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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends,

Spring is on our doorstep but winter is still not quite ready to let go. No matter, WE are. So the "Bonsai Shuffle" and work on trees begins. Please consider the sometimes severe fluctuating temperatures in the mean time. Last month we enjoyed the return of the Shohin Bonsai Study Group with John Romano and a wonderful program and demo on Literati too! We always look forward to March and Bill's workshop and program and this time we will also have an 6pm Suiseki Study Group session open to all who are interested. Next month the Shohin Bonsai Study Group returns with another special program you won't want to miss (see page 4 for more info). It is not too early to start planning your display for our Spring Exhibition which is back to our 2 Day Show (May 17 & 18) and also please consider buying a pack of 1/2 PRICE tickets to share with family, friends, neighbors or coworkers!

Remember "Exhibiting your Bonsai is YOUR reward for all the care you give your Trees"

Mark



Chinese Quince Shohin
with Fruit (left) and photo
of Spring Flowers



Watercolor of Blankfield
Chinese Quince with
early spring buds

Next Meeting

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025
at 7:00 pm**

Bill Valavanis, Chinese Quince

Always entertaining, informative, and interesting, our own Bill Valavanis will be our featured speaker. Bill will offer a program on Chinese Quince, with a demonstration. We will all have the opportunity to buy raffle tickets to win the demonstration tree.

During the afternoon, from 1-4, Bill will offer a Chinese Quince workshop. The workshop will be held at International Bonsai Arboretum. The cost of the workshop is \$50, and it is limited to 10 participants. Bring your tools, a 5-6" pot, and wire.

Bill will supply soil. Make your reservation by sending your check to Treasurer Diane Koretz, % BSUNY, PO Box 92215, Rochester, NY 14692. The price includes your selection from Bill's small trees, but larger trees will be available for an additional charge.

**The evening meeting is at Buckland Lodge at
Brighton Town Park
1341 Westfall Road, Rochester, 14618**

Our Refreshment Manager, Marti Macinski will provide coffee, and individual drinks. Please help with a snack email Marti at mmacinski@mac.com to let her know you will bring something.

And, let's keep the silent auction going as it's proving to be a good fundraiser. Small items, under \$50, all proceeds to club, you set the minimum bid.

2025 Programs:

- **March 25 - 6 pm Suiseki Study Group *see page 2 for more info***
7 pm Chinese Quince, Bill Valavanis,
1 - 4 pm, workshop on Chinese Quince, led by Bill Valavanis *see above to register and what to bring*
- **See dates with more info on page 4**

Suiseki Corner

Black Butte Lake near Orleans, in Northern California is known as a recreation area for fishing, boating and camping. For collectors of viewing stones and Suiseki in the United States, it is a favorite spot for the availability of beautiful viewing stones of red and yellow jaspers. The jaspers found in this area suggest the Suiseki from Japan's Sado Island.

The first magnificent Black Butte stone was collected by the late Mas Nakajima. He also crafted the daiza (wooden base). Mas's stone was recently exhibited in the February 2025 Tokyo Japan 62 Meihinten Exhibition by his wife Janet Roth. The second stone is one I collected at Black Butte years ago. It is what is called a Doha (plateau) stone. The daiza and stand were crafted by Sean Smith. Lastly, picture from Black Butte.

Thanks to Les Allen for this article and pictures.



Mas Nakajima Black Butte stone



Black Butte Lake



Les Allen Black Butte Doha (plateau) stone

Learn more about Suiseki. Come to the Suiseki Study Group at 6 pm before the March meeting for a discussion on Waterpool/puddle/lake stones. If you are attending (no need to to reserve, all are welcome) and you have such a stone, please bring it to the meeting.

Doug McDade - in Memoriam

Long-time active member Doug McDade passed away last month following lengthy health problems. Doug was very skilled and talented, which he freely shared through his bonsai, ikebana and suiseki. His passion for bonsai was exceptional and he was a valued assistant to me for 30 years. Often, he would travel and assist me on lecture tours, visits to bonsai conventions and traveled three times to Japan and Taiwan. Personally, he was one of only three assistants who knew what tool I needed before I asked for it when working and demonstrating.

