



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

2022
NEWSLETTER

APRIL

THE APRIL MEETING

Dave Metzgar will do a demonstration regarding Styling/Secondary and Tertiary Wiring.



Bob Grealish will demonstrate and discuss the reasons and timing of pinching pines and elongating species. (This will be dependent on the growth of the trees and may need to be postponed until May.)

We will plan on doing 2-4 merit-based critiques of the members trees. If you have a tree that is in a bonsai pot and you have attempted to style it through pruning and/or wiring, your tree is eligible to be presented. We will attempt to do these merit-based critiques at each meeting and we have two meetings fully focused on merit-based critiques.

Please send an email with your request and a photo of the tree you wish to present. We will contact the members whose trees have been selected for each meeting. Only one tree per member and we will try to ensure each member has a chance to present at least one tree throughout the year. The officers will randomly select the trees. We will let you know to bring your tree in before the meeting. If pinching elongated species is postponed because of timing of growth, we will do more merit-based critiques.

Regular Meeting - Thursday - April 21 - Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer

Our Membership is Growing

The Society membership is now over 100 and continues to increase every month - reaching numbers not achieved in many years. New and renewing memberships are welcome any time of the year.

As of April 1st all members in good standing will receive the Society newsletter, emails, and Zoom meetings notifications. They will be able to attend member only events and be afforded other member only opportunities. They can request membership on the Pittsburgh Society Group page or mail in the membership form on page 9 of this newsletter.

Those interested in Bonsai are welcome to attend a meeting or two to determine if they would like to join.

ALSO IN APRIL

Jennifer Price Workshop and Demo

Jennifer Price will be coming to Pittsburgh April 23rd for a bring your own tree workshop. The workshop fee is \$50 per person. Creating a bonsai from a piece of raw material that you've been cultivating or a piece of nursery stock can be daunting. During the workshop



~Photo by Jennifer Price

Jennifer will give you individualized attention on selecting the best base, line, and features. She will guide you through pruning, wiring, and styling. Jennifer can also help you take an established bonsai tree and take it to the next level. Michael Stern will be assisting. At the end of the workshop, you will have a tree that is set to take the next step in its bonsai journey. You will have learned the decision-making process about which "unnecessary" branches to remove, finding the best planting angle, and placing the remaining branches in an aesthetically pleasing and photosynthetically efficient position.

Jennifer's demonstration April 24th, is free to all members. We are asking members to submit pictures of potential trees for Jennifer's demonstration. This is not for the workshop. Each member can submit **one tree** they are volunteering for Jennifer to style during her demonstration. Take 2 quality pictures that allow her to see the base and branching structure. The tree needs to be at least 18 inches tall so that it will be large enough for the audience to see her work. Send them to mstern55@outlook.com. Although **only one tree will be selected** by Jennifer for the demonstration, there is no fee to submit a tree for consideration. However if your tree is selected for demonstration, there will be a \$50 fee paid in advance. This is a small price to pay to have a tree styled by a professional!

Workshop Saturday, April 23 Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer. Morning and afternoon sessions. Contact Ed Baginski at: ebaginski@hotmail.com to reserve your spot for the workshop. Only members who have paid for the workshop Can attend.

Demo Sunday, April 24 12:30pm Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer FREE to all PBS members.

Now follow us on Instagram: www.instagram.com/pitt.bonsai/
Please check our ever-evolving website for updates: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>
Also visit and "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PittsburghBonsai



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society (PBS) was organized July 10, 1957 to disseminate knowledge, encourage others, and create interest in the art of bonsai through meetings, workshops, newsletters, and guest speakers. It's our seventh decade of advancing the art of bonsai in Pittsburgh and the Tri-State area. The membership year is January 1 to December 31. For details on events, Society membership or general information, see the Society's web page at: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>. Our newsletter is published periodically, 10 issues per year.

Deadlines:

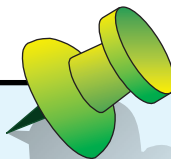
Generally two months prior to issue date

Submissions:

Submissions are encouraged. Please submit photos or artwork in JPG format and copy in Microsoft Word.



