



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

August 2009 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

A Reminder: August Means Picnic! The Annual PBS Picnic and Flea Market

11:00am • Sat. • August 15 • The Grealish Farm

Look at your bonsai collection, think about what you'd like to sell. Then daydream about what you really want to buy, raid the piggybank and come on out! Bob & Rose Grealish have an idyllic country location, where you can admire superior bonsai, horsetrade with your fellow PBS members and pick up tips and trees. Not to mention munchies and a swimming pool. Bring chairs, a table if you want to sell stuff, plus the customary \$10.00 PBS table fee and something delicious to share with old and new bonsai friends. (A tithe for the President in the form of a brownie is always appreciated!) The Society provides snacks and soft drinks.

The directions are enclosed. See you on August 15th!

September Special

NEXT EVENT

Sep 18-19.....Fri. 7pmDemonstration: Julian Adams
From Lynchburg, VA
Sat. 8am.....Workshop: Julian Adams

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:

August is the time for our annual Society Picnic. It's a pleasure for Rose and me to host it out at our place again this year on Saturday, August 15, from 11 am on.

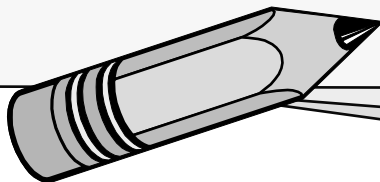


Photo By Doreena Balestreire

Bring your family and come celebrate summer with us. The pool will be open, so bring your swimming suits too! We'll have plenty of food and drinks, and if you would like to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert, we'll all enjoy it.

Also, we'll have our usual "Chinese night market" set up along the driveway again. Anyone who would like to set up a sales table, we ask for \$10 donation to the Society as a vendor's fee, and you can bring anything you feel is appropriate to sell (bring a table if you can.) It's always enjoyable to see what people bring, and over the years I've found some great items. But the best part is getting to know folks better. We always have a great time. I hope to see you there!

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

Come and Celebrate Summer at our Bonsai Flea Market & Picnic
Saturday, August 15th, 2009 11am "On"

The Grealish Farm

Bob & Rose Grealish's House:
39 Henry Road, Tarentum, Pa.
Phone: 724 265-4535

This is a great opportunity to buy, sell or trade bonsai trees, training stock, tools, pots, soil, wire and countless other bonsai-related items.

Bring chairs, a bathing suit and a table & the \$10.00 fee if you want to sell stuff.

Ample parking, snacks and beverages will be available. However, please feel free to bring something to share with your friends, old and new.

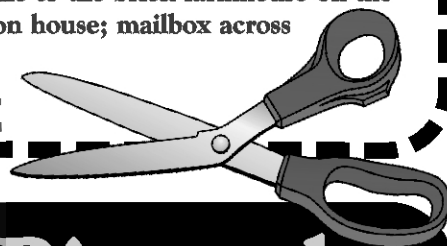
From Pittsburgh:

Route 28 North to the Cheswick Exit. At end of ramp, turn right and go to the first stop sign. Turn right on Russelton Road (at Bocheck's Auto Repair). Go 7.4 miles, through Rural Ridge and Russelton and past the Red Belt sign. There will be a sharp left bend and go across a small bridge to the stop sign. Turn right on Saxonburg Blvd. (There's a Culmerville gas station across the street.) Go 1 mile to Henry Road (small green sign on left, easy to miss!). Turn left and go 1 mile to the brick farmhouse on the right. 39 Henry Road sign on house, mailbox across from driveway, driveway past house.

From Route 8:

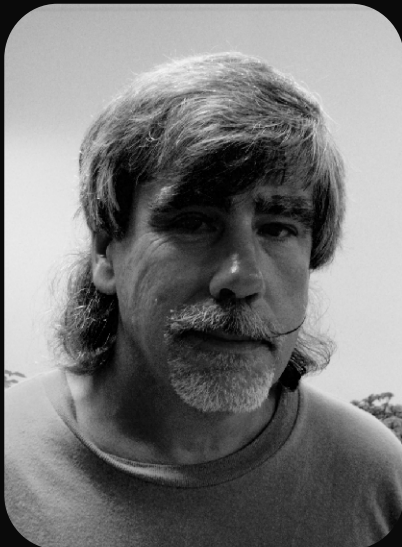
Go east on Bakerstown Road (Red Belt) to Saxonburg Blvd (Culmerville gas station on right). Turn left on Saxonburg Blvd and go 1 mile to Henry Road (small green sign on left, easy to miss!) Turn left and go 1 mile to the brick farmhouse on the right. 39 Henry Road sign on house; mailbox across from driveway, driveway past house.