As an active member, consultant and board member of our group he was always one of the first to help set up meetings, workshops and shows, of course he stayed for the entire event and assisted with the clean-up after the events. His cascade flowering Wisteria bonsai was selected for the Member's Choice Award and his tree was featured on one of our show posters. He was very friendly and a wiz at fixing anything, from plumbing, construction and, of course fixing bonsai as well. He could fix anything, and he did. He will truly be missed at meetings, exhibitions and a valuable original member of my "Monday Senior Crew."

His appreciation of nature extended to ikebana and collecting suiseki viewing stones. Doug's creativity was often displayed by his bonsai displays (including suiseki) and flower arrangements at local, regional and national exhibitions. Fortunately, we still have a few of his beautiful bonsai and suiseki for inspiration, appreciation and to remind us of his unselfish character.

His friendship, hard work and creative talents will be missed by his family, society members and the entire bonsai community. I feel very fortunate to having had this quiet individual as a friend.

Thanks to Bill Valavanis for this Memoriam

Bonsai and Art events to know 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.

There will be more info coming each month, but for now, here are some things to put on your calendar.

- Brickyard Trail Art Exhibition See poster to right for dates & times
Our President, Mark Arpag has 3 works on display
At the Buckland House on Westfall Road
- Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival April 11 - 13, 2025
Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey,
604 Station Rd., Grantville, PA 17028
For info: midatlanticbonsai.org
- Buffalo Bonsai Society Club Show June 7 & 8, 2025
At Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens
- American Bonsai Society Learning Seminars September 12 and 13, 2025
In Association with the 9th US National Bonsai Exhibition
Double Tree, Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY
- 9th US National Bonsai Exhibition September 13 and 14, 2025
Total Sports Experience, East Rochester, NY
Tickets and more now available on Bill's web site:
www.internationalbonsai.com



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

February meeting - John Romano entertained and enlightened us

Many thanks to John Romano for sharing his expertise with us at our February meeting. And also thanks to John for being willing to let go of the demonstration tree!

In the afternoon, John led a workshop on Shohin Bonsai, with a good discussion about display, which led into the first meeting of the Shohin Study Group (first in a few years), led by Toby Ziegler.



2025 Dues Renewal Notice and Membership News - LAST CALL!

Membership dues for the 2025 calendar year are now due. And while many folks paid at the January and February meeting, we are still missing a few. Please send your check now to keep your name on our membership list and to continue receiving the Billboard and other membership news.

Annual dues are now \$50, both for an individual and for a family.

Please note that all news and announcements, including the Billboard, are provided only via email. If you have questions about your membership, please send those questions to: diane.koretz@gmail.com

Thank you, Diane Koretz,.

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Pyracantha

The small size actually makes it a Mame Shohin Bonsai. Style wise, it's a Twin Trunk Semi-cascade. It is in a round symmetrical pot and should be potted dead center, but it isn't. That's the only problem with this very sweet tree. The Orange berries are the Focal Point and in the Spring it will be the small White flowers. The bright Orange color contrasts nicely against the dark Green leaves. The neutral color of the pot creates a quiet feel keeping your attention on the tree only. It's a great example of what can be done with small young trees or small old trees.

Harvey Carapella

Shohin Study Group is alive again!

Toby Ziegler led our first (in few years) Shohin Study Group before the February meeting. Help keep this group going - plan to attend in April. The group will meet at 6 pm, before the meeting.
Bring 2-3 Shohin Bonsai as we will make a few displays to exhibit at our Club show in May.

Billboard is brought to you by:

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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:
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2025 Program dates:

- April 22 - 6 pm Shohin Bonsai Study Group
7 pm - Alan Adair, Larch workshop in the afternoon from 1-4, reserve your spot (\$50) with Treasurer Diane Koretz
 - May 17 & 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
 - September 15 - 7 pm, Koji Hiramatsu, speaker from the US National Exhibition.
Note the date change to fit with the schedule of the US National.
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