

December
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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Seasons Greetings!

The song goes “ and so this is Christmas and what have you done”!?! Time goes so quickly it seems if you don’t make plans for what you would like to accomplish in the coming year, you may miss opportunities. I suggest making your self a list of goals for your Bonsai and also for your Bonsai further education. Hint: next year brings us the 9th US National Bonsai Exhibition and also the ABS Learning Seminars held in conjunction right here in Rochester!!

Our Holiday Party is always both a fun time and an important fund raiser while a wonderful opportunity to give or get new trees, books, pots, tools, Suiseki and other related items!

The food this year will be extra special (please note Marti’s request to RSVP). Bill’s Travelogues are always fabulous too - for those of you who are new, this is a great opportunity to learn why you want to go on one of Bill’s Japan tours!

Unfortunately, our First Friday at the Hungerford will need to find a new home. The place is a ghost town as high rent increases have driven most Artists to find new studios. Thanks to John Wiessinger and crew for volunteering to try to make this happen. We appreciate this effort and all John’s many other community outreach programs all year!

Mark



Next Meeting

**Tuesday, December 17
at 6:00 pm**

**Holiday Party, Bill’s Travel update and
Auction**

Join us to celebrate the Holiday Season, AND clean out your cellar AND pick up some holiday gifts for - YOU! Our annual Holiday Auction is always a great time. Bring wrapped auction items that you are willing to donate - all proceeds go to the club. See more details about the auction on page 2, including payment methods, and more.

BUT, there’s more. We’ll start the evening with a PARTY to share bonsai stories, bonsai gripes and more, over food. And this year we’re kicking it up a notch! In addition to the shrimp, the Club will provide roast beef tenderloin. *See more on page 2, including making sure you RSVP!!!!*

After sharing some food, we’ll enjoy Bill Valavanis’ extra special travelogue. You can ooh and aaah over Bill’s beautiful photographs, and delight in his many stories and inside observations of famous bonsai folks.

**Buckland Lodge at
Brighton Town Park**

Our Refreshment Manager, Marti Macinski will provide shrimp, roast beef tenderloin coffee, and individual drinks.

Please, please, please email Marti at mmacinski@mac.com with your intention to attend AND with your food offering.

2024 Programs:

- December 17th - 6 pm, Holiday party and Club Auction

See dates for next year with more info on page 4

How to prepare for the Holiday Party and Auction

Mark your calendars for December 17 at 6 pm. Our annual Holiday Party and Auction is a fun get together and a chance to socialize a bit. It is also a wonderful fundraiser for our club. Clean out your shelves now, and bring your extra/unused/duplicate pots, tools and more. Trees are also welcome. Wrap your items so we have a surprise factor, but no gag gifts please. Most importantly, bring your cash, checkbooks and cards and plan to do some holiday shopping.

First, the Party. We have always (since I remember over the past 6 years that we have been members) had shrimp at the Holiday party, provided by the Club. This year, we've saved a lot of money on refreshments with everybody chipping in and bringing treats to share on a regular basis. So we're going to expand the Club's participation and we're going for "surf and turf"! The club will provide roast beef tenderloin for the main course, and the shrimp (as always) for appetizers. Obviously, this will cost a bit more, so please help us by letting me know (mamacinski@mac.com) that you intend to come. If you aren't on my RSVP list, don't even think about getting in line for shrimp and beef!! Seriously, it will be fun to kick the party up a notch, but let's all be considerate so we don't overbuy. And please plan to bring something to share: appetizers, side dishes and desserts are all welcome. It is VERY helpful if you let me know at least which of these you will bring, and then when folks ask me for ideas to fill in the gaps, I have something to tell them.

