



Saturday 8, 2025. 1pm  
SUNY Erie Community College North Campus  
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221  
STEM Building

## President's Corner

Greetings everyone,

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

This month Bill Valavanis will be doing a demonstration on building a Larch forest. Bill creates some of the finest forests in the bonsai world. He will be going over material selection and placement, the two most important aspects to creating a forest regardless of the material you are using.



Mary Miller has soil available, if you are interested please talk to me or Christine Wilkolaski.

Membership dues are typically collected in February so if you could see Christine or Paul please if you have not renewed.

Bill Valavanis has not yet sent out this year's pdf for seedlings but they are listed at:  
[http://www.internationalbonsai.com/seedling\\_list](http://www.internationalbonsai.com/seedling_list)

As of this writing we have entered a warm spell but it is not going to last and not cause your trees to start to bud. But if it were to have lasted longer then your trees would start to bud. This is the time when they are at risk should the temperature drop back to freezing and they are not protected from the cold. Being able to protect them when

the temperature drops is going to help prevent die back from the cold. When it comes to die back from the cold the tree dies from the end of the branches in. Depending on how cold and how long the tree is exposed to the freezing temperature will dictate how far the die back will progress or kill the tree. At the very least the buds will get killed off from the cold but usually the damage is greater. When it comes to outside temperature you need to look at the real feel or the wind chill factor, depending on what name is being used along with the actual temperature. If the temperature is 37 degrees but with the wind the real feel is 27 degrees that is below freezing and this can cause problems if the tree has started to bud.

As I have mentioned in the past I keep my trees in my garage, they are protected all winter long from the wind and while sometimes my garage floor gets below freezing. Keep in mind my garage is attached to my house so the garage benefits from heat loss from the house. The trees sit well above the floor and the temperature on average does not get below 34 degrees. If the trees start to break buds and the outside temperature drops below freezing I have a small propane heater I can use to add some heat to my garage to keep the trees safe. I try to heat the garage to about 45 degrees or so when I have had to do so. In the past ten years I have only had to use the heater once and truthfully I may have been able to get away with not doing so but I did not want to take any chances.

For some reason the Chinese Quince I have likes to start breaking buds in late February early March. All of the other trees in my garage are still dormant, so I bring the tree in the house keeping it on the kitchen table until it becomes warm enough to go outside. I could bring it in the basement, on the south side of my basement I have a window and there is a fair amount of light there. I don't do this because I do not wish to move what is there to put a table up. The point to all this is do not leave your trees to chance when it comes to cold. You may have

options that you have not considered when it comes to protecting your trees. This includes getting creative in building something to offer better protection for your trees than just leaving them outside. If you decide to build something and are considering insulation boards, the double reflective insulation rolls is a better option. It is not attractive to critters, the face will reflect light and heat and a two by 25 foot roll will cost you less than half of a four by eight sheet of reflective insulation board.

Repotting will soon be here and your maybe, considering taking a tree and planting it in the ground to help increase growth. While this is a proven method you may wish to reconsider doing so. While you may have the same type of tree growing in your yard or neighborhood, when you bonsai the same tree remember the tree is not as big. The bark is not as thick and the leaves or needles are not as thick. This makes a tree that normally animals would not eat more susceptible. I live in a development and in the past few years my neighbors have been putting up fencing instead of their landscaping to prevent the deer from dining on things. You would think with it being summer and food being so available that they would not venture into yards to find food. The flip side is they are no different than us and who wants to eat the something everyday, and plantings in landscaping provide a variety of food. Yes you can fence off the tree you are looking to plant in the ground. Before doing so talk to your neighbors and see how they fared last year with their landscaping material before planting a tree in the ground.

Scott Russo

### **2025 BBS Monthly Agenda:**

March 8<sup>th</sup> Bill Valavanis  
 April 12<sup>th</sup> Terry Monroe  
 May 10<sup>th</sup> Workshop for Show  
 June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Bonsai Show  
 June 14<sup>th</sup> Intro to Bonsai  
 July 12<sup>th</sup> Root over rock  
 August 9<sup>th</sup> Picnic  
 September 13<sup>th</sup> (no meeting) 10<sup>th</sup> US Bonsai  
 National Exhibition 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Rochester  
 October 11<sup>th</sup> Sean Smith  
 November 8<sup>th</sup> Les Allen  
 December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Ilio DiPaolo's

### **2025 Board Members**

Scott Russo- President

Paul Pearson- Treasurer

Bill Barker- Board

Sandy McDougal- Board

Jerry Rucker- Board

Christine Wilkolaski - Board

716-662-9429 membership