



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

April 2011 Newsletter



NEXT MEETING

WORKSHOP!!!

Yes, it's another workshop and we will be working with Juniper Procumbens Nana.

Each person participating will receive a tree, pot and soil. The society will provide wire and tools for those who do not have them.

If you do have tools and want to participate, please bring them.

Please check the website for cost and other details.



Wednesday, April 20 • 7pm • Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

NEXT EVENT

Phipps Garden Center, Shadyside

Annual Spring Show Weekend

Setup:-----Friday May 20 Bring your Trees!

Show:-----Saturday May 21 and Sunday May 22 Show, Demos and Tear-down

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 one month prior to issue date

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

A Note From Dave:

As members of the Bonsai Society, we love to look at trees. Whether in person, online, or in books and magazines, we can't get enough. They inspire us and give us ideas of what to do with our own collection. The more we can be exposed to, the better. With that in mind, we will try to get you to see more trees in person and on our website.



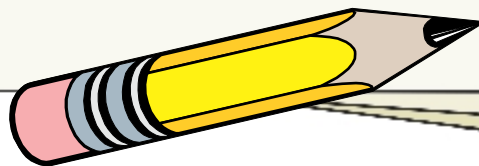
Photo by Cindie Bonomi

The monthly member spotlight at the meetings will showcase a few trees that the member can bring in and discuss informally before the regular meeting starts. The newsletter will periodically have a member profile as well, so you can get to know your fellow members as well as their trees. There was talk at the last meeting of an informal car-pool trip to the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., with many members interested in driving down to see the great collection. More details will follow. Another idea in the works would be an organized road trip to see a few local members' collections.

In May comes the best opportunity to see some great specimens at our annual spring show. We will be looking for some unique varieties and styles to showcase, so make sure yours is there. Who knows what will be trading hands at the auction in July, something you bid on could be a future attraction at next year's show. The August picnic at the Grealish Farm is well worth the trip just to view Bob's fantastic collection.

With so many opportunities, we hope you can get your year's worth of viewing great bonsai. And bring something of your own to the next meeting, so we can enjoy too.

Dave Metzgar



For your Bonsai supplies support

the store that exists for the society



Bonsai In The Burgh

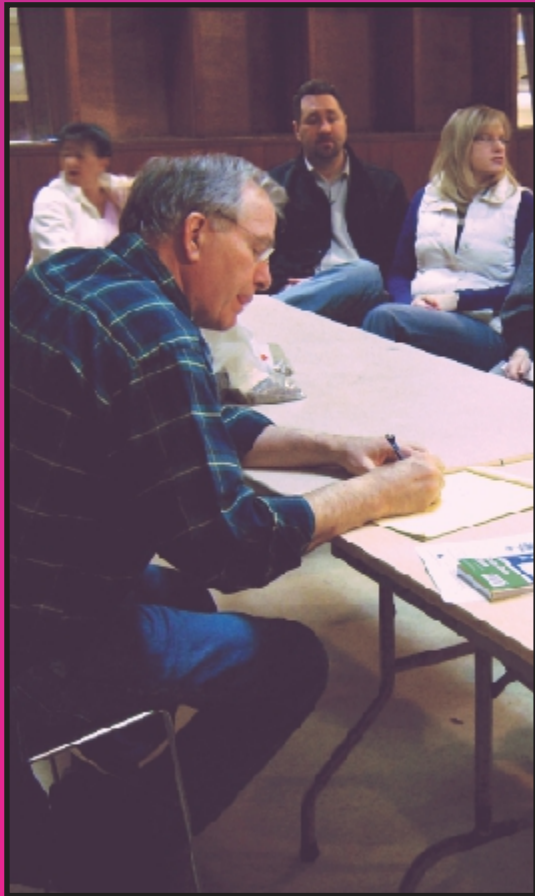
724-348-4771

Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants

march meeting *by Jay Miller*

The first meeting of the year is always well attended. Folks are so sick of winter and it's good to reconnect with friends in the Society that share your passion (obsession?) with bonsai. The March meeting was no exception. After a short business meeting, we split into two concurrent sessions: Bob Dietz handling the Bonsai Basics for the newer members and guests, while Bob Grealish demonstrated techniques for the intermediate and advanced skill group.

Bob Dietz discussed the basics of bonsai care, what, when and how, encouraging questions at each stage of the session. Debbie Brys was the "Tree Host" for the evening and Bob used both her deciduous and conifer examples to illustrate how to keep bonsai alive and well. He covered watering, soil, potting, pruning, wiring, feeding and critter control. A variety of tools were shown and their specific features discussed. Borrowing kitchen and garage tools was not recommended.



march meeting continued

Bob Grealish once again demonstrated his ability to multitask, delivering a thorough lecture on the "Windswept" form, while reducing a large juniper to its basic lines, pruning, wiring and shaping to an elegant finish. He asked as many questions of his audience as they asked him; everyone was engaged in the process. His forty-five minute demonstration motivated many to try this dramatic style in the future.



