



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

December 2013 Newsletter

DECEMBER

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's

HOLIDAY DINNER!

Details and Registration Form on Pages 5 and 6
Wed. December 11 • 6:30pm • Phipps Garden Center



Some Random Shots From last Year's Holiday Party

Remember: No Meetings in Jan. or Feb. 2014

Please check our evolving website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>
Also visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PittsburghBonsai



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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**Publishing & Circulation:**

Jay Miller

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 two months prior to issue date.

Submissions:

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

A Note From Dave:

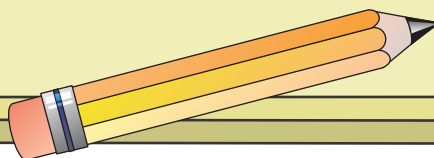


At this point in the bonsai season there is not much to do except look out of the window. It's like being wide awake at 3:00 in the morning. Everything has been put to bed and it will be awhile before any of your trees wake up. If you too have a case of winter insomnia, take a look at the new



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

links on the Resources page of our website. If you read the PBS By-laws section, that may put you back to sleep. But try the Updates, News and Resources link and you'll find many great bonsai sites that will keep you up for hours. From blog sites that follow the paths of new artists to the galleries of people who have been around awhile, you can find many virtual places to visit. Some required viewing sites would be the critiques of bonsai shows by Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bjornholm. We could learn a lot about setting up shows, accent plants and displays, and especially the styling of trees, by those who have apprenticed in Japan and have seen the best shows around the world. Bonsai4me from Harry Harrington in England has great species guides and a huge list of advanced techniques. If these sites don't send you back to bed dreaming of bonsai, then stay awake and visit Phipps Conservatory in January and February for the Winter Orchid and tropical Bonsai Show. Check their website for details.



Dave Metzgar



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A Trip to the Arboretum

By Karen Means



"Goshin"

The Arboretum in Washington D.C. has beckoned my grandson Gage and me for a long time. Gage, a bonafide member of the PBA, loves Bonsai almost as much as I do, and he is only 9 1/2. One Bonsai in particular, John Naka's "Goshin" has occupied a special place in my memory since I'd seen it last, 28 years ago; and now Gage wanted to see it. (The trip was his Christmas gift from us, which he chose instead of toys.)

I'd whetted his appetite by telling him how magnificent the entire collection was.

So over Veteran's Day weekend we finally gazed with awe at the 11 junipers that comprise "Goshin." The name means "protector of the spirit." And it indeed felt as if a spirit WAS an integral part of the composition. We both felt it. To me, it evoked the same emotion as when I walked under the giant Redwoods in Muir Woods, or stood before Picasso's "Guernica" in Madrid, or gazed across the Grand Canyon's South Rim for the first time. There are some things that, even though one looks forward to seeing them for a long time, do not disappoint!

There is a sense of reverence here; one does not speak. Gage and I wished we could miniaturize ourselves enough to walk beneath "Goshin's" trees: to live in this magic forest for only a short while would suffice.

After many minutes, we continued through the Japanese (Bonsai), Chinese (Penjing), and the N. American Pavilions (trees like California Junipers, Buttonwoods and Pines). The International museum houses viewing stones, which traditionally are shown with Penjing and Bonsai. My favorites were the famous Chrysanthemum stone I'd seen often in magazines and the dark, ancient stone that reminded me of a mountain range with an indented lake in the foreground. Many of the stones are 250 million years old.



Mountain Viewing Stone



Same trees as "Goshin" but so different

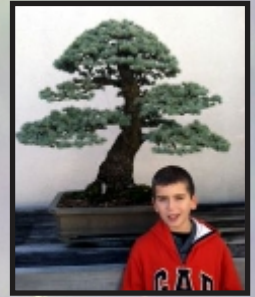
A lone Ginkgo shone lemon yellow in the sun; it seemed to greet us when we arrived. Of course most of the deciduous trees were leafless, but their trunks, branching, and root shapes can be appreciated more. Many of the Trident maples flaunt lovely jinned trunks. Standing healthy and happy, the oldest tree in

the collection- a Japanese white pine- still stands, aging gracefully. It's been in training for 388 years: a mere youngster!

Naka's Blue Atlas Cedar is outstanding also. And on and on and on...I won't even attempt to describe the collection of Bonsai or the quiet courtyards that surround it. One must see it for themselves.

The National Arboretum has the best of Bonsai in America, in my opinion. It is a peaceful place, filled with living works of art, tastefully displayed and set apart from D.C.'s hustling, bustling crowds. To Gage and I, "Goshin" alone was worth the trip: grace, elegance, age, and strength. Thank you John Naka.

And we wish for all of you interested in the small trees, a trip to the Arboretum.



Naka's Blue Atlas Cedar,



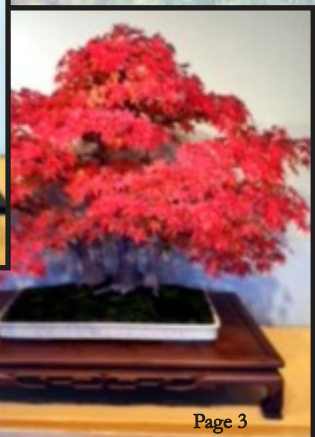
Mary Madison's Juniper



Entrance to the Arboretum



A trident maple and a Bradford pear



~All Photos By Karen Means

PBS November Elections!

