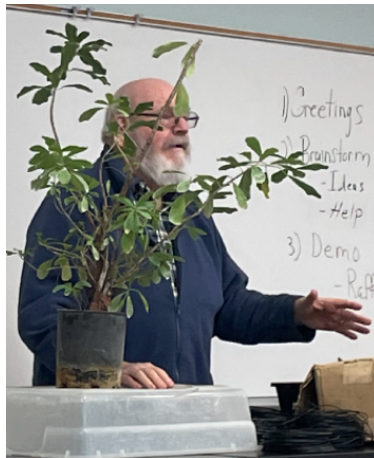




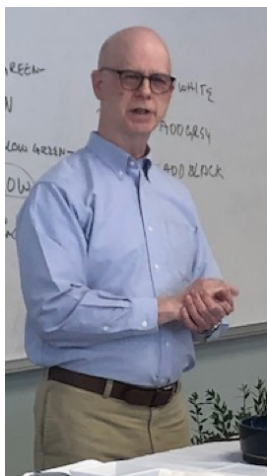
Saturday March 9, 1pm
SUNY Erie Community College North Campus
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221
STEM Building

President's Corner

Hank Miller as you know was feeling under the weather and was not able to do his annual season demo. Hank is starting to feel better and will be back with us soon.



Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to our first meeting of the season and hopefully everyone enjoyed it.



This month we have David Williams doing an Ikebana demonstration. David has been joining us for our annual shows and his displays are always spectacular.

Pretty soon we will be transplanting some of our trees. I thought going over some points. There is no hard rule about when you should transplant a tree other than when it needs it. Younger trees will be repotted more

frequently than older trees. A tree when transplanted last that did not have the root ball properly pruned will need to be repotted sooner. How to tell if your tree needs repotting? There are many different signs that a tree needs repotting. One way you can check is to insert

a chopstick into the soil. If it is difficult to push in that is a good sign the pot is full of roots, and it is time to repot.

Next you need to decide if you are going to use the same pot or a different pot. If it is a different pot now is good time to prep the pot. Installing plastic mesh over the drain holes so soil will not fall out and adding wire so you can secure the tree in the pot.

Remove the tree from the pot. Sometimes you must take a knife and go around the inside perimeter of the pot with a knife to loosen the tree from the pot. Once the tree is out removing the soil from the root mass while combing out the roots. I like a chopstick or root pick I am not a big fan of root rakes; I think they grab too many roots and end up tearing them out. Once you have the soil removed and you have detangled the roots you can start trimming the root ball. Start by removing the large roots (but not the ones on the surface). The large roots are needed in nature to stabilize the tree in the dirt. We wire the tree to the pot to stabilize it, so all they do for us is to take up space. Once you have removed the big roots you need to evaluate the fine hair type roots. These are the feeder roots that take in water and nutrients. You want to trim them back enough to allow for growth, but you can not cut them so far back because you don't want to repot the tree for a while. Cut back the sides and bottom but do not remove any more than a 1/3 of the original mass. The same is true when going from a nursery pot to a bonsai pot. Do not remove more than 1/3. Next year you can come back and remove more of the root mass and eventually get it into the pot you would like. If you try to downsize from a nursery pot to a smaller bonsai pot, you run a very good risk of stressing out the tree and killing it. I know I say this a lot, but you have be

respectful that the tree is a living thing and you have to give it time to rest and recover. Combing out and cutting roots put stress on the tree. This is why we repot when the tree is just coming out of dormancy. So, the tree is not taking away the energy from the canopy and using it to combat root stress. This is why people experience a tree dropping its leaves right after being repotted once a tree has leafed out.

From here you can put soil in the pot, place the tree. Remember, you want to offset the tree, do not put it in the center of the pot from left to right. Your tree should be asymmetrical, the shorter side should be the side closer to the edge of the pot from center. Wire the tree in place. Fill the rest of the pot with soil making sure to work the soil into the root mass adding soil if necessary. Then you want to water. I always water flushing any dust away. Water until the water coming out is clear.

Scott

Events & Information:

March 14 - Rochester and Buffalo Bonsai societies display at Buffalo Club

May 18 - 10 International Bonsai Arboretum open house

May 19 Bonsai Society of Upstate NY Bonsai Show

June 1-2 Buffalo Bonsai show

2024 Board Members

Scott Russo- President

Paul Pearson- Treasurer

Bill Barker- Board

Sandy McDougal- Board

Jerry Rucker- Board

Christine Wilkolaski - Board

716-662-9429 membership

Tree of the Month

American Larch



Scott Russo West Seneca

2024 BBS Monthly Agenda:

March 9, -David Williams - Ikebana

March 14 – Buffalo Club Display

April 13, Dan Zak - Creating Surface Roots

April 27th & 28th Cherry Blossom Festival

May 11, Workshop, Bring Your Own Trees

June 1 & 2, Bonsai Show

June 8, 1:00PM - TBA

July 13, Terry Monroe - Deciduous

August 7th – 18th Erie County Fair

August 10, Club Picnic & Annual Auction

September 14, Ron Magio-Suiseki

September 21st Reinstein Woods Fall Festival

October 12, Mark Arpag

November 3 Japanese Culture Day

November 9, Christine Wilkolaski LED Lighting

December 14th Christmas Party