A Note From Mike:



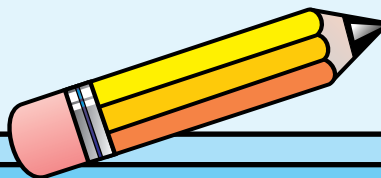
At our last meeting there was a question about what members of PBS get for their dues. This is particularly salient for those who are considering joining for the first time. The major benefit of our society is to give members a place to gather with others who are interested in bonsai so that we can enjoy our shared past time and learn from one another how to successfully grow our trees. We could just meet and talk without ever spending any money, of course. But to provide the best opportunities to learn and share costs money, and it is your right as members to know what expenses your dues are covering.



~Photo by Mike Stern

The rental of the space we use for meetings costs around \$900 per year. It would take 30 members to cover that cost alone. Our other major expenses are the spring show, the two professionals we hire to run workshops, materials for our field tree operation, supplies for use during meetings and our picnic. These costs add up to more than \$6000. It would take 200 members to pay for these costs. We do earn income from various sources, and we ask members who participate in the workshops, which not all members can attend, to pay a fee that is nevertheless subsidized by the club. These reduce our net costs so that most years we spend about what we have received.

There is a lot of value for you as a member in these activities. All of them offer different ways to enjoy and learn about bonsai. And these activities further the club's mission which is "... to bring together at frequent intervals, those who are interested in the art of Bonsai. To disseminate knowledge, encourage others and generally create interest and exchange information in the art of Bonsai through lectures and demonstrations." We hope \$30/year is worth it to you for all the learning and activities. But if not, please let us know and get involved. This is your society as much as anyone else's!



Mike Stern
mstern55@outlook.com

Contact Bob Dietz in advance of the meeting if you need to purchase any bonsai supplies from potting mix soil to tools.

For your Bonsai supplies, support

the store that exists for the society



Bob Dietz



Bonsai In The Burgh

Home: (724) 348-4771
Cell: (412) 592-3271

Pictures From The March Meeting



Using the seedlings we got in from Heritage, Dave Metzgar showed us how to put movement into the trunks. He also demonstrated how to create radial flare in the roots.



~Photography by Cindie Bonomi and Pranag K. Nag



Terry Monroe did a demonstration on bending large branches.





Mark Molner spoke about possibly having a pottery workshop to make bonsai pots.



~Photography by Cindie Bonomi and Pranag K. Nag

Merit-Based Critiques

We carefully and thoughtfully grow, trim, prune, wire, and pinch trees as we enjoy the process as well as seeing what we create. We also enjoy the opportunity to share our trees with others so that they can appreciate them. Our Bonsai Show is probably our most anticipated event not just to see others' trees but to present ones of our own creation.

It is not uncommon, and I include myself in this, that when someone shows us their tree, no matter how well the design was executed, we tend to want to talk specifically about what's wrong with the tree. So, the comment is made along the lines of "That's an amazing tree, I really like it but the one thing about it that I would change is.....". Another version is the individual will ask you permission such as "Would you mind, or would it be all right if I made a suggestion?"

Though these comments appear to be compliments and/or are designed to be helpful they are generally not experienced that way by the receiver. It's very possible that the specific problem that you are commenting on or the adjustment you will suggest may be a specific feature that the creator likes. Speaking from experience I have received negative comments about a feature that I have embraced in a tree. I have also delivered negative comments about a feature the owner had embraced.

So, how should we approach other people's trees. I would suggest that when we comment on members tree make specific comments and limit it to what we like. Most owners have spent effort and time to create their trees. If members bring a tree to the meeting or a show and are not specifically asking for advice, then don't give it.

If you want to comment, then be specific. Don't just say that is a nice tree. Tell them what you like about the tree and stop. Don't add, "Can I give you one suggestion?" Regardless of the level of the individual and their artistic endeavor they have spent time and effort to get the tree to where it is. Focusing on the good qualities reinforces what they have accomplished and will motivate them to continue to go forward. Moreover, if you have a desire to share with them what could improve the tree, the positive attitude may open the door for them to ask. Wait for them to ask.

To practice and rehearse merit based appraisal of

~ By Michael Stern

When approaching a tree in a merit-based fashion consider these features.

1. Nebari, rootage flare
2. Trunk movement and taper
3. Unusual features
4. Bark quality
5. Branching placement
6. Branching movement
7. Use of positive and negative space
8. Refinement of branches
9. Foliage pad sizes
10. Leaf size. Leaf color
11. Flowers, fruit
12. Positioning in pot
13. Planting angle
14. Pot and tree combination
Size, shape, color



~Photo by Mike Stern

bonsai the officers have agreed that we will be adding to our Thursday night program 2-4 merit-based critiques of members trees. Members who submit the tree are willing to allow members to identify the merits of the tree and then later identify areas that could improve the tree.

