



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

October 2015 Newsletter

OCTOBER

Young Choe Presents The Art Of Kusamono



~photo by Young Choe

Come and find out about the art of Kusamono, which is an arrangement of potted plants, using moss, grass, and other small plants in addition to bamboo and lichens in order to create a living art. It should be an excellent companion to bonsai, so come and enjoy an evening of learning about this exciting art form.

Wednesday, October 21, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm at Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside
PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF TIME CHANGE

WINTER CARE FOR BONSAI, ELECTIONS

NOVEMBER

BRING YOUR OWN TREE IN FOR ADVICE!



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

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

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

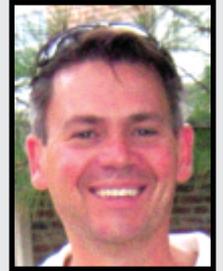
Submissions:

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

A Note From Dave: PBS Mentoring Program...

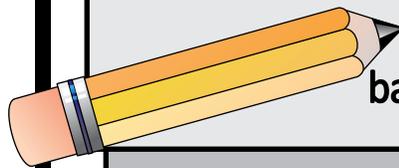


With the goal of getting a "great tree" into the hands of every PBS member, we have decided to start a mentoring program. It will be a great way for newer members to find someone with experience who can help them train a bonsai into a great tree. With so many members attending the workshop meetings (we're not complaining), it's sometimes difficult to get to look at everyone's trees. With a mentor, you can ask questions about general care, styling, what branch to cut off, what branch to wire, the best way to fertilize, and anything else. You'll get the answers from someone who has already been down your path. Many members have already stepped up to offer their time and talents and we will be putting together a list of how and when to contact them. Some prefer email, some phone calls and some may even meet in person. The idea is to get you the help you need. So when we ask who is planning to display a tree in the spring show, in the next few years we want to see everyone with one hand raised in the air and one hand on a "great tree."



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

Dave Metzgar
bannerdave@aol 412-956-2482



Attention Members!

Come Join Us For two Fun Events at The Grealish Farm

Big Bonsai Sale

Saturday, October 10, 10 am to 6 pm. Bob will be selling a lot of his trees. Everyone is welcome.

Come Work With Some of The Trees in Our Member Bed

Saturday, October 17, starting at 9 am. This time we will be doing some wiring, shaping and of course weeding the bed. Don't forget, the more time you put in, the nicer the tree you get to pick.

Young Choe Presents The Art Of Kusamono

~by Lisa Borman Bednar



~Photo By
Lisa Borman Bednar



Chrysanthemum pacificum, *Rosa carolina* (Carolina rose), *Campanula punctata* (spotted bellflower), *Selaginella rupestris* (spikemoss)

This month, we are pleased and excited to host Young Choe, one of the country's best Kusamono artists, to teach us about this art form. In her native Korea, she studied ink painting and calligraphy. After moving to the United States, she obtained her BS in Horticulture from the University of Maryland. While volunteering at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, Young was able to combine her artistic background with her knowledge of horticulture to create Kusamono. She traveled to Japan to study with the master Kusamono artist, Keiko Yamane, a former student of Saburo Kato. Young currently works at the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

or trays selected to suggest a season or place. It should also reflect a specific natural habitat, such as a wetland, meadow or woodland. There are three basic styles of planting: moss ball, out of pot, or in a container.

We hope that many of you will come to the meeting on October 21, beginning at 6:30 pm, in order to participate in Ms. Young's presentation. Please take note of the time change, from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. We'll see you there!

**Wednesday, October 21, 6:30 pm–
9:30 pm at Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside**

Kusamono is a Japanese botanical art that developed along with bonsai. Originally, it referred to the small, potted grasses displayed next to bonsai as accent plants. More recently, Kusamono has developed into an art form of its own. They are potted arrangements of wild grasses in unique pots



This piece evokes the season of fall.

The Annual Picnic

~by Lisa Borman Bednar



~Photo By Lisa Borman Bednar

There was a lot of great food, fun, and fellowship at this year's Annual Picnic! Many thanks are due to Bob and Rose Grealish for their gracious hospitality. For the rest, let the pictures taken that day speak for themselves.



A lovely centerpiece.



Mare Tumolo's carrot salad is the most beautiful carrot salad we have ever seen.



Gilda Arroyo and her husband, Ted Koskoff.



Thank you for eleven years of service as Editor of the PBS Newsletter, Jay. As your replacement, I know how much work you have put into this job.



