



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

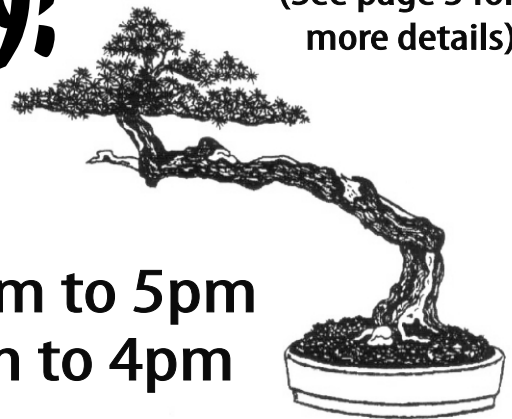
MAY 2009 Newsletter

NEXT EVENT

Spring Show 2009!

(See page 3 for
more details)

- Phipps Garden Center
- Memorial Day weekend
- Saturday, May 23rd from 10am to 5pm
- Sunday, May 24th from 10am to 4pm



NEXT MEETING

Tropicals Workshop/Demo

TUESDAY June 16, 2009 7:00pm Phipps Garden Center

Erik Wigert will transform a Brazilian
Raintree from nursery stock to stunning bonsai!



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



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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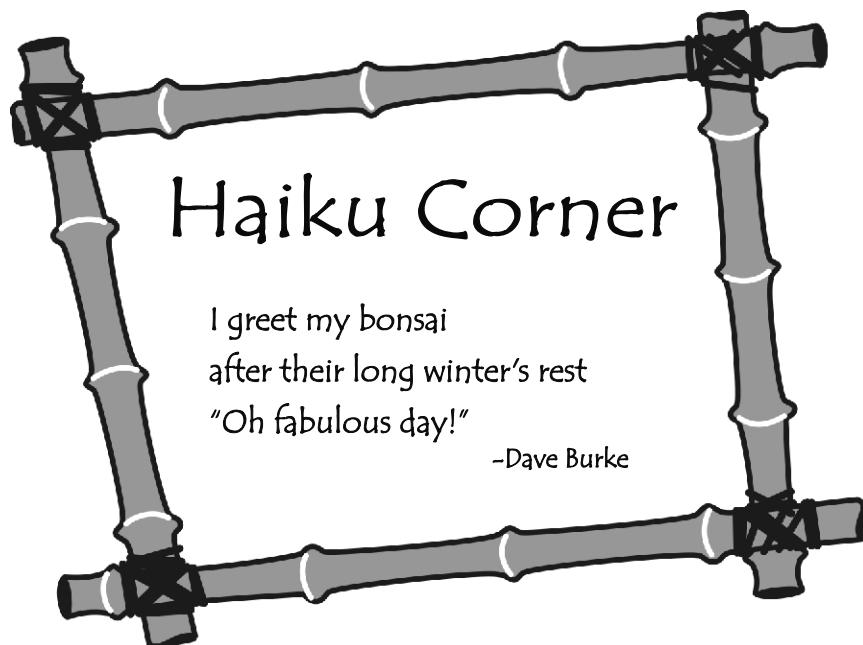
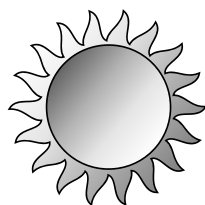
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Published periodically (10 issues a year) by PBS for members and other bonsai enthusiasts. It's our sixth decade of advancing the art of bonsai in the Tri-State area.

Deadlines
Generally one month prior to issue date

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



Haiku Corner

I greet my bonsai
after their long winter's rest
"Oh fabulous day!"

-Dave Burke

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



Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771

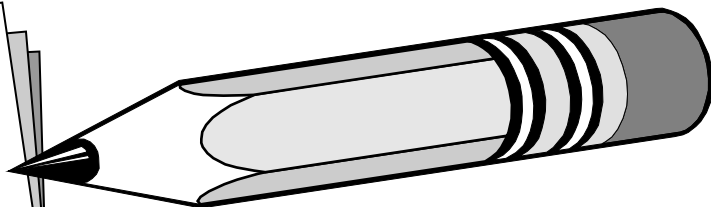
Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants

A Note From Bob:

