



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

July 2015

Newsletter

**We're 58
This Month!**

JULY

(A TWOFER!)

Root Over Rock, Part 2. It's time to tote your Root over Rock project back for additional work. If you have additional bonsai in this style, bring them too, for updating.

July 15, 2015 • Wednesday • 7:00pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside



It's Auction Time: Going, Going, Gone!



~photos of 2014 auction by Cindie Bonomi

The Great Bonsai Auction – All Bonsai related items: pre-and finished bonsai, suiseki, pots, books, tools, pins, jewelry, etc. If you're considering up sizing or downsizing your collection, this fast-paced event is for you!

For additional information please check our website

July 25, 2015 • Saturday • 10:00am to 3:00pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

The Annual PBS Picnic and Flea Market at The Grealish Farm

AUGUST



-Photos from last year's picnic by Cindie Bonomi and Josh HousiauxSteward

Saturday, August 8, 2015 Starting at 11am
Our Annual Laid-Back Summer Bonsai Picnic and Swap Meet surrounded by superior bonsai, fellow enthusiasts and great munchies! Member/Guest Directions in your August Newsletter.

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

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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 Dave: New PBS Members...

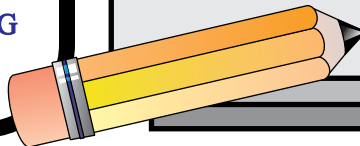


~photo by Cindie Bonomi

Welcome to the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society, one of the oldest bonsai groups on this side of the country. After the excitement of our annual show, we usually see many new faces at our monthly meetings. Many of you are totally new to the art but please don't feel intimidated. Our members' experience levels range from none to 30 plus years. We have plenty of opportunities to learn and see great trees, and well as to grow your own collection. Our monthly meetings occasionally feature workshops with trees on which you can work and take home. We also have demonstrations and lectures on a variety of bonsai topics. You can bring your trees for great advice to the free workshops on alternating Thursday evenings at member Bob Grealish's house. If you don't have any trees yet, be sure to attend the auction on Saturday, July 25 at the garden center. The annual member picnic follows in August, again at Bob Grealish's house. All dates and info are on the website. We'll also let you know about a mentoring program we will be starting soon. So once again, welcome! There's a lot to learn at the PBS.

Dave Metzgar

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Haiku Corner

Summer in the world -
Floating on the waves
Of the lake.

~Basho



Auction Preparation



~by Jay Miller and Debbie Bishop

Preparing your auction items is similar to the process for the Spring Show: remove any unwanted growths from the soil and do cosmetic pruning for shape if it's a mature bonsai. Leave wiring in place if it is not marking the trunk or branches. Water the bonsai the day before the auction and let it drain well. Wipe the pot. If you are donating tools, make sure they are clean. Clean book jackets and dust your magazines. Polish bonsai pins and jewelry with a soft cloth.

To sell anything at the auction you must fill out the official PBS Auction Form. The Treasurer will have the forms available at the July 15, 2015 PBS meeting. If you want a certain

reserve price, put it down, but be realistic. Remember, only PAID members can sell material.

To help the auctioneers, please print your name and identify your item on a card. The plant species and cultivar name would be especially helpful.

Bring your trees, etc., between 10:00 and 11:00am; the auction starts shortly thereafter, and we will conclude by 3:00pm.

Finally, the Society will receive 15% of the final bid on each item, but if you can donate the item, you'll be helping our future Society activities.



JUNE MEETING: STYLING SHOW TREASURES

~by Lisa Borman Bednar

On Wednesday, June 17, approximately 35 PBS members, interested attendees, and various hangers-on gathered at the Phipps Garden Center. Vice President Bob Dietz opened the meeting with PBS business, and spoke at some length about the recent Members Show held on the last weekend of May. He thanked everyone for their participation, and reported that we had a good turnout for the show. Next, Bob Grealish reported that the PBS field at his home needs to be weeded, and suggested the upcoming Saturday, June 20, for another gathering in order to help maintain the trees.

After Society business, Bob Dietz had a lengthy session of helping members with their own trees which they had brought to the meeting. He gave many valuable suggestions and tips, about pruning, shaping, wiring, repotting, and general care. There was a variety of plants brought to Bob: root bound bushes, young trees, trees that had taken a surprising turn in growth, trees that required only a little tweaking, overgrown trees. Bob handled them all with gracious expertise and humor. Thanks to everyone who brought trees, and especially to Bob, for making a terrific and informative meeting!



