



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

April 2009 Newsletter

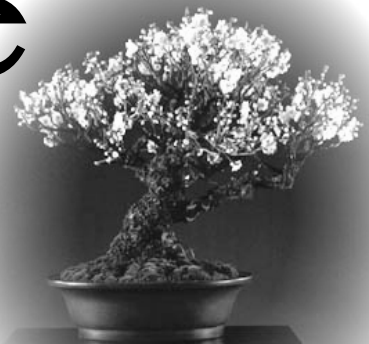
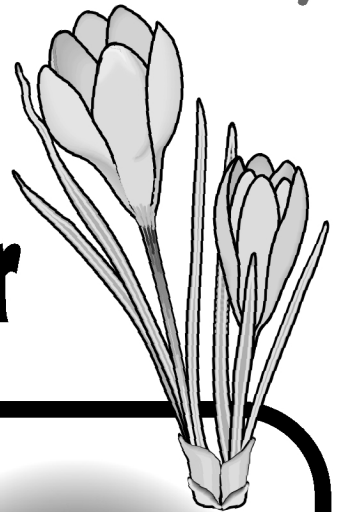
NEXT EVENT

"Tree Critique"

Monday, April 13 2009 7:00pm

Phipps Garden Center

Take a look at your tree collection. Are there a couple bonsai who might be candidates for a gentle critique? Stymied styling, vague development thwarting their potential? Here's your chance for a different perspective. BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree) to the April Meeting. Note that it is a MONDAY. You also might want to bring your tools.



A Note From Bob:

Springtime-a new season for our bonsai, and a new year for our Bonsai Society. I hope your bonsai came through the winter well. It was great to see all the new members in the club and to reconnect with old friends at our first meeting. I think we will have a good year of programs for both new and experienced members.

This year we are going to concentrate on reviewing and discussing some of the basics. We'll have programs on basic techniques as well as basic tree groups-deciduous, pines and tropicals. Next year we'll go on to more advanced topics and techniques such as group plantings and other unusual styles, grafting, field growing, special soils, etc.

I look forward to involving all our members in sharing experience with each other. We'll start this month with a "Tree Critique." I hope everyone will bring a tree and we can all join in the discussion. See you there!

Bob Grealish



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

SPOTLIGHT TREES!

Please Everyone:

As we talked about at the March meeting, try and remember to bring your spotlight trees to ANY of our meetings so that you can show and tell them!

Haiku Corner

Crescent Moon—
Bent to the shape
Of the cold.

—Issa



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



Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771

Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants

Dues Renewal

The PBS Membership Year is January 1 to December 31. You'll notice a Membership Application/Renewal Form is included in this issue. Please send in the form and your renewal check by April 30th to insure delivery of future newsletters and email notices. Dues are unchanged for 2009, despite steadily rising costs of mailings, nursery stock, speakers expenses and meeting site rentals. We appreciate your continuing support.



Monthly Question And Answer Box

Do you have a bonsai related question?
Mail or E-Mail your question to:

Bob Dietz
1525 Connor Rd.
South Park, Pa. 15219
dietz4771@comcast.net



Your question and the answer will
appear in the next news letter

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.



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

Membership Year: January 1 to December 31
Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY (One Letter or Number Per Box)

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Family Membership\$35.00

[illegible]

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I am Renewing my Membership

Make your dues renewal check payable to the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society and send it to:

Phone: 412 833-8745
timbamford@verizon.net

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society, formed in 1957, is a non-profit organization. The mission: to disseminate knowledge, encourage others and create interest in the art of bonsai.



Member Survey 2009

Please take a moment and help us with your comments. We want to make your membership year as productive as possible.

How did you originally learn of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society?

- ☐ from a friend ☐ a flyer ☐ Bonsai Classes at Phipps ☐ from a garden center
☐ newspaper article ☐ the Internet ☐ PBS website

Are your bonsai skills ☐ beginner ☐ intermediate ☐ advanced

How many trees are in your collection?

Do you acquire your bonsai from ☐ PBS Picnic and auctions ☐ Spring Show
☐ other members ☐ bonsai nurseries beyond Pittsburgh ☐ nursery stock



Would you like to receive your newsletters electronically?

If yes, Name E-mail address.....

PBS occasionally sponsors bus trips to regional/national bonsai events and to nationally acclaimed bonsai collections.

Would you attend if the trip was overnight ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you paid for overnight accommodations at a PBS group rate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you attend if it was a day trip starting about 5:00am, returning at 11:00pm ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

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Photos From Our March Bonsai Basics Meeting

At our last meeting Bob showed us how to transfer two different trees from their training containers into Bonsai pots and how to tie them in. He also went over how to pick the best pots for the trees.