These critiques will last between 5 and 10 minutes. In the first part of the critique any member can give one positive feature that they find attractive in the composition. Once the audience has exhausted the merits of the tree, those members who have made a positive comment are allowed one comment on what could be done to improve the tree. Members who have not offered a positive comment will have to wait to the next critique for their opportunity to participate.

Members can submit a styled tree in a bonsai pot by sending in a request to mstern55@outlook.com. We will plan to critique 2-4 trees in an evening. The current criteria to bring in a tree for a merit-based critique is that it be in a bonsai pot and the owner has styled the tree. This is not a program to obtain advice for raw or unstyled material.

The officers would like to encourage a culture in the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society where we focus on specific qualities that are attractive in the trees that the members bring to the meetings and the show. Saying that is a nice tree is a start. But it is not sufficient. Teasing out the details of what makes that a nice tree helps improve your artistic eye and improves your approach to your trees. It reinforces specific efforts the owner has made and motivates them to want to continue. It also encourages inexperienced members with less refined trees to show their trees, too stick with their efforts and remain active members. We primarily do bonsai for enjoyment and to feel good. Let's embrace that!

Yard Tours

We are going to begin our yard tours this spring in May with Mike Stern's yard.

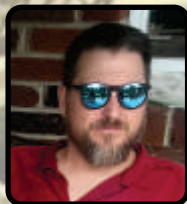
If you are planning on stopping by please email Mike at: mstern55@outlook.com. This way he can send you his address and directions to his house. He'll also be able to get an idea as to how many will be stopping by.

The idea is that you open your garden to the society for a few hours on an evening. During this time, members can see your trees, ask questions, take photos, learn, and get ideas for their own trees.

If anyone is still interested in opening their bonsai garden to the PBS members, contact Terry Monroe at: terrym74@yahoo.com

Here is our list of yard tours this summer so far:

Mike Stern - May
Bob Dietz - June
Dave Metzgar - July on a Sunday
Louise Means - August
Cindie Bonomi - September



~Photo by Cindie Bonomi

Yard Tours

New Members:

Lewis Soltis Asher Jones
Seth King Thuy Doan
Ben McKeeby

Zombie Bonsai

Since our show will coincide with a fun event the mall holds every year, the "Living Dead Weekend," we are going to have a small section devoted to Zombie Bonsai. If you had one of your favorite trees die recently this is a perfect chance to display it, or consider bringing a zombie themed tree. Maybe a tree planted in a baby doll head? Possibly a tree with a hand coming out of the soil?

If you are interested in participating in our zombie themed display this year email Cindie Bonomi: cindiebonomi@gmail.com.

Fundamentals in Creating a Bonsai

You can go to our website and click on links to our member created videos. No password is needed. We have 2 videos, "Repotting a Deciduous Tree

Video" and "Aftercare of Collected Bonsai Material". We hope to be adding more in the future.

Bonsai Field Growing Education Program

As you can see in the photos on page 10 of this Newsletter, we completed our first Field Growing Program experience with our field collection and aftercare. Dave Metzger will keep us informed through emails about the next educational opportunity which will involve post flush hardend pruning and bending and setting structure.

Most of the potting should have been accomplished by the time you are reading this

newsletter and we will be working on watering, fertilizing, pruning, wiring, styling and pinching.



If you are interested in participating and learning about the field, I'm Dave Metzger. Email me: davemetzgar119@gmail.com or text me at: 412-956-2482.

Working on Bonsai at Other Member's Homes

If you are interested in going to other member's homes and working on trees aside from what we do once a month at our meetings, we will be sending out an email with the opportunity to be added to a membership address list. This way everyone has phone numbers and email addresses

of all of the PBS members.

If you do not want to participate in the address book, you can opt out.

We have been having minor glitches with our email procedure and are working out the details.



Membership Application
or Renewal Form

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

Membership Year: January 1 to December 31

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Name _____

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

City or Town _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email address is used for membership database and member correspondence only. The Society will keep this info CONFIDENTIAL

Phone _____

Date _____ Signature _____

_____ Individual Membership \$30.00

_____ Family Membership \$40.00

_____ I am a New Member

_____ I am Renewing my Membership

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

Ed Baginski
272 Apple Hill Drive
Delmont, Pa 15626

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.

