

January  
2010

# Happy New Year!

## Future Tense SBS Calendar for 2010

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Springfield  
Bonsai Society

We hope everyone had a good holiday season and wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Our first meeting for 2010 will be on February 8th. We have a full calendar of events planned for the rest of the year. The next page will give you a preview of the events so you can mark your calendars.

The guest artist workshops in spring include famous and talented artists like Michael Persiano, Erik Wigert and Craig Coussins. You might remember Michael Persiano from his 2008 SBS workshop. Michael also worked with Dr. Folsie on his private collection and the tree they worked on was featured in a *Bonsai Focus* article.

Cass Bonsai has booked Erik Wigert for some workshops at their location on May 8th. I'm sure you remember the great Bougainvillea workshop from last Spring. This year Erik will be bringing some *Nia buxifolia* in addition to some Helen Johnson Bougies. Please note the dates and book your spot in advance.

While the workshops are a great opportunity to work with some talented teachers, please do not forget our monthly meetings! Each meeting has a specific topic and our local experts will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

If you haven't had a chance please visit our new website [www.bonsaisbs.com](http://www.bonsaisbs.com) Some club members have added their bonsai pictures to the Photo Gallery.

The membership dues for 2010 remain the same as last year – \$20 individual and \$30 family. Membership includes free admission to SBS workshops and access to SBS bonsai supplies at the meetings.

## Past Tense – November '09 Meeting

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The November '09 meeting was a dessert social, events planning and election meeting for 2010. Over some coffee and dessert we came up with a pretty good list of activities for this year.

Officers for 2010: Gary Trammell has agreed to lead us one more year! He will be assisted by David Kerwin as our new vice-president. Tom Applebee will continue in his duties as treasurer and I will continue to write the newsletter and assist in any other secretarial duties!

We hope to have your support in making 2010 SBS events a success!

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SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Palmatum Press

## 2010 Calendar of Events

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, February through November, at the Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette, Springfield, IL 62704 [located near the corner of Fayette and Chatham Rd., next to the Carillon], unless otherwise noted.

Dates for SBS Bonsai Shows (Spring / Fall) are being finalized. Please stay tuned for details!

Meeting dates	Topic/Activity	Presenters	Tree of the month	Other Events/Notes
Monday February 8	Dessert social Bonsai slide show	John Mori Gary Trammell		Feb. 6,13,20,27 Spring Repotting/Open House Cass Bonsai
Monday March 8	Grafting Repotting	Milt Ciskowski Roland Folse	Juniper	March 13 & 20 Beginner Work- shops at Cass Bonsai
Monday April 12	Styling Repotting		Maples	
Saturday April 17	Guest artist workshop at WPBG	Michael Persiano	Bring your own tree	
Mondays, May 3 and 17	Bonsai Basics Workshop	Gary Trammell and volunteers		Register through LLCC Community Learning
Saturday May 8	Guest artist workshop at Cass	Erik Wigert	Bougainvillea Nia Buxifolia	May 15 - 16 - Spring Show Chicago Botanic Garden.
Monday May 10	De-budding Pines Insects in Bonsai	Roland Folse Phil Nixon	Pines	May 29-31 Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous
Monday June 14	Forest/Raft style Bonsai	Manish Sumant	Elm/Hornbeam	June 12-13 - 2nd National Exhi- bition International Bonsai Ar- boretum in Rochester, NY.
Monday July 12	Regular meeting cancelled	Meeting moved to July 19th	Azaleas	June 25-27 MABA Convention Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Monday July 19	Guest Artist Workshop	Craig Coussins	Details TBA	Craig has authored many bonsai books and is a skilled instructor
Monday August 9	Tropicals	Milt Ciskowski	Ficus, Bougainvillea	Aug. 20-22 - Fall Show Chicago Botanic Garden
Monday September 13	Bunjin			Sept. 4, 5 & 6 Japanese Festival Missouri Botanical Garden STL
Monday October 11	Black Pine or Trident Maples			
Monday November 8	Dessert Social 2011 Planning Meeting	Election of Officers		

## Winter display of deciduous bonsai

The topic of this month's (mini) article came to me while my wife and I were driving through the country side on our way to a holiday party. Now, in central Illinois we do not have too many forests with old trees, but in between farms some trees have been left alone. It was quite interesting to see some old trees without any leaves. I realized that a well defined branch structure lends the effect of old age to a bonsai as much as a thick trunk.

This well defined branch structure, or "ramification" is easier to achieve in deciduous species like Maple, Hornbeam, Elm etc. I will not go into the detailed techniques of achieving ramification as the focus of this article is to raise awareness of observing your bonsai in winter.



"I brake for trees"... that's the bumper sticker my wife is going to get me!



In fact, Japanese shows for deciduous trees are held in late winter or early spring. "On the other hand, the form and architecture of deciduous trees is often best appreciated in the leafless condition, and since those species with showy flowers are at their prime in early spring, this gives the rationale for many Japanese bonsai societies to schedule vernal shows."<sup>1</sup>

Another article on the web (quoted below) was critical of displaying deciduous bonsai in full leaf as if often the case. While I can appreciate viewing a Maple or Hornbeam in its glorious fall color, I can also appreciate admiring the branch structure that truly portrays a bonsai's 'age'.

"Good deciduous bonsai do not need to hide behind a veil of foliage to show off their attributes. In fact, you would only want to see a great deciduous bonsai without foliage, for it is within the structure that the beauty is imparted. The aged bark, the graceful movement of trunks and branches, the ever-decreasing length and girth of the branches from trunk to twig and the "teased" ramification can only be seen during winter. These are all signs of old trees, and old trees have a power over our psyche and a story to tell. Only old trees in nature attain the levels of ramification that show them to be aged - when we think of an archetypal tree, it is invariably old. We are attempting to show this archetypal tree in our art display. A tree covered in foliage can show none of these attributes, and therefore, will have difficulty attaining the same level of impact or ability to communicate what the artist is saying."<sup>2</sup>



Korean Hornbeam styled by Michael Persiano. Example of excellent ramification.

<sup>1</sup> "Japanese Bonsai and Bonsai Shows" by W. H. Hodge  
[arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1774.pdf](http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1774.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Artist and Design Integrity – Winter Display by Richard Fish

## January Bonsai Care Tips

Disclaimer: This is a general guide. Times can vary as much as a month depending on the weather trends. Some species of trees do not follow the general category guidelines of deciduous, evergreen or tropicals. Know your trees!

- Check outdoor covered trees weekly for moisture. Keep moist but not too wet.
- During times of snow cover turning to rapid thaw, check uncovered outdoor trees for excessive moisture and pooling water.
- Check conifers for signs of pests.



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Gary Trammell, President

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## Upcoming Events

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**February 8, Monday 7 pm SBS Meeting** – Desert Social, Bonsai slide show. John Mori, Gary Trammell.

**March 8, Monday 7 pm SBS Meeting** – Grafting, Repotting. Milt Ciskowski, Roland Folse.

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## Administrivia

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Your 2010 Officers are:

President – Gary Trammell 217-741-4849 (M)  
Vice President – David Kerwin  
Treasurer – Tom Applebee  
Secretary – Manish Sumant 217-652-9619 (M)  
& newsletter editor

Annual membership is \$20 (family \$30).

Email [msumant1@netscape.net](mailto:msumant1@netscape.net) to sign up or visit  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BonsaiSBS/>