

August
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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends,

I hope the message finds you and your Bonsai well. The weather has been good for growth in your Bonsai assuming you have provided the basics. Every August we hold open workshops which provide a great opportunity to get advice and direction on a tree or two from advanced members. No repotting but wiring, pruning, styling or just input.

Recently the Board met and mapped out a great schedule of events for our upcoming year! We have a Stone collecting trip scheduled (see picture page 3) and we hope to have a Stone or 2 from that trip on display at the International Bonsai Open House and Suiseki Study Group display in September. I encourage all to attend this free, fun and educational event.

Lastly, part of our mission is to encourage participation by our members sharing their time, talent, knowledge and other resources for the benefit of the Art we love and OUR Club. If you have an idea of how you can support this mission please share your thoughts with me or any of the other Board members.

Thank you !
Mark



Happy Healthy Hinoki Family on a summer road trip to visit Long Island Bonsai Society



Summer Suiseki & Bonsai display by Wm. N. Valavanis

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 27 at 7:00 pm
Bring your own tree

This program is always popular. We know you've been working away on your trees, keeping them watered, keeping them cool, removing wire, adding wire, fertilizing, etc. And with all this work, you have lots of questions about one or two trees - what to do now? This is your chance to get several suggestions from our in house resident experts - Harvey, Joe, Bob and Mark. Bring a couple of trees, bring a notebook to write down all the suggestions you will be given, and learn what the possibilities can be!

Also note in the Board meeting report (P. 2) about our new silent auction plan. Bring your donations and bring your checkbook.

Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park

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

2024 Programs:

- August 17 - 9 am Tanseki walk
- August 27 - 7 pm Bring your own Tree
- September 7 & 8 - IBA Fall Open House with Suiseki exhibit by club members
- September 24 - 7 pm Spruce Program, Mark, Harvey & Bill
- October 22 - 7 pm Suiseki Study Group Exhibition and presentation on collecting by Les Allen, with help from Bob Blankfield and Tom Macinski

Report from the Board meeting

Your Board of Directors works hard to plan out programs, manage the finances, think ahead to next year's show and more. Here are a few highlights from the recent planning meeting.

1. Thanks to Bill Valavanis, who has immediate cell phone access to EVERYBODY in the bonsai world, we have almost a full year of programming, with several "irons in the fire" that should come to fruition soon. (See program listing and save the dates now.)
2. For many reasons, mostly concerning security AND simplicity, we will stick to accepting cash and checks for dues (no Venmo, Zelle, etc), and hope to have credit card acceptance at auctions and the Club Show.
3. We are in better financial shape than we were a year ago, but we still need to improve our finances to cover speaker costs and travel expenses. To that end, we will have a silent auction at each meeting. Items will be donated, and you can set a minimum bid. We will set the items out with bid sheets, and the silent auction will close at the break. We hope you will all find this a new and interesting way to support YOUR club, both with your donated items and with your bids.
4. Joe Lentner, our Librarian, will be working on a Club History.
5. Our Club Show will be Sunday, May 18, with set up on Saturday, May 17. We're hoping to add a Gala fundraiser on Saturday evening to benefit the Golisano Autism Center. Start planning for YOUR tree(s) to participate in the club show, less than a year to get ready!

New Members

The intent was to list new members on a regular basis, but somehow it always slipped by. Here are new members who have joined in 2024. Please look for them and help to welcome them at meetings.

Marty and Bill Budinski
Jennifer Cassidy
Chris Cole
Alfred Culliton
Josh Cuthbert
Molly Burm
Joseph D'Amico
Tatiana Evanitsky
Brian Hess
Don Manta
Karen and Douglas Proctor
Jon Robbins
Adrian Safar
Amy Schelemanow
Gerry Welles
Gary Steeves
Jennifer Timmer
Siheng Zhu

Shohin Study Group

Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella, and Bill Valavanis will be working to re-invigorate a Shohin Study Group. Like the Suiseki Study Group, this would be a series of separate meetings to more closely focus on Shohin Bonsai. If you are interested in participating (and perhaps helping to plan), please reach out to Mark, Harvey or Bill.

Places to go for Bonsai

Throughout the year, Bill, Mark and others from our club go to various Bonsai Shows, meetings and private workshop events. We'll list these on a regular basis so you can decide if you should join in the fun.

Midwest Bonsai Show - August 17 - 18
Chicago Botanic Garden

Toronto Bonsai Society - October 11 - 13
Club show and 60th Anniversary Celebration

Winter Silhouette Bonsai Show Dec 7 - 8
Kannapolis NC

Suiseki Study Group

The newly invigorated Suiseki Study Group - which is open to all Club members - has had an active schedule through this year, with plans in process for more throughout 2025. Put these dates on your calendar and make plans to join the group.



Idyllic secret Suiseki collection location

Saturday August 17 9 am - Tanseki walk in previous location - which will be supplied to Current members in good standing when you sign up. Followed by lunch (dutch treat) and discussion. Email sign up has been announced with a special email. To sign up and get the information, send an email to Tom Macinski: tmacinski@mac.com.

Saturday & Sunday September 7 & 8. Suiseki exhibit by club members at IBA Open House. Please get stones for display to International Bonsai Arboretum by Wednesday, September 4th.



Tuesday, October 22 7 pm - Club meeting, Study group Exhibit, presentation on collecting by Les Allen. At this meeting, there will be information about plans for the Suiseki study group going forward into 2025.

Opportunities at International Bonsai Arboretum

We are truly fortunate to have as our founding member and continued active member, Bonsai artist Bill Valavanis. Bill brings so much to our club, as a speaker, with frequent donations to our auctions, and as a Board member to help arrange the speakers for our meetings.

Bill also runs International Bonsai Arboretum, where he offers classes, workshops, and 2 Open Houses every year. Fliers for those will be included with the email forwarding this Billboard, so please make sure you look closely, and please share these with your family and friends that might be interested in Bonsai.



The Introductory course offering is ideal for those club members who have not yet taken it, as well as for your friends who have expressed interest in this unique hobby (obsession!?)

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Japanese Black Pine

Although the needle length on this tree may be slightly long for the size of the tree for some people, there are dwarf varieties of Black Pine. Also, if you really want better proportion there are techniques for reducing the needle length. What is impressive about this tree is the perfect triangular shape to the foliage mass and the even distribution of needles and their length. It has excellent trunk taper starting with the well developed base of the trunk for such a small tree. The tree is complimented by the deep Reddish Brown pot, although not a bright Red, the Green needles and the Reddish tone of the pot make it a subtle Direct Complimentary color combination.

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

2024 Program dates:

- November 26 - 7 pm Critique and Design Studio
 - December 17th - 6 pm, Holiday party and Club Auction
 - January 28 - 7 pm Balance in Bonsai and Color in Bonsai, Harvey Carapella
 - February 25 - 7 pm, John Romano TBD
 - March 25 - 7 pm, Surprise, Bill Valavanis
 - April 22 - 7 pm TBD
 - May 18 - all day, Club Show
 - June 24 - 6 pm, Club picnic and Auction
 - July 22 - 6 pm, Field Trip, Oriental Garden Supply
 - August 26 - 7 pm, Bring your own tree
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