

June
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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends!

It often feels like we transition from winter to summer and bypass spring. I hope you and your families and Bonsai are well through it all. By all accounts, our 53rd Exhibition was a tremendous success thanks to all of you! Some of you are all in on helping which I so appreciate and some have not yet embraced the spirit fully yet. When I became President it was my greatest goal to have every member embrace the spirit of support for OUR Club. I understand that not everyone can be a superstar like Marti Macinski but I would hope seeing her and others in action would be inspiring. Please consider how you can make our Bonsai Society the best it can be and contribute however you best can! 2 years ago I was traveling and unable to attend one of my favorite events our Picnic and that is the case again. There will be another Unique Opportunity to bid on similar to but different than the Grand Adventure and this time Bob Blankfield has offered to donate his time & talent to this offer! Thanks in advance for a fantastic Auction & for your participation and support in the coming year.

- - - Mark



Club Picnic and Auction

Tuesday, June 23

5:30 pm - Sales outside before dinner

6:30 pm - appetizers, including Shrimp

7:00 pm - dinner: pulled pork and BBQ chicken, with dishes to pass provided by club members

7:30 pm - Auction begins

There is always a bit of confusion about our Picnic and Auction, with so many moving parts. Here's the time line, with more info about the auction on page 2.

5:30 pm - those of you who want to sell items directly to other club members are welcome to set up a table (which you must bring) outside. Please respect the club for providing you with this opportunity, and give 10% of your proceeds to the club, to Diane Koretz, Treasurer. Any items that don't sell, you are welcome to put into the auction. Items sold at the auction will be paid for to the club, and then the club will send you a check for 80% of the proceeds (unless you choose, as many do, to donate 100% to the club.)

6:30 pm - we'll start appetizers, with the club providing shrimp, as usual. Please bring a dish to pass: either an appetizer, a side dish, or a dessert.

7:00 pm - we'll get dinner going. The main course is pulled pork and BBQ chicken, provided by the club, with sides from all of you!

7:30 pm - we'll start the auction, so please register your items before you dig into the shrimp! Also get your bidder number so you can get yourself some really special bonsai items.

Read more about auction items on page 2.

2025 Programs:

- June 23 6 pm - Club picnic and Auction
 - See dates with more info on page 4
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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."

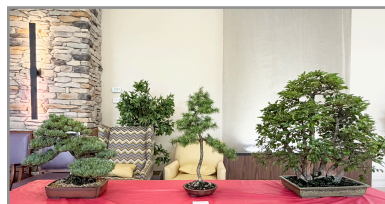
Each year Joe drives over 12 hours each way from North Carolina to New York to capture the beauty of our bonsai in our exhibition. He needs to rent a trailer to haul all of his photo lights and equipment and stay at hotels. This is done courtesy of Joe Noga who does not charge our society or members.

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 jlnoga@earthlink.net

We have about 25 CDs that include all the displayed bonsai. Marti & Tom Macinski have them and will be distributing them at our upcoming picnic. A huge **Thank You** to Joe for your contributions enhancing our bonsai and for capturing the true beauty of our work.

Maplewood Nursing Home mini Club display

On Saturday, June 13 Dave Steele organized a small exhibit of bonsai for the Maplewood Nursing Home, where his mother is spending her over 100 years. We had about 15 trees from the following members: Dave Steele, Bob Blankfield, Diane Koretz, Rick Marriott, Brian Whitcomb, Alan Adair and Bill Valavanis. About 45 people (all wheelchair bound) visited and asked questions. After they enjoyed the display Bill gave a short demonstration on wiring and pruning. Thanks to all our members who shared the beauty of their bonsai and spent a Saturday afternoon with bonsai.



Club Picnic and Auction - things to know

How does the Club picnic, Auction and Yard Sale work? A bit of a refresher for members old and new. First, find your extras and bring them: pots, trees, books, magazines, all Bonsai related. Clean them up, look them over and see the section below about anything that is of higher value.

Bring your things to Buckland Lodge on June 23. To sell items directly, bring a table and set up outside the Lodge any time from about 5:30 on until the auction starts, about 7:30.

Register as a seller at the auction with treasurer Diane Koretz, and also get a bidder number. The proceeds from the auction items will be paid to the club, and then Diane will send you the sale amount less 20%. You MAY volunteer that the entire proceeds stay with the Club - do that when you register.

Use your bidder number at the auction to get yourself some new bonsai items AND support your club!

NEW in 2024, and it has worked for two years, so repeating this year! In acknowledging feedback from prior years' auctions, we've noted people saying "I love the auction, but I wish, . . ." Sellers have said "I have a really nice tree or a special high quality pot I'd love to sell but I don't want to have to let it go for a fraction of its worth!" And potential buyers have said "I already have a handful of young trees in early development but I'd love to have a chance to buy a tree that's already well-developed, and for a fair price!" Is this possible?? This has been working, so here we go again . . .

With this year's picnic next week, we'll allow sellers to place a reserve price on select items, with a reasonable expectation that the eventual auction price would achieve that reserve price or more. Such a "reserve" status will be allowed on items reasonably expected to sell for \$300 and above.

Sellers wishing to utilize this reserve bidding process will need to meet with the auctioneer and another Board member before the auction (maybe over a bite of shrimp or two!) to mutually agree on a fair reserve price for their item(s). Sellers are still welcome to use our traditional "yard sale" style market outside the lodge entrance prior to the picnic and auction. What is left unsold by picnic time is (as always) more than welcome to be included in the auction sale.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER AS A SELLER AT THE AUCTION TABLE SO THAT YOUR ITEMS CAN BE TRACKED AND TO ALLOW YOUR BEING PAID APPROPRIATELY.

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.

- Longwood Gardens Bonsai Exhibition, Auction and Sale, June 24 - 29, 2026
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA
- 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

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

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Japanese Red Pine

The style of this tree could spark a spirited debate. The lower right branch is cascading down quite dramatically and could be considered a Cascade by one side, but the branch does not drop below the top edge of the pot making it a Semi Cascade for the other side. Which side are you on? The angled trunk from left to right adds to the dramatic flow of the cascading branch. Visual details like the exposed roots adds great visual interest. It is properly potted in the center of the round pot and the color blends with the tree's bark to create a quiet harmony. The shape of the pot is a perfect choice, adding to the cascading overhanging a cliff composition between the tree and pot. Note Bottom Photo, if you removed the lower portion of the cascading branch, you would have a Slanting style, because of the slant to the trunk and the Apex is out beyond the rootball.

Harvey Carapella

Help wanted - refreshment coordinator

Are you ready to become more involved in the club by taking on some responsibility? We need you! Marti Macinski has been our refreshment coordinator for the past few years, and is ready to let someone else take over. Email Marti to ask questions and get more information. Please consider taking this on after June 2026, as the June picnic will be Marti's last meeting as refreshment manager. mmacinski@mac.com

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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 22 - 7 pm, Bring your own Tree
 - August 8 - 9 am, Tanseki walk
 - August 26, 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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