

# BSGNY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2019

Upcoming Meetings Schedule. June 14 meeting will be a chrysanthemum bonsai demo and workshop with John as the demonstrator based upon the request of our members. July 12 meeting will be an Organic fertilizer workshop presented by Chris. We need to know by June 14, who would be interested so we can plan for the materials. August 10 meeting is a Picnic and Swap Meet, hosted by Mary, from 11 am – 3 pm at Fireman’s Park in East Meadow. Please RSVP to Mary and let her know if anyone has any dietary restrictions. She will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers, potato and macaroni salads. We need volunteers to bring deserts. Please let her know what you’re bringing. [Mward412@aol.com](mailto:Mward412@aol.com) or 516.765.0253  
More details are continued on Page 3

## June Meeting

Chrysanthemum bonsai demo  
and workshop  
8:00 PM- 10:00 PM  
June 14, 2019

**William C. Odol Community Center  
Located at the H. Garrick Williams Park,  
Ritter Avenue, Massapequa, NY 11758**

### Directions:

On southern State parkway exit at 32 south (route 110). Proceed to Ritter Ave. and make right turn at taco bell (the second traffic light). Proceed thru the traffic light on County Line road. The William Odol, building is on the right with the parking lot just passed the building.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Meeting Notes
- 2 BSGNY INFORMATION AND OFFICERS
- 3 More Meeting Notes & Events
- 4 June Bonsai care

## WELCOME

Membership dues for the 2019 year are due. Please make your payment in check or cash to our Membership Secretary Mary Ward.

## 2019 BSGNY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	JOHN CAPOBIANCO
VICE PRESIDENT	CHRIS ARBONO
TREASURER	PAUL FOGELBERG
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MARY WARD
RECORDING SECRETARY	JOE LESNICK
DIRECTOR	FRANK KONDRICH
DIRECTOR	CLAIRE LANE
DIRECTOR	MARY WARD
PROGRAM CHAIR	CHRIS ARBONO
WEB MASTER	
NEWSLETTER	FRANK KONDRICH and JOE LESNICK



Like the article reprints in this and the previous newsletter? BSGNY had printed a “Bonsai Bulletin” for almost 30 years. They have been scanned on to a DVD disc. The DVD disk is now here. The price will be \$29.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. The DVD will also be available for sale at our meetings for (\$29.95).

Please mail this form to:  
BSGNY, PO BOX 115, Baldwin, New York 11510.

➤ *Make out your check to “Bonsai Society of Greater NY”* ◀

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for an Annual Membership at:  
 \$17 Student    \$40 Regular    \$45 Joint (2 people at the same address)

Or sign up at the next meeting. [www.bsgny.org](http://www.bsgny.org)

**MEETING AGENDA:** The September, October and November meeting agendas are yet to be defined. If you'd like to suggest a program for some of these meetings, here are some thoughts: Put on a Saikei demonstration or a Slab planting demonstration. We need someone willing to be a presenter. Other Programming ideas: Host a Field trip to the Sunken Forest or a Fall buying trip to Atlantic Nursery. What would you like to see? Meetings are scheduled on the second Friday or Saturday of the month.

We do have the following **events**:

September 15 – Art in the Park, Village of Farmingdale, bring your trees to display.

October 25 – 27, Long Island Chrysanthemum Show at Starkie Bros, Main Street, Farmingdale

Our December meeting will be our Holiday Party and Annual Meeting which includes elections, so start thinking for what office you'd like to run for to help make our club better!

### **It's June and here's where you should be with your bonsai.**

Deciduous trees by now should be root pruned and repotted. Take caution if you need to repot any more. See Bjorn Bjorholm's comments below for some guidelines. It's not too late to repot conifers as they are actively growing.

Father's Day is the ideal time to prune candles; cut off the most from the candles on the upper branches (about 2/3), less from the middle candles (1/2) and the least from the bottom sections (1/4 to nothing on weak bottom branches or areas where you want the branch to grow out.).

Fertilize now, depending on your desired results. Horticulture doesn't respond well (grow) below 50 or 60 degrees, or above 90 degrees. Mature trees may not need much fertilizer. Fertilize heavily to seedlings, cuttings or pre-bonsai that you want to develop. Bonsai you want to maintain or refine should be fertilized until growth stops in the heat of summer.

When the heat of the summer comes along, your bonsai tree will stop producing new leaves, telling itself that this is the right number - my root system can get through the summer supporting the leaves that I have, and no more.

Once the summer heat is over, continue fertilizing in the fall with a low nitrogen fertilizer to prepare for winter. The exception to fertilizing now is white pines (5 needle). Don't fertilize until the fall.

### **Bonsai Tips for Summer Care from Bonsai Outlet: Eight things are important right now.**

**Water.** The old Japanese adage is to water your bonsai tree three times; Once for the pot, once for the soil, and once for the tree. By going back and forth over your collection three times, it allows the water to soak into the soil and the pot and leave water for the tree to soak into the soil and the pot and leaves water for the tree to take in.