Ready for the Spring Weekend? I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there, and I hope everyone will bring some trees to display. If you have just started doing bonsai, you shouldn't feel shy about bringing a tree you've been working on and put yourself into. We'd like to see all kinds of trees. The Zen of bonsai is seeing trees "just as they are." So clean it up, shine up the pot, water it, and bring it in! This is everyone's chance to see new bonsai, meditate on their beauty, and maybe get some new ideas. Also feel free to bring in some bonsai or starter material to sell on consignment. Remember, though, you will have an opportunity to sell things at auction next month, so you might want to keep some things for that. If you have something you can donate to the club, we will have a Silent Auction during the Spring Weekend. Anything related to bonsai or oriental art and culture is appropriate, including trees, pots, accent plants, tools, figurines, artwork, etc. I think I'll bring a couple of Don Gould pots. We're going to have food and drinks too. If you would like to contribute to that, please bring things that can be divided up such as cookies or cake, cans of soda, pastries, etc.

If possible, please bring your display trees in Friday. We'll be there from about Noon 'til 8pm. We'll have a card for you to write down the trees' common and botanical names, years in training, type of pot, and optionally your name. Anyone who can help set up the display on Friday and tear it down on Sunday will be appreciated. I'm sure we're going to have a lot of fun. Don't forget to tell everyone you know about the show. It's our chance to get people interested in bonsai and make some new friends. See you there!

Bob Grealish



Photography From 2008 Show
By Meg Amoudi

Come join us for our 28th annual Spring Show!

It's the time of year we and our trees have been waiting for...the annual Spring show at the Phipps Garden Center. Make sure you mark the calendar now for Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 23rd from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, May 24th from 10 am to 4 pm.

As always, setup will be on Friday. So make sure your trees are in show condition: clean and oil your pots, clean up any debris, wire any loose branches that need wired, remove dead leaves and unless you can dress them in tiny kimonos, remove any bugs hanging around. Bring any display items that go with your trees like stands or accent plants. We will have room for more trees than last year, so there is no need to call with the number of trees that you plan on bringing, just make sure that they are show ready. You can also write down any relevant information on the trees: type of tree, age, years in training, etc. The trees need to be picked up after the show on Sunday.

Have some trees or starter material you'd like to sell? There will be an area for member consignment sales with a portion of the proceeds going to the society. Pick up some new pots and many other supplies from our regular vendors, ask advice on anything tree-related, and bring some trees of your own that you'd like expert opinions on. You can't swing a dead branch without hitting someone with an expert opinion.

your own that you'd like expert opinions on. You can't swing a dead branch without hitting someone with an expert opinion.

Don't forget about the annual Chinese Auction. You can donate an item to raise funds for our group, and be sure to bid on something at the show.

If you start drooling as you wander around the miniature masterpieces, you might be getting hungry, and since white pine needles aren't too tasty we will have food and drinks available for sale. If you care to bring in something delicious like cookies or desserts for the society to sell, please do so, and as with the show trees, check for bugs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, Dave Metzgar, during the weekdays at 412-795-0800 or at home at 724-733-2406.

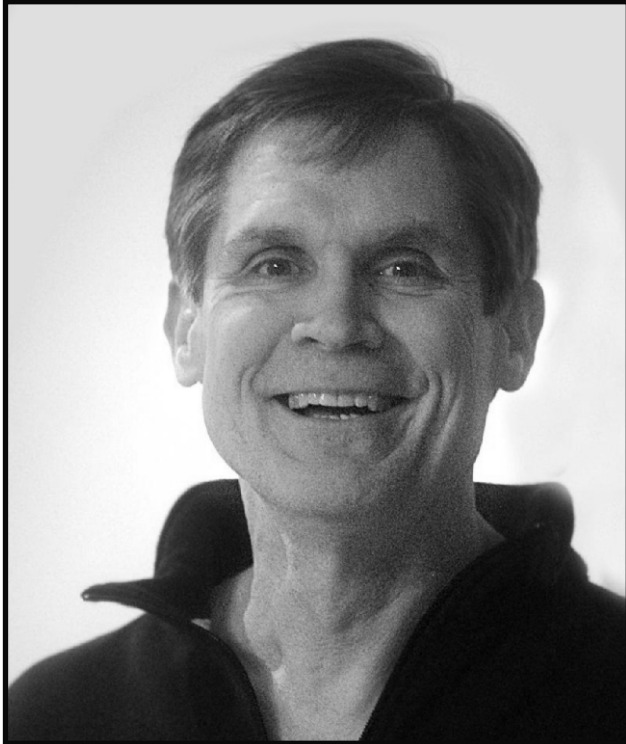
So remember, leave the Memorial Day Weekend open, and come on down to Phipps Garden Center and see the trees!