Haiku Corner

At night, happiness;
In the day-time, quietness--
Spring rain.

- Chora



CUT HERE



Membership Application
or Renewal Form

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Name (One Letter or Number Per Box)

Address (Number and Street, Rural Route or Post Office Box)

City or Town State Zip

Phone Individual Membership.....\$30.00
Family Membership.....\$40.00

E-Mail (Email address is used for membership database and member correspondence only. The Society will keep this info **CONFIDENTIAL**. (Please include!))

Date Signature

☐ I am a New Member

☐ I am Renewing my Membership

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

Membership Chair
Meg Vates-Amoudi
Email: mrvates@hotmail.com

544 Overlook Drive
Pittsburgh PA 15216
Phone: 412 477-7231

Membership Year:
January 1 to December 31

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Lynne Squilla-New Member

One-year-Bonsai Society Member Lynne Squilla was accused of being a tree-hugger in her campaign to help establish what is now known as "Emerald View Park" - 325 acres of urban forest that surrounds Mount Washington.

A television and video producer-writer-director by trade, Squilla fought City Planning, former Mayor Murphy and the URA, who gave the hillsides a blighted designation so the land could be given for cheap to developers to create 'view corridor' housing. She spearheaded this effort with other community members and got the land legislated by City Council as a city Park, while also gathering funding to clean up dump sites, replant trees and maintain trails throughout this unique public space.

Lynne now turns her attention to smaller trees....attempting some of her very first bonsai efforts. Her sister, longtime member Cindie Bonomi, gave her a flowering quince, that was successfully air-layered from her bigger tree. Lynne has nurtured it through its initial pruning and winter dormancy. With Spring approaching, there are buds already set on the little quince. Lynne has also been babysitting a bonsai Chinese Elm for neighbor and member Jamini Davies.



Photos by Lynne Squilla and Cindie Bonomi



Member Survey

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 ☐ newspaper article ☐ PBS website ☐ the Internet
☐ Bonsai Classes at Phipps ☐ a flyer ☐ from a Garden Center

Would you like to receive your newsletters electronically? ☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, Name

E-mail Address

Are your bonsai skills: ☐ beginner ☐ intermediate ☐ advanced

Please tell us what programs you'd prefer:

- ☐ lectures ☐ workshops with your trees ☐ demonstration & workshops ☐ Bonsai Basics

Questions:

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's 2011 Calendar Of Events

April 20.....Wed 7pm.....Juniper Workshop
May 20-22.....Fri-SunSpring Bonsai Weekend
Jun 15.....Wed 7pmWorkshop: Trident Maples (tent.)
Jul 20.....Wed 7pm.....Auction!!!
Aug TBA.....Sat 11amPicnic at the Grealish Farm
Sep 21.....Wed 7pmWorkshop: "Trash to Treasure"
(Working with orphans, strays and castoffs)
Oct 19.....Wed 7pmTBA
Nov 16.....Wed 7pmTBA plus Elections
Dec 7.....Wed 6:30pmAnnual 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.

Early Spring, Not Enough Month!

- Jay Miller



Photo by Cindie Bonomi

There ought to be some changes to the calendar. January and February should be reduced to two weeks; conversely, April-May-June should be increased to six weeks to accomplish all the bonsai tasks required of even a modest collection.

Early spring, before bud growth, means repotting time. (See Bob Dietz for your bonsai soil). It's time for a critter check applying a systemic insecticide to your soil and spray the branches and twigs, too.

While you're examining the tree, pot and soil, tag the FRONT of your bonsai. It's a reminder to turn them every week.

Water the bonsai once or twice a week to keep the soil damp. Don't feed a bonsai until its leaves are fully open. Don't tear down your shelter immediately.



Remember, a Tri-State Spring can also mean high winds, heavy rains, so protect your bonsai from these extremes!

**YAY!
IT'S
SPRING!**



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonsai Workgroup:

The work group will meet every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm 6-10pm. The first session is May 5. If you are interested in sharpening your skills, call Bob at 412 977-0077.

Coming Events:

16-19 June 2011 Louisville KY
"Bonsai in the Bluegrass" ABS Convention & Learning Seminar; Fern Valley Hotel and Convention Center, Louisville
www.bonsaiinthebluegrass.com

A Reminder about Annual Dues:

You'll find a "short form" dues renewal notice in this issue. Our Membership Year is January 1 to December 31. Your Society relies on your support and participation in order to bring the programs that we all enjoy. (Dues remain: \$30 individual and \$40 per family).

Website:

You'll notice that our new Webmaster, Dave Metzgar is "tweaking" our website. It always has interesting and educational information available as well as links to other bonsai-related websites. Check it out at:
<http://pittsburghbonsai.org>.

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

If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at:

cindiebonomi@yahoo.com

May 2011 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the May 2011 Newsletter are due no later than April 21, 2011.

Compiled by Jay Miller



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society
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