

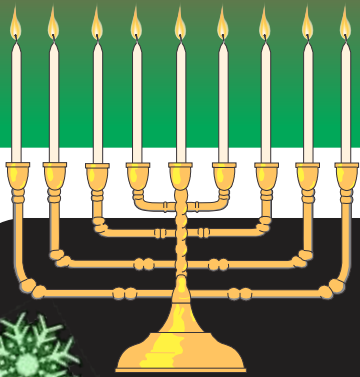


# Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

## December 2010

## Newsletter



**NEXT EVENT**



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's

# HOLIDAY DINNER!

It's catered, it's fun and it's modestly priced!

And yes, the White Elephant Exchange is back.

Your (elegantly???) wrapped item need not be bonsai-related, but it should surprise whomever selects it.

**Details and Registration Form on Pages 5 and 6**

**Remember, No January or February 2011 Meetings**

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



# The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

**Editor:**  
Cindie Bonomi

**Copy Editor:**  
Jay Miller

**Graphic Design:**  
Cindie Bonomi

**Contributors:**  
Bob Grealish  
Mike Stern  
Dave Metzgar  
Jay Miller

**Photography:**  
Doreena Balestreire  
Cindie Bonomi  
Mike Stern

**Publishing  
& Circulation:**  
Jay Miller  
Meg Vates-Amoudi

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.

Page 2



## A Note From Bob:

As I finish up my two year term as President, I would like to thank and congratulate the membership on your enthusiasm, interest, and revitalization of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. We have received many new members in the past few years, and we've seen a lot of members who had been on the fringes participating more and, like me, getting excited about bonsai all over again. After the coming winter dormancy, I'm looking forward to a "Gung Ho" spring.



*photo by Doreena Balestreire*

Your new President, Dave Metzgar, and V.P., John Metcalf, are starting to plan programs and activities for next year. Any ideas you have about monthly programs, possible trips, collecting opportunities, or other activities for the Society would be very useful at this time. Even if it's an "off the wall" suggestion, send it to John at [jwmetcalf@workwell.com](mailto:jwmetcalf@workwell.com) to stimulate our brainstorming about programs.

My thanks to all of the officers and committee chairpersons who served for the past two years. Your efforts were essential, and I appreciate them greatly. Looking forward to another great year, I'm going dormant now.

**Bob Grealish**

**For Your Bonsai Supplies Support  
The Store That Exists For The Society**



## Bonsai In The Burgh

**724-348-4771**

**Pots, Wire, Tools, Plants**



photo by: Cindie Bonomi

# Mike Stern

## A Special PBS Member Biography

By Dave Metzgar



photo by: Cindie Bonomi

**Occupation:**.....Psychologist

**Family:**.....Married to Lisa. Retired parents. 26 and the 23-year-old sons.

**Residence:**.....New Castle. The Sterns are originally from the South Hills of Pittsburgh.

Besides bonsai, I enjoy dancing. Lisa and I took ballroom dance lessons in 2007. We belong to a couple of dance clubs in Ohio. I am now the president of a West Coast-Hustle Dance Club in Youngstown Ohio. I can be found on the dance floor two or three times a week. I will be in a dance competition in Cleveland in a few weeks. Dance and bonsai are both art forms except the latter moves much more slowly. I also routinely spend time landscaping and doing yard work. I have an elliptical trainer and weight machine in the basement which are routinely utilized. It is a good idea to be lifting weights as the trees and pots have slowly increased in size and weight.

I have been interested in Bonsai since approximately 1980. When I was in graduate school at Baylor University, one of my classmates practiced bonsai and brought a small collection from Connecticut to Texas. When I returned to Pittsburgh to visit my family I collected a few wild Crabapple's that grew them in a field near my family's home. I brought them back to Texas for him and kept a few for myself. Like all of my original trees, they are "mulch." Upon returning to Pittsburgh in 1981, I began searching for information about bonsai. I discovered the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. How I accomplished that prior to the Internet amazes me. I was dating my wife at the time and she agreed to take the classes that were offered at the nature center near Phipps. Ralph

was the teacher. Lisa attended not because she liked bonsai but pretended she did. She did not know that she would be my backup bonsai hydrator for the rest of her life.



photo by: Mike Stern

My interest in bonsai was actually wetted before the age of six. I have a vivid memory of seeing a juniper that my grandmother and grandfather kept on their coffee table. Also as a young child I would keep seeds from the fruit that I ate and would plant them in any available place in my yard. It was not until 1977 in Texas that I became formally introduced to bonsai. A fellow graduate student and friend had a collection that I admired and would water when he was unavailable.

One of the first trees I had was a Sgt. Juniper that I purchased from a greenhouse in South Park. It was for the longest time the best looking tree that



# Mike Stern

## A Special PBS Member Biography

By Dave Metzgar

Continued From Page 3

I had. In a previous article I explained that by using an old batch of insecticidal soap I killed it as well as a number of my best trees in the 1990s. It is difficult getting over the loss of trees, however it becomes an experience that is not uncommon. It motivates me to always have a number of trees in the garden ready to replace them.