Dave Metzgar

A Special PBS Member Biography

John Metcalf, Our Recording Secretary



Photography By Doreena Balestreire

I was born in Fort Benning, Georgia on December 4, 1950. My father was in the military and we moved to various army bases throughout my childhood. I obtained my college bachelor's degree from the University of Utah in biology and social studies. During the turbulent Vietnam War era, I developed a strong believe system in Eastern philosophies which culminated in my study of meditation, yoga, and martial arts. I then obtained a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Brigham Young University in 1982. I subsequently went to the Auto-nomous University of Juarez, Mexico and obtained my medical degree in 1986. I completed an Internal Medicine residency at St. Francis Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pa in 1989 and became board certified specialist the same year.

After completing formal academic career, I proceeded to journey into helping others obtaining health through traditional and holistic medical practice. My interest expanded into landscape where I felt at peace with myself as I became 'one with the plants'. My neighbor introduced me to Bonsai in July, 2007. From there my life has changed as I explored the artistry and techniques of bringing the beauty of plants to the enjoyment of myself and others. I have been fortunate to spend time with many local, national, and international bonsai teachers that have allowed me to delve into the intricacies of the Bonsai culture.

Sincerely,
John W. Metcalf, MD



The Bonsai Workshop At Bob's

Bob Grealish will be hosting a Bonsai Workgroup every other Thursday evening at The Grealish Farm starting May 14th, 6-10 pm. Call Bob at 412-977-0077 if you are interested. Bring your tools and whatever trees you want to work on and we'll work together on potting, styling, wiring, carving, etc.

Directions To The Grealish's

From Pittsburgh:

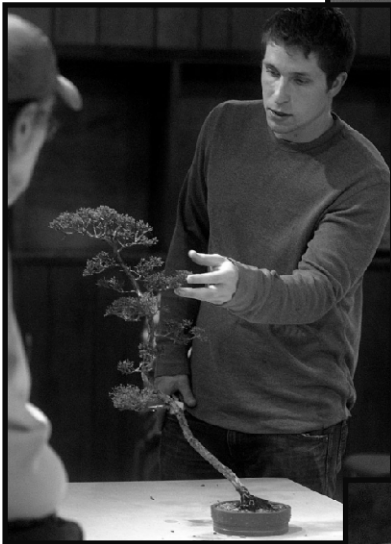
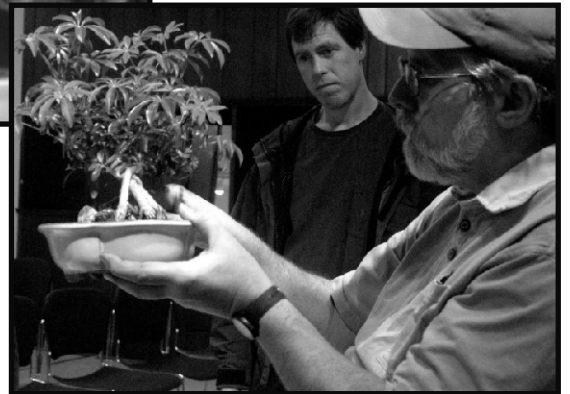
Route 28 North to the Cheswick Exit. At end of ramp, turn right and go to the first stop sign. Turn right on Russelton Road (at Bocheck's Auto Repair). Go 7.4 miles, through Rural Ridge and Russelton and past the Red Belt sign There will be a sharp left bend and go across a small bridge to the stop sign. Turn right on Saxonburg Blvd. (There's a Culmerville gas station across the street.) Go 1 mile to Henry Road (small green sign on left, easy to miss!). Turn left and go 1 mile to the brick farmhouse on the right. 39 Henry Road sign on house, mailbox across from driveway, driveway past house.

