



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

May 2015 Newsletter

MAY

Tune Up Your Show Tree



The May program highlights pot and tree pairings to enhance your bonsai. There will be a quick demo on air-layering using a Trident Maple. Bring your exhibit tree(s) and tools. As always, the Society has tools and wire available.

For additional information please check our website

May 20, 2015 • Wed. • 7:00pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

Tah Dah!!! 34th Annual Spring Show

Dave Metzgar and his team have a great Spring Bonsai Weekend planned, with super trees, vendors, demonstrations, consignment sales and lots more.

May 29, 30 & 31 • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside!

Setup: Friday 12-8pm Bring your Trees! Saturday 10-5 Showtime! Sunday 10-4 Show, Demos and Teardown

STYLING SHOW TREASURES

JUNE

New People and Long-Time Members: Your newly acquired Spring Show treasures will thrive with bonsai-specific survival & care tips; plus possible styling directions.



June 17, 2015 • Wednesday, 7:00pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

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:



This year's Spring Show will be held at Phipps Garden Center on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31. Now is the best time to remind everyone of what is involved in setting up the show. Setup will be Friday from noon until 8 PM, so please have your trees here early. If you have something that you haven't displayed in a while, please bring it in.



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

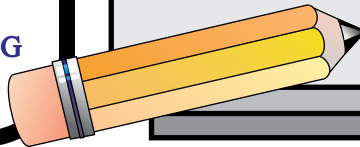
For the best display possible, trees should be in excellent shape. Remove any dead leaves and branches, and wire any branches that need re-positioned. The pots should be cleaned. Bring along any accent plants or stands that you'd like your trees to be displayed upon. Please think twice about displaying any very small items since a few were stolen over the last few years.

Don't forget to bring in some bonsai related items for the Silent Auction. If you have plant material to sell, we'll handle it at the consignment area. There will be food available, and as always, you can donate baked goods. Anyone interested in helping with the setup or take down, please show up early and stay late.

With a feature article in last year's paper, chances are we won't have as much publicity this year, so please print out a few of the show posters and display them wherever you can. A printable PDF version is available on line.

Dave Metzgar

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Haiku Corner

A day of spring;
In the garden,
Sparrows bathing in the sand.

~Onitsura

The Big Dig

~By Josh HousiauxSteward



~Photo from Facebook

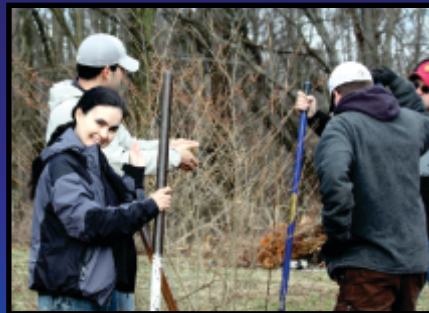
As I pulled up the Grealish's driveway a few lone snowflakes drifted down to greet me. Not all together uncommon for the day before Easter, but none the less a non-too welcome sight. "Are you going to be ok in shorts out here?" asked Rose as I met her and Bob out by the digging site. "I'll be ok" I replied and luckily I was right. In a half hour the sun appeared, beaming down warmth and welcoming one of the first truly beautiful days of spring.

I was pleasantly surprised to see how many people turned out for the event. There was a good mixture of newer members as well as the usual suspects. Prior to beginning everyone who wanted to purchase one of the trees selected theirs. Bob took turns showing everyone the proper two person digging technique. He emphasized the importance of pushing inward after digging down in tandem. This method compresses the root ball and makes for a cleaner extraction. Working together the digging pair works in a circle around the trees drip line. Once the rotation is complete one of the diggers, using the shovel as a lever, lifts the tree clean of the hole.

With the 15 or so of us that turned out we made short work of the roughly 40 trees that were to be freed of the ground. In less than an hour and a half the task had been completed, aside from the bald cypress. The bald cypress was the largest of the trees and also proved to be the most difficult. Twenty minutes later (along with a good deal of Brandon, Ray, and my sweat) the cypress was still barely moving. Brandon refused to be beat by the tree and after trading his small saw for a large saw (always a sound strategy) he managed to finally cut through the last of the roots.

Everyone bagged the trees in garbage bags and loaded them in the back of the Bob's truck so they could be moved back to the barn. After two truckloads of trees the group moved to the barn and the members began potting the trees that they had selected for purchase. With everyone chipping in, quite a few trees were potted before we broke for lunch. Everyone headed to the house, kicked off their muddy shoes at the door, and took a short break to enjoy Rose's excellent roast beef. After lunch repotting activities resumed.

The end result of the day was an approximately 40 x 15 foot area for the member growing bed. This is an exciting project for the society, which will result in not only great trees, but excellent learning opportunities as well.



~photography by Cindie Bonomi

More Big Dig Photos



~photography by Cindie Bonomi

More Big Dig Photos



~photography by Cindie Bonomi

Breaking News-Member Bed

~by Jay Miller



~photo by Cindie Bonomi



~photo by Bob Grealish

At the April 15th meeting, Bob Grealish announced the next step for the new Member Bed. Planting of the new bonsai trees will take place at the Grealish Farm on Saturday, May 23, 2015. The planting will commence at 9:00am, and volunteers are urged to bring their bonsai tools plus trowels and shovels.

