



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

2022
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

There will be no meetings in January and February

DECEMBER

PBS Volunteer Celebration Dinner

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society would like all members to come to the December meeting/celebration dinner on December 15th at 7:00 pm to enjoy one another's company. This dinner will be catered by Atria's as we have done in the past only there will be no charge.

We want to thank the many people who have volunteered their time. We have had a very successful and productive year that could not have happened without everyone's hard work. We will have a brief meeting with reports from officers and committee directors followed by our dinner.

We do need an accurate head count by December 5th so please sign up by contacting Cindie Bonomi at: cindiebonomi@gmail.com, or call Cindie's cell: 412 689-5586

The menu this year will consist of 3 different entrees: Artisan vegan jackfruit enchiladas for the vegan, maple bourbon glazed pot roast and Chicken Marsala. Water, coffee, and soft drinks will also be provided by the society; however if you want any alcohol, it's BYOB. We will also have cake and cookies.



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

President:
Mike Stern
mstern55@outlook.com

Editor & Graphic Designer:
Cindie Bonomi
cindiebonomi@gmail.com

Proofreading:
Lynne Squilla

Secretary:
Larry LaMonde
Larlamonde@hotmail.com

Contributors:
Mike Stern
Dave Metzgar

Photography:
Cindie Bonomi
Mike Stern
Ed Baginski
Howie Powell

Tech Director:
Doug Baker
doug.baker@gmail.com

Database Manager:
Rick Eckstrom

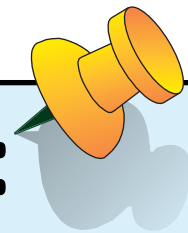
Treasurer:
Ed Baginski

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:



I think I can speak for the all the officers that 2022, our first year back post-Covid with

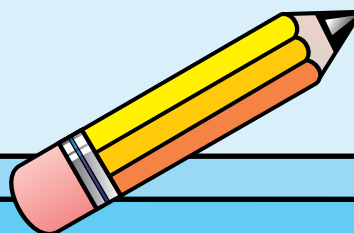


~Photo by Mike Stern

in-person activities, was an unqualified success. We were able to promote, educate, and share our knowledge of Bonsai at a high level.

Everything the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society accomplishes is a result of members donating their time, effort and sometimes financial resources to promote the art form. The officers would like to thank each and every one of you for what you do.

Mike Stern
mstern55@outlook.com



November Meeting



Terry talked about tool sharpening and tool care



Ed showed us all different ways to fix broken pots





~Photos by Cindie Bonomi





At the end of the meeting, Mike did merit-based critiques on member trees



~Photos by Cindie Bonomi



DECEMBER



~Photo by Mike Stern

~ By Michael Stern

This is the time of the year the trees are dormant. For the most part, there is very little that will need to be done with the trees during the winter. Depending on your winter storage conditions, some caretaking activities will need to be addressed. If the trees are exposed to the elements and rain, watering will not be a concern. If your trees are sheltered from rain, then watering will be an issue that you will need to consider depending on the temperatures. There is measurable metabolic activity going on with trees when temperatures are above 40 degrees. Though your trees can survive in a completely dark environment, they would perform better if they had sunshine. Recent research indicates some trees photosynthesize through their bark during the winter. Also trees in a polyhouse will warm up during daylight hours when there is sunshine. If this is your first year using a polyhouse, contact one of the other members experienced using these structures.

In the winter, food can become scarce for many animals. Deer, rabbits, and small rodents such as mice may find the buds and bark of your tiny trees to be a food source. Take precautions.

Wind is a factor that can desiccate trees. If you have a tree in development and the branches are not refined, it is more tolerant of strong winds than the tiny twigs on refined trees. Roots, however, are the most

susceptible part of a tree with cold temperatures. In the natural environment, the ground buffers the freezing temperatures for roots. With bonsai, because the trees are in tiny pots above the ground, the roots are susceptible to death in subfreezing temperatures.

Keeping the trees heeled in and sitting on the ground can protect them. Make sure that you do not sit the tree directly on the ground or grass. The drainage holes can become plugged, and the roots will stay too wet. Consider placing landscape fabric, gravel, or mulch under the pot to ensure that the drain holes stay open.

If you keep your trees in an unheated garage, be careful that you are not fooled with watering needs of the trees by the moisture on the surface soil. There will be no wind or sun to evaporate the surface moisture. However, the roots in the soil will utilize small amounts of water, when temperatures get above 40 degrees. It can be a real challenge to water the trees in this environment. You do not want to keep them too wet, nor do you want to keep them too dry.

If you can, provide fans for air circulation in enclosed structures to reduce risk of fungus and disease.

The PBS Turntable Raffle

The Society is conducting a members-only raffle for the turntable that we own. It is a Green T full size turntable. It measures 24" tall when fully extended. The platform is 23" wide.



~Photo by Ed Baginski

It was purchased for \$445.00 and has been lightly used. Tickets are \$10.00 each. There is no limit on the number of tickets anyone can purchase.

The raffle tickets can be purchased by sending money to Ed Baginski or getting them at the November and December meetings.

Ed Baginski
272 Apple Hill Drive
Delmont, Pa 15626



~Photo by Cindie Bonomi

Raffle tickets may also be purchased on our website. If you go to our website: <https://www.pittsburghbonsai.org>. and click on the bold type that says: **Bonsai Turntable Raffle Ticket**. It will take you right to our store page and you can easily purchase tickets there as well.

The drawing will be made at the December meeting. Winner need not be present to win.