Society Officers for 2014

President..... Dave Metzgar

Vice President..... Bob Dietz

Treasurer..... Mark Berbach

Recording Secretary..... Inga Jensen

Corresponding Secretary..... Cindie Bonomi

Past President..... Bob Grealish



Standing Committees

Spring Show..... Co-Chairs: Debbie Brys, Dave Metzgar

Program..... Chair: Bob Dietz

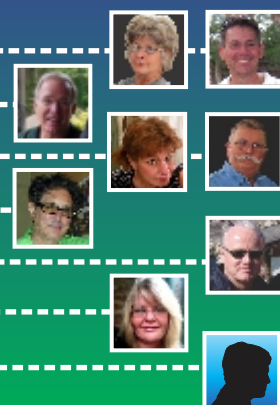
Newsletter..... Co-Chairs: Cindie Bonomi, Jay Miller

Publicity..... Chair: Steve Sciulli

Design..... Chair: William Thomas

Welcoming..... Chair: Inga Jensen

Membership..... Unfilled



Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the new members of the Society for 2013 and 2014. You have already demonstrated your enthusiasm by attending meetings and workshops, working on your trees and learning tips and techniques. Our society grows with your talents, while we grow with our trees.

Cheryl Abels, Nikolas Ahlf, Brandon Arroyo, Gilda Arroyo, Barbara Bailey, Debra Bishop, Ray & Bernice Budd, Herbert Chester, Gail Coopey, Mike Cornell, Graham David Donahue, Gage Eckley, Kevin Finn, Jonathan & Lori Graham, Richard Graham, Neal Griebeling, Kyle Heisey and Kellie Staab, Inga Jensen & Steven Sciulli, Steve Kann, Bill Kean, Alex Kirkpatrick, Eli Kranjec & Family, Larry Lamonde, Robert Lauth, Dennis Lee, Barb & Charles Lim, Paul Lipkind, Jonathan Martin, Michelle McMaster, Raymond Moody, Jeff Oravik, Joseph Pedulla, Nicholas Rosselle, Richard Tumolo, David Weber, Timothy Wyant and Mark Yakubisin.

Reservation Form On Page 6 **Phone: 412 561-2057**

Member Survey

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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:

BONSAI HOLIDAY DINNER!

Reservation Form 2013

\$12 Per Person

Name Number Attending



TOTAL

\$

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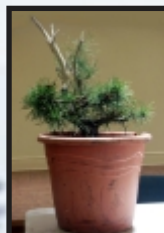
November Meeting Winterizing Techniques for Beginners Plus Elections!!!



~By Jay Miller

About 25 people took advantage of the last General Meeting of 2013 to vote for next year's Officers and Directors, garner critiques for their "problem trees", utilize different techniques for winterizing and to absorb some new styling tips for pines.

Elections: a unanimous vote for the 2014 slate of Officers and Directors. The full slate appears in this issue. Cindie urged members to mail their reservations quickly to make the December 9th deadline for the Holiday Party, while Inga is looking for a co-administrator for our Facebook Page. Dave said he will update the Website through the Dec-Jan-Feb period. A guest, who Googled "Pittsburgh-Bonsai", discovered our website and Facebook page. Martin van de Kettery, from the Netherlands, described the level of Bonsai interest in Holland (very little) and Belgium (much higher). He's impressed with Bonsai in Pittsburgh.

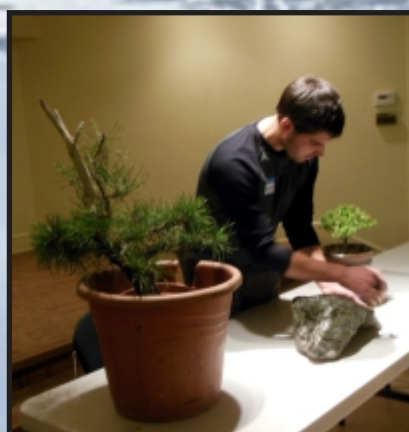
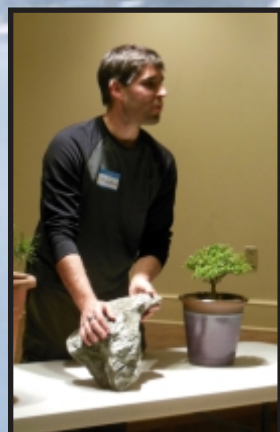


Frank DiLeo's x Mike Stern Scots pine needed a new direction. Suggestions came while Bob Grealish demonstrated "cleaning up" the tree through needle reduction. Jim Martin brought in a juniper with three distinct foliage areas and received some tips from Dave Metzgar to reduce the "pom-pom" effect, flattening out the foliage into true pads.



The appearance of Cliff Domasky's "Blue Moss Juniper" was well received; especially the exposed roots. Bob Grealish said it looked like an

old, struggling mountain tree. Cliff was encouraged to let the mossy streamers grow long for additional aging.



