



Saturday April 11, 2026. 1pm  
SUNY Erie Community College North Campus  
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221  
STEM Building Room 102

## President's Corner

Hello,  
Hope everyone enjoyed our last meeting and got something out of it. This month is bring your own tree/trees workshop.

We will need help potting trees on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> for Reinstein Fall Festival. See Christine if you can help at her house. We also have a sign up for the Cherry Blossom Festival at the end of the month.

With the new members we have, I thought going over watering would not hurt. I know this is a bit basic and unglamorous to talk about but, watering is key. Not watering properly is how most trees die. Everybody knows when you water, you water completely, watering every bit of the soil and do so thoroughly. Water until you see it dripping out of the pot. I am not a fan of submerging a pot in water as a way of watering and I will get to why in a bit.

How to water is pretty straight forward. If you use a watering can or a hose, use a fine rose, unlike what you would use for a house plant. Remember misting foliage is not a substitute for watering. So why then is watering so hard to master when how to do it is so simple? The problems come from when to water. Too many people want a watering schedule and want to water to that schedule. You cannot water to a

schedule. Look at how many different types of days you have in a month, hot, warm, humid, windy, hot but sunny, etc.

A one size fits all approach cannot possibly work. Being able to see the tree needs water is

when you should water. So how do you do this? Start by leaving a chopstick in the soil. Pull it out if it is wet; you do not need to water if it is dry water. But before you pull the wood chopstick out look at the tree look at the soil even if you use your finger to probe it. See what you think then pull the chopstick out and see what it tells you.

Eventually you will be able to tell if the tree needs water without the need of the chopstick but until then it is a good way to learn. You can use a moisture meter but I think a chopstick gives you a better way to see what it is like in the soil than looking at a number. The wood chopstick gives you a visual. You can see the amount of water/ moisture that is being held in surface tension on the chopstick, just as the roots and all the materials that comprise your particular soil mixture.

Submersion can work but it has some drawbacks. It does not allow you to see how the water is being accepted by the soil. When you water with a can and the water pools on the top of the soil it could mean, your soil is

breaking down and it is time to repot or the roots need to be thinned out and time to root prune. You will never know that if you are submerging the tree. Watering from above is a more effective way of flushing out the soil. Yes, when you lift the pot out of the water, the pot empties the water that was in it. When you water from above more water is used than what the pot would contain. Think of it as being dirty and sitting in a bathtub then standing up, opposed to taking a shower. The spray from the shower is more effective in taking dirt off your body than soaking in a tub then standing up, same thing here. What type of trees, how large the pot is, soil composition all influence how much water is available to the tree.

With all the different variables, it is important to see and recognize what is going on so you know when to water. Watering to a schedule and ignoring detail will get you in trouble.

Scott Russo

### ***2026 BBS Monthly Agenda:***

April 11<sup>th</sup> Bring your own tree workshop  
 April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Cherry Blossom Festival  
 May 9<sup>th</sup> Terry Monroe spring trimming  
 June 6-7<sup>th</sup> Club Show  
 June 13<sup>th</sup> Intro to Bonsai  
 Art in the Park June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
 July 11<sup>th</sup> John Wiessinger Bonsai tips and Tricks  
 August 8<sup>th</sup> Picnic/Auction  
 September 12<sup>th</sup> TBD  
 October 10<sup>th</sup> Sean Smith  
 November 14<sup>th</sup> Suiseki  
 December Christmas party

### **Bonsai Society of Upstate New York**

April 28 Andrew Robson  
 May 17 9-4pm, Club Exhibition & Sale

### **2026 Board Members**

Scott Russo- President  
Paul Pearson- Treasurer  
Bill Barker- Board  
Sandy McDougal- Board  
Jerry Rucker- Board  
Christine Wilkolaski - Board  
716-662-9429 membership