



This month's meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 17 @ 7pm at**

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

2655 South Park Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14218

716.827.1584

www.buffalogardens.com

President's Corner

Hi Everyone,

Well this is the month that we start meeting at our new location, the Buffalo Botanical Gardens. I hope everyone is as excited as I am. We will have more room, better parking and accessibility and hopefully this will help us increase our membership. Speaking of membership, don't forget that dues are due. So if you are attending this month's meeting, please bring the completed membership information form along with your dues. If you are unable to attend, please send the completed form (page 5) and check made payable to 'Buffalo Bonsai Society' to our Treasurer, Paul Pearson. His address is on the form.

If you are interested in ordering seedlings from the county, I will have some forms at the meeting. Orders must be placed before March 18th.

This month Hank Miller will be doing a demo on Fused Trunk Ficus over Rock. Hank's demos are always very interesting and informative. You won't want to miss this one. Hank will donate the completed demo material for this month's raffle. Also,



Hank will have some of his bonsai soil for sale.

It's hard to believe that it's the middle of February already. If this mild winter keeps up, we should be able to start working on our own trees next month. In the meantime enjoy the mild weather and as always, I hope to see you all at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard Smith

Cell: 716-880-7441

Upcoming Events & Information:

New Meeting Location Details

Our new meeting spot is at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. We'll be meeting in the upstairs of the Administration Building. On the Gardens' campus, this is the newer looking brick building that is right next to the parking lot for the Botanical Gardens. Enter through the front door (there will be signage!) and come up the stairs or take the elevator to the second floor. Our meeting space is the large area you'll see at the top. A map is included with this newsletter (page 4) and is on our website (Thanks Vince!)

As a reminder, during this month's meeting, the "Lumagination" light show event will be going on over at the Conservatory. While we do not anticipate parking problems as Wednesday evenings are usually on the slower side, you may wish to park diagonally in the farthest parking lot (you can see it on the map, it's a really wide driveway next to the main parking lot) so we can fit more cars in the spaces.



While volunteering with the Gardens' collection on Thursdays, Mary O'Connor has mentioned that many visitors that she has spoken with have shown interest in coming to the meetings now that we are meeting here at the Gardens! I'm sure we will only continue this trend!

This Month's Program and Refreshments

As Dick stated in his President's Corner update, we'll be learning about fused trunk tropical bonsai with Hank Miller!

Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by Kathy Bak. Thanks Kathy!

Tree of the Month: Japanese Zelkova Zelkova serrata

By: Kristy Schmitt

I had the pleasure of attending the two-day PLANT-WNY CLNP Day and Trade Show Education Conference held at Salvatore's this last week. PLANT WNY is a group of nursery



and landscape professionals made up of individuals and companies in the horticulture industry. CNLPs are certified nursery and landscape professionals. This CNLP program is state-wide and the local conference helps with professional development and certification credits. PLANT-WNY also brings us Plantasia!

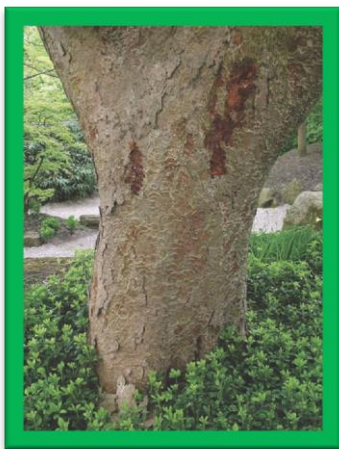
This year's keynote was Dr. Allan Armitage, known as a perennial guru. Other workshops included tree and pest outlooks, invasive species and legislation and landscaping/retail garden center specific topics. What drew me there though, were of course the workshops pertaining to trees. While it's hard to compete with Dirr, last year's keynote speaker, the tree workshops were fun with a landscape twist, of course. We were given an overview on "Twenty Small Street Trees for Urban Settings" from Dawn Hummel (I wrote down potential cool ones for bonsai) and we had a great time with the "Tree and Shrub ID Workshop" presented by Sharon Webber, CNLP.

