



# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

## September 2012 Newsletter

### THIS MONTH

## Scots Pines in Literati Form



Scots Pines have great potential for this most elegant of bonsai styles. Come to the September meeting and learn the techniques of "Less is More". A limited number of trees will be available at a modest cost. Check the website for additional details. If you have a literati-styled pine, bring it in as a Spotlight Tree!

Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 7pm at Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

### NEXT MONTH



## "Trash to Treasure II"

Bring Your Own Tree!

So much fun last year, we're doing it again! Potential bonsai abound, from neighbor's landscaping castoffs, to "orphans" at local garden centers. Bring in your deals/steals for a major makeover into a potential bonsai show tree! PS: don't forget your tools.

Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 7pm at Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

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



# The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

**Editor:**  
Cindie Bonomi

**Copy Editor:**  
Jay Miller

**Graphic Design:**  
Cindie Bonomi

**Contributors:**  
Jay Miller  
Dave Metzgar  
Holly Elste

**Photography:**  
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.

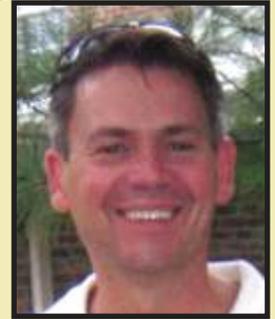
**Submissions:**  
Please submit Photos or Artwork in JPG format and Copy in Microsoft Word.



## A Note From Dave:



It seems like we've had a lot of new members coming to the meetings lately. That always seems to happen after the spring show, when visitors see the trees and are inspired to try bonsai themselves. Some new members found us from the website, and some are referred to us from classes at Phipps.

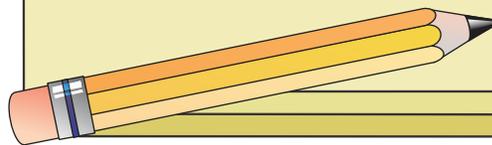


*Photo By Cindie Bonomi*

As with any club or organization, some new members come for a time and then slowly fade away. I read an article online recently listing the seven reasons bonsai beginners fail. I'll paraphrase and shorten the descriptions

1. Lack of patience: As we all know, it is not a hobby for immediate gratification.
2. Giving up too soon: How many of us killed our first (second, third, fourth, etc.) tree?
3. Lack of education: With so much information in books and online, you can find out about anything bonsai related.
4. Lack of commitment: Yeah, you do have to find someone to watch them when you go away.
5. Overly ambitious: You can't turn every variety of flora into a bonsai, you need to know your limits.
6. Bad haircut: After cutting too much off the top, you think you've ruined it. Don't worry, it will grow back.
7. Expecting too much: After seeing show trees and realizing yours doesn't look like that right now. Everybody makes mistakes with their trees and even kills a few of them, but bonsai is an art form that takes time to develop and perfect.

If you are a new member reading this, keep in mind that most of us started the same way you did. Attend meetings, ask questions, read all you can, and above all, keep at it.



Dave Metzgar



# The PBS Annual Picnic: Trees, Chats and Glorious Food!

by Jay Miller

The rain gods were busy elsewhere, and it was a perfect day for the picnic: mild, a bit cloudy which was great for pictures and a large attendance from members old and new.

Despite his recent sale, Bob Grealish still maintains a sizable collection of spectacular trees. "The GOOD Stuff"! Your inner bonsai artist can receive a lot of inspiration, while ingesting a lot of goodies from Rose's BIG table! As always, the pool table served as Dessert Central. Oscar The Dog has combined patience with an appreciation of The Law of Gravity for falling treats.

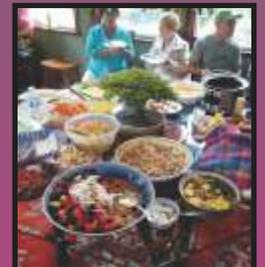
An enthusiastic group gathered in the Flute Room to view the flutes hand carved by Bob, and to play them. It was good to talk with veteran PBS members, the Geisslers, the Behrenbergs and the Duksteins, busier than ever in retirement. Armand Latour tried to convince us that he could carry boxwoods in his gorgeous Corvette, but we want pictorial proof! Lotsa folks wearing the custom embroidered PBS polo shirts by Anna Domasky. Hubby Cliff hints that sweatshirts may be next.