Field Day at Grealish's

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society established its growing field at the Grealish homestead in approximately 2014. The primary purpose of the field was to ensure that there was available quality plant material for workshops that are scheduled approximately twice a year. It is difficult to find material that can be utilized for creating bonsai. The Society brings in professionals for workshops to educate and assist members with styling for which this material is utilized. The trees are sold to members on a lottery basis. The proceeds are utilized by the Society to purchase replacement stock, mulch, landscape fabric, pots and potting medium such as pumice and other necessary supplies related to the care of these trees. The financial goal is to make the field self-sustaining. We do not want to lose money on this endeavor. Therefore, the field has a separate line-item budget which will be monitored by our Treasurer, Ed Baginski. The educational goal is to teach members how to care for field grown stock and collect it. The timing and care of these trees is similar to trees in bonsai pots.

Dave Metzger, our Field Director organized and coordinated our first 2022 field day education experience. Approximately 35 field grown Trident Maples and dwarf Chinese Elms were dug from the field and then provided aftercare to ensure healthy root recovery. Some very large pines and Dawn Redwood's were also extracted. The trees were placed on landscape fabric and mulch was carefully placed around the entire root ball approximately 4 inches above the base of the trunk to assist in their recovery. Bob Grealish will be watering the material throughout 2022. We expect the mulch bed to provide an oxygen-rich medium for roots to recover. We anticipate the trees to be available for workshops in 2023. Next spring, they will be potted up in nursery containers with an appropriate potting medium.

This educational opportunity was scheduled because it was the perfect time to collect material in the field as buds are swelling. If you are interested in collecting field or landscape material and providing aftercare and you missed this field day activity, go to the website and see our video on "Aftercare for Collected Material". There

may be a little time left to collect trees that break dormancy in late spring.

Besides a financial investment by the Society, there is an ongoing investment of sweat equity. Numerous members including Karol Snead, Patty Swartz, Adam Brown, Frank Dileo, Jim Crawford, Jim Schutlz, PK, Nan Nag, Bobbie, Doug Baker, Cindie Bonomi, Larry Lamonde, Bob Grealish, Ed Baginski, Dave Metzgar, and Michael Stern volunteered their efforts from approximately 10am until 2pm. (If I missed anyone or didn't know your last name I am truly sorry.) Digging, pruning roots, sawing roots, planting, cleaning out groups up three or four branches were all the activities to set up the tree material for its bonsai journey. The time and effort put into these trees is a worthwhile investment which will lead to quality bonsai for members..

Members who participated not only learned nuances of extracting different tree species and aftercare but shared camaraderie that only in person experiences can provide. Some members also brought trees and obtained advice from experienced members on styling and when to utilize different techniques.

Everyone left smiling with the satisfaction knowing their time and efforts could benefit all the members who will get the opportunity to own one of these trees. These trees will be made available for purchase for workshops to any member on a lottery basis in 2023.

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society as any similar organization offers countless opportunities to volunteer. When the need arises consider volunteering. The other members will benefit from your efforts and so will you. Read below.

(In two studies, psychology researchers Ed O'Brien (University of Chicago Booth School of Business) and Samantha Kassirer (Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management) found that participants' happiness did not decline, or declined much slower, if they repeatedly bestowed gifts on others versus repeatedly receiving those same gifts themselves.)

Field Day at Grealish's







Order your PBS items now:

<https://www.teepublic.com/user/pghbonsaisociety>

Mugs

T-Shirts

Hoodies

Kids Clothes

Phone Cases

Pillows

Totes

Posters

Pins

Magnets



Wear Your Pride...

And your enthusiasm for Bonsai! Golf shirts embroidered with the Tricolor PBS logo are available in white, tan and taupe for \$ 25. You can also supply your own quality shirt and embroidery will be a modest \$ 10.00

For more details, contact Cliff or Anna Domasky at:
annaclaus55@hotmail.com

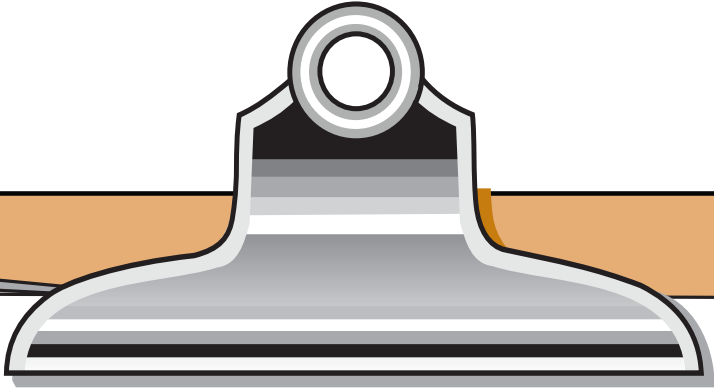


-Photos by
Cindie Bonomi

Haiku Corner

In the moonlight,
The color and scent of the wisteria
Seems far away.

