



Saturday 8, 2025. 1pm
SUNY Erie Community College North Campus
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221
STEM Building

President's Corner

Greetings everyone,

I hope everybody enjoyed the Christmas party! Thank you to everyone who attended and made it a fun time.



Membership dues are typically collected in February so if you could see Christine or Paul please.

We think we put together a nice schedule for this year and have tried to accommodate your requests.

For those that have a tree they would like one help with

or have some questions on the room for our meeting will be open at 12:30pm. Please feel free to bring in your tree or trees.

Sandy McDougal sent this article by Andrea Melloni Winter Pruning Tips for "Bleeding" Bonsai: Maple, Hornbeam, Birch, Walnut & More

"Did you know certain bonsai species are prone to heavy sap flow—often called "bleeding"—when pruned in late winter or early spring? If you're working with Maple (Acer), Hornbeam (Carpinus), Birch (Betula), Walnut (Juglans), Linden (Tilia), Hazelnut (Corylus), Beech

(Fagus), Elm (Ulmus), or even Prunus varieties like cherry, plum, or almond, this post is for you!

Why "Bleeding" Happens

As temperatures rise, deciduous bonsai increase their sap flow, moving water and nutrients from the roots up into new growth. Pruning at this critical point can cause excessive sap loss, which weakens the tree, depletes nutrients, and raises the risk of fungal or bacterial infections.

How to prevent excessive sap loss, prune during dormancy, late autumn or deep winter (before buds swell) is the ideal window for major cuts. Use sharp, clean tools, a clean cut heals faster and lowers infection risk.

Apply quality sealants. Immediately cover large wounds with wound paste or mastic to stop sap flow and keep pathogens out. Control watering, avoid overwatering just before pruning. Too much moisture can increase internal sap pressure. Monitor your bonsai if bleeding continues, gently blot excess sap and reapply sealant if needed. Potential risks weakened trees from excessive sap loss and nutrient depletion. Higher infection rates due to exposed wounds coupled with rising temperatures. Poor wound healing leading to dieback or unsightly calluses around the pruning site. By timing your cuts correctly and protecting the wounds, you'll help your bonsai—especially Maple, Hornbeam, Birch, Walnut, Linden, Hazelnut, Beech, Elm, and other "bleeding" species—stay healthy and vibrant."

This month we will be covering trunk splitting and carving. While this is not the ideal time to actually do this type of work we will have some sacrificial things to work on. This is actually a reasonable way for you to start to get a feel for the two. If you have never done either of these then practicing on something sacrificial is where

you should start and get some practice and a feel for it. Before you start carving it would be in your best interest to look at as many pictures of trees that have been carved and to walk around in the woods to see how dead wood looks in nature and take pictures for reference. Now for the frustrating part, what tools are best? You have a choice of hand tools and carving bits for a Dremel type power tool. Some people like using 1/4" die grinders, I am not a fan of these. I do not like that they can remove a lot a material quickly and are harder to control. Besides when I do carve I am never in a hurry so using one does not appeal to me. If you talk to people they will tell you why they like a particular tool or bit. Keep in mind there is no tool that is fast or easy. The person you just watched use it has been using that tool for some time and has become proficient with it, you are just starting off and will not be as fast or skilled. So, whatever tool/ tools you purchase spend some time using them before you jump into working on one of your trees. Finding a tree similar to yours in the woods and cutting a branch off is a great way to get some practice. Carving to a certain extent is more a function of the user than the tool.

Scott Russo

2025 Board Members

Scott Russo- President

Paul Pearson- Treasurer

Bill Barker- Board

Sandy McDougal- Board

Jerry Rucker- Board

Christine Wilkolaski - Board

716-662-9429 membership

2025 BBS Monthly Agenda:

February 8th Trunk splitting

March 8th Bill Valavanis

April 12th Terry Monroe

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

October 11th Sean Smith

November 8th Les Allen

December TBD Christmas Party