A beautiful Japanese style fountain on the Grealish farm.



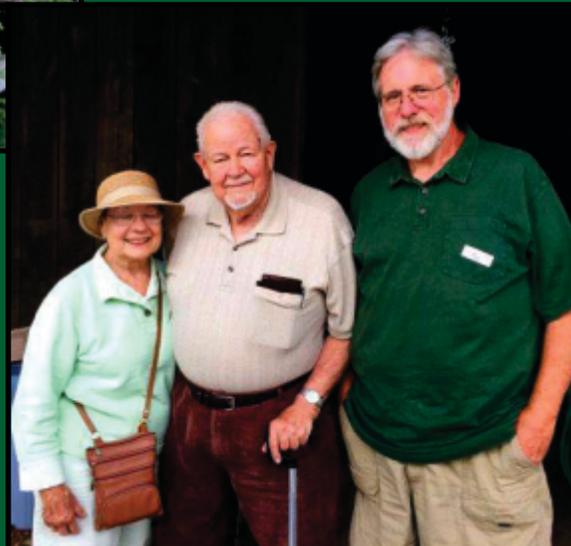
Oscar becomes a dog loaf after a hard day of crumb hunting.



Kat Bednar does a cannonball into the pool.



Fletcher Wilson, among some of Bob Grealish's bonsai collection



Ralph & Carleen Dukstein and Bob Grealish by the Bonsai Barn.



Zabe and Kat Bednar.



Rose Grealish

~photos by Kat Bednar, Cindie Bonomi, Lisa Borman Bednar, Joyce Dodge



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

Membership Is An Activity, Not A State Of Being

~by Gilda Arroyo

Each member of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society takes advantage of his/her membership in a different way. Some members never miss a meeting, while others

almost never make a meeting. Below are some ideas of how to make the most out of your membership.

1. Attend meetings. Yes, this is obvious, but sometimes the obvious thing is the first to be overlooked. Perhaps you are not interested in companion plants or suiseki, but if your work or home life allows, come to that particular meeting anyway. Bonsai is about more than just little trees. At minimum, everything you learn that complements the study of bonsai will help you create a more beautiful display.

2. Participate in meetings. Again, you might be thinking, "Duh!" However, this doesn't mean to ask a hundred questions at every single meeting. This means ask topically appropriate questions, if you have them. If you don't have any questions, that's ok too. Share your successes and failures, especially with newer members. Feel free to say something if you see someone about to make a mistake you have made in the past. Bring a tree to discuss with others. Engage other members when they bring trees. Perhaps you cannot see the possibilities or even the faults in your material. Constructive criticism, suggestions, or solutions, help increase the quality of your collection. Some members are open to these exchanges all the time, while others are not. Keep in mind that these conversations should add to your bonsai experience, not take away from it. Engage in this practice as often as you can and be kind but honest when giving your opinion to others.

3. Gather a handful of your favorite fellow members and practice bonsai outside of a PBS meeting. There is a kinship in pruning and wiring trees in a group setting. While you are at it, grab one of your trees and attend a session at Bob Grealish's home. These are held every other Thursday through the summer. See the website for details. Another

option would be to ask a PBS veteran if there is a good time for you to visit their bonsai collection.

4. Take the time to learn about bonsai outside the PBS. Pittsburghers are lucky to have an established bonsai club with so many talented and experienced members. That being said, members shouldn't rely exclusively on society meetings to learn everything about bonsai. There are plenty of YouTube videos, books, blogs, articles, and magazines online or at your local library that will help increase your knowledge of bonsai. Independent study will also give you the confidence to contribute in a meaningful way at society meetings and even to work on your bonsai in a group setting. On a similar note, look around you for local classes and workshops offered outside society meetings.

5. Renew your PBS membership and encourage others to renew or sign up for the first time! Bonsai care can be cyclical. Because of this, some meeting themes are likely to be repeated. Nonetheless, each year the society offers workshops featuring various species. Throughout the year, the society's board also strives to teach new techniques for caring, styling, and displaying your trees.

These suggestions may not be for everyone, nor are they meant to be exhaustive, they are simply meant to help members make the most of what membership has to offer. Until the next meeting! I'll see you there.



Bonsai Society Member Profile of October

~by Terry Monroe

I've been interested in bonsai for a long time, but have only been a member of PBS for the past two years. I've lived in the neighborhoods of Squirrel Hill and Greenfield all my life. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, and I'm a teacher in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Other than bonsai, I have had some interest in photography. I also write, and will have my first article published this fall.