-Buson



SOME EXCITING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Zoom Q&A Meetings:

Terry Monroe will continue to schedule and conduct Q and A Zoom meetings. Members will be informed through emails and postings on the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Group Page on Facebook. 2022 Pittsburgh Bonsai Society members can request membership to this group.

Zoom Presentations:

Contact Larry Lamonde at: larry@precopy.com if you are interested in doing a Zoom presentation on a bonsai related topic. Topics that the members have offered to perform are related to styling, and the thought process when approaching a piece of raw material. The free Zoom application allows for a 40 minute presentation, including any question and answer sessions following the presentation.

Fundamentals in Creating a Bonsai:

When there is a Bonsai Field Growing Education Program at the Grealish homestead, experienced members will always be available to offer one-on-one direction and guidance in helping a new member create a bonsai.

The newer member is responsible for supplying a specimen for which they are seeking assistance. If you have tools and wire bring them along. However, the Society will have materials available.

Repotting a Deciduous Tree Video:

Our first video Aftercare of Collected Bonsai Material has been uploaded and the link is on the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society website. The password for the link will be made available to you upon request.

A new Deciduous Repot video was created to demonstrate a standard "shin based" repot of an existing deciduous bonsai. There was also a change in elevation of the root mass. This video highlights the step-by-step process of removing the tree from the original pot to securing it in a new pot with fresh soil, top dressed, and watered. The mistakes that were made along the way with anchoring the tree as well as the solution were left in the video.

The video is being edited and once it is complete it will be made available to 2022 Pittsburgh Bonsai Society members through a link on the webpage.

Bonsai Field Growing Education Program:

The first Bonsai Field Growing Education Program took place on Saturday April 2nd.

Dave Metzger will keep us informed through emails about the next educational opportunity which will involve post flush harden pruning and bending and setting structure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting and Demonstration Ideas:

If you have a topic or subject that you would like to see PBS present in coming months, please contact Mike Stern for consideration of your idea. This means NEW members, too! PBS wants to help you grow in your knowledge and skills as your bonsai grow.

Meetings and Workshops:

Most of the repotting should have been accomplished by the time you are reading this newsletter and we will be working on fertilizing, pruning, wiring, styling, and pinching.

Working on Bonsai at Other Member's Homes:

We will be providing members with names, emails, and general area of residence to allow members to network and work at each other's residence.

Bonsai Field Growing Education Program at Grealish's:

The Bonsai Society grows trees in the field to provide reasonably priced, quality pre-bonsai for our workshops. The Growing Field Director, Dave Metzger, will be scheduling dates throughout the year for members to come together and have hands-on experience with these trees. The timing and technique of setting structure, pruning, wiring, bending, and trimming of these trees is based on the same schedule as your own bonsai. Since many members do not have lots of trees on which to practice, the field provides the opportunity to see how and when specific techniques are applied on multiple trees and different species. To improve one's knowledge and technique, repeated experience is the best teacher.

Bonsai Mirai:

This subscription online platform allows you to observe, ask questions, and experience bonsai education remotely. It maintains a library of hundreds of videos that you can access on addressing everything bonsai from seasonal techniques and aesthetic considerations to horticultural knowledge. Go to: bonsaimirai.com

Eisei-En Nursery, Nashville, Tennessee Bjorn Bjorholm:

Intensive learning opportunities. Go to: <http://www.bjornbjorholm.com> Eisei-En Nursery, Nashville

Brooklyn Botanical Garden:

CV STARR Bonsai Museum
30 Trees on Display Year-Round

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum:

Washington, DC. 10 am to 4 pm



**Compiled by:
Michael Stern**

Newsletter Information:

It's easy to make an announcement or contribute to the PBS Newsletter. If it is text only, email Mike Stern at: mstern55@outlook.com. If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at: cindiebonomi@gmail.com.

