



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

June 2009 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Tropicals Workshop/Demo

**Phipps Garden Center
June 16, 2009**

7:00pm

Tuesday

Our guest speaker, from Ft. Myers Florida, Erik Wigert will transform a Brazilian Raintree from nursery stock to stunning bonsai!

**For More Info On Erik Wigert
See Page 3**



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



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

Editor

Cindie Bonomi

Copy Editor

Jay Miller

Graphic Design

Cindie Bonomi

Contributors

Dave Metzgar

Mike Stern

Jay Miller

Photography

Doreena Balestreire

Cindie Bonomi

Publishing & Circulation

Jay Miller

Meg 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.



A Note From Bob:

June is a good time to start thinking about Tropical bonsai. You can repot and prune them during the summer unlike most of the hardy trees. We are going to have a special program for all members in June on tropical trees. Erik Wigert from Fort Myers, Florida is going to do a presentation for us on tropical trees, particularly the Brazilian Rain Tree.



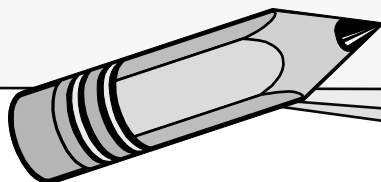
Photo By Doreena Balestreire

We will have a slide show and talk, followed by a workshop on Brazilian Rain Tree bonsai. The workshop is already filled, but all members are welcome to observe the workshop and talk with Erik. For those of you doing the workshop, bring your tools, wire, pots, etc. The cost for the workshop participants will be approximately \$30, depending on the tree you pick. This is partially subsidized by the Society. I think we'll have a nice time learning about this unique tree.

My Bonsai Workgroup started May 14th. We worked on some great trees, and we all learned from one another about bonsai styling and techniques. There is still room for a few more people, so if you would like to come, please give me a call at 412-977-0077. The next date will be Thursday, May 28th, then June 11th and 25th.

See you at my workgroup or the June meeting.

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

Erik Wigert



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society is fortunately part of Erik Wigert's 2009 Northern Lecture Tour! This is a busy year for Erik, with a full calendar of lectures, demonstrations and workshops, plus moving Wigert's Bonsai to a new location in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Erik's nursery has served the Ft. Myers area for over 30 years, but in the past seven years, he has concentrated his nursery efforts in bonsai cultivation. It is now a full service bonsai nursery, offering classes from beginner to advanced levels, a bonsai leasing service, and a memorial wing accession service in addition to consignment sales.

You like tropical bonsai, but Erik LOVES tropical plants, his specialty. He has a passion for teaching the art of bonsai whenever and wherever he can. He enjoys traveling, nationally and internationally, for workshops and lecture tours. You'll benefit from his tropical tips!

Accolades:

Best Tropical Bonsai at the 1st US National Bonsai Exhibit, Rochester NY Oct 2008

Trees exhibited at Epcot Center, Walt Disney World, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008

Second Place Winner of Florida Bonsai Societies Scholarship competition in 2007

Second Place at Joshua Roth New Talent Competition with American Bonsai Society in 2006

BSF Convention 2008 Demonstrator

Bonsai Tropical de Mexico, Yucutan. Presenter, 2007

A few Notes on the Brazilian Raintree (Pithecellobium tortum): It's a member of the legume family, has compound leaves and is spiny. It tolerates dry conditions in the wild, but should be evenly moist in a container. It evidently has a small powder puff type flower, protected by large thorns! Although a zone 10-11 plant, you might be able to place it outside during our Zone 5 interior continental summer, but Erik will reveal all in the demonstration!

Compiled by Jay Miller





Mike's Corner



Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern

At our recent show a few members were discussing tree problems. We discussed which types of trees do not survive the winter. It seemed as though a number of people were having difficulty with their Chinese Elms. I had a few of my Korean hornbeams (*Turczaninovi*) die and a few others are struggling. It seems as though when you think you have figured things out, mother nature delivers a new lesson.

Discussion worked its way toward hot summers and pot temperature. A group of us agreed to perform some pseudo-experiments to determine if we could reduce pot temperature through shading the pots. We hypothesized that when ambient temperatures rise and the sun is beating down on a dark pot soil temperatures are extremely high and may be dangerously high. We wondered if such high temperatures damage or kill sensitive trees. A few of us have suspected that our larches have died for that reason. We discussed ways of shading the pot and then measuring temperature with a kitchen thermometer.