My first tree was a dwarf Alberta Spruce. When I managed to kill it after a year, I decided to join the Society and learn something. My collection consists of about 70 plants, with 15 species of trees. My preferred style of bonsai is naturalistic. The best source of information I've had so far is Bob Grealish, learning from his expertise and looking at his collection. Working with him and on his trees has taught me more in one summer than I learned from years of reading and looking at pictures. I recommend that everyone in the Society find time to get out to Bob's place and see his bonsai. His Thursday workshops are excellent. I've also learned a lot from getting together with other members to work on our trees and talk bonsai. We had a few gatherings this summer, and it's inspiring to see other members' trees and to get their ideas when working on my own. I've also been fortunate to get out to workshops with renowned artists like Walter

Pall and Mauro Stemberger. Seeing how a bonsai professional solves problems with trees and how they make decisions about styling, etc., really helped me improve my own trees. I've also seen the bonsai in the National Collection, located in Washington DC, twice.

In the future, I'd like to see the society continue to work on Dave's vision of getting every member at least one tree of which they can be proud. Members of the society, especially newer ones, would benefit from seeing the collections of other members so they can have a better idea of what's possible. I would love the society to bring in more guest speakers and do more workshops. Mostly, though, what I'd like to see is all of us getting more social and active. It's hard to make progress with our trees in isolation. We should be getting together to talk bonsai and work on our trees together.



~photo by Lisa Borman Bednar

Election Fever Sweeps Society!

*~article by Jay Miller
~photo by Cindie Bonomi*

Well, maybe not as fevered as Iowa or New Hampshire, but the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society affairs are conducted by dedicated volunteers. The annual meeting for election of the officers (President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer) is held in November. Nominations from the floor and the slate of officers

continuing for the coming year are in order at the October Meeting. If there is only one name for each office and there are no nominations from the floor, this shall constitute an election. If there is more than one name for any office, including nominations from the floor, election shall be by ballot at the November meeting.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urban Yamadori:

Although the Japanese word “yamadori” refers to collecting from the wild, it's possible to find bonsai candidates in urban and suburban locations. If you've had collecting adventures, let us know.

Newsletter Information:

It's easy to make an announcement or contribute to the PBS Newsletter. If it is text only, call or email Co-Editor Lisa Borman Bednar at 412 506-2101, or lisabednar.pbs@gmail.com. If it is a sketch or photo e-mail Cindie Bonomi at cindiebonomi@yahoo.com.

Coming Events:

Cleveland Bonsai Club Show & Sale: Saturday, October 18, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday, October 19, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Enjoy this display of nearly 100 living works of art, ongoing demonstrations, unique vendors, a bonsai sale, silent auction, and raffles. The Club will also present a free Introduction to Bonsai program in the Hershey Classroom at 2 pm each day. Free with Garden admission. For information: cbgarden.org or 216 721-1600.

Big Bonsai Sale:

October 10, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm at the Grealish Farm.

Work On Our Member Bed:

Rose and Bob Grealish's October 17, starting at 9:00 am.

Spotlight Trees:

Remember to bring your spotlight trees to the next regular meeting for “show & tell.” It's a great way for new members to learn about various species, their TLC requirements and your tree's history.

Staff Vacancy: Time's Running Out!

We still need a Publisher and I'm retiring as Publisher as of the November issue!

The Publisher picks up the hard-copy newsletter from the printer, preps it for mailing (we call that “licking and sticking”) and delivers the folded, sealed, labeled and postage affixed newsletters to the Post Office.

Interested in joining the Newsletter Team? Anxious to see your name in the masthead? For further information, contact Jay Miller at: suisekijay@gmail.com or call: 412 481-4540.

November Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the November 2015 Newsletter are due no later than October 20, 2015.

Compiled by Jay Miller
suisekijay@gmail.com



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



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Pittsburgh Bonsai Society • 2015 Calendar of Events

Oct. 21Wed...6:30pm - 9:30pm (Note Time Change!)...Our Special Guest, Young
Choe,presents the Art of Kusamono

Nov. 18.....Wed...7:00pmBYOT for advice; Winter Care;
Elections

Dec. 16.....Wed...Time TBAHoliday Party

2016 Event Dates

Mar. 16.....Wed.....7:00pmTBA

Apr. 20Wed.....7:00pmTBA



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.