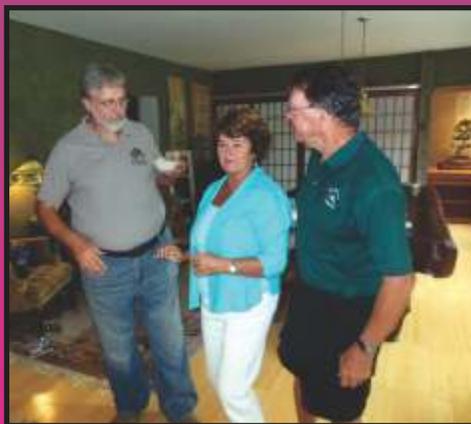
Bob built a new Japanese Torii gate at the entrance to his trees



Noah figuring out which azalea he wants

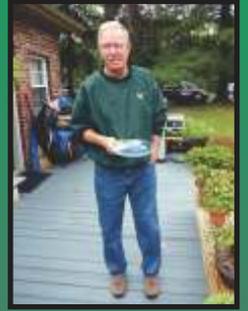


Everyone brought something so needless to say there was quite a sizable feast in the kitchen



...And of course dessert where it always is, on the pool table

# The PBS Annual Picnic: Trees, Chats and Glorious Food Continued!



Good food and good conversation



All through out the day, we wandered through Bob's beautiful collection, some of us where inspired to take some pictures for future reference



The Flute players gathered in the Flute room and played, ending another wonderful picnic

# July Tropical Workshop Pics!



# What Are Our Members Doing?

As a Society, we're pleased to applaud the educational efforts of our talented members. Dr. Norbert Pietrzak, PBS Co-Founder and Past President, and Kevin Haughey, Bonsai Manager of the Phipps Bonsai Collection present classes for the public at Phipps sites. Here's some upcoming events:

## Bonsai Cascade

Dates: Sat., Sept. 15 Time: 10 am - noon

Instructor: Dr. Norbert Pietrzak

Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Fee: \$25 members; \$35 non-members; \$45 material fee

Location: Botany Hall at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

Explore this classic bonsai style, and take home your own cascading juniper specimen. Dr. Pietrzak will demonstrate how to plant, prune and maintain this bonsai style. All materials will be provided. Please bring hand pruners if you have them. Class size is limited to 15 participants. To register, call the Garden Center at (412) 441-4442

## Bonsai - Azalea

Dates: Sat., Oct. 6 Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Instructor: Dr. Norbert Pietrzak

Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Fee: \$25 members; \$35 non-members; \$50 material fee

Location: Botany Hall at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

Blooming azaleas make beautiful bonsai specimens. Dr. Pietrzak will demonstrate how to plant, prune and maintain your bonsai. All materials will be provided. Please bring hand pruners if you have them. To register, call the Garden Center at (412) 441-4442 ext. 3925



