



October 9, 2021 1pm  
The Critchen Restaurant  
3377 Clinton Street West Seneca

## President's Corner

Hello everyone,

This month **John Wiessinger** will be doing a zoom **presentation on insects and diseases**. John was going to come to Buffalo but is unable to make it. Feeling badly about it John offered a zoom meeting and is taking time to present it while he himself is away from home on an other matter. **We will start the meeting with John at 1pm.**

**After our Zoom meet** we will have a **small auction** so if you have anything you would like to get rid of ,please bring as one man's old stuff is another man's new treasure.

At our October meeting Christine Wilkolaski will be giving details on our Christmas party.

We are almost done with our 2022 schedule and we have a couple of people we need to finalize them coming to Buffalo. We hope to have this done soon. The Bonsai Society of Upstate New York later this month will be sending out a nearly completed schedule for 2022. We will list it in our November newsletter.

At the U.S. Nationals, this year one of the trees that appeared to fascinate so many people was an apple tree completed with apples on it. It was interesting to stand there and listen to the people who were so fascinated with the tree having apples on it. The tree was styled very nicely, the pot, stand and accent which

was a small wooden container with apples all worked well together. I am not criticizing the display by any means, so please do not think that I am. The only thing that was missing in the composition were stems. Stems from the branch to the apples. You see the apples were inserted on to the branches, they had not grown on the tree. This little detail was lost on many observers. In spite of the fact that I bet they have all eaten apples and before doing so removed the stem. I am not criticizing the people who did not notice it. The person who was responsible for the display did a wonderful job in creating the illusion the apples were grown on the tree. When I first looked at the tree my initial reaction was wow, how cool. It was only when I started to look at the tree did, I go hold on apple have stems. I knew what I was looking at was not by natures hand but close enough to look like it. I did not matter the apples were placed there it was still a great fall display and it pulled you in feeling the fall season. Even though you were inside of a building, looking at a tree growing in a pot, you felt autumn. That is the illusion of bonsai.

I used to practice Kendo, Japanese fencing, basically the techniques of the samurai. From time to time a high-ranking person (5-6-degree black belt) would come and put on a seminar. At the end of the seminar newer people to kendo were disappointed, they thought they were going to learn some secret move. Instead, each high-ranking person would spend the whole time going over a basic move he felt was important to becoming good in kendo. While mostly talked about in kendo other martial arts do talk about Mushin, Mushin loosely

translated is “no mind”. Like so many other things the concept has been made overly complicated in its meaning. It is simply letting go over other thoughts when doing something. This includes ego which many times is acting in the subconscious.

What does the above have to do with bonsai? Easy, if you do not embrace and understand the basics of design you will always have difficulty working on trees. The other is not concerning yourself with things beyond styling your bonsai. Like not removing something today because of how the tree will look right now, once it is gone.

Another is not being afraid to make a mistake. There is truth in we learn more from what we have done wrong than what we have done right. I know I have mentioned this before. Bill Valavanis often in courses and demonstrations will say “I have killed more trees than you people will probably ever own”. Now whatever mistakes he made most likely very early on are no different than the mistakes we have all made or will make. Instead of viewing it as a negative see them as what helped you understand something.

Scott

## Events & Information:

### **2021 Monthly Agenda:**

October 9<sup>th</sup> John Wiessinger mini auction

November 13<sup>th</sup> Hank Miller

December 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner

2021 Bonsai Society of Upstate New York

## ***Tree of the Month***



By Bill Barker, E. Amherst, NY  
Full moon maple

## **2021 Board Members**

Scott Russo- President

Paul Pearson- Treasurer

Christine Wilkolaski - Board

662-9429 membership

Bob Maxwell- Board

Kathy Bak- Board