



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

2022
NEWSLETTER

MAY

THE MAY MEETING

We have several demonstrations and activities planned for the May Meeting. Bob Grealish will demonstrate and discuss the reasons and timing for pinching pines and elongating species.

BOB



Larry Lamonde will be demonstrating and discussing air layering techniques as a way of propagating bonsai material.



LARRY

Mark Mohler will be demonstrating and discussing ceramic pot building in anticipation of a potting workshop in the future.

If you are struggling with

deciding the front of the tree, the best trunk line base to tip, and which branches to save and which to remove, the May meeting is the opportunity to get suggestions. We will plan to have members of the audience suggest styling or raw/unstyled material or nursery stock. So bring a "I'm not sure what to do with this tree" and get advice. Remember you can also arrive before the meeting starts at 7pm and get suggestions from other members who are available.



MARK

If you can, clean out dead and unnecessary branches before you bring it in. If you don't know what are unnecessary branches, still bring it in.

Our Membership is Growing

The Society membership is now over 100 and continues to increase every month - reaching numbers not achieved in many years. New and renewing memberships are welcome any time of the year.

As of April 1st all members in good standing will receive the Society newsletter, emails, and Zoom

meeting notifications. They will be able to attend member-only events and be afforded other member-only opportunities. They can request membership on the Pittsburgh Society Group page or mail in the membership form on page 12 of this newsletter.

Those interested in Bonsai are welcome to attend a meeting or two to determine if they would like to join.

Now follow us on Instagram: www.instagram.com/pitt.bonsai/
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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The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society (PBS) was organized July 10, 1957 to disseminate knowledge, encourage others, and create interest in the art of bonsai through meetings, workshops, newsletters, and guest speakers. It's our seventh decade of advancing the art of bonsai in Pittsburgh and the Tri-State area. The membership year is January 1 to December 31. For details on events, Society membership or general information, see the Society's web page at: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>. Our newsletter is published periodically, 10 issues per year.

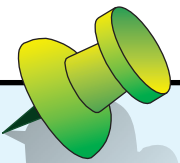
Deadlines:

Generally two months prior to issue date

Submissions:

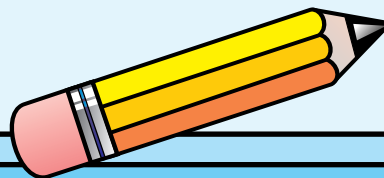
Submissions are encouraged. Please submit photos or artwork in JPG format and copy in Microsoft Word.

A Note From Mike:



~Photo by Mike Stern

The officers have spent significant time and energy to coordinate and provide a full schedule for the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society for 2022. We have a more robust online and digital presence to improve learning opportunities and membership application. Trees expend stored energy in the spring to produce new growth, then rest and harden off to reabsorb energy they need for future growth. The officers have expended a lot of energy and for the most part, the officers are in a post-flush harden condition. We are mostly sitting back enjoying taking in the sunshine and reabsorbing energy. Disappointingly, we are having to deal with some unexpected dieback in our plans, so a little redesign is taking place.



Mike Stern
mstern55@outlook.com

Contact Bob Dietz in advance of the meeting if you need to purchase any bonsai supplies from potting mix soil to tools.

For your Bonsai supplies, support

the store that exists for the society



Bob Dietz



Bonsai In The Burgh

Home: (724) 348-4771
Cell: (412) 592-3271

Pots, Wire, Tools, Soil, Trees

April Meeting Photos



~Photography by Cindie Bonomi



Jennifer Price Workshop Photos

Jennifer Price came in from Chicago to provide a “bring-your-own-tree” workshop on Saturday and a demonstration on Sunday. Approximately a dozen members brought their own tree to the workshop and walked out with a tree that was styled or its primary structure had been established to elevate the tree to

the next level. Jennifer had a positive and upbeat style and was careful to let the members know that they would be working on their trees. She would be assisting them on the direction and helping them with their decisions and technique.