CUT HERE



A Special PBS Member Biography

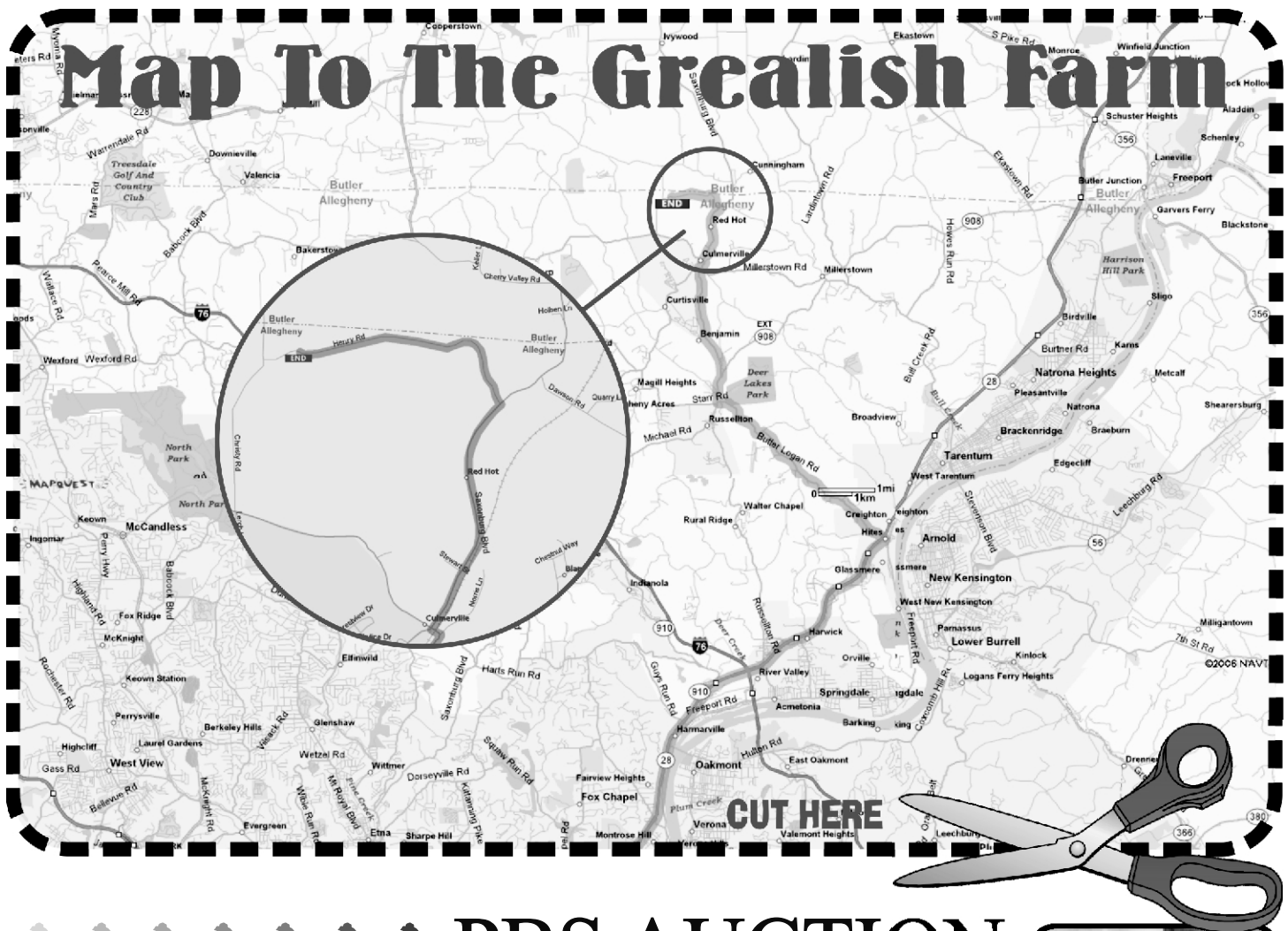
John Grant



My name is John Grant. My interest in bonsai began about twenty years ago when I attended my first bonsai demonstration. At the end of this class, I answered four out of seven questions correctly and was awarded two small pine trees for my efforts. These became my first experiments with bonsai. My interest continued to grow, and I started to collect all types of trees including maples, ginkgos, and many others which turned into interesting bonsai projects. Eventually, about fifteen years ago, I read about the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. I began to attend the weekly classes in Swissvale. They were very informative as my knowledge of bonsai expanded to newer levels.

Over the years, my experimentation with bonsai developed, and I began to collect and start seedlings from seeds. I have been developing this particular interest for about seven years with some success. As of today, I have approximately thirty to forty trees. The trees have become a part of me. I enjoy watching them grow and develop through my tender love and care.

In conclusion, don't be afraid to try something different. I have one Trident Maple bonsai tree that is planted in an old bathroom sink and certainly adds to my collection! So enjoy bonsai. It can be a very rewarding hobby.



PBS AUCTION

By Dave Steidl

Another successful auction by the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society was enjoyed at our July 15 meeting. Over 100 items for auction were quickly accumulating on the tables before 7:00pm at Phipps Garden Center. About 90 trees, nearly one third of them in very nice pots were on the auction block in addition to books, prints, and magazines. Two books of special note were John Naka's "Bonsai Techniques I" and "Man Lung Garden Artistic Pot Plants" self published in 1969 by Wu Yee-sun, a wealthy Chinese banker. In the preface he says, "The cultivation and enjoyment of artistic pot plants serves to ease the tension of the businessman from the hurly-burly of modern city life."

