



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

July 2010 Newsletter



NEXT MEETING

Going...Going...Gone!

The Great *Bonsai* AUCTION

All Bonsai related items: pre- and finished bonsai,
pots, books, tools, pins, jewelry, etc.

July 21, 2010 7:00 pm at Phipps Garden Center

NEXT EVENT

The Annual PBS Picnic And Flea Market At The Grealish Farm

Saturday, August 21, 2010 Starting at 11am



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.

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A Note From Bob:

Trimming, trimming, trimming... and weeding. Boy, things are really growing this year. Here are some tips on trimming. Many trees like maples and zelkovas can be trimmed with your fingers. When the new leaves come out, pinch them off or cut the tender new branch with your thumbnail. This only works, however, if the tree is already the shape you want and you're just maintaining a finished bonsai. Pinching is also best for junipers, chamaecyparis, spruce and larch because it prevents cutting across needles or leaves, so the ends don't turn brown. If you shear a juniper with scissors, the whole area will be spotted with distracting brown foliage. Try it some time.

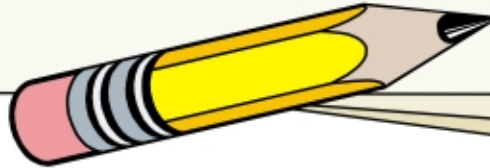


photo by Doreena Balestreire

To trim with scissors, cut close to the leaf behind what you are removing. Always leave green leaves or needles, because the good buds are there. Only some deciduous trees and azaleas respond to "stumping". If you cut a branch on an evergreen without leaving some green, the branch usually dies. When you trim, first remove the branches that are growing straight up or down, and those that are crossing others. Clean off the bottom of the foliage pads and shape the tops. Create spaces for the wind to fly through, bigger spaces at the bottom and smaller at the top of the tree. When you are trimming, try looking just at the spaces between branches. Design the spaces with your scissors and ignore the foliage. Make the spaces look like each other, just different sizes. This is called "self-sameness" and it is a property of natural systems that produce themselves by simple iterative (repeating) processes. If the spaces are not consistently self-same, the tree will look unnatural. In a sense, making spaces is a process of becoming one with the tree. The space is not tree and it's not you. You and the tree are working together to create space.

Weeding is not a Zen process for me. I started using Roundup recently, with good results. Some pots were so covered with arinaria I would have needed a Mantis to get them out. I applied normal strength Roundup with a sponge dampened in it. Two weeks later, the arinaria and other weeds came out easily. I also scraped the surface of the soil to remove the mushy dead arinaria roots, then dressed it up with fresh soil. When the new weeds come up (and they will), I'm going to try a foam brush to paint the Roundup on. Remember, do not get Roundup on your tree's leaves, even a little bit. If you do, rinse it off immediately and it will be OK. Roundup on the weeds or in the soil won't hurt the tree unless it is concentrated. Nevertheless, I am not recommending this process, I'm just telling you my recent experience.

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

Some More Photos From Our Spring Weekend

photographed by Dave Metzgar, Jim Toney, Bob Dietz and Cindie Bonomi



Dave & Mike's Excellent Road Trip

photographed by Cindie Bonomi



Mike Stern

Dave Ruffaner, a long-time member, Past President of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society and owner of KARAMATSU-EN NURSERY "Larch Garden" invites one and all to a Bonsai Road Trip!

From Pittsburgh, make your way to Worthington, PA, arriving about 10:00 am, where over 100 bonsai and pre-bonsai are on display and available for purchase. Also, field grown Larch, Japanese Black Pine and dwarf Chinese Elm (of large caliber) can be tagged for purchase and then dug next spring.

Following this stop, the Road Trip continues, caravanning to another "old timer", Mike Stern's collection in New Castle, PA arriving about 12-12:30, for another stellar bonsai display! Mike also has bonsai material available for purchase.

Next, Mike will guide us a short distance to Joe Stupka's Nursery to view his array of plants collected and propagated over many years. Many of these are dwarf conifers.



Dave Ruffaner

So mark your calendar for Saturday July 10th and don't miss this event! For directions to Dave's at 108 Furnace Street, Worthington, PA 16262, email: karamatsuen@aol.com or call 724 297-5248. Mike's at 667 Randall Drive, New Castle, PA 16105, email: mstern55@comcast.net or call 724 944-1560.



2010 Calendar of Events

- Jul 10..... Sat 10am Bonsai Road Trip
"details on page 4"
- Jul 21Wed.....7pm Auction
- Aug 21 Sat 11am Picnic at the Grealish
Farm
- Sept 15Wed.....7pm Horticulture Topic
- Oct 20Wed.....7pm Kelley Atkins
- Nov 17.....Wed.....7pm Zen & Bonsai with
Bob Grealish
- Dec 15.....Wed.... 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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonsai Workgroup:

The work group meets every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm 6-10 pm. If you are interested in sharpening your styling, wiring or maintenance skills, call Bob at: 412 977-0077.

Welcome New Members!

We're happy to welcome the following new members for 2010 to the Society: Nick & Kathy Lanzilotti, Joseph McGuire, Eli Baird and Marian Nardozi. James & Neldea Burd, Tom Gilchrist, Timothy Prior, David & Laura Langett, Alexander Roberts, Karen Ullman, Emillen Such, Philip Gallo, Dr. Major Mason III, Jean Burns, Larry O'Donnell, Louisa Mazzenga, Cathy & Mark Kelly, Heidi Norman, Karel Ulizio, Debbie Kotchey, Margot Critchfield, Cindy Wu, Jane Crompton, Joseph Fortunato, Stephan Kowalyk and Don Hanson.

A Fond Farewell:

We're going to miss two very special people. Enthusiastic and very active, long time members Charlotte and Frank Sadofksy wrote that they will not be renewing their membership. They have "hung up the watering can", reluctantly disposed of their bonsai collection and have moved into a condo. They are grateful for all the friends they have made in the Society, and send a special thank you to Keith Scott.

July Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the August 2010 Newsletter are due no later than July 14, 2010.

Compiled by Jay Miller
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