

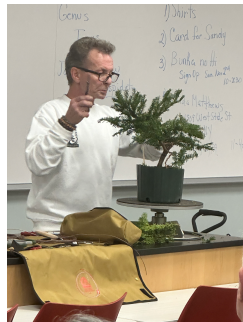


Saturday November 8, 2025. 1pm
SUNY Erie Community College North Campus
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221
STEM Building

President's Corner

Hello,
Hope everyone is doing well and enjoyed last month's meeting with Sean Smith and his demonstration on Yews.

Thank you to Patrick Reilly, Jerry Rucker and Christine Wilkolaski for spending time at the Japan Culture Center of Western New York, Japan Culture, Day Bunka no Hi, held at the Buffalo Historical building.



theme A traditional display will have a tree in a pot that is proportionate to the tree. Conifers tend to be in unglazed earth tone pots. Masculine trees in square or rectangular pots having straight edges. Feminine trees in round or oval pots with soft edges. Broad leaf trees tend to be in a colored glazed pot. The color working with the color of the leaves and trunk. The stand should be male or female to match the tree, be proportionate in size to the tree and color selection of the stand should work with the tree and pot. If you are going to use an accent plant, rock, scroll or statue the movement of the item should point to the tree just as the tree points to it.

Have you ever gone to someone's house and the way it was decorated felt warm, cozy, lifeless or cold? The colors, textures and items of each room created a feeling for you. Was the furniture placed where you could feel a flow in the room? How do you look at a room? Do you just look at it in a mechanical manor? There is a couch in front of a coffee table in front of a tv, nice room, I have a place to put my drink while I watch that monster screen tv. If you only look at things on a mechanical level you will struggle to see much beyond that. Was the room cluttered to the point where it was hard to appreciate what was in the room? Or were items arranged to draw you into to them? Most likely all of the items in the room indicated where their interests are but could you see their personality in the room? The type of person they are?

Just as a room in a house reflects a person and a feeling the same is true of a bonsai and a bonsai display. The difficulty is until you understand the rules of styling you cannot begin to express yourself in a bonsai and strike a balance. No different than the balance that exists within you.

Many members have asked about what to do with their non-tropical trees for the winter. The basic answer is,

Our next meeting **Les Allen** will be our demonstrator and it will be on Suiseki stones.

Our **Christmas Party** is just around the corner. **Saturday December 13th**

The party starts at noon with an open bar with lunch served at 1pm. Remember to bring a wrapped Bonsai gift for the auction for our after dinner entertainment. Remember to bid high and bid often. Reserve your place with the signup sheet at the meeting. \$35 a person (nonrefundable). See Christine with any questions.

Setting up a display is thought out and involves some trial and error. The display should also make you happy and have meaning for you. A traditional display has the tree, the pot, the stand and if used an accent plant, rock, scroll or statue working together to convey a mood or

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.

Scott

SPECIAL UPDATE

Those who ordered shirts they are in. See Christine for your order. \$25. We can order more for members interested

2025 BBS Monthly Agenda:

November 8th Les Allen Sueiki
December 13th 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