~photography by Cindie Bonomi

JUNE MEETING: STYLING SHOW TREASURES CONTINUED



Larry Lamonde gets advice on styling



Ray Moody and Bob Dietz contemplate the art of bonsai



Lisa Bednar finds out she was wiring her creation wrong



Mark Berbach's ponderosa pine grew in a very unexpected way, but he LIKES IT!



Light comments about Jeff Oravik's heavy tree!

*~photography
by Cindie Bonomi*

Second Tree Planting at Bob Grealish's

~Article and photography by Lisa Borman Bednar



On Saturday, June 6, eleven dedicated members of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society came to Bob Grealish's farm in order to plant more trees in the field next to his home. It was a good day for planting, cool and overcast. And of course, the morning was replete with the fragrance of fresh country air, complete with manure.

Of the approximately 150 trees planted in May, the junipers are doing well. Some of the deciduous species have died, and were replaced on Saturday. The pines, which include bare root Scotch pines, are struggling.

There were approximately 100 new trees planted, some of which replaced trees that had died from the planting last month. The volunteers planted Variegated Elm, Hinoki Cypress, Cork Bark Chinese Elm, Shimpaku Juniper, Trident Maple, and Field Maple. The weed fabric between the rows was repositioned and tacked down with metal brackets.

Following the work, everyone headed inside for some hot dogs and accompanying spread, courtesy of Bob's wife, Rose. Thanks to everyone who participated!



One of the junipers from the May planting.



Bob Grealish, with his weapon of choice, discussing the pines with other members of the society.



Jonathan Martin and Gilda Arroyo.



Gilda Arroyo and Larry Lamonde stretch weed fabric while Rich Tumolo, Terry Monroe, and Domenick Barone confer. To the right of Larry is Ray Moody.



Dear Editor,

This is not a paid promotion or paid political advertisement. No, I am not getting any free trees either. I am relatively new to bonsai and have watched the club grow over the past few years with new members. I have also watched how as new members we attempt to learn the proper techniques of preparing trees. While we can read a book or information on the internet, and attend workshops, the best way to learn this art is by getting "down and dirty." I was fortunate to have known Mike Stern for many years before joining the club, and have had him live close to me. Therefore, in a sense, he became my resident advisor. When I needed help, I called on "Dr. Stern." What a great, gracious resource he is. Other members may not be as fortunate as I was, and may not be sure to whom to turn for help.

For the past few years, Bob Grealish has graciously offered his time in the spring and fall by holding classes at his home, usually every other week. People are free to bring their own trees on which to work and to have Bob offer suggestions and ideas. That is why I was disappointed when I heard he wasn't going to continue his classes this spring due to lack of interest. I was thrilled when he reconsidered and started again in May. It was heartening

that both classes were heavily attended, even to the point where all the work barely got completed. I am sure all who were present got a lot out of Bob's input. The participants benefitted by Bob's expertise with their own trees, as well as watching him assist others. In a very non-judgmental way, Bob has the ability to see where you need to go to improve your trees. The harshest thing I ever heard him say was that his friend needed to add layers to the tree starting at the very top.

I strongly urge all new and veteran club members to take advantage of what Bob has to offer. The trip is worthwhile simply to view his trees, regardless of how many times you have been there. I believe that the club will be able to find a way to take advantage not only of Bob's expertise, but also the knowledge of some of the more experienced and skilled members, by setting up a formal program by which to do so.

Thank you,
Frank Dileo



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

Welcome Lisa Borman Bednar

We are delighted to welcome Lisa Borman Bednar as the new Co-Editor and Copy Editor. Our Newsletter is fortunate to have someone with Lisa's proven skills and enthusiasm for the living art of Bonsai. - Jay Miller & Cindie Bonomi.