Over 40 people were gathered as the auction began. Keith Scott officiated the lively event even though his voice had suffered a set-back. As he described it, "I lost my voice 9 months ago, my doctor said, 'Too Bad!' By 7:30 we already had our first big sale. An Alberta Spruce by Bob Grealish in a Don Gould pot went for \$70. Keith described the trees in expert detail including characteristics of the cultivar and appropriate care for each. His descriptions were often punctuated with stories about the species, its pot or how it needed more sun. Comments from the bidders, some wandering around the room, would get responses from Keith like "Would I lie about a larch?" or "If you keep moving around, you'll end up buying something you don't want." At 8:15 another high bidder spent \$80 on a Euonymus in another Don Gould pot. And a few minutes later a Hinoki False Cypress styled by Keith and in a pot that he had made went for \$95.



Photo By Dave Steidl

The highest price for any item was set right after a short break at 8:30. Frequent bidder #30 was pressed by several others to the \$200 mark for an imported Korean Hornbeam. He really got a beauty. To finish off the evening, Mike Stern took over the reigns as auctioneer. He quickly tested Bob Dietz, who was recording all this on paper, as he put the remaining trees into auction overdrive. No one believed we could actually get through all 100 items. Thanks to Bob, Mike and Keith we did.

The auction took in total sales of \$2454 and the club made \$552. Thanks to everyone that participated for making this a success including bidder #30 and Don Gould.

SOME PHOTOS OF THE PBS AUCTION

By Cindie Bonomi



Bob Grealish,
Bob Dietz
And Keith Scott
Get Ready For
The Auction!

