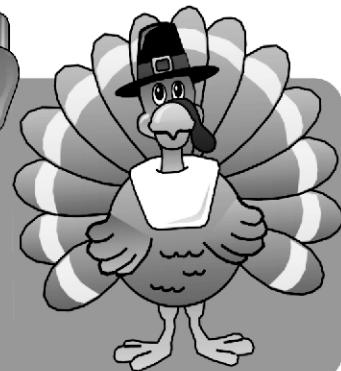
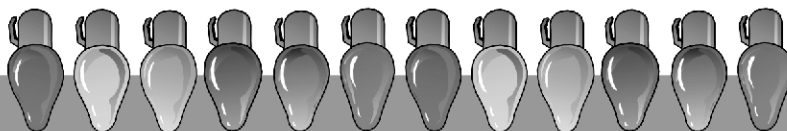
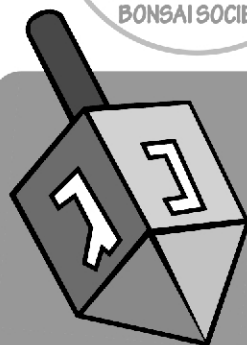




Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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



Nov.-Dec. 2009 Newsletter

Scott F. Creary MS

NEXT MEETING

“Controlling Pests and Diseases”

Paranoid about pests? Scott Creary, Director of Integrated Pest Management at Phipps, will present his views on modern bug control for bonsai. Scott was a Master Gardener at the tender age of 16, and he went on to collect a Bachelor of Sciences degree in horticulture at Cornell, a Master's degree in entomology from the University of Maryland. Learn “how-tos” to avoid invasions of these crafty little critters.



Wednesday November 18th • 7:00pm • Phipps Garden Center

Wednesday December 2nd

BONSAI HOLIDAY DINNER!

Reservation Details In This Issue!!!

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



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

Editor
Cindie Bonomi

Copy Editor
Jay Miller

Graphic Design
Cindie Bonomi

Contributors
Bob Grealish
Mike Stern
Jay Miller
Dave Steidl

Photography
Cindie Bonomi
Dave Steidl
Doreena Balestreire
Mike Stern

Publishing & Circulation
Jay Miller
Meg Vates-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:

Ah, Fall. Did you notice how some trees lost all their leaves in one day? It's been a strange year, but the trees seem to have liked it. It's about time to put our bonsai away for the winter. I put mine in a structure to keep the wind and direct sun off of them. That way, when it starts getting sunny and warm, they won't wilt. The pots can freeze, and even though the trees can't get water from the roots, they won't lose water either. Some trees, however, can stay out. I put all of my Scots pines and Ponderosa pines on the ground outside, and they do fine. I had trouble the first year I used my barn, because some of the trees dried out. I lost a lot of good trees, particularly black pines and trident maples. Now that I extended my enclosure over wet ground and mulch-no more problem.

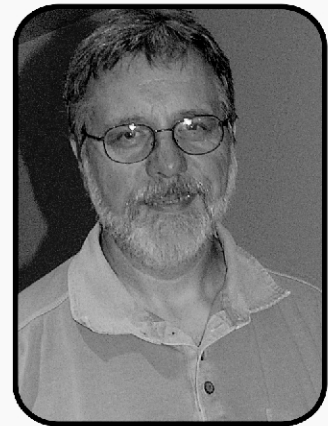
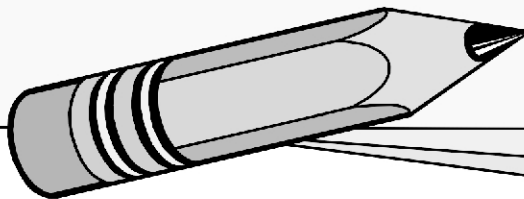


Photo By Doreena Balestreire

Our program this month is about recognizing and controlling pests and diseases. Our speaker is Scott Creary, Director of Integrated Pest Management at Phipps Conservatory. Scott's training emphasized outdoor pest management, and he works with the bonsai as well as all of the indoor plants at Phipps. I'm looking forward to a very educational program. Hope to see you all there!

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



Mike's Corner

Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern



Last month I wrote an article about how Bob Grealish dressed a wound on a pine tree using pine bark and glue. The scar had been created by removing a rather large low branch from the tree. After we securely wrapped the wound to ensure the pieces of bark would not loosen, I set another quarter century Scots pine on the turntable for advice.

I had wired the entire tree, again anticipating a few minutes of discussion and setting the end of branches in an attractive manner. As Bob looked at the tree, he discussed how the back of the tree actually made a better front. There was a large scar, on that side of the trunk that had been healing for a number of years, which he suggested was not as unattractive as I had thought. Also by changing the front and slightly modifying branch positions it made the existing dead wood appear as though it had ultimately been shaded out by higher branches.

