



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

September 2011

Newsletter



NEXT MEETING

Trash To Treasure

No, not dumpster diving!

But do check out the late summer deals at local garden centers and bring in your deals/ steals for a major make-over into a potential bonsai show tree!



Wednesday, September 21, 2011 • 7pm • Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER EVENT

Road Show II: Stern & Ruffaner Revisited!



Date and details revealed on the Website. A great opportunity to visit two of the best bonsai collections in Western Pennsylvania.

OCTOBER EVENT

“Last Chance Styling for Spring 2012”

(BYOT)



Bring in a tree, learn some styling tricks before winter sets in, and do it now! PS: don't forget your tools.

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 • 7pm • Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

SPECIAL OCTOBER EVENT

DAY TRIP

To D.C./National Arboretum

Date and details revealed on the Website. View our national Bonsai collections.

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



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:

The problem with having the newsletter go out on time...

That just means we can't be as current as we'd like to be with information. This newsletter is being put together in mid-August, and you'll be reading it in September. The details on two upcoming events are not finalized yet, so we can't publish them here. That's why I'd like to encourage everyone to look on our website, pittsburghbonsai.org, for the final word on all events.



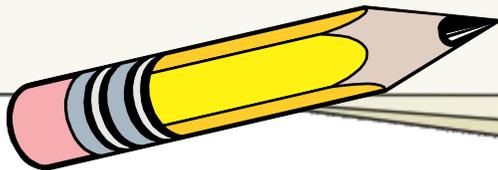
Photo by Cindie Bonomi

I can give a few of the details about the events here, but dates and times are not solid. We are planning a weekend day trip sometime in September to see the collections of Mike Stern and Dave Ruffaner, both long time members of the society. If anyone has been out to Mike's place to collect material, they know he has trees in the ground that he planted as seedlings twenty years ago. Dave's nursery, "Karamatsu-en", which means "Larch Garden", is also years in the making. Car pooling and starting point meeting places will be published online.

The other event is a day trip to the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. to see the fantastic bonsai collection that is housed there. Most members agreed at a recent meeting that an October trip would be best. Again, car pooling and other details need to be worked out.

This just means that you'll have to keep all weekends clear in September and October. Hold off on committing to attending any weddings or company picnics, because what could be more important than a bonsai trip, right?

Dave Metzgar



For your Bonsai supplies support

the store that exists for the society



Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771

Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants

The PBS Annual Picnic: A feast for the eyes and tummy!

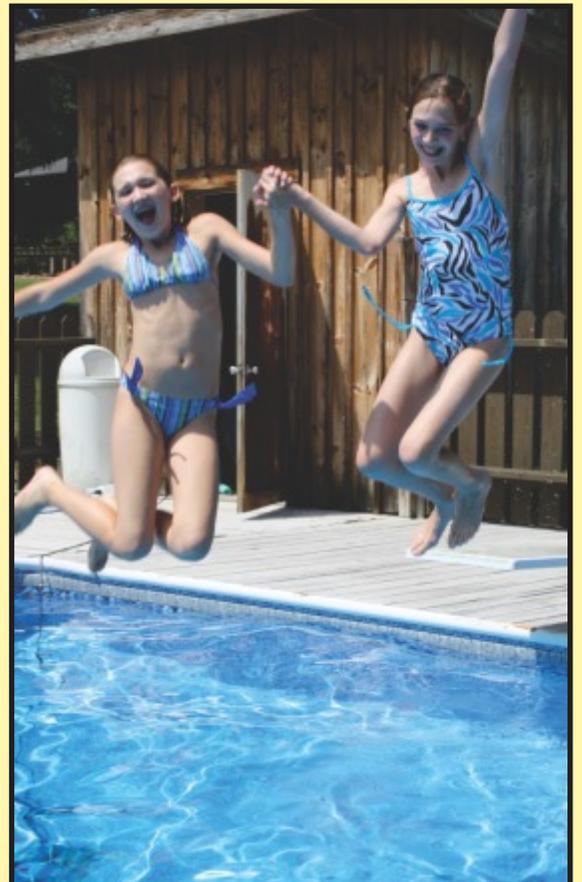
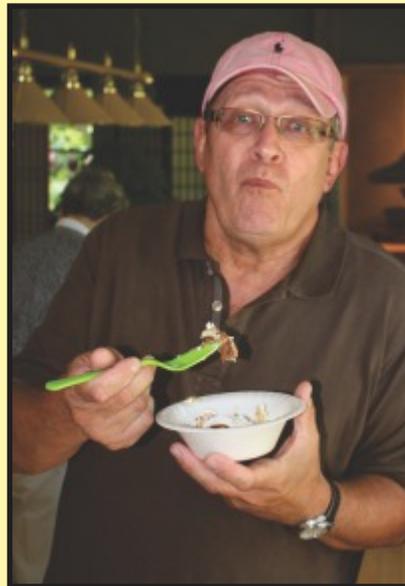
-by Jay Miller