Lisa is a native to Pittsburgh, and currently lives in McKees Rocks with her husband, Michael, two daughters, Zabe and Kat, and three dogs. She has been a home educator since 2002, and has miraculously maintained a grip (though sometimes feeble) on her sanity during these years. Her hobbies, other than bonsai, include gardening, knitting, cooking, couponing, sewing, and reading. She is also interested in epidemiology, history, art and architecture, psychopathy, and abnormal psychology, among other subjects. Lisa graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1989 with a Bachelor's Degree in English Writing, and attended graduate school for three years afterwards in pursuit of a Master's Degree in English Literature. She has worked as a secretary, grant administrator, web designer, and retail associate. She currently works far more than full time, and is excited to be a part of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society and its newsletter.





Calling All PBS Members

~by Lisa Borman Bednar

At the June meeting, as new Co-Editor of our newsletter, I stood to make a request of all attendees. I asked if anyone going to the weeding at Bob Grealish's would be willing to write some impressions of the gathering for me. I was met with a wall of silence and a room full of wooden faces.

So, are you a member of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society? Is English one of the languages that you speak? Do you know what a noun and a verb are? If so, you can see your name in print and help write an article for the newsletter!

Your Bonsai Society needs you! I will continue to ask and even buttonhole members to put them on the spot in order to find more writers and contributors. I will corner you in the restroom. I may hold your lunch for ransom at the members' picnic. I will feed you drinks at the holiday party and get you to sign a binding contract. If you try to hide, I will find you.

So let's have some fun, shall we? Contact me at my email address if you are brave enough. LisaBednar.PBS@gmail.com

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Bob Dietz



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Yea! We Got Shirts! Good Shirts!



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

-photos by Cindie Bonomi and Anna Domasky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonsai Work Group:

Meets every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm after 6:00pm. Bring your trees, tools, soil and wire. For updates, be sure to check the PBS website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org> the day of class.

Coming Events:

July 18-19 2015 Columbus, OH: The Columbus Bonsai Society's Annual Bonsai Show. 10:00am-4:00pm at the Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East Broad St., Columbus, OH 43203. 614 645-8733 fpconservatory.org Go to: www.columbusbonsai.org for more information.

38th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit, August 14-16 2015. Their August show has the longest history, going into year 38 in 2015. 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 midwest. Enthusiasts from five states bring their trees to be judged in the main hall at the Garden's Regenstein Center. There are no residency or membership restrictions for entering the show any tree that can make it to Chicago is welcome to be entered. 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. For more information go to: <http://www.midwestbonsai.org>

2015 Calendar Note:

Artisans Cup of Portland, "American Bonsai Reforged and Refined", Portland OR September 26th-28th 2015, Portland Art Museum, 8:00am-5:00pm; 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland. The Artisans Cup of Portland Bonsai Exhibition is the showcase of America's new movement to raise aesthetic appreciation and craftsmanship in the art of bonsai. The show's venue in the renowned Portland Art Museum catapults bonsai into the world of fine art. Event Website: <http://www.artisanscupofportland.com>

Bonsai Barn:

Whether you want to buy, sell or trade any bonsai-related material, take advantage of the "Bonsai Barn" on our website: pittsburghbonsai.org. You can also list regional/national bonsai events that your fellow PBS members might find interesting.

Calling All PBS Members:

Newsletter Reorganization
Two jobs taken, one to go!

We still need a Publisher! You'll pick up the hard-copy newsletter from the printer, prep it for mailing (we call that "licking and sticking"), and deliver the folded, sealed, labeled with postage affixed to the Post Office. Interested in joining the Newsletter Team? Anxious to see your name in the masthead? For further information, contact Jay Miller at suisekijay@gmail.com or 412 481-4540.

August 2015 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the August 2015 PBS Newsletter are due no later than July 16, 2015.

Compiled by Jay Miller
suisekijay@gmail.com





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

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society • 2015 Calendar of Events

July 10.....Fri. Happy Birthday to PBS! We're 58!!

July 15.....Wed. 7:00pm.....Root Over Rocks Part II

July 25.....Sat. 10am-3pm .. Auction @ Phipps Garden Center

August 8.....Sat. Annual Picnic at the Grealish Farm

Sept. 16.....Wed. 7:00pm.....Styling Scots Pines

Oct. 21.....Wed. 7:00pm

Nov. 18.....Wed. 7:00pm

Dec. 16.....Wed. Holiday Party

2016 Event Dates to be determined

All events, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Phipps Garden Center, starting at 7:00pm. Phipps Garden Center, 1059 Shady Avenue, 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.

