



# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

## June 2010 Newsletter

### Saikei Plantings

NEXT MEETING

June 16, 2010 7:00pm at Phipps Garden Center

If you've ever wanted to capture the essence of your favorite location, ie, a forest, stream-side setting, shoreline or mountain views, you can create it with Saikei. It is the art of the living landscape, a classic form of bonsai. This will be a great introduction to miniature landscapes using organic and living material.



Bob Grealish and Bob Dietz will unlock the mysteries of Saikei and rock plantings.

NEXT EVENT

# Bonsai

# AUCTION

July 21, 2010 7:00pm at Phipps Garden Center

Please check our 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 one month prior to issue date.

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



## A Note From Bob:

June is a good time to reflect on bonsai. Everything is budded out, repotted and as healthy as it's going to look

I would encourage you to take some time to look at your trees with a Zen eye. To me, this means putting a few trees in front of me, clearing my mind and just looking.

Most of the time we think about our trees too much to see them as they are. We think about how artistic they are, what is wrong with them, what needs pruning, repotting, spraying, wiring. The "rules" of bonsai automatically come to mind—are branches crossing, are the leaves too big, is there enough taper, do the scars look bad, is the pot right, etc.? Even more common when we look at others' bonsai, our critical mind takes over and we think about how old is the tree, what variety is it, who owns it, what is it worth, where can I get one? Also, our social mind constantly prods us with the tree as a piece of art and the status it conveys.

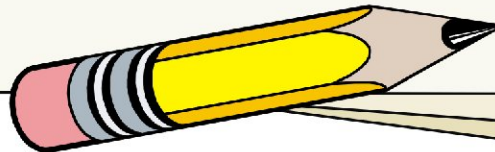
There is nothing wrong with thinking this way. It is our ordinary mind, and we are programmed and practiced to think this way about everything. We automatically assign values and attribute meaning to everything we see. There is no avoiding it. But we're not really seeing the tree. We are seeing our own thoughts about it, the tree in our head.

There is another tree there that is pretty amazing. The way to see the tree "as it is" is to first go ahead and think our usual thoughts, then put them aside. Clear your mind, actively reject any further thoughts that you can put into words. Just look. It's called "bare awareness". Things will come to you that you can't put into words. No stories, no right or wrong, no values, no ordinary thoughts at all. Awareness alone becomes appreciation. You'll find a new appreciation of bonsai, and even the most meager bonsai will show you its treasures.



photo by Doreena Balestreire

Bob Grealish



For your Bonsai supplies support

the store that exists for the society



## Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771

Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants

# Spring Bonsai Weekend 2010 Wrap-Up

by Dave Metzgar



photographed by Cindie Bonomi

Well, it's June and I bet there are still visitors trying to get in to the show. The steady stream of people never seemed to stop on both days, and we were turning away many guests on Sunday after 4:00 as we were cleaning up. Suffice it to say, the show was a big success.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the show run as smoothly as it did. From the front reception desk, to the set up volunteers and those who helped run the consignment and kitchen areas, many members stepped up and put in the hours to make it possible.

Any ideas to help make next year's show are surely welcomed. One good one mentioned so far was to put risers on the tables to make the viewing of the trees easier. Another was to get more signs explaining about membership and the events going on during the show.

No doubt the article highlighting Bob Grealish in Saturday's Post Gazette brought in the crowds, along with the signs scattered throughout Oakland and Shadyside. Once inside, visitors were greeted with a large and varied selection of trees, many by the reliable members who show every year, and many others by newer members proud to show off their recent creations. The viewing stones and other Asian articles made the whole experience a well-rounded event.

A special welcome goes to the new members who joined the society. Please feel free bring your trees to the meetings and ask any questions that will help you to understand what our group is all about. There is a lot of talent at your availability, and maybe next year, your tree will grace the tables at the Spring show.

Here are some show pictures on pages 3, 4 &5.

