



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

2022
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER

In September, we will be demonstrating how to wire conifers. We will be breaking up into small groups with experienced members leading small group demonstrations of wiring. We will also be performing merit-based critiques by the group. If you are looking for suggestions on one of your trees, please bring it in for suggestions and ideas. Make sure the primary structure has been cleaned out so that the primary structure can be seen.



Thursday • September 15th • Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer

SEPTEMBER GARDEN TOUR

Cindie Bonomi

will have her garden tour Saturday, September 10 (from 10am to 3pm). Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 11 (from 10am to 3pm).



Cindie's Cell Phone:
412 689-5586

OCTOBER

October 8th and 9th Workshop

October styling of (bring your own tree workshop) with Special Guest Mike Lebanik. Saturday October 8th. The workshop will start at 9:00am to 3:00pm. There will be 12 openings available for members to attend.

Registration will be open

on September 15th at the meeting. The cost is being subsidized by the Society and is ONLY \$20.00. The first 12 people paid will have a spot. Please do not ask to be put on the list without payment.

There will be a demonstration on Sunday October 9th at 12:00 open to all members. Please show your support of the Society by attending.



Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer

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.

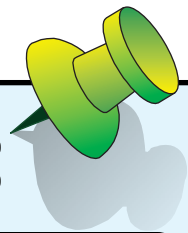
Deadlines:

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:



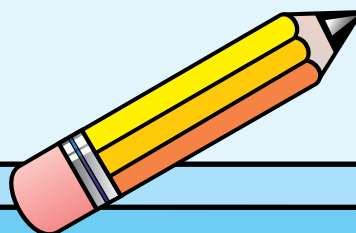
The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society held its annual picnic at the



~Photo by Mike Stern

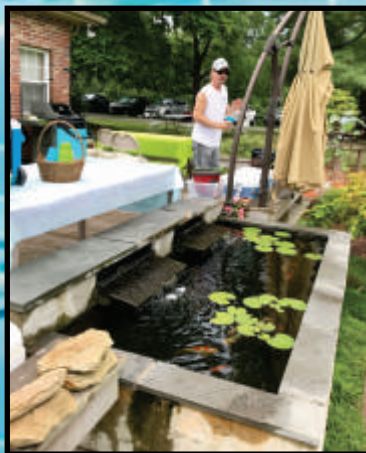
Grealish homestead. Bob and Rose were gracious hosts as always and made everyone feel welcome. Bob's garden and trees were spectacular. The food, company, and weather were amazing. Members also had the opportunity to get a look at the field-grown trees that will be available for sale.

Mike Stern
mstern55@outlook.com



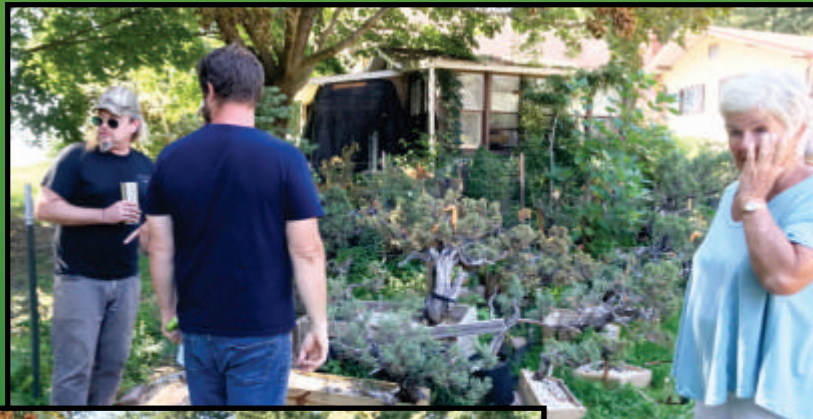
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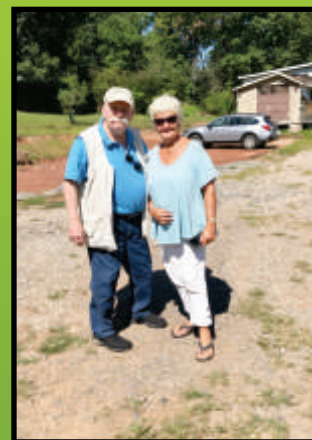




Dan Yobp's Garden Tour









~Photography by Cindie Bonomi

Dear Friends of Phipps Garden Center:

I'm writing to let you know that longtime evening security guard, Jim Archer, passed away in late June after a long fight with throat cancer. Jim was far more than a security guard. He was our host-extraordinaire, helping instructors and students not only feel welcome in our humble education center, but like they were a part of one big family.

Jim rarely listened in on classes, but he said he could always tell if a program was a success if the students left talking and laughing with one another.

For many, Jim's smiling, mustached face and wry sense of humor was indelibly linked to the experience of visiting the Garden Center. Jim cared deeply about the job, and always went above and beyond his duties: making coffee, setting up extra tables, watering plants, feeding the birds, and so on. Like a squirrel preparing for winter, Jim had goodies stashed all over the Garden Center so he could feed anyone who missed a meal or looked like they needed a pick-me-up.

Like a true New Yorker, Jim was also brash, opinionated, and impatient. He had a bad reputation for rushing students out

quickly after a class concluded so he could catch his evening bus. Even when he was chastised for it, though, it was hard to blame him. Jim took two buses to work every day and was never late – come wind, come rain, come snow.

