



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

2022
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

Terry Monroe will be discussing winter storage and care of bonsai. Ed Baginski will be addressing how to deal with broken pots and ceramic repair. He will be demonstrating techniques to fix pots in a manner that is well-disguised. Members are encouraged to bring in trees for merit-based critiques and advice regarding styling.



~Photo by Cindie Bonomi



~Photo by Cindie Bonomi

DECEMBER

PBS Celebration Dinner

The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society would like all members to come to the December meeting/celebration dinner on December 15th at 7:00 pm to enjoy one another's company. This dinner will be catered by Atria's as we have done in the past only there will be no charge.

We want to thank the many people who have volunteered their time. We have had a very successful and productive year that could not have happened without everyone's hard work.

We do need an accurate head count by December 5th so please sign up by contacting Cindie Bonomi at: cindiebonomi@gmail.com, or call Cindie's cell: 412 689-5586

The menu this year will consist of 3 different entrees. Artisan vegan jackfruit enchiladas for the vegan, maple bourbon glazed pot roast and Chicken Marsala. Water, coffee and soft drinks will also be provided by the society; however if you want any alcohol, it's BYOB. We will also have cake and cookies for dessert.



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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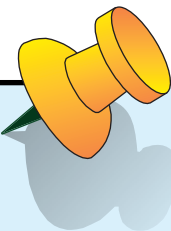
Treasurer:
Ed Baginski

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.

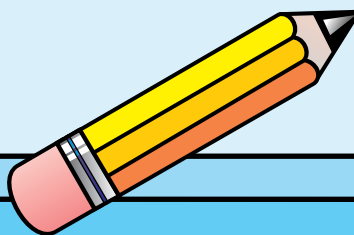
A Note From Mike:



~Photo by Mike Stern

We have experienced a wonderful fall color display with our landscape and forest trees this year as well as with many of our bonsai trees. Several members have posted their trees on the Facebook Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Group web page. I've also heard discussions among members of the Bonsai Society about the inconsistencies in trees' fall color from year to year. No one seems to have come up with a definitive explanation for the difference. There has been some speculation that full sun in the late summer and early fall may improve color with Japanese maples.

Mike Stern
mstern55@outlook.com



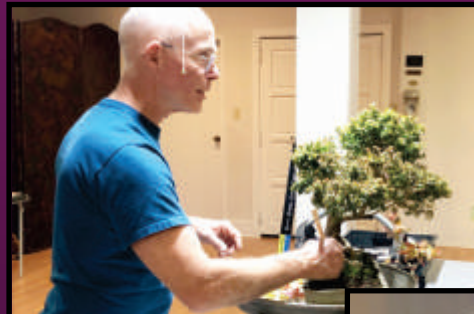
October Meeting Photos

Terry Monroe provided a wonderful presentation on tool care and maintenance. He advised that simple and routine cleaning and sharpening of tools is a way to maintain their longevity. He demonstrated the use of a cleaning stone or a solvent to remove sap on tools. He also demonstrated the use of a sharpening tool. He emphasized using the appropriate tool for the job at hand. He advised using a saw on larger branches rather than concave cutters. A saw provides a cleaner cut than scissors or cutters. Moreover, using concave cutters or scissors on a branch that is too large can bend the tool and ruin it.

Mike Stern performed a demonstration on refreshing surface soil. Over the course of time, water does not easily percolate through the surface soil. This could result from the tree becoming root bound over the years. If this is the case, the tree will need to be repotted in the spring. However, poor

percolation can also result from passive decomposition of the surface soil and the accumulation of organic material from fertilization. Mike Stern demonstrated how to take a chopstick and gently clean out the surface soil that is decomposed to get to intact aggregate soil. He then refreshed the soil with the new aggregate of the same size and components that was used in the previous repot. If you use different aggregates or component sizes, it leads to less than optimal water percolation. Doing this can reduce the Frequency with which you repot.

He also wired a 2-year-old seedling. He emphasized the importance of wiring trees when they're young and flexible to create movement that would not be able to be achieved a year or 2 later.



~Photography by Cindie Bonomi



~Photography by Cindie Bonomi

Field/Workshop Tree Sale and Auction

The October auction went well. Approximately 30 Elms and Trident Maples were auctioned off. Only 2 Slippery Elms remained. The trees will be available to be dug in the spring by the members who purchased them. Approximately 15 members participated in the auction. Gilda Aroyo graciously provided a tent to protect the members from the rain.