## Set Up Was Friday Night And Plenty Of Us Participated



photographed by Dave Metzgar, Jim Toney, Bob Dietz and Cindie Bonomi

Everyone Helped



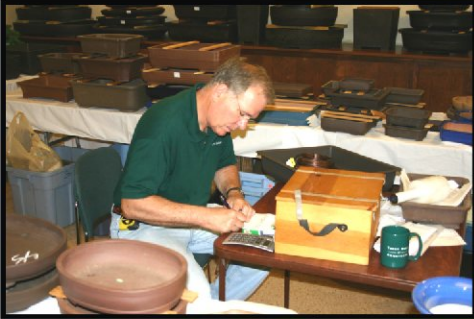
Adam & Isaac's T-Shirt Sales



Front Desk "Meet & Greet"



Concession



Bob & "Bonsai In The Burgh"



Member Consignment



Our Jewelry Guys

...And We Had Educational Workshops...



"Meehan's Miniatures"



Picture Takers



Sunday, Bob Greulich Showed Us How To Pot Up And Wire Our Junipers



Saturday, Keith Scott Showed Us Styling Techniques



photographed by Dave Metzgar, Jim Toney, Bob Dietz and Cindie Bonomi

...Let The Show Begin...



photographed by Dave Metzgar, Jim Toney, Bob Dietz and Cindie Bonomi



# Mike's Corner

## Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern



One of my greatest disappointments over the years related to creating trees was when my son graduated from high school and we had a graduation party.

I decided to show off some of my best trees that I had been training for years. It should be noted that I started with bonsai in 1981. He graduated from high school in 2002. Some of the trees that I displayed were 20 years old.

One of them was my very first tree, a Sergeants Juniper. That tree taught me that the branch did not necessarily have to come from the same side of the trunk that the cloud would occupy. The lowest branch that came from the left side of the trunk had been trained over the years to wrap around behind the trunk and created left, back, and right clouds of foliage.

Before the party, I spent time cleaning the pots, shining them with Armor All, grooming the soil, pruning, and generally trying to make them look attractive. Additionally, I did not want to bring in too many bugs and insects so I sprayed them with insecticidal soap. The soap actually caused the leaves on my Sweet Gums to shine and made them and more attractive.

The graduation party went off without a problem. I received numerous complements regarding the trees. I always hope to en-courage others in the art. Within two or three days of the graduation party all of the trees began to slowly yellow and within a week or two were dead.

## My Greatest Disappointment

The insecticidal soap that I used had been mixed and sitting around for some time. I did not want to waste "perfectly good soap". In the instructions on the bottle, it clearly states that you should use the product right away and not store it for future use after it has been mixed.

A friend of mine told me that the best lessons in life are the ones that we pay for. As parents, friends, and teachers we try to help others avoid paying the price of those lessons.



photo by Cindie Bonomi

## PITTSBURGH BONSAI SOCIETY T-SHIRTS?



All T-Shirts are gray with black logo

Don't forget you can now purchase Pittsburgh Bonsai Society T-Shirts. \$15.00 for one, \$25.00 for two. Sizes range from men's small to xx-large. Buy one, support the society and look good doing it!

Adam Versaw

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## Haiku Corner

A hoe standing there;  
No one to be seen, -  
The heat! -Shiki

# 2010 Calendar of Events

Jun 16.....	Wed.....	7pm.....	Saikei Plantings
Jul 21.....	Wed.....	7pm.....	Auction
Aug 14.....	Sat.....	11am.....	Picnic at the Grealish Farm
Sep 15.....	Wed.....	7pm.....	“Forest Plantings”
Oct 20.....	Wed.....	7pm.....	Horticultural topic
Nov 17.....	Wed.....	7pm.....	Suiseki and Stone Appreciation
Dec 15.....	Wed.....	6:30pm.....	Annual Holiday Party

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 meets every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm 6-10pm. The next several dates are June 10 & 24. If you are interested in sharpening your skills, call Bob at 412 977-0077.

## June 25-27, 2010

Grand Rapids, Michigan 2010 Mid-America Bonsai Alliance Convention:

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids MI. Featured artists include Kathy Shaner and more. For more information contact Mollie Hollar at:

[info@basicallybonsai](mailto:info@basicallybonsai) or by phone: (616) 754-2351

## 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:

[thenucletoid@yahoo.com](mailto:thenucletoid@yahoo.com)

## 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 new (to them ) species; their TLC requirements and your story.

## July Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the July 2010 Newsletter are due no later than June 9, 2010.

Compiled by Jay Miller



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This is your last  
Newsletter if there  
is a check mark in  
the box to the left.