As Bob studied the tree, he looked down at the branch that had recently been removed from the previous pine and discarded on the ground. Bob suggested that we utilize that branch as deadwood for this pine and place it over the scar that I had initially found unattractive. He handed me the branch with a die grinder to work on removing the bark and creating an attractive piece of deadwood. After working on it for a little while, Bob looked at it and added some final touches with the die grinder to create a more weathered look. He then

Pine Wound Dressing 9-09 Part II

took a sander to smooth the end of the deadwood so that it would fit flush with the scar on the tree. After sanding and placing it in the scar a number of times it finally fit comfortably. He then took a drill and drilled a hole in the scar and one in the deadwood. A small dowel was used to secure the branch to the scar so that the branch would look as though it had always been there. Everything was glued and wire was used to secure the branch so that it could set for 24 hours. I carefully placed it back in the truck being careful not to bump it. In 24 hours an old tree became a new piece of art.

The dead branch created left side interest in the tree that would not have been there without it. Bob cautioned that any further work on that branch would require a delicate touch since it was being held on by glue.

You can see in the pictures the original tree and a close-up of the "healed" wound. You can also see the second tree with the deadwood forming the first left side interest.

Healed Wound

Finished Tree With Deadwood

Original Tree



Photography by Mike Stern



Haiku Corner

On a withered bough
A crow alone is perching,
Autumn evening now
-Basho

Pines, Pines, Pines, Part II

By Jay Miller



Photography by Cindie Bonomi

Two capabilities are available to any bonsai enthusiast regardless of skill level: patience and observation. Both can be enhanced, according to Julian, by increasing your knowledge of each species in your collection. We have species care sheets developed by Keith Scott in old PBS newsletters on our website; others can be found on the American Bonsai Society website (www.absbonsai.org).

There is a wide variety of climatic conditions in our own tri-state area which affects the timing of specific training techniques during the growing cycle. Julian presented his chart of growth cycle "markers" for pines; let's review the markers for the Scots pine (*pinus sylvestris*):

1. Dormant/January/
2. White tips appear on roots
3. Buds begin to swell
4. Buds begin to elongate and are then called candles
5. New needles begin to emerge from candle scales
6. New needles begin to harden off (mature and cease growth)
7. New green buds appear at candle growing tips
8. New buds turn brown in color
9. Adventitious buds appear
10. Needles from previous year(s) turn brown and drop
11. Dormant

In November and December (Late Autumn and Early Winter) in our Zone 5 climate, according to Julian's chart, you can still prune your pines, wire, remove unwanted buds, and your last fertilizer should have been a 0-30-30.

You can learn more about "Pines are Easy", by ordering the CD version of this presentation from Julian.



Photo by Cindie Bonomi

Adams' Bonsai

Julian R. Adams
1721 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, VA 24503
Phone: 434-384-7951
www.adamsbonsai.com

Decidely Deciduous!!!

Keith Scott made an informative and timely presentation on deciduous trees for our October meeting.

Deciduous comes from the Latin "deiciduus" to fall down or fall off. We learned that all plants are [technically] deciduous. They will all eventually drop their leaves or needles, just not all at once every year.

Plants that we consider "evergreen" actually drop leaves that are two or more seasons old. Many conifers are a good example of this. This contrast between evergreen (having some green leaves year round) and deciduous (dropping all leaves each year) is often used as a way to categorize our collections. Keith brought several examples of trees that don't fit the conifer vs. deciduous stereotype including the ginkgo and larch. These are considered deciduous conifers.

One of the challenges for the bonsai artist is to keep the leaf size small on deciduous trees. Keith described several techniques for reducing the leaf size on maples in particular. One simple idea was "take off the biggest ones and leave the small ones," maybe a quick trim before a show. Or when photographing a tree, do it in the spring while the leaves are still small. He said show your trees when the main feature of that tree is at its best. Timing is critical with deciduous trees.

A more aggressive technique for reducing leaf size is leaf pruning. Keith cautioned not to use this on a regular basis. The tree should be given a minimum three year reprieve after using this technique. Cut off the largest leaves then two weeks later defoliate one side of the tree by cutting the leaves at the top of the petiole (where it meets the leaf) or the base of the petiole 1/16" to 1/8" from the bud. Face the defoliated side toward the sun. The remaining leaves can be removed when the new ones begin to form on the side facing the sun. Keith stressed not to defoliate the entire tree at once, as some books might suggest.