~Photography by Cindie Bonomi and Ian Evans



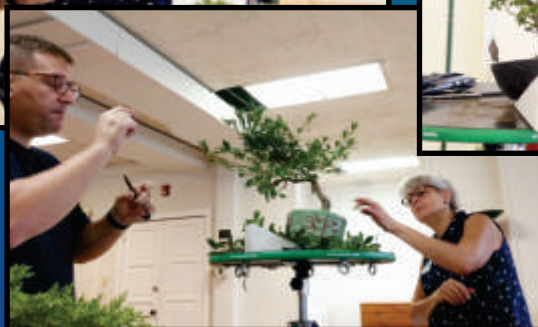
~Photography by Cindie Bonomi and Ian Evans

Mike Lebanik Workshop

Mike Lebanik led a workshop on Saturday and provided a Sunday demonstration on an Azalea as well as a Dwarf Colorado Blue Spruce. The members who participated were very happy with the styled trees that resulted from the workshop. Members were inspired by the trees that Mike styled during the demonstration. Mike was knowledgeable, skilled, and provided invaluable horticultural information during his demonstration.



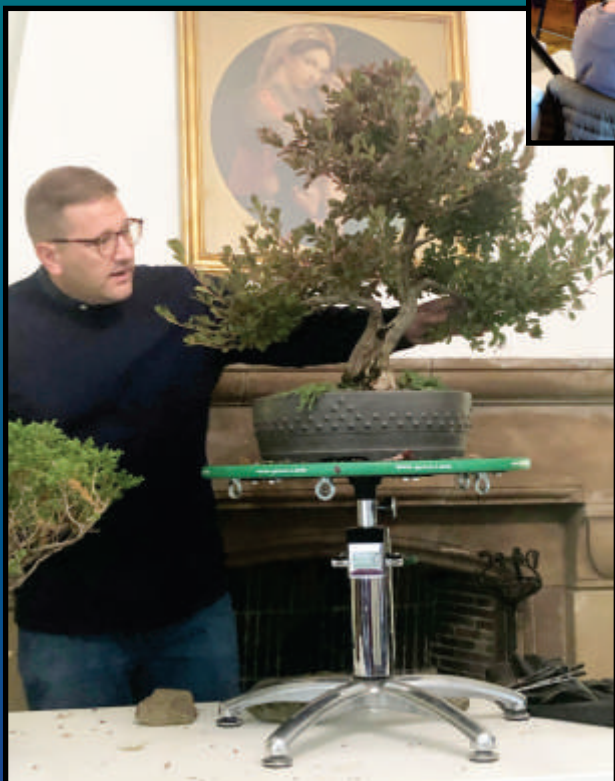
*~Photography by Cindie Bonomi,
Pranag K. Nag and Louise Means*



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

Mike Lebanik Demo

It just so happened to be Mike's Birthday.
Can't have a Birthday without a cake!



~Photography by Cindie Bonomi and Louise Means



~Photography by Cindie Bonomi and Louise Means

NOVEMBER



~ By Michael Stern

Many deciduous trees will have dropped their leaves by now. Depending on how cold it has been, Pines and junipers may have taken on winter color, which means there is less chlorophyll in the needles and scale. Pine needles may have a yellow cast, and junipers appear more bronze. Unless you have a greenhouse, this is not a time to be repotting, trimming, or wiring. The metabolism of the tree is slow, and the tree lacks the ability to compartmentalize wounds.

fronts. After viewing the photos you can decide which photos provide the best base, line, and features so you are ready to style in the spring.

~Photo by Mike Stern

Dormant sprays can be utilized when leaves have dropped. Read the directions for the temperatures at which dormant sprays can be utilized. Typically, temperatures must be

above 40 degrees for the oil or sulfur to stay in suspension. (Read the instructions.) On Pines and junipers you are looking for winter color, which usually is associated with deciduous trees having dropped

their leaves. Horticultural oils and lime sulfur are products that are utilized as dormant sprays. Evergreens with thin cuticles such as junipers and spruce as well as

some alpine species may be susceptible to damage from oils. However, make sure to read all directions when using dormant sprays. Dormant sprays can also be utilized near the end of winter as temperatures are warming but the trees remain dormant.

This is a time to enjoy deciduous trees that have significant ramification. Some native Elms have leaves that are a little large for the size of the tree. However, once leaves have dropped and there is nothing but the silhouette, the tree can be quite impressive and create a more realistic miniaturized version of the native tree in winter.



