



President's Message

Greetings Friends,
We are off to a great start to our 50th Anniversary year with another great program by Harvey Carapella! I always enjoy Harvey's programs, especially when he brings his Bonsai to illustrate his topic! This month World Class wood worker & Bonsai Artist Bob Blankfield and I will conduct a Jita workshop in the afternoon and an evening program on the Art of Display including the use of tables, stands and Jita to create beautiful displays with your Bonsai. Display is your reward for all the time and care you invest in your Bonsai and a big part of their enjoyment! This is a great time for you to be thinking about which of your trees you will show in our Club Show on May 21st.

Once again we are focusing on helping you grow in your Bonsai journey and to enjoy that journey to its fullest.

This time of year is a great opportunity to take advantage of our Incredible BONSAI Library! Folks, this is a huge resource of books, magazines, journals and other Bonsai study materials, absolutely great stuff! You owe it to yourself to study and enjoy them. Learning is an important part of your journey and rewarding as well. Next month Bill Valavanis will conduct a workshop & Program on Ezo Spruce & Forest compositions. This is yet another special opportunity don't miss out!

Mark



Some pictures of Jitas to get you excited about the possibilities at the workshop!

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday February 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Mark Arpag will lead a meeting about display, assisted by Bob Blankfield

Learn from the masters all about Display. This important meeting will help to prepare us all for our Club Show. Mark and Bob will focus on tables, stands, Jita, accents, companion plants and Suiseki.

There will be a Jita workshop in the afternoon from noon until 4 pm - for those who ask:

What is a Jita and why should I care?

A Jita is a decorative slab or board placed under a Bonsai, companion plant, accent or Art object. They vary in style, shape, design, size, color and texture. They are generally hand crafted from fine material, usually wood. If you are serious about enjoying your Bonsai through display, acquiring Jita of different sizes and styles is critical.

You will have a choice of sizes and each one will be unique. Mark and Bob will work with each person to create a Jita and you will leave with one or more to start or add to your collection.

Large: \$45, Medium: \$35 Small: \$25

Limited to 12 people, choice of sizes limited, reserve your place with Diane Koretz TODAY!

treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

Bring Dremel or other tools, bits and extension cords if you have them, if not we will help you but you might have to wait your turn.

Bob will cut the shapes so you can focus on design details.

Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park

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

2023 Programs:

- February 28 - 7 pm Mark Arpag, display, with assistance from Bob Blankfield workshop in the afternoon 12 - 4, **please reserve see above see page 3 for more dates for 2023**

January Meeting Review - Harvey Carapella and Cascade Bonsai



This was a wonderful opportunity for our members to hear from and watch one of our founding members. Harvey Carapella has been a Bonsai hobbyist since 1979 (44 years!) This was his first lecture/Demo since COVID. Harvey presented a Lecture on Cascade Style Bonsai, and then worked on a Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper, which was raffled off and won by Joe Lentner! Congrats, Joe! Harvey offered an excellent handout, which will become a part of all club members' notebooks. Many thanks to Harvey for a great presentation!



Shohin Feature - a little bit different

- Uniform texture
- Focal Point, Yellow flowers
- Quiet restful feeling all over

- Coarse heavy texture
- Focal Point, dark negative spaces
- Busy feeling all over

Shohin Accent Plantings



Yes, the majority of Accent Plantings accompanying a bonsai in a display are Shohin Bonsai size, 8" and smaller. Contrasting Colors and Textures, which are controlled a great deal by the seasons are the 2 most important and consistent elements used in plantings. Other elements are: Fruit & Flowers, Height variations, Leaf sizes, Stones, Driftwood, Container, Figurines and Objects. Generally they are displayed on finished or natural wood slabs, but not always. See captions for a variety of specific characteristics.



- Green coarse and Yellow fine mixed textures
- Focal Point, large Green leaves

- Lower coarse & Upper fine divided textures
- Focal Point, Red flowers,
- Bottom quiet & Top busy feeling

- Uniform mixed textures
- Focal Point, tall Violet flowers
- Colors harmonize
- Quiet subtle feeling all over

Harvey Carapella

Membership thoughts

Your BSUNY Board has lined up another great year of programs for 2023 and we are eager to move ahead with educational activities. We'd like to encourage all of our active BSUNY members to reach out to members and lapsed members that may have been missing our meetings and invite them to attend. One of the best ways we can keep our club vital is to show that we value everyone's participation in the club. Call or write to any of your bonsai friends that you haven't seen at a recent meeting and invite them to attend.

Rick Marriott has become our new Membership Chair, and has worked hard to organize the name tags. Please check when you come to meetings and grab and wear your name tag so we can all better greet each other. And if you don't see a name tag, let Rick know, and you will have one by the next meeting. AND, if your name tag is at home in a drawer, please try to remember to bring it to the next meeting!