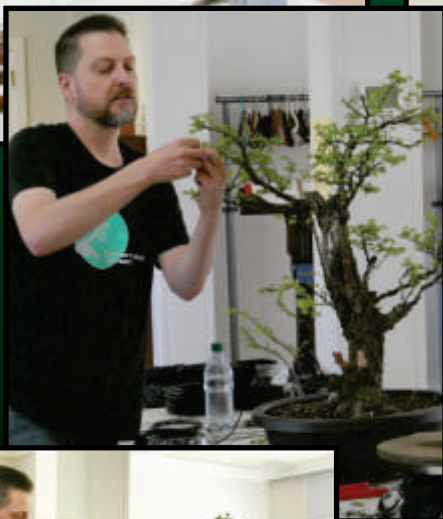
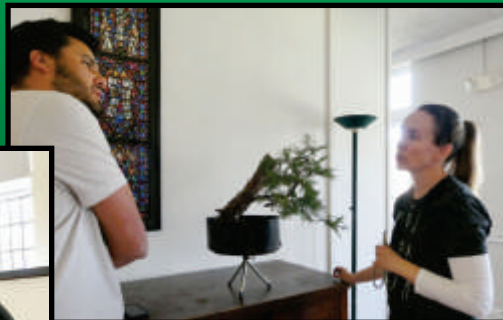


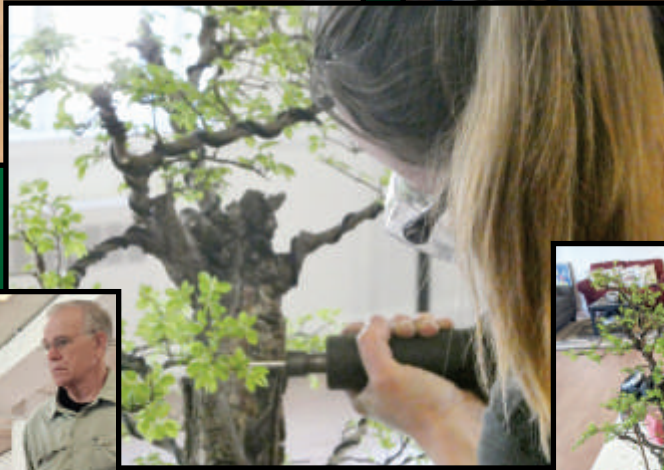
~Photography by Mike Stern and Pranag K. Nag



Jennifer Price Demo Photos

For the demonstration, Jennifer with the assistance of Terry Monroe, worked on a Cork bark Elm provided by Bob Dietz. The members were treated to a wonderful presentation of taking raw material and creating a natural representation of an elm.





~Photography by Cindie Bonomi,
Pranag K. Nag, Louise Means
and Rick Eckstrom



*~Photography by Cindie Bonomi,
Pranag K. Nag, Louise Means
and Rick Eckstrom*



Did You Know?

~ By Michael Stern



~Photo by Mike Stern

Currently, trees are sending out new growth based on the energy that was stored and accumulated in the fall through the winter. (If the tree has been repotted this spring, the amount of energy it is able to put into new growth may be less as the roots were worked and need to heal.) When trees put out new leaves, needles, foliage, etc., the tree's new growth is incapable of photosynthesizing. As a result, the trees are in an energy negative state in early spring. So, it is wise to think about how and when you manage energy.

If your tree is in a developmental state, then your goal is to lengthen, thicken, expand root mass, heal wounds, and set buds. Under these circumstances, you will leave the new growth, so the tree gains more energy, and you accomplish the goals described above. If your tree is in refinement, then you have two options depending on the species of tree. You can pinch new growth, which keeps the growth within the desired silhouette and redistributes energy to existing inner buds and weaker areas of the tree. These techniques are especially helpful for elongating species such as larches, spruces, yews, and single flush pines such as Scott's pines and mugo pines. This technique is

also applied to opposing leaf pattern species such as Japanese Maples.

A second strategy is to allow the new growth to harden off and for energy to be reabsorbed by the tree. Especially on alternating leaf pattern trees such as elms and hornbeams, after hardening off, growth will be cut back to two buds to increase ramification from 2 to 4 and 4 to 8 and so on. This technique can be applied to elongating species such as pines, and maples if you missed your pinching opportunity.

These refinement strategies will allow you to have a tree with shorter, tapered, and thinner branches, shorter internodes, smaller leaves, and balanced density across the canopy of tree.

It is important to allow the new growth to remain on for a period of time where the cuticle can form on the leaves or needles and the stems lignify (post-flush hardened). Remember, until there is a cuticle and lignification the plant cannot reabsorb energy.