Submissions for the May Newsletter are due no later than April 25th, 2022

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society 2022 Events

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Board is excited and proud to have put together a year-long program that provides seasonally based experiences, education, and topics for new members as well as experienced members. This is the first time that we will be integrating with our monthly meetings remote learning via Zoom, the bonsai growing field, and Garden Tours. We will be offering comprehensive learning experiences and opportunities for all members.

We did our best to schedule when specific techniques will be seasonally appropriate to teach and demonstrate; however, these will be subject to change based on weather conditions and the developmental phase of the available trees. Applying techniques at the appropriate time are critical to creating healthy and quality trees.

The proposed schedule for experiences and demonstrations at each meeting are subject to change. We will announce those changes prior to each monthly meeting. We will announce Zoom Q&A meetings as well.

Our Meetings Are On The Third THURSDAY Of Every Month

Month	New Members Program First 15 minutes post business meeting	Meeting Program	Field Growing Bonsai Program Dates to be announced.
April	Fertilization strategies Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 21st Styling. Secondary and tertiary wiring. Dave Metzgar Pinching pines and elongating species. Bob Grealish Merit-Based Group Critique Pro Workshop (fee based and bring your own tree) April 23rd-24th. Jennifer Price.	Putting movement into branches. Avoiding reverse taper from branch collar growth. Potting seedlings to prepare for field growing. Flaring roots for nebari. Pinching pines.
May	Building ramification. Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 19th. Air layering. Larry Lamonde Pinching pines and elongating species. Bob Grealish Merit-Based Group Critique	Pruning and branch bending to create movement. Strategic trimming to avoid reverse taper problems. Air layering field tree. Pinching pines. Garden Tour #1 - Mike Stern
June	Pest recognition and management. Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 23rd. Partial defoliation. Shoot pruning. Short needle single flush pines. Terry Monroe Merit-Based Group Critique Spring Show June 11th-12th	Post flush harden pruning of deciduous and conifers. Partial defoliation. Garden Tour #2 - Bob Dietz
July	Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 21st. Members bring in tree for Merit-Based Group Critique #1. 10 trees. Auction July 23rd.	Post flush harden pruning. Big cuts on trees. Garden Tour #3 - Dave Metzgar
August	What are trees doing in August? Increasing vascular growth. Zoom Q&A.	No meeting. Picnic August 7th.	Bending branches to create movement. Re-wounding scars to increase healing. Garden Tour #4 - Louise Means
September	What to look for when searching for nursery material. Fall fertilization. Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 15th. Wiring conifers such as spruce or juniper. Merit-Based Group Critique	Bending branches to create movement. Garden Tour #5 - Cindie Bonomi

October	Tool maintenance Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 20th. Leaf drop pruning on deciduous and fall wiring. Mike Stern Merit-Based Group Critique Pro Workshop (fee based and bring your own tree) October 15th-16th. Mike Lebanik.	Leaf drop pruning and fall wiring on field trees.
November	Winter storage and care review. Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 17th. Merit-Based Group Critique #2.	
December		Meeting Thursday 15th. Holiday celebration and winter silhouettes.	

Meetings will be held in the Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15217. All meetings will begin at 7:00 pm and will reoccur every third Thursday of the month - unless otherwise specified. The church has an off-street parking lot available for our use and is one mile from our former meeting site at the Phipps Garden Center.

The Spring Show is Back!!!

Our annual spring show is back on and in person! The 2022 Spring Show will be held at a new venue for us, a storefront in the Monroeville Mall on June 11th and 12th, with set up on Friday the 10th.

Our show will coincide with a fun event the mall holds every year, the "Living Dead Weekend," a zombie celebration honoring the filming of "Dawn of the Dead." We are planning a small zombie-themed display in the show area coordinated by Cindie Bonomi. We hope you'll participate, possibly with a dead tree, or a zombie themed Bonsai.

Start getting your best finished bonsai ready for display.

As always, the show only runs smoothly with plenty of volunteers. Show coordinators Gilda Arroyo and Dave Metzgar will be passing around sign-up sheets at the next meeting for members to help with the following: show set up and tear down, assisting with the consignment area, hosting the "Ask an Expert" table, hosting the welcoming table, and leading a Procumbens Nana Juniper styling demonstration.

Once again we will have our consignment area where members can sell finished bonsai and pre-bonsai - PBS gets a 15% commission. All consignment material should be in clean condition. Nursery pots with dirt on the outside of the pot will not be accepted, nor will trees that are weak or unhealthy.

More info will be given at the next meeting, so get your "living" trees ready, dig out some of your dead ones and come ready to volunteer.