Taking pictures of your trees at this time of the year gives you time to study them during the winter. Consider taking pictures of your trees from different angles and possible

New Member: Ernest McCobb



ELECTIONS

Because The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society is a nonprofit charitable organization no member, including an officer, can receive financial or material benefits. We rely on members to voluntarily devote their time and energy to perform the activities that members and the public enjoy. Those major activities include the show, picnic, auction, and educational meetings.

Please consider volunteering your time and energy to be an officer to ensure the Society continues its mission of being a resource for promoting art of bonsai.

Elections will be held at this November meeting. Any Member can be nominated for any position. If you are interested in serving, please contact one of the officers. Be assured that the current officers and or past officer will be available to guide you should you volunteer and be elected to hold a position. Ed Baginski will be stepping down as the Treasurer having served for four years. Ed has offered to help the new treasurer with the activities they will perform.

Fundamentals in Creating a Bonsai

We now have four educational videos on our Pittsburgh Bonsai Society YouTube page. Links are on our website.

Carpinifolia Repot 2022

Aftercare For Collected Bonsai Material

Bonsai As Energy Management

Watering: The First Thing Taught, And The Last Technique Mastered

This new video we just added discusses the complex aspects of watering your bonsai and the factors to consider to maintain a healthy balance of oxygen and moisture in the roots.

The PBS Turntable Raffle

The Society is conducting a members-only raffle for the turntable we own. It is a Green T full size turntable. It measures 24" tall when fully ex-tended. The platform is 23" wide.

It was purchased for \$445.00 and has been lightly used. Tickets are \$10.00 each. There is no limit on the number of tickets anyone can purchase.



~Photo by Ed Baginski

The raffle tickets can be purchased by sending money to Ed Baginski or getting them at the November and December meetings.

The drawing will be made at the December meeting. Winner need not be present to win.

Ed Baginski
272 Apple Hill Drive
Delmont, Pa 15626



Haiku Corner

Autumn moonlight-
a worm digs silently
into the chestnut.

-Basho

Looking Forward to March

We are planning two member-led workshops in 2023 on March 18 and March 25.

The March 18 workshop will be on repotting trees. Members will be able to bring in a tree and get assistance with repotting. March 25 will be a workshop on wiring and styling trees. These workshops were scheduled to coincide with the typical times that members are repotting and styling trees.

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

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

BeBop Bonsai, LLC

Tree Boarding
Repotting
Transformation
Trees
Fertilizer
Pots



Call Or Text Ian Evans:
412 812-8506

<https://www.bebopbonsai.com>

Mark Mohler Pottery



"Hand Made Clay Bonsai Pots Made
Right Here In Pittsburgh"

Call or text Mark: 206 250-0177

Order your PBS items now:
<https://www.teepublic.com/user/pghbonsaisociety>



**Mugs
T-Shirts
Hoodies
Pillows
Totes
Posters
Pins
Magnets
Kids Clothes
Phone Cases**

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 only be a modest \$10.00

*-Photos by
Cindie Bonomi*



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

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 anytime 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 15 of this newsletter.

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



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.

MEET OUR NEW FIELD COORDINATOR HOWIE



~Photo by Howie Powell

Howie Powell (hppowell78@hotmail.com) has been selected by the officers as the new Field Coordinator. Howie is a new member who is very enthusiastic about being part of the Society and wants to be involved with the growing field. He and a few other members have indicated that they will be at the field on a regular basis. He will keep members informed of activities that will be going on at the field and coordinating and scheduling learning activities. He will work with Mike Stern on learning the horticultural schedule of activities that occur with field-growing trees. He will prepare a budget and plan when trees are planted as well as being removed. He will prepare a

budget and plan for materials that would be needed for the field such as mulch for healing in trees. He will provide a schedule for working on the field trees at appropriate times of the year.

Howie is planting seeds this winter and spring to be utilized as field-grown material in the future. He is interested in encouraging members to do the same. He is asking members to donate pre-bonsai material that could be planted in the field this spring. If you have seeds or would like to participate in growing seeds, cuttings, air layers, or providing pre-bonsai material to the growing field, contact Howie. E-mail Howie at: hppowell78@hotmail.com.

SOME EXCITING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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.

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. We 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 December Newsletter are due no later than November 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 is critical to creating healthy and quality trees.

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

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.

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.
November	Winter storage and care review.	Meeting Thursday 17th. Members group tree critique #2.	
December		Meeting Thursday 15th. Member appreciation celebration and winter silhouettes.	