



Saturday April 12, 2025. 1pm
SUNY Erie Community College North Campus
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221
STEM Building

President's Corner

Greetings everyone,

I hope everyone enjoyed the forest demo Bill Valavanis did for us. Thank you to Bill for coming in to spend the afternoon with us. Don't forget May 17 & 18 he will be having his open house. The Rochester Club will also be having their Bonsai Show the same weekend.



April's meeting Terry Monroe will be joining us for a demo. If you remember he lasted visited us in July 2024.

This year the Japanese Garden of Buffalo will be holding the Cherry Blossom Festival April 26 & 27 and we

have been asked to display some trees. Please considering signing up to talk to people about bonsai at the event. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting. This takes place at the Buffalo History Museum. (pic 2024)



Sacrificial branches, there is no doubt that a sacrificial branch will help thicken a trunk. The branch as it elongates and becomes thicker needs the trunk to enlarge to support it and provide nourishment to it. The downside to sacrificial branches is when you remove them you have a scar to contend with. I personally do not leave sacrificial branches because they leave a scar. I feel for the little bit of energy the sacrificial branch uses this energy can be shifted to the other branches to help develop ramification. As the top of the tree grows new branches more nourishment is needed to be transported. The only way the tree can increase transporting more nourishment is to increase the circumference of the trunk. But a sacrificial also helps in creating taper to the trunk. Yes, but you still have a scar to deal with.

If you comb out the roots, place the roots on something solid like a tile you will encourage surface root development this will increase the buttress of the tree. This will mute the tree not having a lot of taper. If you decide to do the surface root technique select something that will not cause harm or kill the tree. Pressure treated wood, painted wood or plywood are not good options as they all contain chemicals that can cause harm to the tree. Inert materials such as ceramic tile, slate, plastic, fiberglass can be used and reused with no ill effect on the tree.

Trunk splitting is another option to thicken the trunk of your favorite bonsai. Not all trees will recover from such a trauma. Trees like Boxwood, Junipers, and Ficus respond very well to this technique. Take your bonsai tree out of its container, and gently wash away excess soil from the roots. Then use a trunk splitter, wood chisel, rotary tool, or saw to split your bonsai trunk from

the bottom up. Use wires or wood wedges to keep the split trunk apart. To ensure proper healing, allow the roots of the break to grow freely. Immediately transplant it into a wide pot with fresh soil. This will allow the roots to spread out and be able to take advantage of all the new nutrients.

Grafting is another option provided you have seedlings of the same genetic material. Grafting seedlings to the base of a trunk allows you to thicken a bonsai tree trunk and design taper. Taking several seedlings placing them on the trunk and wrap them tightly to the trunk with Chinese wrapping twine, grafting tape or raffia. When placing the seedlings start on left and right side of the tree with the front of the tree facing you. As you move up the trunk take a seedling or two from each side and shift it to the back. Continue wrapping the tree and repeat shifting seedlings to the back of the tree. After a year or two depending on threat of growth the seedlings should fuse to each other and the trunk. Then those seedlings you directed to the back can be cut off and you will not see the cuts.

Scott Russo

2025 BBS Monthly Agenda:

April 12th Terry Monroe
 April 26th and 27th Cherry Blossom
 May 10th Workshop for Show
 June 7th and 8th Buffalo Bonsai Show
 June 14th Intro to Bonsai
 July 12th Root over rock
 August 9th Picnic
 September 13th (no meeting) 10th US Bonsai
 National Exhibition 13th & 14th Rochester
 October 11th Sean Smith
 November 8th Les Allen
 December 13th at 12:00 Ilio DiPaolo's

2025 Board Members

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716-662-9429 membership