Garden Tours

The idea of the garden tour is that you open your garden to the society for a few hours on an specified day. During this time, members can see your trees, ask questions, take photos, learn, and get ideas for their own trees.

If anyone is still interested in opening their bonsai garden to the PBS members, contact Terry Monroe at: terrym74@yahoo.com

Member's Garden Tours 2022

Michael Stern will have his garden tour Saturday, May 28 (from 10am to 4pm). The rain date will be Sunday, May 29 (10am to 4pm). In addition to the tour, there will be some trees and pots for sale. Members can email or text: mstern55outlook.com. Mike's cell: 724 944-1560 to get the address.

Bob Dietz will have his garden tour Saturday, June 25 (from 10am to 4pm). The rain date will be the following Saturday, July 2 (10am-4pm). Bob will have trees and bonsai supplies available for sale. Bob's cell: 412 592-3271.

Dave Metzgar will be doing his garden tour in July. Times and dates to come. Dave's cell: 724 519-2482.

Louise Means will have her garden tour Saturday, August 27 (from 11am to 3pm). Rain date: Sunday August 28 (from 11am to 3pm). Louise's cell: 412 400-5192.

Cindie Bonomi will have her garden tour Saturday, September 24 (from 10am to 3pm). Rain date: Sunday, September 25 (from 10am to 3pm). Cindie's cell: 412 689-5586.

Zombie Bonsai

Since our show will coincide with a fun event the mall holds every year, the "Living Dead Weekend," we are going to have a small section devoted to Zombie Bonsai. If you had one of your favorite trees die recently this is a perfect chance to display it, or consider bringing a zombie-themed tree. Maybe a tree planted in a baby doll head? Possibly a tree with a hand coming out of the soil?

If you are interested in participating in our zombie-themed display this year bring your scary tree. Email Cindie Bonomi: cindiebonomi@gmail.com.

Fundamentals in Creating a Bonsai

You can go to our website and click on links to our member-created videos. No password is needed. We have 2 videos, "Repotting a Deciduous Tree Video" and "Aftercare of Collected Bonsai Material". We hope to be adding more in the future.

Bonsai Field Growing Education Program

Dave Metzger will keep us informed through emails about scheduling ongoing educational experiences.

The next educational opportunity will be in late spring when we demonstrate, and you can participate in, post-flush harden pruning to ensure good primary and secondary structure. We will also bend branches to create better lines. Techniques will be applied to avoid reverse taper.

Dates will be scheduled to coincide with seasonal bonsai activities. Having lots of trees in the field to work on will give you more opportunities to learn to care for your own trees. Experienced members will be there to guide and explain the reasons for the techniques.



If you are interested in participating and learning about the field, I'm Dave Metzgar. Email me: davemetzgar119@gmail.com or text me at: 412-956-2482.

New Members:

Brilyn and Christopher Hearn

Andrea and Norm Sobel

Robert Maradei

Christopher Serey

Anthony Piazza

Timothy Wyant





Membership Application
or Renewal Form

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

Membership Year: January 1 to December 31

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Name _____

Address (Number and Street, Rural Route or Post Office Box) _____

City or Town _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email address is used for membership database and member correspondence only. The Society will keep this info CONFIDENTIAL

Phone _____

Date _____ Signature _____

_____ Individual Membership \$30.00

_____ Family Membership \$40.00

_____ I am a New Member

_____ I am Renewing my Membership

Make your check payable to the
Pittsburgh Bonsai Society and send it to:

Ed Baginski
272 Apple Hill Drive
Delmont, Pa 15626

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society, formed in 1957, is a non-profit organization. The mission: to disseminate knowledge, encourage others and create interest in the art of bonsai.

Order your PBS items now:

<https://www.teepublic.com/user/pghbonsaisociety>

Mugs

T-Shirts

Hoodies

Kids Clothes

Phone Cases

Pillows

Totes

Posters

Pins

Magnets



Wear Your Pride...

