



Saturday March 11, 2023 1pm
SUNY Erie Community College North Campus
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221
STEM Building

President's Corner

Thank you to Hank Miller for his demo on tropical trees. I am sorry I could not attend.



Our **March** meeting will be **David Williams**, David as you may remember has been doing the Ikebana display and demonstrations at our shows. He will be showing us not only how to create and arrange a display but how he works with selecting colors, proportions, and movement.



I know we were going back and forth for finding a new location to have our meetings and in the end, it was not so much about the location rather the day and time. A Saturday afternoon was selected over a weekday evening. Of the two, Saturday should allow for greater attendance. Saturday also offers greater flexibility for

out-of-town guests for putting on a demo but also have day jobs.

Our May workshop will have 2 components one will be bring in a tree you like some assistance with. For those unsure we will also be repotting a tree, showing how to root prune and wire it in.

We should have the schedule finalized by the next newsletter. 2 of the 4 openings have been filled we are just waiting to hear back as to the dates.

If anyone is interested in hosting this year's picnic please let Christine Wilkolaski know.

The International Bonsai Arboretum has their 2023 seedling and pre bonsai catalog posted on-line.
<http://www.internationalbonsai.com/files/1708315/uploaded/2023%20CATALOG.pdf>

For those that have tropical trees, this winter has proven to be different for watering. Typically, I water my tropical trees twice a week when they are inside the house. This year I started off watering twice a week but towards the end of January I had to cut back to once a week. When trees are indoors it does not take long if you are over watering to saturate the soil and causing roots to rot eventually killing the tree. This is why I always recommend using a chopstick to see if the soil is wet or dry. Does the chop stick look bad absolutely, but a dead tree looks worse.

Recently somebody was asking about collecting trees. In a perfect world you find the tree you want to collect, cut it back, come back a year later and dig it up. Unless you are collecting something from your or a friend's yard chance are you do not have that luxury. You end up going out in the woods finding something you like and dig it up and home you go. Remember what you selected to dig up is old and like all older things it needs to be respected. Collected material is coveted because of its age of the bark and how the surface roots come into the trunk (buttress). So, you find a tree with a nice buttress and trunk before you dig slow down look at the rest of the tree do you have something you can work with? Here you need to be objective and slowdown from the excitement of what you have found and evaluate. Older trees do not back bud like younger trees, they do not bend like them either. This is why I say you need to be objective in your evaluation before you start digging. It is better to pass on something than dig it up only to find you have very little to work with. If you are new to collecting, see if you can get someone who has experience in collecting. They can help you see beyond all the distractions. How a tree looks in the wild compared to how you see it at a show can appear very different. Once you have selected the tree you need to dig up a root ball large enough to support. Never mind what size pot you think it will go into. You will have many years before you must worry about that. For the first year all you want to do is allow it to adjust do not try to style it or remove any more branches or roots than you did to remove the tree. The tree has been stressed by getting dug up you need to give it a year to acclimate. Then you can start working on the tree but remember it is old, so you do not at any time want to get aggressive with root pruning, removing un-needed branches of bending branches. Collected trees do not mean you have a show quality tree in a year or two. It took years for the tree to age it will take some years to develop it into a bonsai.

Scott

Events & Information:

Cherry Blossom Festival April 29th & 30th

September 9-10 U.S National Bonsai Exhibition.

2023 Monthly Agenda:

March 11 David Williams Ikebana

April 15 John Wiessinger Fertilizer

May 13 Workshop

June 10 TBA

July 8 TBA

August 12 Club Picnic & Auction

September 16 TBA

October 14 Les Allen Suiseki

November 11 Christine Wilkolaski Plant Physiology

December Christmas Party

Tree of the Month



By Phil Grefath N. Tonawanda, NY
Chinese Elm

2023 Board Members

Scott Russo- President

Paul Pearson- Treasurer

Sandy McDougal- Board

Jerry Rucker- Board

Jim Smith- Board

Christine Wilkolaski - Board

716-662-9429 membership