Last Call - 2023 Dues are due

BSUNY Dues and Membership form

Name: _____

Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email:

Please make payable to and mail
your check to:
Bonsai Society of Upstate NY, Inc.
PO Box 92215, Rochester, NY 14692

Individual member: \$30.00
Family membership: \$35.00

2023 Program dates:

- March 28 - 7 pm Bill Valavanis, Ezo spruce bonsai with workshop in the afternoon, fee for workshop, reservations required, limited to 15 people. Reserve for the workshop with Diane Koretz:
treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org
- April 18 - 7 pm Kris Springer speaking about collected bonsai. *Note changed date to third Tuesday.*
There will be a workshop in the afternoon, with an opportunity for you to create your own unique Bonsai from a collected larch from Kris. Limited to the first 10 people who reserve with a \$100 deposit. The actual price will vary depending upon the tree you choose
- May 21 - 9-5 Club Show at Golisan Autism Center: 50th Anniversary Club Show!!
- June 27 - 7 pm Club Picnic and Auction
- July 25 - 7 pm Field Trip to Dwarf Conifer Garden
- August 22 - 7 pm Bring your own Tree
- September 9 & 10 - National Bonsai Exhibition
- September 11 - 7 pm Meeting: *note special Monday date as we will offer a speaker who will stay after the National Bonsai Exhibition*

www.bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

Library updates from Joe Lentner

First from Librarian Joe Lentner - a plug to use some of our library resources more frequently:

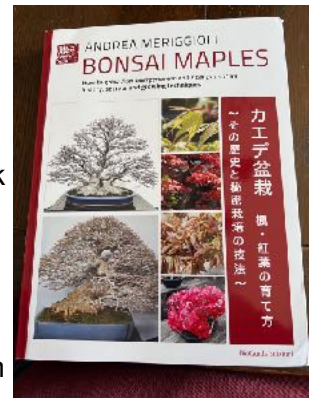
One of the things that we gain from using the library is the advantage of viewing true Bonsai masterpieces. While the internet is filled with images of Bonsai the novice or anyone else may be misled by poor photography or color misrepresentation, etc. In the BSUNY library we have numerous catalogs from Japanese and European exhibitions depicting excellent examples of magnificent Bonsai specimens. Now you may wonder why studying static images is of any value. Consider the developing artist who spends hours pouring over paintings in a museum. What value is there in studying these paintings? One learns from studying the masters - arrangement, balance, light, color even techniques. The same is true when you look at a Bonsai Masterpiece. You can see arrangement of elements, balancing branches, styling, etc. The catalogs give us another advantage because the trees are depicted individually thus removing the visual pollution and distraction of a crowded scene. We may not be able to attend major Japanese and European exhibits but we can learn by viewing their catalogs. So often we see but do not observe. Take some time to study the works of others and you might just see how to improve your artistic rendition of nature.

And more from Librarian Joe Lentner - a review of a new book in our library:

Bonsai Maples by Andrea Meriggioli

We have a new addition to our BSUNY Library that any maple lover should see. Although many may have read Peter Adams, *Bonsai with Japanese Maples* or J.D. Vertrees, *Japanese Maples*, this new book goes way beyond what you'd expect. The book has extensive coverage of the development of the *Acer* genus. It will help you understand the strengths and weaknesses of using different species of *Acers*. It will even give you details to identify species and varieties that are unlabeled when you find new ones. While many Bonsai practitioners have an interest in a variety of deciduous trees and specifically maples, the focus of this book is on Japanese maples. More importantly the greatest coverage in this book works with *Acer Palmatum* (Momiji) and *Acer Buergerianum* (Kadeem). In great and specific detail for each species the author covers cultivation, propagation, styling, maintenance, how to correct problems, developing nebari, treatment and prevention of pathologies. The volume is filled with photographs showing exactly what the author is discussing. It even gives a handy glossary of Japanese characters enabling the reader to identify terms in other readings. One oddity when you use it - the Table of Contents is in the back of the book and there is no index, but that's maybe a reflection of Asians reading from what we call the back - forward.

This is a book that both the novice and the experienced hobbyists should review and although it's only available through European dealers at this time, it's well worth adding to your personal library.



Billboard is brought to you by:

President: Mark Arpag

president@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

Co-editors & photographers:

Marti & Tom Macinski

billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

Contributors: Mark Arpag, Bill Valavanis, Marti & Tom Macinski, Harvey Carapella, John Wiessinger, Joe Lentner

Please submit any ideas for the Billboard to Marti & Tom. If you have ideas for the Billboard, please email Marti & Tom: billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org



New FREE Bimonthly International BONSAI OnLine Magazine

After publishing International BONSAI for 42 years and producing 164 issues, Bill Valavanis has decided to suspend the printed edition and start producing the magazine in a FREE digital bimonthly format in order to expand his educational offerings. International BONSAI OnLine will continue with the high standards of quality introduced to English language bonsai magazines, and continues to be the first and only professional bonsai magazine published in the United States. In the first month of publication over 16,000 people have viewed the magazine and over and over 1,300 have subscribed. Check it out, and subscribe FREE too!

www.internationalbonsaionline.com