What I'll remember most about Jim is his open and generous heart. He cared about everyone he met, and built community through his love of others. I hope this legacy carries on through our work.

Pictures, anecdotes, or remembrances can be sent to Phipps Garden Center (1059 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15232). Please share this with anyone you think we might have missed.

All my best,
Gabe Tilove
 Director of Adult Education and Community Outreach
 412/622-6915, ext. 3208



~Photos by Cindie Bonomi

Garden Tours

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

LAST GARDEN TOUR:

Cindie Bonomi will have her garden tour Saturday, September 10 (from 10am to 3pm). Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 11 (from 10am to 3pm). Cindie's cell: 412 689-5586.

New Members:

Thomas Zielinski
Sean Poorman
Donald Fritsch
Greg Gibson
Marc Fate



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.

Bonsai Field Growing Education Program

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



Email Dave If You're Interested

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.

September Thoughts

As of approximately August 15th, trees turn to the vascular growth phase. This can come earlier or later depending on the species of tree and weather. This means that the trees' roots are thickening and elongating. Trunks and branches are thickening as well as wounds are healing. Buds are also setting and swelling. The tree is storing sugars and starches preparing to be a bigger tree next year.



Keep a constant eye on wire biting into your branches. When you remove wire, you do not have to remove the entire piece of wire if it is not biting in.

This is the second-best time of the year to do primary structural work on junipers, Pines, and spruces. Since the trees are increasing their vascular growth, they have the capacity to heal more quickly from aggressive bends. If you remove a significant amount of foliage from your tree at this time of the year, you must protect it from freezing during the winter as you will reduce its winter hardiness.

The caveat to doing structural work at this time of the year on the above type trees depends on whether the tree was recently repotted. If the tree was repotted in the spring and it was an

~ By Michael Stern

aggressive repot, then wait. Though there has been some root growth since spring, the primary root growth will be occurring now through the end of fall. It would be safer waiting until the spring to work on trees that were repotted this spring. Remember, trees benefit from only experiencing one major assault a year. Also only work on trees that have a healthy amount of foliage. This is not a time to be doing reduction on deciduous trees. If you remove foliage, the tree will attempt to regrow foliage. The new growth will not have time to harden off before the first freeze.



~Photo by Mike Stern

Depending on what you are trying to accomplish, continuing fertilization through the fall is advised. Trees that are in development can be fed more heavily than trees in refinement. When a tree is in refinement, your goal is smaller leaves and internodes. Heavy fertilization can create too much stored energy and blow out that refined growth next spring. If you decandled your multiflush pines (Japanese red, Japanese black, and pitch pines) continue to not fertilize, as you will get longer needle growth on the new shoots that formed post June decandling. The new growth has not hardened off yet because of their delayed emergence and the needles can continue to elongate. (In mid-to late-August, if you did not decandle, you can cut the new shoots on multiflush JBP and JRP to a desired length and leave some new needles. Buds should form at the cut site. I am not sure how pitch pine would react to this technique.

BeBop Bonsai, LLC

Tree Boarding
Repotting
Transformation

Trees
Fertilizer
Pots

Call Or Text Ian Evans: 412 812-8506

<https://www.bebopbonsai.com>



For your bonsai supplies,



Bob Dietz

support the store that exists for the society



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

Haiku Corner

The lamp once out
Cool stars enter
The window frame.

-Soseki

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 14 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

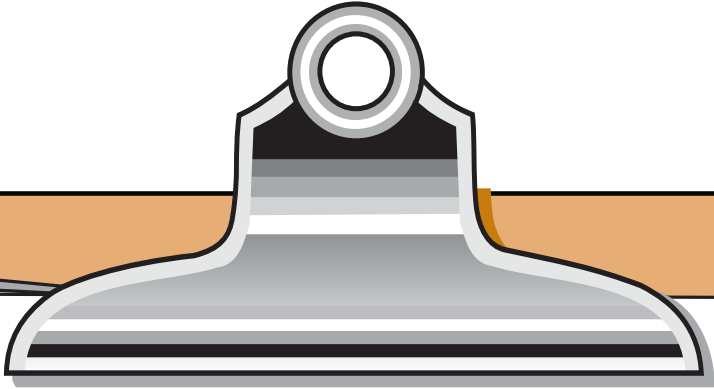
_____ I am a New Member

_____ 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.



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.

Bonsai Field Growing Education Program:

Dave Metzger will keep us informed through emails about the next educational opportunity for our field-grown trees.

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 October Newsletter are due no later than September 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.

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.
September	What to look for when searching for nursery material. Fall fertilization.	Meeting Thursday 15th. Wiring conifers such as spruce or juniper. Merit-Based Group Critique	Bending branches to create movement. Garden Tour #5 CHANGE - Cindie Bonomi has changed to Saturday, September 10 (from 10am to 3pm) Rain date: Sunday, September 11 (from 10am to 3pm)
October	Tool maintenance	Meeting Thursday 20th. Leaf-drop pruning on deciduous and fall wiring. Mike Stern Merit-Based Critique Pro Workshop (fee-based and bring your own tree) October 8th-9th. Mike Lebanik.	Leaf-drop pruning and fall wiring on field trees.
November	Winter storage and care review.	Meeting Thursday 17th. Members group tree critique #2.	
December		Meeting Thursday 15th. Holiday celebration and winter silhouettes.	