



Saturday April 13, 1pm
SUNY Erie Community College North Campus
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221
STEM Building

President's Corner

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to David Williams Ikebana demonstration. David will be joining us again this year at our show with a display and doing a demo.

Last month, we talked about transplanting trees which will go hand and hand with our April demonstration. Dan Zak will be talking and how to create and improve surface roots. Surface roots if you're lucky, can develop naturally but most of the time need some encouragement.

With your trees repotted or just coming out of winter storage you may notice they need to be wired. Wiring in the spring can be done but it is not ideal. I know that sounds funny when we talk about prepping a tree at this time of year for an upcoming show.

The biggest problem with wiring in the spring is the growth spurt that occurs and how it can cause wire to bite if you are not paying attention. Before you say I can get around that by applying the wire loosely.

Remember, when we wire and bend a branch, we bend the wire, and the branch follows. The wire being in contact with the branch provides some support all around the branch. As you bend the wire the force of the bend is displaced to a certain extent. Like placing a halo tube inside a spring to bend it. If you just bend the tube it will kink. If you put it inside a spring and bend it, it will not kink. The same is true with a branch only instead of kinking the branch breaks.

When you bend a branch, you are making an arch the inside surface of the arch goes into compression, trying

to shrink, while the outside surface of the arch goes into tension, attempting to stretch. These changes create an internal stress between them. At some point as you are bending the side in tension will separate/ break. If you think of the bend as an arch, the apex of the arch is where the branch breaks.

When bending a branch look at where you are bending, try to visualize the bend. Know what the tree is and how old it might be. A larch, even an older one is more flexible than a young Brazilian Rain tree. This will help you determine if you should wrap the branch before you apply wire to it. When you wire try to wrap the wire on the branch to anticipate where the apex of the arch is going to be. Do this even if you wrapped the branch. It is good practice and try to get yourself in the habit of doing it. If you are going to apply wire, then decide about how you are going to bend it there is a good chance you will break the branch.

Depending on the weather we should be able to have our trees outside for the season (except for tropical trees). If it is next week I usually wait until the temperature does not drop past 50 degrees as a low before I apply a systemic insecticide. You may also want to treat your landscaping trees. Liquid systemic products have a shelf life so you might as well use it instead of letting it expire.

I was asked when I transplant trees what do I do with the used soil? I throw it all over my lawn like fertilizer. I justify it by thinking as it gets compressed into the lawn it helps break up the soil and will promote better grass growth. I am not sure how much of that is actually happening as opposed to be theoretical. But it is not going in the trash.

If anybody is need of soil from Hank Miller please let Christine Wilkolaski or myself know or you may call Hank.

Scott

Events & Information:

May 18 - 10 International Bonsai Arboretum open house

May 19 Bonsai Society of Upstate NY Bonsai Show

June 1-2 Buffalo Bonsai show

Tree of the Month



Andrea Junger, Bad Boll, Germany. Juniper

2024 BBS Monthly Agenda:

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

2024 Board Members

Scott Russo- President

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716-662-9429 membership