It's all a bit overwhelming: treats and trees, as far as you can see. Your doctor would have approved of all the good things to try on the Rose's groaning table. (the pool table was appropriated for more..)

Bob Grealish, host and grill-master, kept hot dogs and burgers in a steady stream, while Oscar the Dog knows that the law of gravity brings unexpected treats!

The immoderate noshing is offset by brisk walks past the bonsai display benches. When one PBS member asked if he had added more trees, Bob muttered something about "no... just spread them out more." Rose raised an eyebrow and replied, " don't believe it--he added more trees!"

Their farm can generate a lot of "space envy" from those of us who are more restricted. But then you remember Keith Scott's rejoinder, "not enough space for bonsai? MOVE!"



More Picnic Photos:



MEMBER PROFILE: GARY AND ERICA GUYDOSH

by Dave Metzgar



photography by Cindie Bonomi



Family, home life, occupation: We live in Greenfield (lower Squirrel Hill). We own a small business, Gallery G Glass, Inc., where Gary works full time as a glass artist. Erica works as a CPA with a private company.

Other interests: Other than his bonsai collection, Gary also enjoys working with wood, metal and pottery. Erica enjoys baking cupcakes and making homemade soaps. She is currently looking into trying stained glass.

How many years interested in bonsai: Three years

First tree: Gary – a pre-bonsai juniper purchased from a plant store in Nashville and unfortunately, it died only a few weeks later. Erica – a brush cherry purchased from Bob Dietz at the Pittsburgh Home Show that she over-pruned in the exuberance of her first tree.

Favorite variety/style: Gary – no real preference. He looks for the right tree (shape and type) that will make the artistic vision that he has in mind come to life. Erica – she tends more towards tropicals. She is also interested in micro-mini trees.

How many in your collection: Gary – lost count at 100. Erica – around fifteen. Our backyard is spilling over with trees. We have mostly a collection of younger trees.

Anything new or experimental: Gary is always working on experimental things to push the limits of bonsai. He likes to create scenes by using different containers, unusual groupings and unique structural elements. Erica is working on a baobab tree that is coming along nicely.

Any trips to see bonsai elsewhere: We really enjoyed seeing the bonsai collection at the Weyerhaeuser Paper Company outside of Seattle. We look for bonsai collections and bonsai nurseries wherever our travels take us.

Best source of inspiration/information: A new tree, a new rock or a new container can lead to a new version of nature conveyed on a smaller scale. For Gary, bonsai is another artistic representation of a garden in a container. He feels that we shouldn't let the rigid rules of tradition blind our art. We should strive to open up to and extend the possibilities of bonsai and let it become the joining of inner art and gardening.



