

August
2026

Volume 57
Number 9

Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends!

As is always the case, our summer is fleeting fast. As if on cue the leaves in the wind started to sound different right at the very beginning of August. Make certain you pay attention to your Bonsai as they are changing already in preparation for what is to come.

Make sure you adapt with watering, fertilizer and pruning too. Not a bad idea to do a close look for pests or diseases too.

Last month Toby did an excellent presentation for the Shohin Study Group and we had a productive Open Workshop as well.

This month we are back to Buckland Lodge and yet another Open Workshop.

This month the Suiseki Study Group had our Annual Tanseki and guests from the Mighty Mohawk Hudson joined in the hunt. A number of treasures followed us home! This month I will do a short Suiseki Program before the Open Workshop and invite all interested in Suiseki to join us. Our schedule of programs looks very good for this coming year and we are planning on trying a few new ideas including a few meetings on Saturday rather than Tuesday evening. We all want this Society to be able to adapt and adjust to best serve our members. I encourage everyone to share their time, talents and ideas to benefit our community! Once again I thank our Board and members for making a difference!!

- - - Mark



Summer Display by Wm. N. Valavanis with Waterpool Suiseki from Yuji Yoshimura

Next meeting Open Workshop

Tuesday, August 25

**6:00 pm - Suiseki presentation
by Mark Arpag**

7:00 pm - Open workshop

**Buckland Lodge
Brighton Town Park, Rochester**

Open workshops are always a special time. Bring one or two of your trees, and let our in house experts offer advice. Maybe give some thought to a tree(s) that you would like to improve for showing in the Club Show next May, or maybe you have a tree(s) that you just can't figure out where it wants to go. This does not include repotting, but bring tools and wire in case you want to put some advice into practice right away.

Bring your small auction items for the silent auction - our ongoing fundraiser.

Please help us thank Margaret Cochran for stepping up as our new refreshment manager. Let's welcome Margaret to this position, and help her with setting up, bringing a snack now and then, and cleaning up the refreshment area at the end, including putting away tables and chairs and taking out the trash.

If you plan to bring a snack, please let Margaret know at: mar.cochran2@gmail.com.

2026 Programs:

- August 25 - 6 pm, Suiseki presentation
 - August 25 - 7 pm, Open Workshop
 - September 29 - 7 pm, Bob Mahler, Kifu Bonsai, with afternoon workshop, see page 3
 - See dates with more info on page 4
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Possible meeting day and time change - weigh in with your thoughts!

The BSUNY Board met recently, to plan programming over the next year, and to discuss the ongoing work of our Club.

Several members have expressed interest in moving meetings (or some of the meetings) to Saturday, to avoid evening driving, and to avoid conflicts with work schedules. The Board has decided to try this out in January, so that meeting will be the 4th Saturday, January 23rd, at 1 pm. This will be at our current location.

We would like to collect opinions about this change from all of the membership, so please register your "vote" on this issue.

1. Do you want a permanent change of meeting day and time to Saturday at 1 pm?
2. Would you prefer a mix of daytime and evening meetings?
3. Any other thoughts on meeting day, time and location?

For ease of collecting info in one place, please send your thoughts to Marti Macinski at mmacinski@mac.com.

Suiseki Corner

The Suiseki Study Group continued this year, and summer is always an active time. All are welcome to the Study Group.

Taneki Walk: This past Saturday August 8, followed by lunch at Silverbird in Penn Yan. Always a pleasant summer outing, and this year was no exception. Mark Arpag talked this event up so much while working with a club in Albany, that some of those members joined in!

Mark will present some of the stones gathered at the Suiseki Study group before the August meeting - come and learn why you want to put this event on your calendar for next year!



Upcoming September meeting and workshop - more info

Our speaker for September is Bob Mahler of Kifu Bonsai in Pennsylvania: www.kifubonsai.com. Robert "Bob" Mahler discovered his passion for bonsai at an early age. By fifteen, he was already apprenticing under accomplished bonsai artist Chase Rosade at [Rosade Bonsai Studio](#) in New Hope, Pennsylvania. That early dedication led him to Tochigi-Ken, Japan, where he spent four years studying under the exclusive direction of internationally recognized bonsai master Susumu Sudo.

Following his return to the United States in 1994, Bob served for eleven years as Curator of Bonsai at the [Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#), where he helped care for and shape one of the country's most respected public bonsai collections.

In 2017, Bob founded [Kifu Bonsai](#), where he continues to work with collectors, students, and horticultural organizations. He currently serves as Vice President of the [Pennsylvania Bonsai Society](#).

Bob will talk about and demonstrate Satsuki Azalea at our evening meeting. In the afternoon, from 1 - 4, Bob will lead a Satsuki Azalea workshop. This workshop will cost \$125, and is limited to 8 participants. Make your reservations with Treasurer Diane Koretz: diane.koretz@gmail.com

The workshop will take place at International Bonsai Arboretum, and the evening meeting will be at our regular meeting place: Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park.

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 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
- 10th US National Bonsai Exhibition, September 11 & 12, 2027
Rochester, NY

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

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Pyracantha

This is a Mame size Shohin bonsai or “Bean Size”. Slanting style, because the trunk is moving out and over the edge of the pot at an angle rather than horizontally and the Apex is beyond the rootball. It is properly potted dead center in the symmetrical octagon pot. The Orange fall color fruit are the Focal Point. I would like to see it a little lower in the pot, so it doesn’t feel like it is being pushed out of the pot. I can’t comment on the color of the pot, since it is in shadow, but it does make for a more dramatic photo.

Harvey Carapella

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

2026 - 2027 Program dates:

- September 29 - 1 pm, Satsuki Azalea Workshop at IBA, with Bob Mahler
 - September 29 - 7 pm Meeting, Bob Mahler speaker
 - October 27 - 7 pm, Bill Valavanis, how to grow a bonsai tree
 - November 24 - 7 pm, Design studio
 - December 15 - 6 pm, Holiday Party & Auction
 - January 23, Saturday - 1 pm Harvey Carapella TBD
- Note date & time change on a trial basis*
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