~Photos by Cindie Bonomi

Continued on Page 8

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November Meeting Winterizing Techniques for Beginners Plus Elections!!!

Continued from Page 7



~By Jay Miller



WINTERIZATION: The wide-ranging discussion covered storage, watering, no exposure to sun and moist air. Bob Grealish revealed his deciduous trees go into storage the weekend before Thanksgiving and remain until the first weekend in April. The pines generally go on the ground, on top of a thick layer of mulch. Bob is experimenting this year with a "40-degree room". He said that most people do well by placing bonsai next to the shadiest side of the house, shielded from wind and heavy rain/snow. Simple protection is achieved with the use of shallow trenches or beds, heavy mulch and using old windows as effective lean-tos. Gradual reduction in watering from twice a week, to once a week, to once a month. Individual questions from members were answered, and many vowed to put that information to work THIS weekend.

ADVANCED STYLING: Bob Grealish brought in five pines as styling examples. A 40+ year old white pine had been grafted onto a black pine, a common practice in Japan. Like the others, it was heavily wired. A Scots pine had been constantly trimmed and wired, resulting in very small needles. His x Behrenberg white pine had not been grafted, was over 35 years old, had been wired to create foliage pads. The next Scots pine had been extensively wired to create both "flow" and age. The final Scots pine had a thick branch repositioned by Bob and Dan Yobp using a length of re-bar and a padded block, with wire to secure the bend. One bent the top while the other continuously tightened the wire. Dan Yobp described his juniper's origin as "Urban Yamadori" (collected from curbside detritus). He decided to leave the broken lower branches as jins and shari. To achieve a radical bend in a straight trunk, Dan embedded two wires in the trunk, used cuts to aid the bend, and applied raffia to prevent cracking. The final bend was firmly anchored by wire. Dan quoted Bob Grealish "Wiring is Bonsai's Paintbrush".



Haiku Corner

Winter solitude --
in a world of one color
the sound of wind.

~Basho

~Photos by Cindie Bonomi

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PBS•2013-2014 Calendar of Events

Dec 11.....	Wed 6:30.....	Annual Holiday Party
Jan & Feb.....	2014.....	NO MEETINGS
Mar 19.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA
Apr 16.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA
May 2.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA
Jun 6,7,8.....		33rd Annual Spring Show
Jun 18.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA
Jul 16.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA
Aug TBA.....	Sat 11am.....	Grealish Farm
Oct 15.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA
Nov 19.....	Wed 7pm.....	TBA
Dec 09.....	TUE 6:30pm.....	Annual 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

PBS Meetings and Special Events at Phipps Garden Center will take place as scheduled Severe Weather & Emergency Information except in the event of severe weather or emergency. Unsure? Call their Emergency Phone Number: 412 441-4442 for updates.

Wear Your Pride!



Now you can proudly show your enthusiasm for Bonsai and the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society with golf shirts from members Anna and Cliff Domasky. Available in white, tan and taupe. \$25 each, including three color embroidery.

You can also supply your own quality shirt; have it embroidered for a modest \$10 charge.

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

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



Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771
Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Events:

31st MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival April 25, 2014 - 8:30am to April 27, 2014 - 4:30pm The 31st MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival will be held April 25-27, 2014 at the Ramada Hotel in East Hanover, NJ. Featured bonsai artists are, Takashi Iura from Japan, Corin Tomlinson from the UK, and Suthin Sukosolvisit from the US. The Festival features Friday workshops, members' bonsai exhibit, raffles of demo material, silent auctions, exhibit critiques (Sat.), banquet and live auction, and a large vendor area. For more information go to:

<http://midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com>
May 2-4, 2014 Potomac Bonsai Association Spring Bonsai Festival, Washington DC at the National Arboretum.
www.potomacbonsai.com or
www.usna.usda.gov

37th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit August 15 - 17, 2014. Our August show is our show with the longest history, going into year 37 in 2014. It is one of the biggest regional shows in the nation. Centered on the Chicago Botanic Garden's Permanent Collection, featuring almost 50 world-class trees, it's a showplace of trees from across the mid west. Enthusiasts from five states bring their trees to be judged in the main hall at the Garden's Regenstein Center - with this year's Guest Master Rodney Clemmons. There are no residency or membership restrictions for entering the show - any tree that can make it to Chicago is welcome to be entered. Click Here to download a tree registration form that you can fill out in advance and bring with your tree.

Along with this fabulous display of regional talent, there are over a dozen national vendors, workshops, free demonstrations, and a banquet with a silent auction.

Mark your 2014 Calendars:

A switch from Spring to Fall for the 4th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, 13-14 September 2014 in Rochester, NY. Details next spring.

Easy Gifting:

Christmas is a great time to buy bonsai pots, soil, tools, wire and accessories. Bob Dietz at Bonsai in The Burgh will be happy to help you fill your wish list for the coming year.

March 2014 Issue Deadline:

There are usually no meetings in January or February. Too cold!! Submissions for the March 2014 Newsletter are due no later than February 20, 2014.

Compiled by Jay Miller
suisekifan@yahoo.com





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

*Happy
Holidays*

