



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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



September 2013 Newsletter

Boxwood 101

THIS MONTH

With Armand Latour



Armand's presentation will cover this remarkable plant's features, explaining why it is so popular for bonsai. Members with finished boxwood should bring them to the meeting.

Wed. • Sept. • 18, 2013, • 7:00pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

NEXT MONTH

Boxwood Workshop!



Put September's techniques to work on your own Boxwood. Trees available at modest materials cost. Don't forget to bring your own tools! (A limited number of Society tools will be available.)

Wednesday • October 16, 2013 • 7pm • Phipps Garden Center • Shadyside

Please check our evolving website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>
Also visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PittsburghBonsai



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

Editor:
Cindie Bonomi

Copy Editor:
Jay Miller

Graphic Design:
Cindie Bonomi

Contributors:
Dave Metzgar
Jay Miller
Dave Steidl
Mike Stern
Karen Means

Photography:
Cindie Bonomi

Publishing & Circulation:
Jay Miller

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 two months prior to issue date.

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



A Note From Dave:



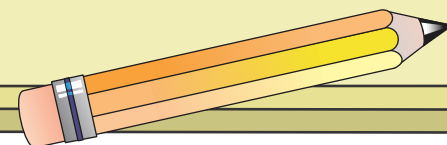
Long Term Planning For The Future.....



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

With the goal of trying to produce better bonsai, several PBS members have talked about a long term approach by starting from seed. Or at least, very young material. Good bonsai material is hard to come by sometimes, and the best way to control the outcome is to have a hand in it from the start. That means selecting the right material, planting it the right way, and maintaining it as it grows. By root pruning and selecting which branches to grow, you can guide the material from the start. It would be a project that takes several years, but the knowledge gained from the process would be invaluable. Look for a future workshop with this in mind, and if you stick around long enough, you can watch a small masterpiece grow with your guidance.

Please bring to the meetings any of the workshop trees we have done in the recent past. They should be trained from the start too. The larches and elms need seasonal care, so don't just let them grow wild. You can buy a finished bonsai and just maintain it, but you'll learn a lot by training your tree yourself.



Dave Metzgar



Graphic Design Geeks

You Have Just Found The Cure For Bad Advertising

- Logo Design
- Magazine Ads
- Full Color Brochures
- Illustrations
- Product Illustration
- Displays For Trade Shows

Website: <http://www.graphicdesigngeeks.com>

E-Mail: cindie@graphicdesigngeeks.com

Or: cindiebonomi@yahoo.com

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

Dan Yobp, Immersion In The Art Of Bonsai; Three Years In Japan!

~Article By Dave Steidl

The July meeting of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society was a memorable meeting for several reasons. A power outage dictated a move to a beautiful presentation room at Phipps Conservatory. We celebrated the 56th anniversary of our organization including cake! And we welcomed back Society member Daniel Yobp, who recently completed a 3-year educational journey in Japan. His presentation offered a unique and candid look into his life and the life of people making a living doing bonsai in Japan.

Daniel was raised in an artistic family and was attracted to the art of bonsai in 2005 after seeing images of the trees in Bonsai magazine. After joining the Society, he traveled to Japan to teach English to young children and to explore. His first encounter with bonsai in Japan was with local vendors. In public parks, they would set up tables and work on their trees all day, hoping to sell some of their creations to passers-by. Dan also pursued apprenticeships in larger bonsai nurseries in order to increase his exposure to the art form as well as the "business" of bonsai. Often, Dan would improve the styling of a less-than-desirable tree, creating value for the nursery owner. Noting that limitations in material are often a reason for creativity, he said, "When your choices are infinite, it's not as creative." The nursery owner liked his work and Dan gained experience, a win-win situation.

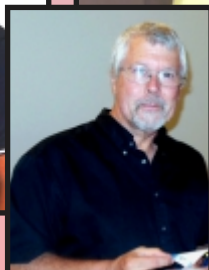
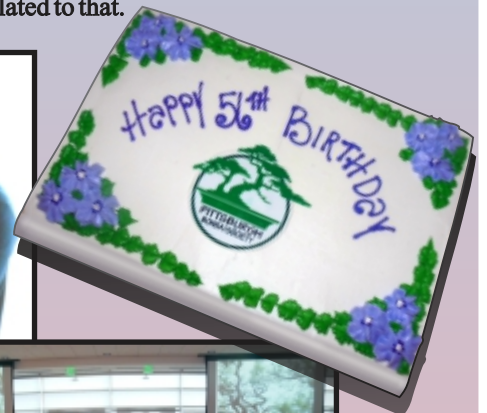
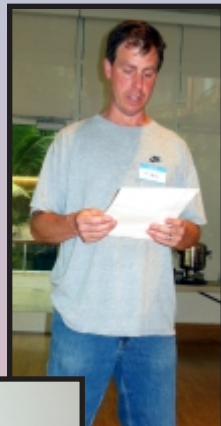
Dan reported that a \$300 tree here in the United States might sell for as little as \$50 in Japan. He also explained that the process for exporting bonsai from Japan has become quite restrictive, regulated and expensive, not to mention the risk of killing the tree due to the process of making it free of bugs and pathogens.

