reservation Form On Page 6 Phone: 412 561-2057

Candidates for 2016

The Board presents the 2016 slate of candidates for the Society's Annual Election at the November 18, 2015 Meeting:

Dan Yobp President



Terry Monroe Vice President



Debra Bishop, Tammy Lee Treasurer



Gilda Arroyo Recording Secretary



Lisa Borman Bednar Corresponding Secretary



BONSAI HOLIDAY DINNER!

Reservation Form

\$12 Per Person

Name Number Attending



TOTAL

\$

Welcome New Members!

At the risk of repeating ourselves, we are pleased to welcome the new members of the Society for 2015. You've already demonstrated your enthusiasm by attending meetings and workshops, working and learning. Our society grows with your talents, while we grow with our trees.

Domenick Barone, Kat & Lisa Bednar, Mike Bloom, Nan Butler & Family, Robert Demacio, Rick Eckstrom, Joshua Hagen, Todd Harris & Angela Pfefferkorn, Matthew Jordan, Christine Kurtz, Tom Lineberger & Karen Calhoun, Alejandro Lopez Magallon, Dennis & Barbara Michaels, John Rangos Jr., April Robertson, Peter Simon, Matthew Somogyi, Ted Steliotis, Anne & Dave Stevenson, Roxanne Swann, Mickey & Mike Tehan, Rich Tenney, Tyler Thornblade, Bryan & Reagan West-Whitman, Diane Williams, Logan Wray, Devin Yates, Jonathan Young & Tammy Wai Lee, and Eric Zawrotny.

And welcome back Duane Ready 02 and Camille Venturo 07!

Wear Your Pride...

and your enthusiasm for Bonsai! Golf shirts embroidered with the 3-color PBS logo are available in white, tan and taupe at \$25. Or, you can supply your own quality shirt and the embroidery will be a modest \$10.



-photos by
Cindie Bonomi

For more details, contact Cliff or Anna Domasky at: annaclaus55@hotmail.com

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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). You can also list regional/national bonsai events that your fellow PBS members might find interesting.

Coming Events:

33rd Annual Spring Festival-MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) April 15-17, 2016. The Spring Festival of the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies, at the Crowne Plaza Cromwell in Cromwell CT. www.midatlanticbonsai.org. More information to come.

May TBA 2016 Potomac Bonsai Association Spring Bonsai Festival, Washington DC at the National Arboretum. A five hour drive but worth it! www.potomacbonsai.com or www.usna.usda.gov.

39th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit. August 2016. For information go to: <http://www.midwestbonsai.org>.

5th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, East Rochester NY at Total Sports Experience. September 10-11, 2016. For information go to: www.internationalbonsai.com

If you have a topic or subject that you would like to see in coming months, please contact Dave Metzgar or Bob Dietz for your idea's consideration. This means NEW members too. PBS wants to help you grow in your knowledge and techniques as your bonsai grow.

Newsletter Information:

It's easy to make an announcement or contribute to the PBS Newsletter. If it is text only, email Lisa Borman Bednar at: lisabednar.pbs@gmail.com. If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at: cindiebonomi@yahoo.com.

Submissions for the Winter 2016 Newsletter are due no later than January 15, 2016.

Compiled by Jay Miller
suisekijay@gmail.com





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

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society • 2015 Calendar of Events

Nov. 18.....Wed.....7:00 pm.....BYOT for advice; Wintercare; Elections

Dec. 16.....Wed.....6:30 pm.....Holiday Party

2016 Event Dates

Feb 17.....Wed.....7:00 pm.....Bud Grafting

March 23.....Wed.....7:00 pm.....Root Over Rock, Part 3 BYOT

April 20.....Wed.....7:00 pm.....Workshop Meeting! Bare Rooted ScotsPines

May 18.....Wed.....7:00 pm.....Preparation for 2016 Spring Show BYOT



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.