

Pikes Peak Bonsai Society



September 2015 Issue

President	Steve Alford pmprdcchef@msn.com
Vice President	Robert Baran Rb@phoenixbonsai.com
Secretary	Tanya McAndrews Tanyamca2002@gmail.com
Treasurer	Victoria Ryan montyisa@yahoo.com

In this Month's Issue:

- Caring for our bonsai during winter
- Bonsai workshop with Todd Schlaffer on Sept. 19th.

Our next meeting will be on Sept. 15th, 7 pm at firehouse #14 located @ 1875 Dublin Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80918.



Bonsai Care During The Winter Months

During the Autumn, as daylight hours become shorter and temperatures drop, trees react by hardening up their immature growth. Stem tissues begin increasing their levels of sugar and carbohydrates which by the time the first frost arrives, act as an antifreeze to ensure that the plant itself will not freeze. Deciduous species lose their leaves to reduce moisture loss and all growth stops for 4 to 5 months. Eventually as winter arrives, trees have completed their natural defensive system against cold of winter; dormancy.

The temperature of the bonsai soil should be stopped from dropping by placing the tree and pot in a covered area. I find the window well in the basement is a good place for my bonsai trees. Make sure you cover the top of your window well with a piece of play wood or tarp to keep the out snow and sun light. If you don't have a window well then a unheated outhouse such as a shed or garage will work. Well insulated cold-frames or covers can also be adequate. Winter protection should also include protection from strong winds and sun during periods when soil is frozen and the roots are unable to replenish moisture that would be lost from the effects of direct sunlight and wind. The tree should not be placed anywhere that would allow the soil to warm up too much, placing a tree in a heated room temporarily for instance could bring it out of dormancy.

Your bonsai should never be allowed to dry out and this can happen during the winter when trees are placed in protective quarters out of rain. Water consumption is however very low during a dormant period and the soil should be kept damp but never sodden.

Bonsai Workshop

There is going to be a bonsai workshop with Todd Schlaffer on September 19th. We are going to be working on Junipers so please let us know if you are interested in attending the workshop. The workshop will be held at S & S Bonsai at 9:30 am, please provide your own Junipers for this workshop. There is no fee for the workshop but we would appreciate a small donation in lieu of the fee.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

August 15

How to make Potentilla bonsai tree workshop with material we got in June's nursery crawl. We will meet at 9:00 am at my Steve's house 1024 Bonfoy Ave. Colorado Springs, CO 80909

August 18

Show the Potentilla bonsai that we made in the previous workshop.

September 19

Workshop with Todd Schaffer from Denver on Junipers.

October 20

Discuss winter preparedness. Polyhouse designs, garage use, basement windows etc. Plan Christmas party for 2015 and nominate people for the next board.

November 17

Elections. Will announce other agenda later on.

December 15

Christmas Party at Bass Pro Shop. No monthly meeting