Accompanied by many beautiful visuals, Dan's talk demonstrated the Japanese aesthetic, rules, contrasts, simplicity and the implications of the content in a composition. Wind can be implied from the direction of branching. He also mentioned that a well-balanced composition supercedes a naturalistic form, showing as an example an azalea looking very much like a tall fir tree.

Dan gave us a unique insight into his journey in Japan. But he also looked forward and said that his ideal retirement would be to have a place to create bonsai. I related to that.



photo by Dave Steidl



~Photos By Cindie Bonomi

The Great Bonsai Auction



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

It had rained earlier in the morning but by the time of the auction, the sun was shining and it was in the high 70s. Upon entering the Garden Center around noon, members had arrived and were scurrying around filling out forms and tags to document the trees and items for auction. I was impressed with preprinted forms with numbers for each item which were provided to ensure that the auction was organized and run efficiently. Each item had a tag with the item number, the seller, and the description of the item as well as the asking price. A list was also generated with similar information and the seller was allowed to list a reserve price. If the bid did not meet the reserve, the seller had the option of selling at the bidding price or removing the item from the auction. That occurred only on one occasion. The members who came to purchase the items looked over the veritable smorgasbord of bonsai items and trees available. They were planning their strategies and looking in their wallets. Many of the members were busy helping carrying in items, organizing, and helping members fill out necessary information so that the auction could run smoothly.

Shortly after noon the auction began with approximately 100 items and trees. Dave had forgotten to bring a wooden hammer but resourceful as ever used a metal wrench to officially start the auction and end each bid. I would estimate that there were approximately 50 individuals who participated in the auction. Many sold items, many purchased items, some did both and some did neither. Dave Metzgar introduced the auction with starter bonsai material, dawn redwood. After that items included Don Gould handmade pots, mud men, wooden bonsai stands, painted plates, pots, finished trees, and trees that needed mild trimming and neglected trees that offered members wonderful creative opportunities.

Bargains were everywhere. In the early 80s, I can remember paying more for starter material than many of the items sold at the auction. New and seasoned members of the club were treated to bargain basement prices.

~Article By Mike Stern



Dave Metzgar did a wonderful job keeping the auction running quickly and efficiently and sprinkling in humor that occasionally needed "buttressed" by some of the fellow members. Bob Dietz and Carol Martin occasionally had to slow Dave and me down to ensure that the sold items were carefully documented to ensure knowing the purchaser and the bid price. There were only a few glitches along the way however, they were quickly resolved. Bids ranged from as low as one dollar to over \$200.

Mark Berbach and Tommy Kohlmyer assisted with bringing trees and items to the auction table in an efficient manner and making sure that they were placed in a holding area following the final distribution. In between efficiently moving the trees, when an item tickled their fancy they would bid. I assisted with showing the items as well, occasionally adding some descriptive information regarding the item or tree being sold.

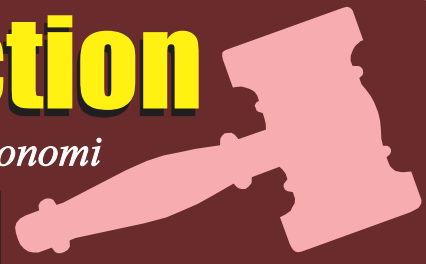
Members had the opportunity to purchase numerous items to enhance their own collections at a fraction of what these items would cost elsewhere. Other members benefitted from being able to sell items and thin their collection so that they could add and purchase new items in the future. Each member received 85% of the sale price and the club benefitted with receiving 15%. Those monies go to support the club and its activities now in the future.

I had to leave the auction around 4 o'clock. I bid my ado at 4 o'clock when there were approximately 20 more trees and items up for bid. It was the only bid that was successful for me during the auction.

A special thanks to those who put the auction together. I had the benefit of walking in and merely helping with the auction. We should thank all the officers and members who routinely work behind the scenes in planning and preparing for the events such as the auction. It is individuals like them who have insured the society has grown and matured for over half a century.

Photos on Page 5

The Great Bonsai Auction



~Photos By Cindie Bonomi



Upon Entering the Garden Center Each Of Us Immediately Helped One Another Tag Items Secretly Deciding Which Things We Each Were Interested In Bidding On



Items Ranged from Hat Boxes To Trees To Pots And Sculptures



Everyone Sat Down And Was Excited About The Auction



Using His Wrench As A Gavel, Dave Let Us Know When The Last Bid Was In And Who Won The Item

Carol, Bob, Mike And Dave Did Their Best To Keep Things Running Smoothly As Mark And Tommy Continued To Bring Items To Them With Some Semblance Of Order



At The Very End Of The Auction Everyone Lined Up To Pay For Their Booty In An Organized Fashion



And This Year We Were So Organized Absolutely Nothing Was Left Behind



The Annual PBS Picnic and Flea Market at The Grealish Farm

~Article By Karen Means

The PBS annual picnic at Bob and Rose Grealish's farm was another enjoyable day for all of us who went. Sunshine and perfect temperature provided a perfect setting for the gathering. Happily there were many new members enjoying the day and it was fun to watch the wonder and amazement on their faces as they meandered between the rows of beautiful trees.