From Route 8:

Go east on Bakerstown Road (Red Belt) to Saxonburg Blvd (Culmerville gas station on right). Turn left on Saxonburg Blvd and go 1 mile to Henry Road (small gree sign on left, easy to miss!) Turn left and go 1 mile to the brick farmhouse on the right. 39 Henry Road sign on house; mailbox across from driveway, driveway past house.

Some Photos From The April Meeting

Photography By Doreena Balestreire



**“Tree
Critique”**





Tips and
Suggestions
from Mike Stern

Mike's Corner

“IRON?”

The symptoms of iron deficiency, also known as iron chlorosis, appear in the leaves as green veins and yellow leaf tissue. If the deficiency is severe, the entire leaf may become yellow. Lastly, brown edges may begin to show up. Also in severe cases, chlorosis can progress to older growth in the plant.

Your plants are pale green and yellowing. You might not notice as you look at your plants daily. Compare a leaf or needle from one of your trees to one going in the ground. Are they equally as green? If they are, do nothing. If they are pale you have a problem. Before the problem can be solved, there are a few things one must know.

Yellowing leaves could be the symptoms of a couple of problems. If the entire leaf is yellow, the problem could be nitrogen. In severe cases of iron deficiency, the entire leaf could be yellow, too. The way to determine whether it is iron or nitrogen is by looking at the location of the yellowing leaves. Iron deficiency occurs on the new growth, toward the tips. Nitrogen occurs from the bottom of the plant on the old growth.



Iron chlorosis is found where soils are highly alkaline. The high pH of the soil ties up the iron in the soil, making it unavailable to the plants. Iron is required for the formation of chlorophyll in plant cells and serves as an activator for respiration and photosynthesis. High soil temperatures and high light intensity can also increase problems with iron chlorosis. These are issues with bonsai.

Chelated iron is the best solution and last the longest. Read the label carefully before apply any product to your trees.

I like to apply it as foiliar spray in early spring. Avoid getting any type of iron product on sidewalks, patios, driveways or brick. Residue from these products will leave stains that are difficult, if not impossible to remove. Many of my trees now have a rich green color and are a little more healthy.

What are our Members doing?

As a Society, we're pleased to applaud the educational efforts of our talented members. Dr. Norbert Pietrzak, Past President presents classes for the public at Phipps sites, as well as Kevin Haughey, Bonsai Manager of the Phipps Bonsai Collection. Here's some upcoming events:

Beginning Bonsai with Kevin Haughey

May 17..... Sat..... Session 1...1-3pm

May 23..... Sun..... Session 2...10am-12 noon
Botany Hall at Phipps Conservatory
\$25 Non-Phipps Members +
\$30 materials fee

To register for these events, call the PGC (Phipps Garden Center) at 412 441-4442 ext 3925 or download their registration form at:

[Http://phipps.conservatory.org](http://phipps.conservatory.org)

Monthly Question And Answer Box

Do you have a bonsai related question?
Mail or E-Mail your question to:

Bob Dietz
1525 Connor Rd.
South Park, Pa.15219
dietz4771@comcast.net



Your question and the answer will
appear in the next news letter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Meeting:

Approximately 33 people attended and participated in the "Tree Critique" moderated by Bob Grealish and Bob Dietz. Members presented their trees and got a new perspective on future development. It was an enjoyable and educational meeting for newbies and advanced bonsai enthusiasts.

Website:

You'll notice that Bob Grealish has done some Spring Cleaning on our website. It always has interesting and educational information available as well as links to other bonsai-related websites. Check it out at <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>.

Spotlight Trees:

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

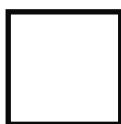
Last Newsletter Notice:

If there is a check mark in the box next to your address label on the back cover, our records indicate that you have not paid your dues for 2009. This is your last newsletter. To avoid missing a newsletter and losing your other membership benefits, send your dues to the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society, c/o Tim Bamford, Treasurer, 6761 Kevin Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102. Checks should be made payable to the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. Individual \$25, Family \$35.

Compiled by Jay Miller



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



This is your last
Newsletter if there
is a check mark in
the box to the left.

2009 Calendar of Events

May 22-24.....Spring Bonsai Weekend

Jun 16.....Tue.....7pm.....“Tropicals Demo/Workshop” (featuring Erik Wigert/Fort Myers FL:
Brazilian Rain Trees)

Jul 15.....Wed.....7pm.... Bonsai Auction Keith Scott

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.