And this year, let's add a bit of intention to our socializing at the party by making an extra effort to wear name tags, greet everyone by name, and having a conversation with at least a couple of our newer members. So that you can prepare, these are the names of those that have joined this year: New Members this year are : Marty & Dell Budinski, Jennifer Cassidy, Chris Cole, Alfred Culliton, Josh Cuthbert, Molly Burm, Joseph D'Amico, Tatiana Evanitsky, Brian Hess, Don Manta, Karen & Douglas Proctor, Jon Robbins, Adrian Safar, Amy Schelemanow, Gerry Welles, Gary Steeves, Jennifer Timmer, Siheng Zhu, Nicholas Fici, Wendy Welch. Please look out for them, introduce yourself, and invite a few to sit with you if you are a more "experienced" member. AND you can help these folks with some advice on what to bid on.

After we eat, make new bonsai friends and reconnect with old (experienced) bonsai friends, we'll be entertained with Bill Valavanis' travelogue. You will want to travel with Bill after you see this!

Don't forget to bring your wrapped items for the auction. These should be bonsai related, and no gag gifts. Our auctioneer will keep a lively pace of bidding and running commentary to encourage all of us to raise our hands in a frenzy! Bring your checkbook or cash. We can sometimes make the charge work, but not always. And please plan to stay until the end, as it is too difficult to take payment while keeping track of what is going on. Diane Koretz, our Treasurer, does an amazing job keeping this all straight, so let's help her!

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.

Winter Silhouette Bonsai Show Dec 7 - 8 Kannapolis NC
www.winterbonsai.net

Shohin Bonsai Seminar - January 30 - Feb 1, Santanella, CA
www.calshohin.org

And of course, the 9th US National Bonsai Exhibition, right here in Rochester, NY September 13 - 14, 2025
www.usnationalbonsai.com



Design studio and critique - VERY successful

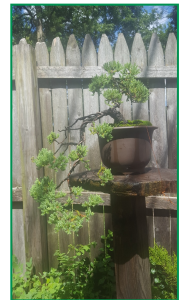
Our annual Design Studio program was quite popular this year. Many thanks to our in house experts: Alan Adair, Mark Arpag and Jim Dolce. Each offered many fine observations about the trees, along with very helpful suggestions. But perhaps most interesting was the starting point: each asked the participant to explain their vision for their tree. The advice offered was non critical, supportive and enthusiastically appreciative of the trees being presented.

Interestingly, almost all participants stayed until the end - paying careful attention to the work of other folks and not just taking their own session and leaving. In fact, we had to call the meeting over and leave as we were pushing the time limit for the Lodge. Well done all, leaders and participants alike. Please mark your calendars and remember to come to this meeting next year - the value is incredible.

Special thanks to Toby Ziegler, who brought the same tree he brought last year, along with pictures of the tree's progress under his careful artistry and work. Hopefully this will inspire a few of us to do the same next year. Sharing these historical photos, even if the history is short, is a great way to recognize and appreciate the progress that everyone makes with their trees.



Toby Ziegler's Procumbens Nana Juniper at the Design Studio in 2023, with the "before" picture



The experts at work - very valuable information and advice



Lots of material to work with - waiting for class to start



Toby's tree over time, with this year's advice from Alan and Mark looking to the future

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai: Variety: Trident Maple

The original tree is on the left, it's trying to be a Literati style, but it has two main problems. The pot is too deep and the foliage is too full. The lower two thirds of the trunk is without branches, like a true Literati style tree should be. The tree on the right, now in a shallower pot, emphasizes the tree's trunk. The second problem can be solved by thinning out some of the lower foliage so you can see some of the lower branching and visually lighten up the overall foliage mass. Also, there are two lower branches on the left which look like they could be lowered with wire, giving the foliage mass a little more horizontal movement. The pot is a neutral color with a hint of Yellow like the Fall foliage, giving the whole composition a quiet subtle harmony. A third problem is the one leg in front. I prefer to see two legs for better stability, but when there is a feature on the surface of the pot it can be difficult to use the two legs and have the feature in the best location.

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.

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

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 - 2025 Program dates:

- January 28 - 7 pm Balance, Color and Perspective 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