Watering your bonsai tree is a tricky thing to get a handle on, even in the best conditions. When it's 100 degrees out, it's a whole different matter. During the summer, bonsai trees are in maximum capacity mode. Your bonsai trees life or death depends on watering this time of year. A day or two of neglect and the soil, and the important little root ends at the bottom of the pot will die. Those are the roots that bring water into the roots system and up to the leaves.

Avoid the temptation to water your bonsai tree just to "cool it down." Wet foliage can increase the sun's rays - each drop acting like a little magnifying glass that ultimately does more damage than good. Besides, the water belongs in the soil, not on the leaves.

Fertilize! The abundance of watering you are doing now, combined with the inherent nature of porous bonsai soil means that nutrients stay around for a very short amount of time. They literally go down the drain. You should not skip fertilizing this time of year.

Soil. Where did it go? With watering, some of it splashes out, some of it drains down the drainage holes and some of it is eaten by the root system. But that's for another article... If you look at your soil level, it's probably well below the rim of your bonsai pot. It's smart to add soil to keep the world your bonsai tree lives in as big as it can be - or at least as big as it's pot. Generally, it's best if the new soil can be placed at the bottom of the pot, not just added to fill the top of the pot to the brim.

A bonsai tree plant that is classified as "full sun," is not the same things as planting that tree in the ground and letting it grow to its full size. Full sun does not mean blazing, all afternoon, direct July sun. Every bonsai tree appreciates some afternoon shade. The pot itself in the afternoon sun can rise to temperatures that will cook its roots like linguini.

Watch where you point that thing. The water in a hose laying in the sun can reach temperatures of scalding levels. One blast of hot water to your bonsai tree, whether on the foliage or into the soil could kill it. Turn on the hose and give a nearby ant pile a good dose of boiling water for a few moments before you water your bonsai tree.

### **Bjorn Bjorholm's comments on summer repotting:**

There are many factors to consider when deciding if a bonsai can be repotted in the summer heat. These include the purpose, species, and aftercare of the tree in question. Let's take a look at each of these factors in detail.

#### **Purpose**

First, what is the purpose of repotting in the summer? Summer repotting should only be done if one of the following conditions is met:

1. The tree has been styled on a new angle, and repotting can be done with little disturbance to the roots. This is perhaps the most common reason we repot trees in summer at professional bonsai nurseries in Japan. It should only be done if the tree is in good health.
2. The tree has sharply declined in health over the course of the summer. This could be a result of a number of factors, including compaction of the soil, poor drainage, lack of oxygen penetration to the root system, fungal or pest issues, etc.
3. The tree is a tropical or subtropical species (or very rarely, a temperate species) that benefits from repotting during the hotter parts of the summer. This includes species such as Ficus, Dwarf Star Jasmine, Gardenia, and Chojubai among many others.

## Species

Next, what species can be repotted in summer? Surprisingly, almost any. However, there are certain circumstances that should be considered before summer repotting.

First, many temperate coniferous species can be repotted in the hottest part of the summer as they go into summer dormancy. Many species have evolved, through the processes of natural selection, to fall into a dormancy-like state during the hottest, driest part of the summer as a defense mechanism against droughts. Following this summer dormancy period, as trees “wake up” once again, they will often produce a flush of new foliar and root growth.

During this period of summer dormancy, some temperate coniferous species can be repotted if absolutely necessary (i.e. if one of the above mentioned purposes is identified).

Here is a list of temperate coniferous species that can be repotted during the summer:

Juniperus chinensis

Juniperus procumbens

Juniperus rigida (repot only after the second flush of growth begins to appear following the first trimming in early June)

Pinus parviflora

Pinus thunbergii (only if absolutely necessary for health purposes; otherwise wait until fall if the purpose is aesthetic)

Pinus densiflora (only if absolutely necessary for health purposes; otherwise wait until fall if the purpose is aesthetic)

Second, temperate deciduous species should only be repotted in summer if absolutely necessary for health purposes. In the event that a temperate deciduous species, such as a Japanese Maple or Japanese Flowering Apricot, begins to wilt, drop leaves, or becomes peaked in the summer (due to the factors mentioned above), the tree should be slip-potted (meaning roots should not be trimmed or teased) immediately into a larger wooden box container. This will allow more oxygen penetration to the root system. Otherwise, temperate deciduous species should only be repotted in Spring.

Third, tropical, subtropical, and certain temperate broadleaf evergreens can be repotted in summer. These species include (but are not limited to) the following:

Ficus

Dwarf Star Jasmine

Gardenia

Chojubai (repot as the leaves naturally yellow and drop in the mid to late summer heat)

## Soil Components

As always, I recommend using a basic mix of akadama, lava rock, and pumice. Use a 1:1:1 ratio respectively for conifers and a 2:1:1 ratio respectively for deciduous and broadleaf evergreen species.