And your enthusiasm for Bonsai! Golf shirts embroidered with the Tricolor PBS logo are available in white, tan and taupe for \$ 25. You can also supply your own quality shirt and embroidery will be a modest \$ 10.00

For more details, contact Cliff or Anna Domasky at:
annaclaus55@hotmail.com

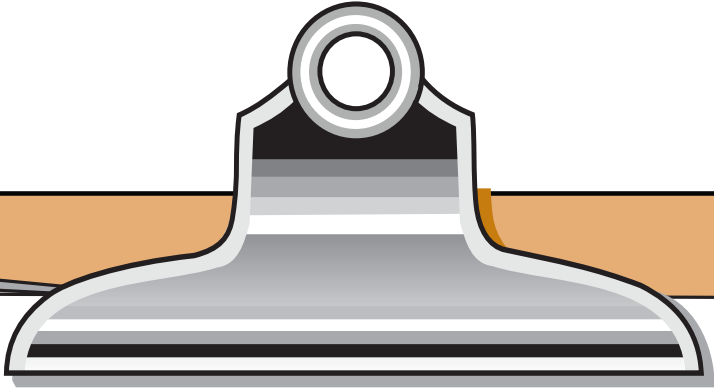


-Photos by
Cindie Bonomi

Haiku Corner

The spring haze.
The scent already in the air.
The moon and ume..

-Basho



SOME EXCITING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Zoom Q&A Meetings:

Terry Monroe will continue to schedule and conduct Q and A Zoom meetings. Members will be informed through emails and the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Group Page on Facebook. Our regular Zoom Meeting is always the Friday after our Thursday monthly meeting. If you are 2022 member of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society you can request membership to this group.

Zoom Presentations:

Contact Larry Lamonde at: larryl@precopy.com if you are interested in doing a Zoom presentation on a bonsai-related topic. The free zoom application allows for a 40 minute presentation. If you wish to allow questions and answers following the presentation, take that into consideration.

Mike Stern will be doing a presentation called "Watering: The First Thing Taught, The Last Thing Learned" Thursday June 2nd at 7pm. He promises to keep it under 40 minutes. Everyone is welcome to join him!

Dan Yobp will be doing a Zoom presentation on design in July, date to be announced.

Fundamentals in Creating a Bonsai:

When there is a Bonsai Field Growing Education Program at the Grealish homestead, experienced members will always be available to offer one-on-one direction and guidance in helping a new member create a bonsai.

The newer member is responsible for supplying a specimen for which they are seeking assistance. If you have tools and wire, bring them along.

Bonsai Field Growing Education Program:

The first Bonsai Field Growing Education Program took place on Saturday April 2nd.

Dave Metzger will keep us informed through emails about the next educational opportunity which will involve post-flush harden pruning and bending and setting structure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting and Demonstration Ideas:

If you have a topic or subject that you would like to see PBS present in coming months, please contact Mike Stern for consideration of your idea. This means NEW members, too! PBS wants to help you grow in your knowledge and skills as your bonsai grow.

Meetings and Workshops:

Most of the repotting should have been accomplished by the time you are reading this newsletter and we will be working on fertilizing, pruning, wiring, styling, and pinching.

Bonsai Field Growing Education Program at Grealish's:

The Bonsai Society grows trees in the field to provide reasonably priced, quality pre-bonsai for our workshops. The Growing Field Director, Dave Metzger, will be scheduling dates throughout the year for members to come together and have hands-on experience with these trees. The timing and technique of setting structure, pruning, wiring, bending, and trimming of these trees is based on the same schedule as your own bonsai. Since many members do not have lots of trees on which to practice, the field provides the opportunity to see how and when specific techniques are applied on multiple trees and different species. To improve one's knowledge and technique, repeated experience is the best teacher.

Bonsai Mirai:

This subscription online platform allows you to observe, ask questions, and experience bonsai education remotely. It maintains a library of hundreds of videos that you can access on addressing everything bonsai from seasonal techniques and aesthetic considerations to horticultural knowledge. Go to: bonsaimirai.com

Eisei-En Nursery, Nashville, Tennessee Bjorn Bjorholm:

Intensive learning opportunities. Go to: <http://www.bjornbjorholm.com> Eisei-En Nursery, Nashville

Brooklyn Botanical Garden:

CV STARR Bonsai Museum
30 Trees on Display Year-Round

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum:

Washington, DC. 10 am to 4 pm



**Compiled by:
Michael Stern**

Newsletter Information:

It's easy to make an announcement or contribute to the PBS Newsletter. If it is text only, email Mike Stern at: mstern55@outlook.com. If it is a sketch or photo, email Cindie Bonomi at: cindiebonomi@gmail.com.