Early Autumn Around The 'Burgh

-by Jay Miller

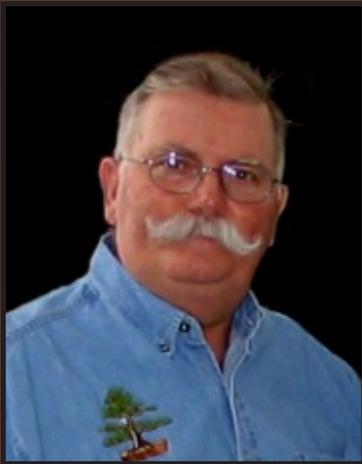


photo by Cindie Bonomi

September is Early Autumn in our Tri-State area, and it's a busy, busy time. Foliage growth is reduced, while root growth continues. Try rock plantings or saikei. Transplant your deciduous trees if they show any color; it's safe to do so. That's

simple repotting; minimal root disturbance and root pruning. Water the deciduous trees less for better autumn color. Conifers require more moisture than the deciduous trees, so continue their watering frequency in September.

As football season starts, you can employ a special bonsai tool, BEER, against the slugs and snails. At halftime, place a few shallow containers around the yard in selected locations. The brand is unimportant, but keep them filled

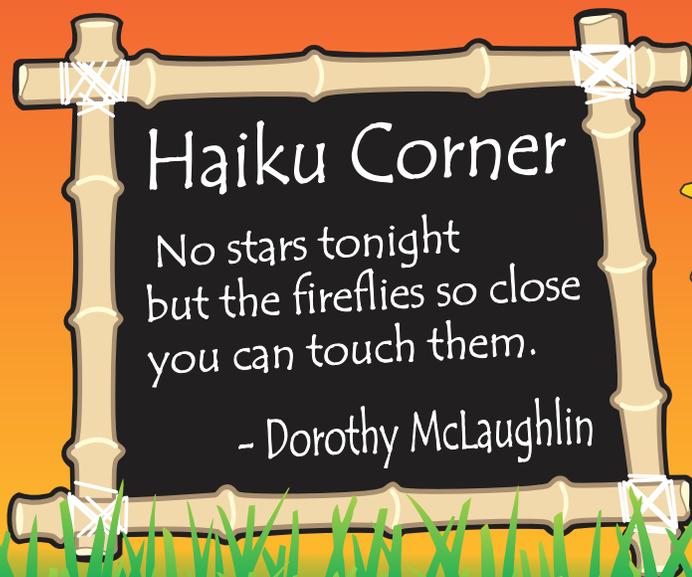
The beginning of color in the woods means it's a good time to collect trees from the countryside, with permission from a farmer or forester. It's



also a good time to make friends with some local landscapers who may be tearing out perfectly good mature azaleas, privet and juniper with thick trunks, good buttresses and a lot of potential.

What about your tropical bonsai? They loved it outdoors this summer. But September outdoor daytime temperatures now approximate indoor temperatures. Bring those tropicals indoors. And check the leaves and pots for insect "hitchhikers". Smite them.

September is not too early to think about winterizing. Remember that the earliest date in Western Pennsylvania of the first killing frost was September 17, 1909 and the average date is October 20th.



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society 2011 Calendar of Events

Sept 21.....Wed 7pmWorkshop: "Trash to Treasure"
(working with orphans, strays
and castoffs)

Oct 19.....Wed 7pm“Last Chance Styling for Spring
2012” (BYOT)

Nov 16.....Wed 7pmSplit Meeting: Winterizing for
Beginners plus Elections

Dec 7.....Wed 6:30pm ... Annual Holiday Party

No Meetings.....January & February 2012

Mar 21Wed 7pm TBA

Jun 1-3..... Sat/Sun.....Spring Show 2012

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonsai Workgroup:

The work group will meet every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm 6-10pm. The sessions run through September. If you are interested in sharpening your skills, call Bob at 412 977-0077.

Coming Events:

April (Date TBA) 2012 Harrisburg Area PA Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies 29th Annual Spring Festival Harrisburg Hershey Holiday Inn, Grantville PA Questions? <http://midatlanticbonsai.free.servers.com>

June 9-10, 2012 Rochester, NY 3rd U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition Questions? WNV@internationalbonsai.com

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.

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 or: suisekifan@yahoo.com If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at: cindiebonomi@yahoo.com

September 2011 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the September 2011 Newsletter are due no later than August 16, 2011. The October issue deadline is September 15, 2011.

Compiled by Jay Miller
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