



This month's meeting will be held on *Wednesday, April 15 @ 7pm* at

Menne Nursery & Garden Artistry

3100 Niagara Falls Boulevard

Amherst, NY 14228

716.693.4444

<http://www.mennenursery.com/>

President's Corner

Hi Everyone,

I wish you all a Happy Belated Easter or Passover. If you missed last month's meeting, you missed a good one. Dan Zak, on short notice, volunteered to do some work on a couple of Club junipers after which we even raffled one off.

Everyone should have started to work on his or her trees by now and also consider which one(s) they will be displaying at our June show at the Botanical Gardens. Be on guard for those occasional late frosts which can kill buds and tender new leaves.

Dues have been trickling in so if you haven't paid yet, please do so soon. Also don't forget to fill out a membership form so we can update our records with your current information.

This month's meeting will be on larch trees so if you have a larch in your collection, bring one in for show and tell and maybe some advice. And, if you are coming to this month's meeting, why not bring a friend.

Sincerely, Richard Smith

Upcoming Events & Information:

Refreshments

Paulette Jurek will provide refreshments for the April meeting. Thank you very much Paulette.

This Month's Program

This month we are pleased to feature Alan Adair who will be doing a lecture and demo on larch. Alan will also be bringing some trees that he has for sale so you may want to bring some extra money with you.

A sign painter and graphic artist by trade, Alan Adair has been involved in art and gardening since childhood. He began his bonsai study 21 years ago at the International Bonsai Arboretum under William N. Valavanis. He currently runs his own sign studio and a growing business propagating pre-bonsai for clubs and nurseries. Mr. Adair is a T'ai Chi Ch'uan practitioner for over 30 years and was the former chief instructor and President of the Rochester T'ai Chi Ch'uan Center of Rochester. He is a member of the board of the Upstate New York Bonsai Society. Alan lives in the Finger Lakes

region of New York.

Currently, Alan is an assistant to William N. Valavanis where his duties include helping maintain Bill's collection under close supervision. Alan started collecting, maintaining and propagating larch in his earlier years and recently has moved into maintaining and propagating a growing pine collection.

Alan will be lecturing and demonstrating on larch. The program can include general and practical styling, wiring, pruning and repotting information for bonsai in general and larch bonsai creation and maintenance more specifically. Alan enjoys participation from the audience as part of the lecture. Be prepared to reflect on your place in your own bonsai journey, take part in interaction and perhaps be challenged to improve and hopefully spark an enthusiasm for your love and care of bonsai.

Plantasia 2015

By: Mary O'Connor

Plantasia has come and gone for another year and it ran with precision from set-up to tear-down and everything in between.



On a daily basis we made contact with many people interested in the hobby and helped to dispel many myths about the



care of our trees. Along with the many handouts available to the attendees, we told them about future meetings of the club and

also bonsai workshops at the Botanical Gardens being taught by Travis Schmitt in April and June. We also demonstrated our skills on some of our trees and some seedlings so that people could see how we trim and use wire to shape our trees.

We raffled off a Juniper from Eastern Bonsai and a one year membership which was won by Janet Povinelli. She was very excited and showed me her other bonsai also. We hope to see her at a future meeting soon.

Thank you to all who helped make this show a success, Ed, Doug, and Mary Mckee, Travis Schmitt, Kristy Blakely, Lori and Gene Musial, Nancy Williams, Paulette Jurek, Paul Pearson, Dick Smith, and Dan Zak.



Tree Species of the Month:

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

By: Kristy Blakely

Here's our next featured tree that also has very small cones and they can often



confused with those of the tamarack. Did you guess the hemlock? This tree is not as

common as a larch in the art of bonsai, but it can be a pretty cool specimen if you have the patience to work with their slow growth.

Another tree native to Western New York, this species is often found in old growth forests in shady, protected spots. They are often found along ridges and by forested streams.

Hemlock, like larch has small needles, however they are evergreen and not deciduous. Like firs, hemlocks have flat needles. If you look on the underside of the leaf, there are two white parallel lines. The technical term for these are 'stomatal bands' - you can see the leaf's stomates all lined up! Don't remember what a stomate is? Then what's stomata with you?! (haha...) It is the area where gas exchange occurs in a leaf. Another good identification hint is to look for the upside-down leaves! Along the top



of the branches, there are random leaves that are flipped with the white stomatal lines showing on top.

When in walking in the forest, or perhaps working on a specimen of this tree, a fun characteristic of the leaves and twigs is that when the leaves are removed and the branches scraped it exudes a fragrance that can (so I've been told from my Girl Scout days) repel biting insects. I'm not sure if it is entirely effective, but it does smell pretty nice.

Like I had mentioned before, the Eastern hemlock has very small cones. They tend to last on the tree for quite some time. The bark is also quite interesting. It is a beautiful brown color, and on a large tree, if you were to gently fleck away a bit of the bark the bark would be a plum color underneath.

One issue with hemlocks, besides the fact that they are slow growing and prefer more tricky places to live (and well-drained soil) they are now plagued by a pest that you may be familiar with or have heard about on the news: The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This pest is non-native and invaded from Asia. It spread in New York starting in the NYC and Long Island areas, arriving in Erie County in the late 1990's. Recently, a population arrived at Letchworth State Park. Travis and I were chatting with interns that were tasked in identifying and mapping populations in the Park when we visited last June. The bug bites parts of the trees and branches to get sap. The woolly, fuzzy bits that are the most easiest to identify protect the eggs of the pest, and can stick around on the



branches after the bugs have grown. The pest itself is related to aphids and very small.

For more information on the Woolly Adelgid, the DEC has some great information online at:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7250.html>
with additional articles at the bottom of the page to click through.

2015 Monthly Agenda

April 15: Alan Adair - Larch Lecture/Styling
May 20: David Clark - Kokedama Lecture - A Poor Man's Bonsai
June 15: Mark Arpag - Cascade Lecture & Demo
July 25 - BBS Picnic
August 19: Bring Your Own Tree To Work On
September 16: Auction
October 21: Hank Miller - Demo TBD
November 18: Dan Zak - Lecture on Dead Wood
December 9: BBS Christmas Dinner

Board Contact Information

President – Richard Smith 668-4472
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If you have not yet renewed your membership and paid dues for this year please use the form below!

Membership Renewal and Member Contact Information Form:

Please print information and bring to any monthly meeting and make out your check to:
'Buffalo Bonsai Society'

By mail, send to:
Paul Pearson
1182 East River Rd
Grand Island, NY 14072

Name/ Names _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Please send newsletter by mail instead

Individual Membership: \$25.00 Family Membership: \$35.00 Amount enclosed: _____

This is a gift for the above person(s) from _____