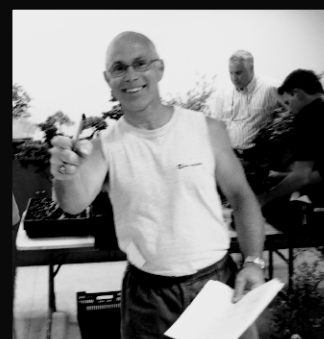
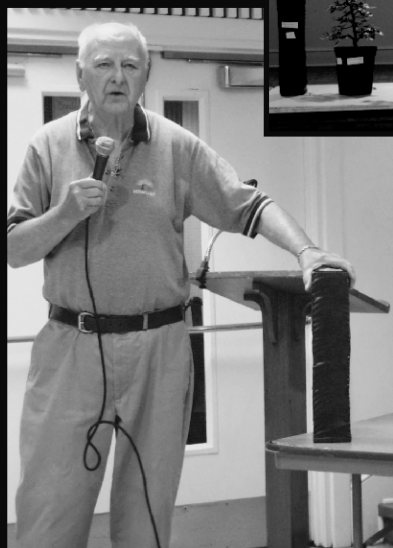


Bob Dietz Waiting To
Record The Transactions



Mike Stern and Dave Metzgar Help Out

Our Auctioneer:
Keith Scott





Mike's Corner

Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern



We routinely use hardware screen to put in the bottom of our own side pots so that the soil will not wash out. They are very effective for that purpose. In today's article I will suggest another bonsai use of hardware screen.

When I obtain a juniper that has been growing as a shrub, I selectively open it up. The larger branches are wired and placed into position to create the most artistic statement. However, sometimes I am in a hurry and do not wish to wire each of the smaller branches which will become the new foliage pad. Also sometimes, there are very few needles and I will need to let the branch grow unchecked so as to fill out and develop. As with most everything the needles of the juniper reach for the Sun. They do not want to grow horizontally in the manner that I would like. Rather than wait for the new growth to come in and then wire it, I take hardware screen and attach it on top of what will become the foliage. Usually two pieces of wire at either end of the foliage pad is generally sufficient to hold the screen in place. If it is not, feel free to use as many pieces of wire to attach it securely. The advantage of hardware screen is that forces the foliage to grow horizontally until it grows to where I have determined that it would be the most artistic. At that time, the hardware screen is removed and regular pinching of the pad will proceed.

New Use for Hardware Screen

The hardware screen can be bent to create undulations in the pad so that the pad is not perfectly flat. The screen may need to be taken off and readjusted if small needles or branches begin to grow through the holes. Smaller hardware screen can be used which generally avoids that problem. The screen presents a framework to force growth horizontally and does not create too much shade.

I have also used hardware screen on some of my deciduous trees that were ravaged by rabbits. Branches that were chewed back started new growth that grew directly up. The new growth was gently held horizontally with the hardware screen placed on top of the new branches as well as anchored on the thick part of the branch. The new branches are held in place and new growth also is forced to grow horizontally.

The pictures are of a juniper that I was working on during the bonsai show.



Haiku Corner

Summer night even
the stars are whispering to
each other.

- Issa

2009 Calendar of Events

Sep 18-19.....Fri.....7pm.....Demonstration:
 Julian Adams
 Lynchburg, VA
 Sat.....8am.....Workshop: Julian Adams

Oct 21.....Wed....7pm.....Deciduous Trees:
 Keith Scott

Nov 18.....Wed....7pm.....TBA and Elections

Dec 2.....Wed....6:30pm.....Annual Holiday Party

Jan/Feb 2010.....No Meetings Scheduled

March 2010.....TBA

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.



Monthly Question And Answer Box

Do you have a bonsai related question? Mail or E-Mail your question to: Bob Dietz 1525 Connor Road South Park, Pa.15219 dietz4771@comcast.net Your question and the answer will appear in the next news letter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Quick Note From Louise Means:

The Bonsai pots I brought in for the silent auction at This Year's Spring Show were donated by Pat LaBanc and her mother Anne Patnik. Pat is a former member of PBS.

Bonsai Workgroup Remaining Thursday Sessions:

8. August 20
 9. September 3
 10. September 17
 Bob Grealish hosts this series at the Grealish Farm, 6-10pm. Call Bob at 412 977-0077 if you are interested.

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.

Newsletter Copies:

Do you want to send a complimentary issue of the newsletter to someone interested in bonsai? Give their name and "snail mail" address to Jay Miller.

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: thenucleoid@yahoo.com

August Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the September 2009 Newsletter are due no later than August 12, 2009.

Compiled by Jay Miller



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