We had two "friendly" competitions on tree id that involved matching and of course identification by twigs. With the first, we were given images of leaves and had to match the leaves to the twig specimens, including coming up with the correct common names, Latin names and spelling them correctly too. It was hard. I was quite rusty on my twig ID, and working with landscape trees rather than native trees did throw me for a loop a little. The second competition was even more of



a challenge- we didn't have the leaves to help us this time but were instead presented with a riddle about the tree and had to then match the tree with the twig again. Some past Trees of the Month appeared on the quiz and weren't too hard to id, namely ginkgo, dawn redwood and the katsura tree. Perhaps we should do a twig quiz one of these days for the newsletter...

One tree on the riddle that popped out at me, as it was brought up quite a few times during conference was the Japanese zelkova. The hint that we were given sounded an awful lot like the tree was an elm, mentioning a vase-like shape,



but the real hint (for me) bark of this mystery tree peeling away to an orange color as the tree aged. I remembered back to when Travis and I were exploring in the arboretum of Highland Park in Rochester and came across a couple very large trees with peeled bark that we didn't know. Wandering dendrologists from the Parks were conveniently nearby and told us they were zelkovas.

The thing I couldn't remember for quiz points was the tree's Latin name. After learning from my error, the common name is the genus name (tricky tree...). The species name *serrata* refers to the tree's leaves, which are serrated, or toothed. Landscapers like this



tree due to the fall color. The leaves will turn yellow, orange and red. It is also a good landscape replacement tree for the American elm as it has a similar shape and the foliage fills in well, but it is resistant to Dutch elm disease. Both trees are in the elm family (*Ulmaceae*), though a different genus due to the differences in fruit. The tree thrives in zones 5-8.



As I've learned a little more about bonsai as a hobby, that name has come up again and again. In bonsai, zelkova is more commonly referred to as the greybark Japanese elm. The traits of the bark and leaves make this tree desirable. The leaves reduce well in size, like Chinese elm. Above is an example tree from the National Bonsai Museum in DC. Does anyone in our club have a zelkova, or know of any more local than Rochester planted in the landscape? I'd love to see more of this tree!



And for those curious, our team did win a prize at the tree id competition. Woo!

2016 Monthly Agenda

Meeting at the Botanical Gardens

February 17: Hank Miller- Lecture/Demo on Ficus

March 16: Bob Taylor- Lecture "Collecting Trees from the Field"

April 20: Mark Arpag- Lecture/Demo on Forest Style Bonsai

May 18: Alan Adair- Lecture/Demo on Windswept Larch

June 15: Kristy Schmitt- Tree ID Walk Botanical Gardens' Arboretum

July: Club Picnic- Date and Host TBD

August 17: Battle of the Bonsai

September 21: Annual Club Auction

October 19: Dan Zak- Lecture/Demo on Literati Bonsai

November 16: David Clark- Accent Plants

December 7: BBS Holiday Party

Meeting Space Map

The Botanical Gardens Campus and Administration Building (highlighted in green!). Please use the sidewalk from the parking lot and enter through the large glass doors. Take the stairs or elevator to the second floor.



2016 Board Contact Information

President- Richard Smith 668-4472

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Administration Building:



For Wednesday, February 17 only: if parking is a bit tight, park at an angle in the wide driveway highlighted in yellow!

It's that time of year again. Please fill out the form below and bring it with you along with your dues payment to the February meeting. We'll also have copies available at the meeting!

We are requesting that the form be completely filled out as this form also allows us to update your contact information. If you've moved recently, changed your phone number or email we'd like to know! If you haven't been receiving the newsletter, we might not have accurate or updated information to get it out to you. Also this year we've added a date applied section- please also fill out this part as it helps us with bookkeeping! Thanks a bunch!

2016 Membership Renewal and Member Contact Information Form

*Please print information clearly and bring to any monthly meeting
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 _____

Phone Number (____) _____.

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 _____

Date applied for renewal/membership: _____