I moved to New Castle in 1981 and did not have much opportunity to learn bonsai from taking classes and attending meetings. I had a young family and therefore spent most of my time learning about bonsai by reading books and magazines. Also I planted trees in the garden and only had a few that I would keep pots. I now have approximately 50 trees in pots and

hundreds in the ground which are canvases waiting to be painted. There are trees still in my garden that were planted in 1981. They get root pruned every year and top pruned as needed. In the last few years I have been transitioning many of the older and mature ones into pots. I have some that I have obtained from Joe Stupka a number of years ago that will be moving into pots. For instance I have a few Firs that you do not regularly see as bonsai.

I will be offering trees for sale again this spring. There will be Sweet Gums, Siberian Elms, American Elms, Honey Locusts, Scots Pines and other varieties.

Being a member of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society has been a wonderful way of making friends as well as learning about bonsai. Everyone is helpful and willing to share their wisdom and acknowledge their ignorance. When you read articles in magazines, rarely do they talk about the number of failures or dead trees. Even the most experienced members have not been immune from self-inflicted mistakes as well as natural disasters.



photo by: Mike Stern



photo by: Mike Stern



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](mailto:mrvates@hotmail.com)

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

Membership Year:  
January 1 to December 31

## The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's

# HOLIDAY DINNER!

The Holiday Dinner will be held at the Phipps Garden Center on Wed. December 15 at 6:30 pm. The event will be catered so that everyone can enjoy the evening with no work.

The menu will consist of chicken Parmesan, delmonico steak with bourbon mushrooms and tuna filets with basil and lemon butter. You can sample all of them buffet style, along with a tossed salad, roasted red skinned potatoes, a vegetable medley, rolls and butter.

A cake and cookies will be served to satisfy the sweet tooth.

We will also have the traditional White Elephant Exchange where you bring an item from your home that you no longer wish to see around the house. Wrap or disguise it so some lucky person will be surprised when they pick it.

Please send your reservation in with a check for \$12.00 per person by December 13.

Make checks payable and mail to:



Photograph and Photo Manipulation by Cindie Bonomi



Cindie Bonomi  
335 Newburn Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Phone: 412 561-2057

Reservation On Page 6



# Member Survey

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

CUT HERE



## 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: .....

# BONSAI HOLIDAY DINNER!

## Reservation Form

# \$12 Per Person

Name ..... Number Attending .....



CUT HERE

# TOTAL

# \$



# Early Winter

by Jay Miller

After a glorious Indian Summer, November storms reappeared and reminded us why we put our bonsai away in good weather. And why we have rakes. Zone 5 is tough territory.

Your conifers are in the ground, leaves piled up to the level of the pot, in a wind-protected spot; the deciduous trees are in a poly "hoop" house, cold-frame or in a protected nook away from direct sunlight and/or desiccating winds. You are doing this to lessen the freeze-thaw cycle that will happen if your trees are totally unprotected. You still have to check the trees periodically and water to make sure the pots do not dry out. Some folks place their bonsai in the frame, wait for the first snowfall acting as an insulating blanket before covering the frame. It will provide moisture to the soil as well. Has anyone in PBS tried this technique?

You did take photos of your trees this autumn, didn't you? Now's the time to sketch out next year's goals for individual bonsai. You don't have to have the skill of the late John Naka... "stick figures" will do nicely.

Go for the woods walk (wear some orange) and collect rocks. Let your imagination guide your selection. What would work well in a root-over-rock, rock planting, landscape, or even saikei or viewing stones?



photo by Cindie Bonomi



Poly House photo courtesy of the internet

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Welcome New Members

#### Class of 2010:

Eli Baird, James & Neldea Burd, Jean Burns, Margot Critchfield, Jane Crompton, Clifford Domasky, Joseph Fortunato, Philip Gallo, Tom Gilchrist, Don Hanson, Cathy & Mark Kelly, Joel Kirstein, Debbie Kotchey, Stephan Kowalyk, David & Laura Langett, Nick & Kathy Lanzilotti, Dr. Major Mason III, Louisa Mazzenga, Joseph McGuire, Marian Nardoizzi, Heidi Norman, Larry O'Donnell, Timothy Prior, Alexander Roberts, Sage Ross, Judy Stanko, Emillen Such, Karel Ulizio, Karen Ullman, Cindi Wu and Henry Yocco.

#### Welcome First New Member 2011:

Patrick M. Reig

#### Coming Events:

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

#### 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).

#### 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 [cindiebonomi@yahoo.com](mailto:cindiebonomi@yahoo.com)

#### March 2011 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the March 2011 Newsletter are due no later than February 2, 2011.

Compiled by Jay Miller

Page 7



Graphic Design Geeks

## You Have Just Found The Cure For Bad Advertising

- Logo Design
- Magazine Ads
- Full Color Brochures
- Illustrations
- Product Illustration
- Displays For Trade Shows

Website: <http://www.graphicdesigngeeks.com>

E-Mail: [cindie@graphicdesigngeeks.com](mailto:cindie@graphicdesigngeeks.com)

Or: [cindiebonomi@yahoo.com](mailto:cindiebonomi@yahoo.com)

Cindie Bonomi • 335 Newburn Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15216 • Phone: (412) 561-2057

## Haiku Corner

The shadow of the trees;  
My shadow is moving  
In the winter moonlight.

- Shiki



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



**2011 Remember, No January or February Meetings**