An Oriental orange "spirit gate" graces the entrance to the display and welcomes one into Bob's collection. No corn or wheat in sight on this farm, only Bonsai. One can wander for hours taking in the sights of this magnificent collection. Works of art: they range from 4 inches to specimens taller than me. There are tiny forests of Kingswood boxwood and tall groupings of juniper, and ginkgos and pines. There are hornbeams, and Ficus, cypress and redwoods, even a larch or two.

Each year I enjoy finding new additions to the group. This year there were several pots made by Don Gould for sale.

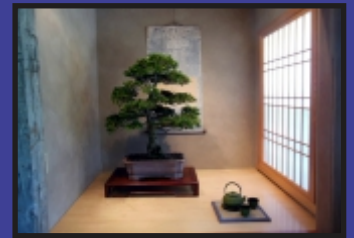
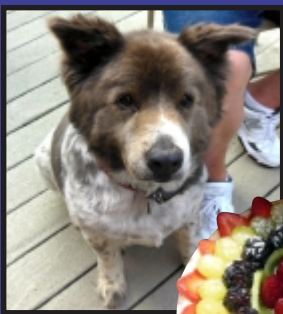
Inside, Rose's food was varied; melt-in-the-mouth beef to chick pea and wild rice salad, fried chicken, stuffed shells, and zucchini fritters were among the many delectable dishes. A large dessert-laden table was nearby, beckoning.



~photo by Cindie Bonomi

Once again, the Grealishes were host and hostess extra ordinaire. It was a perfect setting for those of us fortunate to have attended.

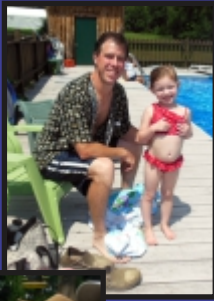
Thanks to all those fellow Bonsai enthusiasts who came and shared our special picnic day!



Haiku Corner
 An autumn evening;
 Without a cry
 A crow passes.
 ~Kishu

~Photography By Cindie Bonomi

More Picnic Photos



~Photography By Cindie Bonomi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spotlight Trees:

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

Bonsai Barn:

Whether you want to buy, sell or trade any bonsai-related material, take advantage of the "Bonsai Barn" on our website pittsburghbonsai.org. You can also list regional/national bonsai events that your fellow PBS members might find interesting.

Coming Events:

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 12-15 - ABS Learning Seminar
The 2013 American Bonsai Society Learning Seminar in Saratoga Springs, NY. For more information go to their website:
<http://www.loveofbonsai.com>

Mark Your 2014 Calendars:

A switch from Spring to Fall for the 4th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, 13-14 September in Rochester, NY. Details next spring.

05-06 October 2013 Cleveland, OH: Cleveland Bonsai Club "Fall Show 2013", Cleveland Botanical Gardens Center Sat: 10-5; Sun: Noon-5 They expect at least 7 vendors, tree raffles, silent auction tables, and at least 100 of the finest trees in NE Ohio. 11030 East Boulevard Cleveland, Ohio 44106. 216.721.1600; Fax: 216.721.2056 info@cbgarden.org CBGC admission fees: \$9.50-Adults, Children under 3 - \$4.00. It allows one to see the entire Garden Center, 7 Theme Gardens, the enclosed Glass house and the show. Underground parking is also available for \$5.00.

Future Events:

If you have a topic or subject that you would like to see in coming months, please contact Dave Metzgar or Bob Dietz for your idea's consideration. This means NEW members too. PBS wants to help you grow in your knowledge and techniques as your bonsai grow.

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, cindiebonomi@yahoo.com

October 2013 Issue Deadline:

Submissions for the October 2013 Newsletter are due no later than September 13, 2013.

Compiled by Jay Miller
suisekifan@yahoo.com



Page 7

Wear Your Pride!



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

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



Bonsai In The Burgh

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



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

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society • 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Sep 18..... | Wed 7pm..... | Boxwood 101 with Armand |
| Oct 16..... | Wed 7pm | Boxwood Workshop |
| Nov 13..... | Wed 7pm | TBA plus Elections |
| Dec 6 | Wed 6:30pm..... | Annual Holiday Party |
| No Meetings..... | | January & February 2014 |
| Mar 19..... | Wed 7pm | 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 Number: 412 441-4442 for updates.