

April
2026

Volume 58
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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends,

It's that time of year again and it is so good to reunite with our Bonsai after our long hard winter! Most of my trees came out unscathed but a couple of weak ones took a hit. Water is most important but more difficult to get just right in the winter. When our Trees finally get that spring rain you can feel them rejoice I swear! Our Speaker was confused about our Meeting date and so I am the designated hitter and plan on a great meeting featuring all things carving & deadwood with Evergreen and Deciduous examples on display and a demo on a Large Cascade and a small Shohin tree too. It's not too early to start preparing your Trees for our 53rd Annual Exhibition and as added incentive Joe Noga is going to be photographing the Bonsai on display! Our Club Show is now just a few weeks away remember to take a few posters and buy discount tickets for Friends and Family. They WILL thank you !

— —-Mark



Mark and the Samurai from 2023.



Carved tree from last year's club show. A joint project between Mark Arpag and Tom Macinski. Mark donated the tree for the club auction, and also donated work on the tree.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 pm

Mark Arpag, Carving

The program will be on Carving Deadwood.

Mark will present a lecture on all the different tools used, and will discuss the use of Deadwood in Bonsai including Tanuki. There

will be different

examples on

display and a

demo on a Large

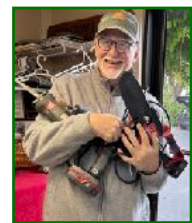
Old Cascade Birdsnest Spruce.

Many thanks to Mark for stepping

in (jumping?) when our planned

speaker had a conflict with the

dates.



Before the meeting, at 6 pm, the Shohin Study Group will meet. Toby Ziegler will guide us to assemble a club shohin display for next month's show.

Don't forget to bring your small items (\$100 or less value) for the silent auction. All proceeds benefit the club, and you can clean out duplicates!

**Buckland Lodge at
Brighton Town Park**

Refreshment Manager, Marti Macinski will provide, coffee, tea and individual drinks. If you are willing to bring something to share, please email Marti at mmacinski@mac.com.

2026 Programs:

- April 28 7 pm - Mark Arpag, Carving
- April 28 6 pm - Shohin Study group

See page 4 for dates and programs into 2026

March Program - Suiseki study group, Sargent Juniper talk and demo



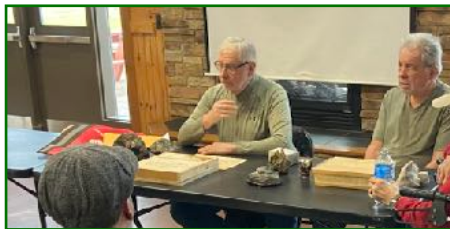
March was no exception - Club meeting days are always very full.

Several folks participated in the Sargent Juniper workshop in the afternoon at International Bonsai Arboretum. As always, the trees available were great to work with, and Bill's careful instruction and guidance meant everyone went home with a great tree.

At 6 pm, Tom Macinski and Bob Blankfield led the Suiseki Study group in showing a technique for making Daizas, that they learned from Dave Bennett. We are privileged to have so many club members that are willing and eager to share information.



Bill's presentation on Sargent Junipers was informative and entertaining. He included many of the trees from the afternoon workshop in the display area, recognizing the good work that was done.



Help wanted - refreshment coordinator

Are you ready to become more involved in the club by taking on some responsibility? We need you! Marti Macinski has been our refreshment coordinator for the past few years, and is ready to let someone else take over. Email Marti to ask questions and get more information. Please consider taking this on after June 2026! mmacinski@mac.com

Club Show Details and information

Our annual Club Show is next month. Here's what you need to know, and what to think about.

First, get your tree(s) ready. All members are welcome to bring a tree. And if you have been joining the Suiseki Study group, think about bringing a stone to display. Either on its own, or with one of your trees. Plan to bring your tree and help set up tables, table cloths, and trees on Saturday, May 16. More details will come, but set up is probably beginning at about 2 pm, with Joe Noga photographing trees between 10 and 2. After set up, plan to stay for a welcome reception with fellow club members .



The show is on Sunday, May 17, from 9 until 4. We hope all members will come for part of the show, and will help visitors tour the trees and stones.

Bill Valavanis has posters for display - you can pick them up at his studio, or at the club meeting this Tuesday.

Finally, for now (more emails to come about this), plan on picking up a packet of 10 tickets at half price. You can then sell these tickets, or give them to your friends and family so that they will come and admire your tree(s) in the show! Packets of 10 tickets are \$35, and we will have tickets available at the meeting on Tuesday, April 28, and then at Bill's studio.

Bonsai and Suiseki events around and about

Every year, Bill, Mark and many others find it difficult to stay home, and go trekking across the country in search of additional Bonsai knowledge and camaraderie. Going to other club events and exhibitions is an excellent way to learn something new, gain a new perspective and meet like minded Bonsai folks.

- 2026 Meijer Gardens MI All State Bonsai Show, May 9 - 10, 2026
Grand Rapids, MI - more information to come as Bill learns it
- Longwood Gardens Bonsai Exhibition, Auction and Sale, June 24 - 29, 2026
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA
- 2026 Michiana Bonsai Show, September 19 - 20, 2026
Wellfield Botanic Garden, Elkhart IN www.michianabonsai.club
- Fall Fruit & Foliage Bonsai Exhibition, October 17 & 18, 2026
Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton, MI
- Winter Silhouette Bonsai Exhibition, December 5 & 6, 2026
Kannapolis, NC

All of these events offer incredible opportunities to learn, purchase, network and more.

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Japanese Holley

You may think it's a Pyracantha, because of the Red fruit, but the leaves are wrong, these leaves are pointed, bright Green and thin, where Pyracantha leaves are oval, dark Green and thick. The thick twisting trunk and compact secondary branching are creating an overall strong dominate triangular upper tree. It's a Semi Cascade with the lower left branch extending out and level with the top edge of the pot. Potted correctly in the dead center of the round pot, the pot's image is attention getting, but not enough to be the Focal Point, the Red fruit has that role. We have the one foot showing in front, which all know by now I do not care for, in this case two could have been used, because the image is a wrap around scene, so it could have been rotated to two feet showed for stability. Of course there are just as many bonsai artists who like the one foot, so in general neither are actually wrong, when it comes to artistic choices it is always personal — — — **Harvey Carapella**

Billboard is brought to you by:

President: Mark Arpag

bsunypresident@gmail.com

Co-editors & photographers:

Marti & Tom Macinski

mmacinski@mac.com

Contributors: Mark Arpag, Bill Valavanis, Marti & Tom Macinski,
Harvey Carapella, Bob Blankfield,

Please submit any ideas for the Billboard to Marti & Tom, please
email to: mmacinski@mac.com

2026 Program dates:

- May 16 3:30 pm - Club Show set up
 - May 17 9 am - 4 pm - Club Show
 - June 23- 6 pm Club picnic & Auction
 - July 28- TBD, summer outing
 - August 25- Bring your own tree
 - September 29 - TBD
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