

July
2026

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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends!

We are currently dealing with poisonous smoke from Canada and prior to that oven like temperatures combined with strong winds. Our trees need extra care during these stressful conditions. Watering and misting are critical to keeping your Trees happy and healthy. Direct sun and drying winds also need to be considered with placement of your Trees too. Also remember to inspect your trees for insects and disease including ants which love to farm aphids using your trees as their buffets.

Bill and I exhibited at the new Longwood Garden Bonsai Exhibition. Bill demonstrated and Tom Macinski and I assisted with a forest creation that quickly was purchased by a knowledgeable collector. Tom and Marti were a great help in setting up and taking down the vending area and enjoyed the magnificent gardens, lectures and displays.

The Club Picnic and auction were a tremendous success in our absence and I am grateful for our Auctioneer Joe Moore and especially for all of you who were so generous in your bids making this event so successful!

Our next meeting is an Open Workshop and will be held at our old location Carmen Clark Lodge due to the soccer camp at Buckland.

- - - Mark

Bill at the US National Arboretum trimming & inspecting his RAF Scots Pine that he donated upon his induction to the Bonsai Hall of Fame.



Next meeting Open Workshop

Tuesday, July 28

6:00 pm Shohin Study group

7:00 pm - Open workshop

**Carmen Clark Lodge,
777 Westfall Road, Rochester**

Note the changed location for the July meeting.

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.

Before the Club meeting, Toby Ziegler will lead a presentation/discussion about summer care for Shohin Bonsai trees.

Please help us thank Margaret Cochran for stepping up as our new refreshment manager. Please 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.

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

2026 Programs:

- July 28 6 pm - Shohin Study Group
 - July 28 7 pm - Club meeting, Open Workshop
 - See dates with more info on page 4
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Repeat: Club Show - a BIG success!! CDs of photos available!!

From Bill Valavanis: EXHIBITION PHOTO CD NOW AVAILABLE

Joe Noga, one of our members and a past President of our society, now lives in North Carolina where he has a significant bonsai collection. As a retired professor of RIT, he continues to photograph bonsai. He has been teaching and consulting for over 35 years on color reproduction around the world. He is probably the top photographer specializing in bonsai in the United States. Yes, there are many good professional photographers who sometimes photograph bonsai. However, those photographers do not specialize in taking photos of bonsai and most do not even understand what goes into training trees. Joe Noga has had many decades of photographing bonsai experience. He can even determine the front view from the rear! You can be sure each image is "color perfect."

Each year Joe drives over 12 hours each way from North Carolina to New York to capture the beauty of our bonsai in our exhibition. He needs to rent a trailer to haul all of his photo lights and equipment and stay at hotels. This is done courtesy of Joe Noga who does not charge our society or members.

Every year he sends us the photos and we burn CDs for distribution to our members for FREE. Sometimes he sends high-quality prints too which we distribute to the exhibitors. These are high-quality professional images of your bonsai. Members are welcome to use these photos on the internet or articles. All Joe Noga asks is to give him credit for his work. Please remember to thank Joe when he visits again. You can contact him at jlnoqa@earthlink.net

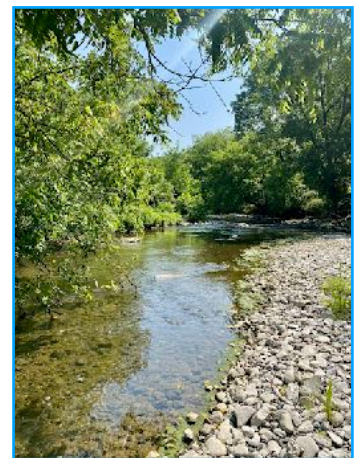
We had about 25 CDs that include all the displayed bonsai. Many picked them up at the club picnic, and the rest are at IBA. A huge **Thank You** to Joe for your contributions enhancing our bonsai and for capturing the true beauty of our work.

Suiseki Corner

The Suiseki Study Group continues this year, and summer is always an active time. All are welcome to the Study Group, but please note where a response is required due to space constrictions.

Study group "Cool Stones": Saturday, July 25, 1:00 pm at Bob Blankfield's house. Bring a Suiseki or a Suiseki and Suiban which provides a feeling of cooler weather. Bob's address is 1805 Five Mile Line Road, Penfield. Please respond to Tom Macinski if you want to attend: tmacinski@mac.com, due to space constrictions.

Tanseki Walk: Saturday August 8 at 10 am, followed by lunch at Silverbird in Penn Yan. Be prepared to wade in a stream if you wish, or just walk along the stream. A walking stick, a bag to carry stones, small pry bar and boots you are willing to get wet are useful items. Again, please let Tom Macinski if you plan to attend, and to get directions: tmacinski@mac.com.



Club Picnic and Auction - Another success

The Club picnic was all about fun, food and funds. Lots of variety on the food, with a very heavy emphasis on desserts. Our priorities are clear! Although the shrimp disappeared as well. Lots of interaction between new and long standing club members, and lots of back and forth viewing the upcoming auction items, which were plentiful.

Then Joe Moore got the gavel going, and the action started. Many good deals came through, but folks got warmed up pretty well. The bidding for THE BIG DEAL item of the All American Auction item, jointly donated by Mark Arpag and Bob Blankfield was fast and furious.

All in all, the auction improved the club's financial position, had a lot of fun, and helped people both reduce and replenish their bonsai collections.

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
Type to enter text
- Winter Silhouette Bonsai Exhibition, December 5 & 6, 2026
Kannapolis, NC

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



Bill's Butterfly Maple on display at Longwood Garden Bonsai Exhibition



Mark's ABS Award Winning Display from Longwood Gardens



Mark and Tom assisting Bill during his workshop at Longwood Gardens

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Japanese Five Needle White Pine

Good question, what style is this? The base of the tree is Exposed Root, the middle of the tree is Informal Upright and the apex is Broom style. The roots and first lower branch on the left side have a strong Slanting feel to them, but the Apex is dead center over the rootball, so it can't be Slanting style. It's your choice, select one, I'm going to call it Silhouette style, since the foliage mass is covering most of the trunk and branches and the rounded silhouette is very dominant. This actually is quite common with both Deciduous and Evergreen. The pot is an excellent choice and popular with Pine, it has a rugged hand made irregular quiet feeling. The tree is potted high up in the pot on purpose, if it wasn't the lower left branch would be touching the top edge of the pot, having a little negative space under the lower branch adds to the over all balance to the tree's mass even though it is a small tree. Note the wire and screen wrapped around the exposed roots to compress them together to create a thickness to the lower trunk area.

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 Program dates:

- July 25 - 1 pm, Suiseki Study group
 - August 8 - 10 am, Tanseki walk
 - August 25, 7 pm, Bring your own tree
 - September 29, 7 pm Still tentative but hopefully Hisoyoshi Yamaji of Yamaji Sanhoen Garden. Note schedule change to 5th Tuesday to accommodate Mr. Yamaji's schedule
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