

June
2024

Volume 55
Number 7

Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



President's Message

Greetings Friends,

Yet another very busy Bonsai month. This past weekend a number of our members visited the Bonsai Society of Buffalo Exhibit at the Botanical Gardens. It was great to see our good friends and their beautiful Bonsai. It was especially moving to see Hank Miller's trees displayed in tribute as he just recently passed away. He will be sorely missed.

This weekend I will be at Jim Doyle's open house Friday, Saturday and Sunday and Corin Tomlinson will be at Sean Smith's. For anyone who doesn't mind a little drive it would be great to see you in PA, if not we will see you next Tuesday with Corin coming in for a special workshop and demo!

The Suiseki Study Group meets on Saturday June 15th at International Bonsai Arboretum where we will discuss Suiseki display. Everyone is welcome to come. This will be especially helpful for those interested in displaying a Suiseki in September during the International Bonsai Open House weekend.

Finally, our picnic rounds out our month with great food and friends and an opportunity to donate items for the benefit of our Society which is a registered Non Profit so tax deductible or support the Club and sell items with a portion of proceeds to the treasury.

This year we have a special Reserve protection for members with high value items to insure that those items will be sold at a reasonable reserve or hopefully much higher. We have heard there is a demand for high end trees and other items so this is a great opportunity for BOTH buyers AND sellers!!

Mark



Satsuki splendor



Award winning Japanese 5
Needle Pine Miyajima

SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 pm

In June we have a surprise pop up meeting. Corin Tomlinson happens to be "in the neighborhood" for a workshop with Sean Smith. We're highjacking him and bringing him back for a special June meeting for our Club on Tuesday, June 11th. He'll do a presentation and demo, and will also offer a workshop in the afternoon. This is a special treat. Don't delay in reserving your spot in the workshop. There are still spots available - send your registration and check for \$75 to treasurer Diane Koretz.

diane.koretz@gmail.com for registration, and check mailed to BSUNY, PO Box 92215, Rochester, NY 14692.

Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park

Our 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:

- June 11 7 pm - Corin Tomlinson NOTE: Special Meeting, with afternoon workshop at IBA
- June 15 - 1 pm Suiseki Study Group
- June 25 - 6:30 pm Club Picnic & Auction
see page 4 for more dates for 2024

Hank Miller - in Memoriam



Hank was a mentor and a friend. He was the true definition of a teacher. Most people know Hank for his tropical trees, but he also did loved his conifers and deciduous trees, one of his favorite were the Hinoki Cypress.

Hank was originally from Buffalo. He's a graduate of the University of Buffalo, a physicist by trade. He met his wife Mary in an English class at the University of Buffalo and for 60 years they were married and traveling the world living in Canada, Germany, and South Africa.

Ironically over 40 years ago Mary being a librarian gave him a book on bonsai, she thought he needed a hobby. While in South Africa Hank was very active in bonsai being a past president of the Pretoria Bonsai Club. While in South Africa Hank came up with the idea of the fused trunk bonsai.

Hank enjoyed helping people with their trees and would always take the time to explain something fully. Hank being a professor is probably why he could articulate his thoughts so quickly.

Hank and his brother were talking one day, and Hank decided he wanted to make Bonsai stands and so he did. His trees were

always adorned with the beautiful stands he made, be it for a show or the dining room table in his house. Many of us have a stand from Hank as they are different than the classical style most were used to seeing and his style of stands became popular. His trees can be found in major arboretums to simple homes. For many Hank was a mentor, to some he was a close and wonderful friend. No matter how Hank may have influenced your life, he will always be remembered as a kind and gentile person who was more interested in teaching and helping people than receiving any acknowledgement for what he did.

- - - *Christine Wilkolaski*

Hank was a theoretical physicist who lived in Perrysburg with his wife Mary and hundreds of bonsai. He was an active member of our bonsai society and the Buffalo Bonsai Society. He specialized in unusual species from Africa because he lived there for some time. Hank's business "Tandimiti" sold bonsai as well as his beautiful hand-crafted bonsai stands. He usually attended our meetings and has contributed to our group. He was very knowledgeable and shared his skill and techniques. During the past few years he has presented a program for us. Hank and Mary traveled the East coast selling his stands and plants at many regional bonsai shows. Hank will be missed, but never forgotten.

- - - *Wm. N. Valavanis*



Lots of info about the Club Picnic on June 25

This is a repeat, because we think the info is valuable and we want good participation. How does the Club picnic, Auction and Yard Sale work? We've made some changes over the years, and we have quite a few new members, so here's a review.

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 25. To sell items direct, 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 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?? We're going to try to find out!!!! With this year's picnic just a few weeks away, we're going to trial allowing 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 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.

Suiseki Study Group

The newly invigorated Suiseki Study Group - which is open to all Club members - is meeting again and has a regular schedule for the year. Put these dates on your calendar and make plans to join the group.

The June meeting will be on June 15 at 1 pm, and will include a general discussion of Suiseki. AND, we will also plan our Suiseki Exhibit at the September International Bonsai Arboretum Open House.

Saturday June 15 1 pm - Planning Exhibit at IBA Open House, location International Bonsai Arboretum

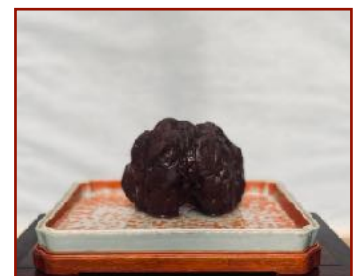
Saturday August 17 9 am - Tanseki walk in previous location which will be supplied when you sign up. Followed by lunch (dutch treat) and discussion. Email sign up will be announced in July

Saturday & Sunday September 7 & 8. Suiseki exhibit by club members at IBA Open House

Tuesday, October 22 7 pm - Club meeting, Study group Exhibit, presentation on collecting by Les Allen



Mountain Lake Suiseki in
Suiban with sand



Summer Waterfall Suiseki

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety Japanese Flowering Quince:

The tree is clearly a Semi Cascade style, it visually may not feel like that, because the pot is too large. The long horizontal branch on the right is what makes it a Semi Cascade, but the wide top edge of the pot is as wide as the branch taken away the negative space under the branch that is necessary for a Semi Cascade style. Visually the Surface Mass of the pot is the same as the trees, this creates confusion, which is the Focal Point, the tree or the pot, it should be the tree. A narrower pot would solve both problems. The color the of pot is not a great choice, it's almost the same color as the trunk, so they blend together rather than accent each other. The Red flowers dictates that the pot should be a Green or Greenish color, which is a dramatic Direct Complimentary color combination.

Harvey Carapella

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.

Sean Smith, Three Mountain Bonsai Studio June 7 - 9, featuring Corin Tomlinson

Jim Doyle, Nature's Way Bonsai Studio June 8 - collected material workshop with our own Mark Arpag

Midwest Bonsai Show - August 17 - 18, Chicago Botanic Garden

Winter Silhouette Bonsai Show Dec 7 - 8 Kannapolis NC

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, John Wiessinger, Joe Moore, Christine Wilkolaski
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:

- July 23 - 7 pm Field Trip TBD
 - 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 TBD
 - October 22 - 7 pm Suiseki Study Group Exhibition and presentation on collecting by Les Allen
-