Another suggestion to achieve smaller leaves was to realize that larger leaves are usually the result of too much shade. Plants grow smaller leaves when they get the most sun. Keith also debunked the myth that fertilizer will increase the size of leaves. It will increase the number of leaves, and improve their fall color but not change the size. Other subjects that were covered included pruning techniques, fruit-bearing trees, and several wintering-over ideas.



Photo By Dave Steidl

Photos on page 6

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society's

HOLIDAY DINNER!

The Holiday Dinner will be held at the Phipps Garden Center on Wed. December 2 at 6:30 pm. The event will be catered so everyone can enjoy the evening with no work. The menu will consist of chicken Parmesan, delmonico steak with bourbon mushrooms and tuna filets with basil and lemon butter. You can sample all of them buffet style, along with a tossed salad, roasted red skinned potatoes, a vegetable medley, rolls and butter. A cake and cookies will be served to satisfy the sweet tooth.

Send reservations with a check for \$12.00 per person.

We will also have the traditional White Elephant Exchange where you bring an item from your home that you no longer wish to see around the house. Wrap or disguise it so some lucky person will be surprised when they pick it.

Please send your reservation in by November 30, make checks payable and mail to:

Cindie Bonomi
335 Newburn Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Phone: (412) 561-2057



Reservation Form
Is Located On Page 6



Decidely Deciduous!!! Photos



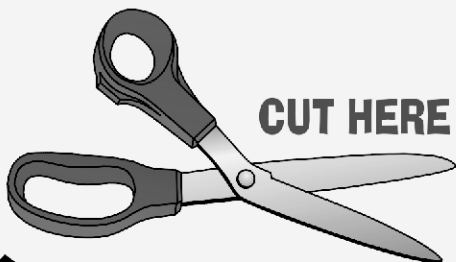
Photography By Doreena Balestreire and Cindie Bonomi

BONSAI HOLIDAY DINNER!

Reservation Form

\$12 Per Person

Name Number Attending



TOTAL

\$

2009/2010 Calendar of Events

Dec 2 Wed.....6:30pm Annual Holiday Party
Jan/Feb 2010 No Meetings Scheduled
March 2010 TBA
April 2010 TBA

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

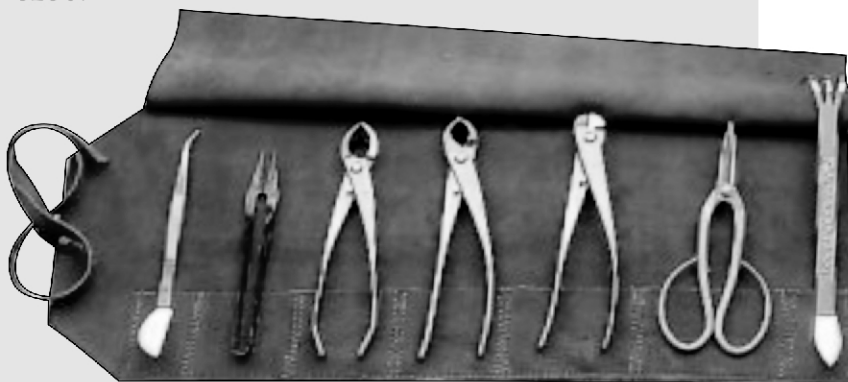
All Members Please Remember

We need to make sure that all members re-confirm their E-Mail addresses with Meg Vates-Arnoudi. Please let Meg know whether you would like your Newsletter E-Mailed to you, or if you prefer to have a paper copy sent to your home address.

All Newsletters will be MAILED out to your home address unless you call or E-Mail Meg to confirm. E-Mail Meg: meg_bonsai@hotmail.com or call: 412-477-7231.

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Party:

You'll notice that your reservation for the Holiday Party is included in this issue. Be sure to get your reservation in early!

2nd U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition:

Bill Valavanis has announced the date and venue for this very special event: June 12-13, 2010 in Rochester, New York. The preceding Exhibition garnered praise from all who attended. Rochester is about a 5-hour drive from Pittsburgh.

April 16-18, 2010 Kerhonkson, New York 2010 Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Symposium:

Will be held at the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson, NY Featuring International bonsai artists Michele Andolfo (*Italy*), Charles Ceronio (*South Africa*), and Michel Phaneuf (*Canada*) who will be performing lectures, demonstrations and workshops. Bonsai vendors offering a large selection of bonsai related items. For more information contact Brian O'Byrne by phone: (973) 379-3386

June 25-27, 2010 Grand Rapids, Michigan 2010 Mid-America Bonsai Alliance Convention:

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids MI. Featured artists include Kathy Shaner and more. For more information contact Mollie Hollar by phone: (616) 754-2351

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

March Issue Deadline:

There are usually no meetings in January or February. Submissions for the March 2010 Newsletter are due no later than January 15, 2010.

Compiled by Jay Miller



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