Check Out Our 4 Videos

We now have four educational videos on our Pittsburgh Bonsai Society YouTube page. Links are on our website.

Carpinifolia Repot 2022

Aftercare For Collected Bonsai Material

Bonsai As Energy Management

Watering: The First Thing Taught, And The Last Technique Mastered

This new video we just added discusses the complex aspects of watering your bonsai and the factors to consider to maintain a healthy balance of oxygen and moisture in the roots.

Home and Garden Show

March 3rd thru 12th

Bob Dietz and Dave Metzger will be putting together the Spring Home and Garden Show this year again. Both Bob and Dave will be in the booth at all times. They will be needing volunteer members to man the booth to discuss Bonsai to the general public. Contact Bob Dietz if you are interested in being a volunteer, if you'd like to put any of your trees in the show, or if you'd like to sell any of your trees. Finished member trees may be sold; however, there is a consignment fee.

Free admittance to members
Paid parking to members



We will be at booth #1125, the booth is 20' x 30'

Hours:
March 310-9
March 410-9
March 510-6
March 64-9
March 74-9
March 84-9
March 94-9
March 1010-9
March 1110-9
March 1210-6





Haiku Corner

The snow and snow.
This evening would have
The great moon of December.

-Basho

Looking Forward to March

We are planning 2 Member-led workshops in 2023 on March 18 and March 25.

The March 18 workshop will be on styling trees and members will be able to bring in a tree and get assistance. March 25 will be a workshop on repotting members' trees. These workshops were scheduled to coincide with the typical times that members are repotting and styling trees.

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

Pots, Wire, Tools, Soil, Trees

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

BeBop Bonsai, LLC

Tree Boarding
Repotting
Transformation
Trees
Fertilizer
Pots



Call Or Text Ian Evans:
412 812-8506

<https://www.bebopbonsai.com>

Mark Mohler Pottery



"Hand Made Clay Bonsai Pots Made Right Here In Pittsburgh"

Call or text Mark: 206 250-0177

Order your PBS items now:
<https://www.teepublic.com/user/pghbonsaisociety>



Mugs
T-Shirts
Hoodies
Pillows
Totes
Posters
Pins
Magnets
Kids Clothes
Phone Cases



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 only be a modest \$ 10.00

-Photos by
Cindie Bonomi



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

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 meeting 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 10 of this newsletter.

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



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.

SOME EXCITING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Education Committee Updates:

1. This season we tried something new: PBS Garden Tours. By all accounts, the tours went well and everyone had a good time. We would like to continue the tours in 2023. However, we need volunteers to host PBS members in their gardens. Should you volunteer, you will open your yard to members for a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday during the growing season. If interested in hosting a tour stop, please email me.

2. In an effort to offer more support to our newer members, the education committee would like to offer an opportunity for a few club members to meet monthly through the growing season to work on a tree or two and help push that tree forward and learn seasonal skills. This opportunity will be very limited so that everyone gets value for their time. If five members reach out to commit to participate monthly, we will run the sessions. Please email if you are interested.

3. The National Bonsai Exhibition is on again in 2023. The education committee would like to offer help to any member wishing to prepare and submit a tree for display next year. It will be vital to begin the planning process early in order to be successful. Any member interested should contact me by email ASAP so that we can begin organizing.






If any of the above opportunities tickles your fancy, please email me at Terrym74@yahoo.com ASAP.

Zoom Presentations:

Contact Larry Lamonde at: larryl@precopy.com if you are interested in doing a Zoom presentation on a bonsai-related topic. The free Zoom application allows for a 40-minute presentation. If you wish to allow questions and answers following the presentation, take that into consideration.

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society November Elections!

Society Officers for 2023

President	Mike Stern	
Vice President	Ian Evans	
Treasurer	Karol Snead	
Technology and Publicity Officer	Doug Baker	
Recording Secretary and Zoom Meetings	Larry LaMonde	

Standing Committees 2023

Newsletter	Cindie Bonomi	
Field Coordinator	Howie Powell	
Education	Terry Monroe	
Spring Show	Gilda Arroyo, Dave Metzgar	 
Database Managers:	Rick Eckstrom	

FIELD COORDINATOR

Howie Powell (hppowell78@hotmail.com) has been selected by the officers as the new Field Coordinator. Howie is a new member who is very enthusiastic about being part of the Society and is motivated to be involved with the growing field. He



~Photo by Howie Powell

and a few other members have indicated that they will be at the field on a regular basis. He will keep members informed of activities that will be going on at the field and coordinating and scheduling learning activities. He will work with Mike Stern on learning the horticultural

schedule of activities that occur with field-growing trees. He will prepare a budget and plan when trees are planted as well as being removed. He will also make plans for materials that would be needed for the field such as mulch for heeling in trees. He will provide a schedule for working on the field trees at appropriate times of the year.

Howie has planned on planting seeds this winter and spring to be utilized as field-grown material in the future. He is interested in encouraging members to do the same. He will be asking members to donate pre-bonsai material that could be planted in the field in the future. If you have seeds or would like to participate in growing seeds, cuttings, air layers, or providing pre-bonsai material to the growing field, contact Howie. Page 12

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.

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. We 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 March Newsletter are due no later than February 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 is critical to creating healthy and quality trees.

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

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.

Our Meetings Are On The Third Thursday Of Every Month

THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Month	New Members Program First 15 minutes post-business meeting	Meeting Program 7:00 pm	Field-Growing Bonsai Program Dates to be announced.
December		Meeting Thursday 15th. Member appreciation celebration and winter silhouettes.	