## Early Autumn Around The 'Burgh

-by Jay Miller

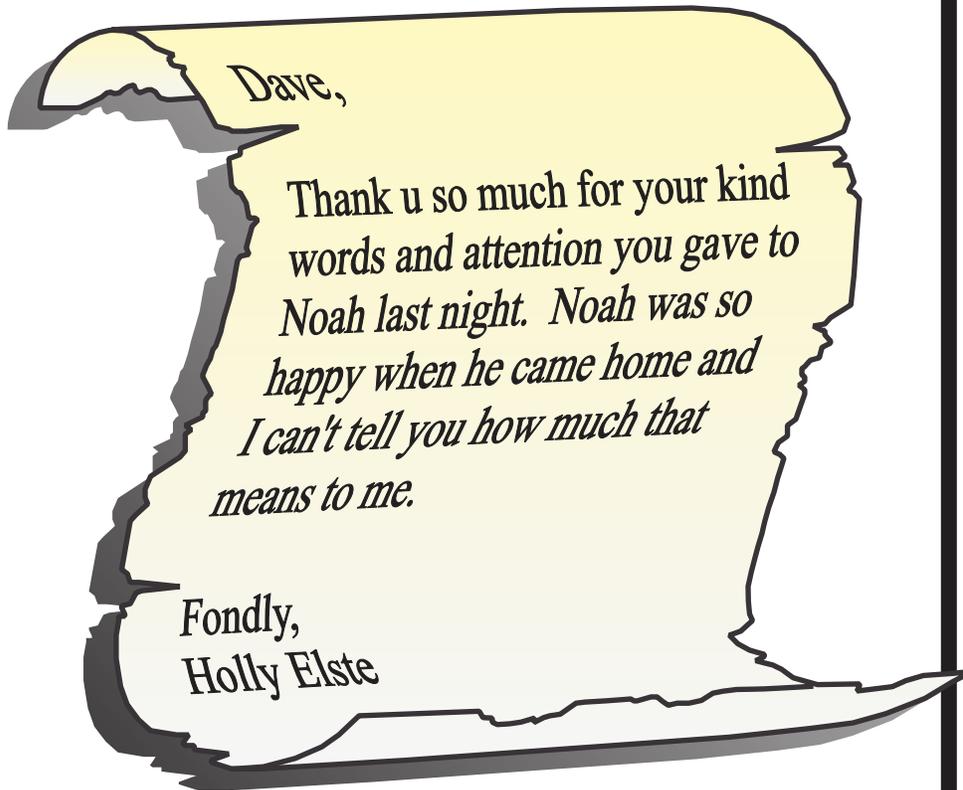
"When an early autumn walks the land..." Great song. The lyrics blend summer growth and autumnal entropy. Mixed feelings. Happy with the current bonsai, but regretful that you didn't do a road trip to Dave Ruffaner for larches and Mike Stern for sweet gums.

Early autumn in our region sees bonsai growth slowing to almost nothing, as leaves change color and begin to fall. Deciduous buds harden in anticipation of winter. Pines can still be pruned, with the possibility of a late growth spurt. Water lightly and make sure your trees are protected against the desiccating effect of strong winds.

And staying active pays off. Walk in the woods (wearing orange...) and you may spot a promising collectible. Walking around the neighborhood, noting planting/landscaping projects may yield opportunities to be a helpful neighbor, and pick up a castoff for October's "Trash To Treasures" ASK. (with a plate of cookies in your hand)...

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

A nice letter to our President from Noah's mom, Holly  
Noah is one of our youngest members.



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Cindie Bonomi • 335 Newburn Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15216 • Phone: (412) 561-2057

For your Bonsai supplies support  
the store that exists for the society

**Bonsai In The Burgh**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Coming Events:

04-07 October 2012 Grantville, PA "International Stone Appreciation Symposium", Holiday Inn, Harrisburg/Hershey. The largest show devoted to suiseki and stone appreciation in the West; More information and registration forms at: [www.StoneShow2012.com](http://www.StoneShow2012.com)

### Mark your 2014 Calendars:

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

### Future Events:

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.

### 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.

### 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](http://pittsburghbonsai.org) You can also list regional/national bonsai events that your fellow PBS members might find interesting.

### 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)

### October 2012 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the October 2012 Newsletter are due no later than September 13, 2012.

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



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

## Pittsburgh Bonsai Society 2012 & 2013 Calendar of Events

Oct 17.....Wed 7pm .....Trash to Treasures Workshop  
Nov 14 .....Wed 7pm .....TBA plus Elections  
Dec 6.....THURS 6:30pm .....Annual Holiday Party  
No Meetings..... January & February 2013  
Mar 20.....Wed 7pm.....TBA  
Apr 17.....Wed 7pm.....TBA  
Spring Show..... 2013 June 7, 8 & 9



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.