One idea was to surround the pot and the soil with cheesecloth that would reflect the light but also allow the tree to be watered. Other suggestions involved taking burlap or a white sheet and draping it over the entire pot. Another possibility could involve wrapping the pot in aluminum foil. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination. All of them seemed pretty unattractive. We are requesting that members

"Good To See You"

agree to conduct their own experiments by picking at least two identical pots and trees. You could select trees growing in nursery pots. Select dark colored pots. The more trees the better the experiment. When you select trees place them in the same area. Half of the pots will remain uncovered while having the experimental pots shaded in some fashion. It is important that trees be treated identically other than the shading. Throughout the summer it would be helpful to take temperature readings of the soil by sticking the kitchen thermometer in the soil. Record the date, time, and temperature. I would think temperatures would be highest around three or four in the afternoon. But that is merely a guess. Additionally, individuals will attempt to determine if trees grew differently in one pot or the other.

I thought it would be helpful to experiment with trees that tend to be more light and heat sensitive such as maples or azaleas. However feel free to use any trees that are available.

In an earlier article, I reported that my Chinese elms were susceptible to fungus. I began spraying them weekly even before bud break. I was not going to have leaves curl as they did the previous year. It did not solve the problem. Hugh Meehan suggested that there is some little critter that over winters and causes the leaves to curl. He suggested next year that I use dormant oil spray to kill the larvae before they hatch. He suggested that I make sure that I get the oil on the trunk where the larvae are hiding. Hopefully that will solve the problem.



Haiku Corner

A fallen flower
Flew back to its branch!
No, it was a butterfly.

-Moritake

2009 Calendar of Events

Jul 15.....	Wed	7pm.....	Bonsai Auction Keith Scott
Aug 15.....	Sat	11-5	Annual Picnic & Flea Market The Grealish Farm
Sep 18-19.....	Fri	7pm.....	Demonstration Julian Adams Lynchburg, VA
	Sat.....	8am	Workshop Julian Adams
Oct 21.....	Wed	7pm.....	Deciduous Trees Keith Scott
Nov 18.....	Wed	7pm	TBA
Dec 2	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

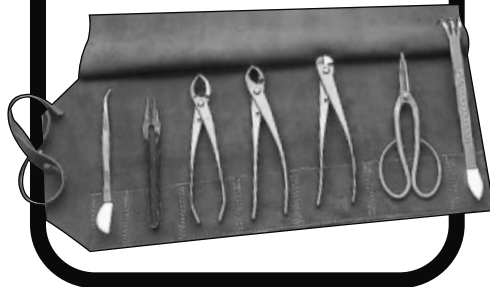
PBS Meetings and Special Events at Phipps Garden Center will take place as scheduled except in the event of severe weather or emergency. Unsure? Call their Emergency Phone Number: 412 441-4442 for updates.



We would like to welcome our NEWEST and definitely our YOUNGEST member Sam Gardner. He joined The Bonsai Society at our Spring Show and he was very excited. He is 11 years old and is in the fifth grade at Highland Park Montessori School. Sam, hope to see you at all of the meetings.

Tools Wanted

John Grant is looking to buy used bonsai tools. If anyone has any reasonably priced used tools that they are looking to sell, call John at: (412) 242-6230.



Monthly Question And Answer Box

Do you have a bonsai related question? Mail or E-Mail your question to: Bob Dietz 1525 Connor Road South Park, Pa.15219 dietz4771@comcast.net Your question and the answer will appear in the next news letter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonsai Workgroup

Remaining Thursday Sessions:

3. June 11
4. June 25
5. July 9
6. July 23
7. August 6
8. August 20
9. September 3
10. September 17

Bob Grealish hosts this series at the Grealish Farm, 6-10pm. Call Bob at 412 977-0077 if you are interested.

Spotlight Trees:

Remember to bring your spotlight trees to a meeting for "show & tell". It's a great way for new members to learn about new (to them) species; their TLC requirements and the story of your tree.

Newsletter Copies

Do you want to send a complimentary issue of the newsletter to someone interested in bonsai? Give their name and "snail mail" address to Jay Miller.

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 If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at: Thenucleoid@yahoo.com

July Issue Deadline

Submissions for the July 2009 Newsletter are due no later than Wednesday, June 17.

Compiled by Jay Miller



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