Submissions for the June Newsletter are due no later than May 25th, 2022

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society 2022 Events

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Board is excited and proud to have put together a year-long program that provides seasonally based experiences, education, and topics for new members as well as experienced members. This is the first time that we will be integrating with our monthly meetings remote learning via Zoom, the bonsai growing field, and Garden Tours. We will be offering comprehensive learning experiences and opportunities for all members.

We did our best to schedule when specific

techniques will be seasonally appropriate to teach and demonstrate; however, these will be subject to change based on weather conditions and the developmental phase of the available trees. Applying techniques at the appropriate time are critical to creating healthy and quality trees.

The proposed schedule for experiences and demonstrations at each meeting are subject to change. We will announce those changes prior to each monthly meeting. We will announce Zoom Q&A meetings as well.

Our Meetings Are On The Third THURSDAY Of Every Month

Month	New Members Program First 15 minutes post business meeting	Meeting Program 7:00 pm	Field Growing Bonsai Program Dates to be announced.
May	Building ramification. Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 19th. Air layering. Larry Lamonde Pinching pines and elongating species. Bob Grealish Bring in your raw/unstyled material or nursery stock	Pruning and branch bending to create movement. Strategic trimming to avoid reverse taper problems. Air layering field tree. Pinching pines. Garden Tour #1 - Mike Stern
June	Pest recognition and management. Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 23rd. Partial defoliation. Shoot pruning. Short needle single flush pines. Terry Monroe Merit-Based Group Critique Spring Show June 11th-12th	Post-flush harden pruning of deciduous and conifers. Partial defoliation. Garden Tour #2 - Bob Dietz
July	Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 21st. Members bring in tree for Merit-Based Group Critique #1. 10 trees. Auction July 23rd.	Post-flush harden pruning. Big cuts on trees. Garden Tour #3 - Dave Metzgar
August	What are trees doing in August? Increasing vascular growth. Zoom Q&A.	No meeting. Picnic August 7th.	Bending branches to create movement. Re-wounding scars to increase healing. Garden Tour #4 - Louise Means
September	What to look for when searching for nursery material. Fall fertilization. Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 15th. Wiring conifers such as spruce or juniper. Merit-Based Group Critique	Bending branches to create movement. Garden Tour #5 - Cindie Bonomi

October	Tool maintenance Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 20th. Leaf-drop pruning on deciduous and fall wiring. Mike Stern Merit-Based Group Critique Pro Workshop (fee based and bring your own tree) October 15th-16th. Mike Lebanik.	Leaf-drop pruning and fall wiring on field trees.
November	Winter storage and care review. Zoom Q&A.	Meeting Thursday 17th. Merit-Based Group Critique #2.	
December		Meeting Thursday 15th. Holiday celebration and winter silhouettes.	

Meetings will be held in the Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15217. All meetings will begin at 7:00 pm and will reoccur every third Thursday of the month - unless otherwise specified. The church has an off-street parking lot available for our use and is one mile from our former meeting site at the Phipps Garden Center.

The Spring Show is Back!!!

Our annual spring show is back on and in person! The 2022 Spring Show will be held at a new venue for us, a storefront in the Monroeville Mall on June 11th and 12th, with set up on Friday the 10th.

Our show will coincide with a fun event the mall holds every year, the "Living Dead Weekend," a zombie celebration honoring the filming of "Dawn of the Dead." We are planning a small zombie-themed display in the show area coordinated by Cindie Bonomi. We hope you'll participate, possibly with a dead tree, or a zombie-themed Bonsai.

Start getting your best finished bonsai ready for display.

As always, the show only runs smoothly with plenty of volunteers. Show coordinators Gilda Arroyo and Dave Metzgar will be passing around sign-up sheets at the next meeting for members to help with the following: show set up and tear down, assisting with the consignment area, hosting the "Ask an Expert" table, hosting the welcoming table, and leading a Procumbens Nana Juniper styling demonstration.

Once again we will have our consignment area where members can sell finished bonsai and pre-bonsai. PBS gets a 15% commission. All consignment material should be in clean condition. Nursery pots with dirt on the outside of the pot will not be accepted, nor will trees that are weak or unhealthy.

More info will be given at the next meeting, so get your living trees ready, dig out some of your dead ones and come ready to volunteer.