Since the initial purpose of the bed will be development of "demo" trees and some workshop trees, the most used varieties will be planted first. Bob Dietz advised that Scots Pine and the Juniper 'procumbens nana' will be dug in on the 23rd. Additional trees may come from a trip to Musser's Tree Farm. Other species may be secured as necessary from commercial bonsai sources.

The Trees Are Drawing Me Near

~by David Steidl



Dave Wiring Scots Pines 2012

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. What I experienced that afternoon was new and glorious. It moved my understanding forward in giant steps. A form of art—bonsai—would change my way of thinking about my life and living on earth.

As a child in Ohio I was an explorer and climbed many trees. Tall ones towered over my parents' home. Our yard was dotted with a variety of oaks 2 to 5 feet in diameter. I spent many hours collecting fall leaves, identifying them, preserving the real beauties with wax, and raking the remaining millions into huge strategic piles at my father's instruction.

In 1994 I was working as a graphic designer and took time off to attend the ABS symposium. Those little trees that I saw displayed at the Hyatt Regency hotel were such perfect examples of a design process and an idealized view of nature. I joined our Pittsburgh organization before leaving the hotel. Now after 21 years I've learned that bonsai is much more than just the beauty and amazement that I experienced that day... and it drew me in to look closer.

Bonsai is an art of living form and earth—the only fine art that is alive, 4 dimensional, always changing, never finished, gets better as it grows older, and can be passed down over time for others to preside over. I like those ideas. It also encourages, within the practitioner, a broader sense of what living on this planet means, a balance of control vs. “go with the flow.”

~photography by Cindie Bonomi

I find myself paying closer attention to the weather, the climate, the seasons, the joy of living in a temperate zone. By observing and learning how plants manage to survive outdoors in a climate that moves annually above and below freezing, we also learn about life itself. I had a small grove of yews that didn't survive the winter before last. I blame myself for not protecting the roots. I wanted a better view of it from inside with snow on its branches.

I decided to leave all of my mature trees out of the poly-house these past two winters. Unaware of polar vortexes, I was anticipating milder winters. They were protected from the wind, covered with leaves and snow, and sitting on the ground (except that grove of yews). And this spring all of the pine, larch, hawthorn, juniper and even azalea are looking very healthy. I lost no trees this winter. First time in 21 years. I was surprised.

My appreciation of just how fascinating, unpredictable, complex, and magical life on this planet can be is, in my opinion, because I practice the art of Bonsai. The trees seem to draw me near. GO SPRING !



~photo by Dave Steidl



Dave Spring Show With The Late Keith Scott 2010

Progress, But Your Bonsai Newsletter STILL Needs YOU! (Remember, Jay Miller retires in November 2015...)

One job taken, two to go!

Job One: Gilda Arroyo has volunteered to maintain the regular and electronic Distribution List and supply mailing labels. Yay!!

Job Two: We still need a Co-Editor/Copy Editor to create and organize an outline of each issue; write articles as needed and proof read the final layout from Cindie.

Job Three: Who will volunteer for Publisher? You'll be picking up the newsletter from the printer, prepping it for mailing (we call that "licking and sticking") and delivering to the Post Office. (Cindie Bonomi is "willing to continue doing the design and creative graphics FOREVER").

Interested in the remaining slots? Anxious to see your name in the masthead? For further information contact Jay Miller at: suisekijay@gmail.com or 412 481-4540.

For your Bonsai supplies support

the store that exists for the society



Bob Dietz



Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771
Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants

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 Workgroup:

Meets every other Thursday at Bob Grealish's farm, after 6:00pm. Bring your trees, tools and wire. It starts this year on May 7th. For the next date, call Bob at: 412 977-0077. For updates, be sure to check the PBS website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org> the day of class.

Coming Events:

NO Potomac Bonsai Festival at the National Arboretum this year. See the ABS "Capital Collections" June 11, 2015-June 14, 2015 contact: johnruth222@gmail.com

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/>

June 2015 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the June 2015 PBS Newsletter are due no later than May 25, 2015.

Compiled by Jay Miller

suisekijay@gmail.com

Note: the NEW E-Mail Address





Pittsburgh Bonsai Society
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Pittsburgh Bonsai Society • 2015 Calendar of Events

May 20	Wed	7:00pm	Air-Layering; Pot/Tree Pairings
May 23	Sat.	9:00am	Planting of the NEW TREES, Grealish Farm Member-Bed
May 29	Fri.		Set Up for Spring Show
May 30-31	Sat.-Sun.		34th Spring Show
June 17	Wed.	7:00pm	Styling Show Treasures
July 15	Wed.	7:00pm	Root Over Rocks Pt II
July 25	Sat.		Auction@ Phipps Garden Center
August 8	Sat.		Annual Picnic at the Grealish Farm
Sept. 16	Wed.	7:00pm	TBA
Oct. 21	Wed.	7:00pm	TBA
Nov. 18	Wed.	7:00pm	TBA
Dec. 16	Wed.		Holiday Party



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.