



## The Critchen Restaurant 3377 Clinton Street West Seneca September 19

### President's Corner

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoyed the wiring workshop.

The September meeting as you know is on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> a week later than normal. This is because Bill Valavanis is having an open house at the International Bonsai Arboretum on September 12 & 13 and we want to encourage as many members as possible to attend this end of summer event. Attached is the flyer for the open house, the flyer for some workshops at the International Bonsai Arboretum starting at the end of September. Also, the flyer for the introductory bonsai course starting September 21, it is not too late to sign up!

**This month's meeting is going to be at the Critchen restaurant at 3377 Clinton Street in West Seneca.** We will take a large nursery stock item and reduce it down to bonsai and perform an initial styling. We will also have our auction of members items. For the demo the club will be providing appetizers and the bar will be open for those looking for adult type beverages. Afterwards some members have indicated they will be staying for dinner and we hope more will! The owner has given us use of the covered patio so it will be a comfortable.

Many members have asked about what to do with their non tropical trees for the winter. The basic answer is, protect them from the cold and like all things bonsai it is

not as simple as it sounds. First you need to understand what happens when a tree goes dormant. Photosynthesis stops and the tree no longer produces energy to grow by dropping their leaves. Evergreen trees do not drop their needles but there is not photosynthesis occurring. Next the tree will remove most of the water from within itself but not all of its water. The water that it keeps, the tree modifies with minerals and hormones to lower the freezing point. This is why you fertilize in the fall and why you should always use a fertilizer that has micro elements besides nitrogen, phosphate and potash. This function differs among species and this is why some trees can tolerate lower temperatures than others. But a tree's ability to do this does not make it impervious to the cold.

When trees go dormant it is a resting period for them, if you prevent a tree from going dormant it will die. What allows a tree to go dormant? Temperature. On average 40 degrees Fahrenheit is the minimum temperature to allow for dormancy to occur. A tree that is kept in an environment of 30 degrees Fahrenheit is just as dormant as a tree in a 10 degrees environment.

What caused a tree or branch die off after the winter? It could have gotten so cold outside that the water in the tree froze. The tree did not have enough minerals and hormones to modify the water in it to prevent it from freezing.

What is the best way to winter bonsai trees? There is no best way, what works for one person may not work for another. Some people keep their trees outside all

winter only protected from the wind and have great success. Some people keep them in cold storage like a tool shed or some other structure. I keep mine in the garage where the temperature stays around 32 degrees Fahrenheit and does not get much below 25 degrees Fahrenheit even during sub-zero conditions. If you chose the outdoors, bury the tree in snow. Snow actually insulates the tree from extreme cold and the wind along with will provide water when things start to warm up. Cold storage and garages, first never leave a tree on the floor, inside any structure the floor is always colder than three feet above the floor. Second if on the floor it is easier for animals like mice to use the bark as a food source. Trees kept outside are also susceptible to being eaten by animals. When keeping your trees inside a structure you will have to check on them to see if they need water. When you do have to water allow the water to cool below the temperature it was when it came out of the tap. Check the soil first if it is frozen do not water. Like all things bonsai nothing is spontaneous and you have to have a plan. Planning to store your trees should start with fertilizing and ensuring they are as healthy and as strong as possible before dormancy. Deciding where you are going to keep your trees and keeping them safe from animals and the elements. We spend all summer caring for our trees, do not view winter storage as simply putting something away for the winter like outer outdoor items.

I hope everybody stays safe and well.

Scott

## **Events & Information:**

### ***Upcoming Bonsai Events***

## **2020 Monthly Agenda:**

October 10 John Wiessinger

November 14 Mark Arpag

December Christmas Party

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

By Deb Chludzinski, Gasport, NY. Black pine



## **Refreshments for month**

## **2020 Board Members**

Scott Russo- President

Paul Pearson- Treasurer

Christine Wilkolaski - Board

662-9429 membership

Bob Maxwell- Board

Kathy Bak- Board