Tree #1
Carpinifolia Elm



A Little Root Pruning



Tree #2
Larch



Wiring A Couple
Branches Down



Mike's Corner

Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern

Lessons Learned

I spent the winter looking at magazines and fantasizing how I was going to style my trees and improve their artistic presentation. I had securely placed them as I always had in a cold frame that was surrounded by plastic and had fencing to keep out the rabbits. Since it is not completely enclosed with plastic, I never have to check it for issues regarding temperature. I recently went to check on my best trees only to find that a rabbit had considered it a restaurant during the harsh winter months. A significant portion of the fence had fallen over. No animal was able to move the fence. I then recalled the incredibly windy day that we had during the winter. A number of my smaller trees are now stumps. Large trees that were 25 years old were moderately eaten but may be presentable by the end of this growing season.

Thank goodness the rabbits did not like Azaleas, Spruce, Pine, or Yews. They survived unscathed. Also, I was lucky that I did not have needle cast on my evergreens as I had by the end of last winter.

It always seems that there are small and large tragedies when dealing with trees. Each time we experience a tragedy, we hopefully learn from that. I had previously written that I had not adequately secure fencing in my garden area. This year I did not have rabbit damage in the garden as a result of that. Next year I will do better with the cold frame by adequately securing the fence to not allow any openings for the rabbits.

I also have dwarf Chinese elms that are susceptible to fungus very early in the spring. I am planning on spraying them with the fungicide on a schedule in the very near future so as to avoid poor growth and occasionally death. I have learned with my bald cypress that they also benefit from early spraying of a combination fungicide insecticide in the early year.

I had a wonderful old Larch that had been in training for a couple of years and finally was ready for a pot. In the spring it sprouted forth with no problems. In midsummer it slowly lost its vigor and died. Despite putting it in shade it did not recover. I recalled one of members of the society stating that his Larches perform better for him when he keeps them on the ground rather than upon stands in midsummer. Up until that year, the tree had been growing on the ground. If you are struggling with larches there may be some useful information here.

There is a saying that if you are not making mistakes you are not trying hard enough. I guess I'll keep trying and keep making mistakes.

I would request that other members share their lessons learned with Cindie so that she can include them in the newsletter. That way we all can learn and hopefully reduce our mistakes.

E-mail Cindie at: thenucleoid@yahoo.com with your Lesson's Learned, and we will include them in "ANY" month's newsletter!





Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

2009 Schedule of Meetings

Apr 13..... Mon7pm“Tree Critique”

May 22-24..... Spring Bonsai Weekend

Jun 16..... Tue7pm“Tropicals Demo/Workshop”
(featuring Eric Wigert/Fort Myers FL: Brazilian Rain Trees)

Jul 15..... Wed7pmTBA

Aug 9..... Sat 10am Annual Bonsai Picnic at the Grealish Farm

Sep 18-19..... Fri7pm Demonstration-Outside Speaker
Sat 8am Workshop-Outside Speaker

Oct 21..... Wed7pm TBA

Nov 18..... Wed7pm TBA

Dec 2 Wed6:30pm Annual Holiday Party

All events, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Phipps Garden Center, starting at 7:00pm

Other Events

NY..... April 17-19..... Kerhonkson..... MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 26th Annual Spring Festival / Hudson Valley Resort & Spa (outside of New Pfalz)
<http://midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com>

DC..... May 1-3 Washington Potomac Bonsai Festival at U.S. National Arboretum, 10am-5pm; Co-sponsored by the Potomac Bonsai Association, the National Bonsai Federation and the National Arboretum
<http://www.usna.usda.gov>





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

What are our Members doing?

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

Apr 25..Sat10-12 PGC..... Dr. Pietrzak Bonsai Workshop: Curved Trunk Trident Maple \$25 Non-Phipps Members; \$40 material fee Please bring hand pruners if you have them.

May 9...Sat10-12 Botany Hall at Phipps.....Dr. Pietrzak..... Bonsai Studio Workshop \$25 Non-Phipps Members Please bring a bonsai and hand pruners.

May 17..SatSession 1..1-3pm Botany Hall at Phipps Kevin Haughey..Beginning Bonsai

May 23..SunSession 2..10am-12 noon Botany Hall at Phipps Kevin Haughey..Beginning Bonsai
\$25 Non-Phipps Mem-
bers \$30 material fee.

To register for these events, call the PGC (Phipps Garden Center) at 412 441-4442 ext 3925 or download their registration form <http://phipps.conseavatory.org>