

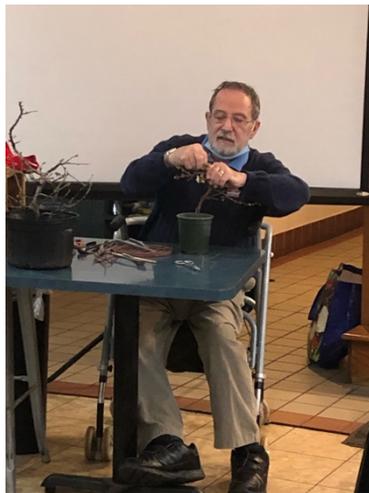


The Critchen Restaurant 3377 Clinton Street West Seneca April 10. 2021

President's Corner

Hello everyone,

Hope everyone is well and enjoying what may be the start of spring!



Last month **Bill Valavanis** came to do a presentation and demo on classical design. He also brought pre bonsai material for our members to purchase. A powerpt and tree demo that followed had our members well attentive and asking

questions. Great informative evening.



This month we will have our **Club Auction**. As you do your spring cleaning and want to declutter bring in any bonsai related materials to auction off. We will have item list sheets to fill out on Saturday. May be put some money in your pocket? Who are we kidding we will be bringing home more treasures. As always Christine will try her best to keep the auction entertaining. And lastly, remember the club does get 10% of the sale.

How are your trees doing as they come out of their winter slumber? If your trees or you have any concerns fell free to bring them. You can get suggestions from fellow members.

I want to thank those that have renewed their membership. If you have not, please see Paul or Christine to renew.

In our **March Newsletter** I thanked Sandy McDougal for picking out the appetizers and paying for them at our February meeting. I need to apologize as it was her mother Joyce who did us the honors.

As some of you may already know the Buffalo Botanical Gardens have cancelled all of their inside events until, at least the end of the summer. Needless to say, we will not be having a show at the Botanical Gardens, we are looking to find an alternate location that can accommodate us. We will keep everyone apprised of our progress.

I know last month we talked about **repotting** and one thing I did not mention was placement of the tree in the pot. Take a few minutes and play around with the angle of the tree, seeing if it looks better tilted to the left or right and or leaning forward or toward the back. Sometimes just changing the angle of a tree can improve its appearance.

Once you have decided upon the angle the tree can go in the pot, just remember you do not want the tree perfectly centered from left to right. Your tree is asymmetrical, the shorter side of the tree should be pulled to that side of the pot to off center the tree. How much will be determined by the size of the tree and the flow on the dominate side and the pot. Take the time to move the tree around to see what looks best.

Back in October we did a **clumps style** demo and briefly touched on forests. I think forest plantings are



interesting because even young trees when arranged properly look great. Forest plantings on average are done with the same species of tree. Yes, there are forests with mixed plantings of different species of trees. They can be done in a Japanese bonsai style

but the majority are done more in a Chinese penjing style. In a mixed planting you want to have trees that you would find growing together in the same region. Not to mention the landscape of the composition has to be accurate. Meaning in nature you are not going to find South African Acacia's growing on a moss-covered rocky hill. They grow on flat baron soil with little to now grass around them.

In any type of forest planting scale plays a big part. A forest starts with a major tree this is the largest tree. Then the minor and the other trees. The major tree should be noticeably larger than all the others but not

ridiculously larger. The other trees should reduce down in size gradually. When we talk about size we are referring to the diameter of the trunks. Do not start off with a major tree that is the diameter of your fist then the next tree has a diameter of your thumb. The trees need to reduce in diameter gradually, noticeably but no big jumps from one size to the next. Yes, you can have a major tree the size of your fist and the smallest can be the size of your pinky finger but you need to have a progression in between them. Granted that would be a rather large forest. Forest should also have an odd number of trees.

Now that you have sorted out the trees you can start to place the trees in a container. Ideally forests look best in shallow containers or on rock slabs. Before you get going make sure the container is wired to secure the trees. Creating a grid inside the pot can help. If you are not certain arrange the trees in the pot without any soil and map out how you will wire the trees. Most likely you will want to drill some holes in the container to have the wires where you need them to be. If you are using a rock slab you will want to use epoxy to attach the wires to the rock.

Starting with the dominate tree placing it off center with the dominate tree in the front. Just like placing a single tree in a pot the dominate tree will be off center favoring the less dominate side of the asymmetrical layout. You do not want the same number of trees on each side of the dominate tree. When you start placing the trees keep in mind when viewed front to back or side to side you do not want the trees to line up in a straight line, they need to be offset. You want to create depth in how you arrange things, but still have it look random and natural. Keep in mind the trees will grow in diameter and you need to place the trees to allow for that. Do not get to caught up in how the canopy looks today, you will be cutting the trees back to set the structure of the canopy silhouette with the trunks. The canopy will grow into your vision with pruning. Your focus should be on the tree trunks and how and where they are placed. If you try to create a forest by working

around the canopy of the material you have you will not be pleased with the results.

April 27, the Bonsai Society of Upstate New York (the Rochester Club) is having Boon Manikitivipart (Bonsai Boon) in from California for a demo. Along with a workshop during the day and I believe there are a few spaces a still available.

Scott

Events & Information:

Upcoming Bonsai Events

September 11- 12 U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition

2021 Monthly Agenda:

April 10th Club Auction

May 8th Bring your own tree workshop

June 12th Young Choe

July 10th

August 14th

September 11-12 No meeting U.S. Nationals

October 9th John Wiessinger

November 13th

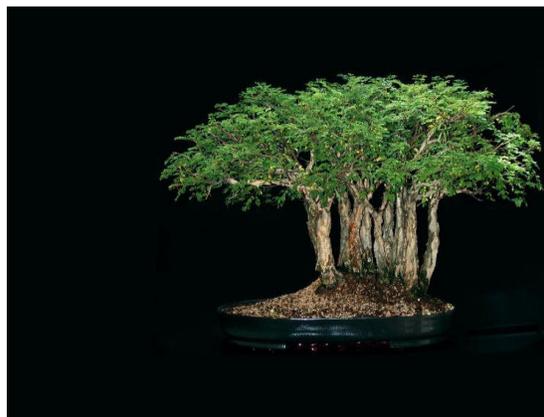
December 11th Christmas Dinner

2021 Bonsai Society of Upstate New York

April 27 Boon Manikitivipart

May 25 Sean Smith

Tree of the Month



By Hank Miller, Perrysburg, NY. Acacia forest

2021 Board Members

Scott Russo- President

Paul Pearson- Treasurer

Christine Wilkolaski - Board

662-9429 membership

Bob Maxwell- Board

Kathy Bak- Board