## Aftercare

If a tree has been repotted in the summer, the subsequent aftercare is very important in maintaining (or improving) the tree's health. Trees repotted in summer should be protected from direct afternoon sun for a minimum of ten days following repotting. At Kouka-en in Japan, we use a combination of shade cloth (40% cut) and bamboo rollers (90% cut), applied from 11am to 4pm daily during the summer months.

Lastly, fertilizer should be cut and foliage should be sprayed with water twice daily (once in the morning and once in the early evening) for ten days to two weeks following summer repotting.

While repotting trees in the summer is certainly acceptable, it goes without saying that the best time to repot most species is in fact in the Spring. However, if the above pre and post conditions are met, then by all means repot your bonsai in the hotter summer months. Just be sure to provide the necessary aftercare to your tree!

More information from Bjorn may be found on his web site, [www.eisei-en.com](http://www.eisei-en.com), including on-line tutorials.

Your trees have their own type of air conditioning. They circulate water as they evaporate it. Imagine cool water from the ground coming up through the roots, into the trunk and out to the leaves. The water goes from very cool, almost cold in the ground to hot by the time it reaches the leaves. This happens up to 90 degrees. At 90 Degrees, the stomata (the little pores) on the leaves of plants close to protect the plant and retain moisture.

That's how "regular" trees in the ground do it – but what about your bonsai? Let's compare.

When a tree is in a pot (bonsai) then the access to plenty of cool ground water is limited. That means it has less access to water.

Think about that. With less access to cool water, a bonsai has less ability to cool itself and adjust to varying conditions.

What this means is, leaf curl and leaf browning due to the heat. If a bonsai is not taken care of daily during this time of year, the leaves will completely die and fall off, and then the plant will die rather quickly.

So, what are the secrets to taking care of your bonsai during the summer? Water, fertilizer, and shade.

First, you can't water enough in the summer! Ok, well, you can water too much anytime of the year, but that depends on your soil. If you have used potting soil, then all that peat moss is going to hold water – and attract fungus, then fungus gnats, and then spiders to eat the gnats, and all manner of other insects.

So, water, water, water! Up to a maximum of 5 times a day. Ideally you will water before you leave for work, water the minute you get home, and check them again before you retire for the night. Your job in the summer is to make sure your little trees have all the water they can use.

Proper nutrition ensures we grow to our full potential. Your plants are the same. When you give your plants a healthy amount of the beneficial nutrients, vitamins and minerals that they need to grow, they will grow strong, healthy, and beautiful. In the summer, you should water your bonsai at 3 / 4 to full strength fertilizer once a week, or make a 7 times diluted version and use it every time you water in a constant feed (1 gallon full strength makes 7 gallons constant feed).

Finally, shade. Some species of plants will not do well in shade – like Junipers – so research your plant some. But other plants, like maples and azaleas could use some shade in the summer. The thing to remember is full shade is not good. What bonsai need is a portion of the day in full sun and a portion in shade. If you have a choice, then morning sun and afternoon shade would be ideal. But, the reverse would work. So if possible, put your bonsai on the Eastern side of your house, or against the Eastern side of a wall.

Well, there you have it! Now you know exactly why your bonsai's leaves are curling up and turning brown and what to do about it. You also know what you need to do to keep your bonsai healthy and happy through the summer. It all comes down to the laws of nature vs. the desire of man. If you want a beautiful bonsai, you will have to protect it and simulate nature as much as possible. Just remember, water, fertilizer and shade.

### **Propagate: Following are some ideas from Dallas Bonsai**

“Sashiki” - Cultivating trees from cuttings is very popular in Japan among Bonsai growers, as it is an inexpensive way to propagate new trees. This method will reduce the time it takes to grow trees from seeds by about a year, while also giving you the benefit of knowing in advance which characteristics the cutting will possess.

To start with, suitable cuttings need to be collected. Most types of trees (specifically deciduous trees and some conifers) are easily propagated using cuttings; select a branch of an existing tree and cut it off. The size of the cuttings should be about 2”-4” tall (5-10 cm) and 2-5 mm thick. It is possible to take larger cuttings as well but the chance of getting them to root is slim.

When? Generally, spring and summer are the best times to cut-off and plant cuttings. Some hardwood cuttings can be prepared and planted after their growth season (late summer). Read the Bonsai tree species guide for timing.

You may start propagating trees from cuttings. Growing Bonsai from seed or from cuttings will be a test of your patience, but it is a great way to style Bonsai trees without the need to prune thick branches (which is often inherent to styling Yamadori or nursery stock). Air layering is another method to shorten the start of a bonsai tree, by air layering a thicker trunk tree.

These are some of the processes you should be following this time of year and some of the techniques to further develop your collection of bonsai trees.

*HAVE A QUESTION, TOPIC OR AN OPINION (RELATING TO BONSAI) YOU'D LIKE RESEARCHED AND REPORTED ON? LET US KNOW.*