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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



President's Message

Greetings Friends,

As they always say...it's THAT TIME of year again! You have had all winter to think about and plan your Bonsai Spring. It is a very exciting time as you reunite with your beloved Trees and tackle spring work. It is also busy so it is important to prioritize and plan so you are doing the right work at the right time. This month we are so fortunate to have Bill Valavanis doing Ezo Spruce! Ezo are relatively rare but the information is generally applied to other Spruce as well.

For our April meeting we have arranged a unique opportunity to acquire, work on and learn from a long time, well known and accomplished Collector and Artist, Kris Springer. *More details on page 4.*

I was very pleased with our Jita workshop, full + and everyone left with an amazing work of Art that will elevate their displays! Thanks to Bob Blankfield for once again stepping up to share his talents with our Club!

Mark



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Bill Valavanis, International Bonsai Arboretum, will present a program on spruce, and will do a demonstration of an Ezo Spruce Forest. Bill is our founding club member, and an internationally acclaimed Bonsai Artist. We are privileged to have him as a speaker every year.



In the afternoon Bill will lead a workshop to make an Ezo Spruce Forest. The cost is \$125, and includes 5 trees (normally \$30 each) a pot and soil. Additional trees will be available at \$25 each. The workshop is limited to 10 people. Bring your own tools, wire and moss.

Make your reservations right away with Treasurer Diane Koretz:
bsunytreasurer@gmail.com.

Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park

Many thanks to Richard West and Theresia Cassidy for their willingness to step in and help with refreshments this month. As always, If you are willing to bring something to share, please email Marti Macinski at mmacinski@mac.com.

2023 Programs:

- March 28 - 7 pm Bill Valavanis, Ezo spruce bonsai with workshop in the afternoon, fee for workshop, reservations required, limited to 10 people. Reserve for the workshop with Diane Koretz:
treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

see page 3 for more dates for 2023, and for some more info about the upcoming events

February Meeting : Mark Arpag on Display



Mark Arpag, our esteemed President, is VERY excited about this being the 50th year of the club. Because of this, he REALLY wants all club members to participate in our upcoming Club Show on May 21st. So this program on display was very timely and appropriate, to get us all thinking about how to best feature our trees at the show. Mark reviewed the concepts of directionality, formal s. informal, rustic vs fancy, and contrasting shapes. He showed several examples, and asked us to indicate what was wrong, then explained in detail. We learned that we want to avoid a crowded feeling, keep 3 pieces in a triangle instead of a straight line, and that using a Jita shows respect, care and thought, and really helps to set off the tree. Thanks for a great program, Mark, and club members, start working on your displays right now.



Rick Marriott showing off his hula hoop style with his raffle tix!

February Workshop



Tools, tools and more tools, even the shop vac to clean up all the mess! Bob Blankfield and Mark Arpag brought their tools, and many of the participants also contributed. The workshop started with flat pieces of very beautiful wood, and a good overview and explanation of what was going to happen. And, a special treat, Italian Wedding Soup for lunch, made by Mark Arpag! With only 10 participants, everyone got to make their own unique selection and then worked on it to make it even more unique. Bob and Mark got around to everyone more than once, so the coaching was intense and hands on. It was a very productive day, and one that many want to repeat! Thanks, thanks, thanks to Bob and Mark for their time, patience, expertise and enthusiasm. Our club is very fortunate to have these guys to help us all learn!



Shohin Feature



Mame Shohin Bonsai, Shimpaku Juniper

This Slanting Twin Trunk style bonsai has similar size trunks, ideally the main trunk would be larger than the second trunk. In this case that is not a big problem, because the tree is so short the trunks divide into a variety of different size branches quickly. Why isn't this bonsai a Semi-Cascade, because the main trunk's apex is slightly beyond the root ball, but still over the root ball and not extending out far enough beyond the pot's edge. The main trunk on the left has a foliage mass slightly larger than the second trunk giving it more visual weight helping to establish it as the main trunk. Both foliage masses have a good triangular shape and the Red pot is a good choice to contrast with the Green foliage making it a Direct Complimentary color combination.

Harvey Carapella

April program and workshop by Kris Springer

Kris Springer is a long time Collector of Native material from Northern Maine mostly Larch & Eastern White Cedars but also unusual things like Blueberries & deciduous too. He was a student, friend and travel companion of the Nick Lenz. Kris has an amazing collection of Nick memories as well as Art from paintings, pottery and of course Bonsai.

Kris is an excellent Bonsai Artist with a large & equally wonderful Bonsai collection and has recently had a tree accepted to the next US National Exhibition in September and a tree featured on the cover of the ABS Journal.

This is a very special opportunity to create a unique collected Bonsai with a gifted uniquely knowledge Artist. The workshop will be limited to 10 people and the exact cost will be determined by the tree you select. Choice of material will be offered in the order you sign up with a \$100.00 deposit.

You may sign up with Diane Koretz immediately however you are responsible for the deposit regardless if you can attend. You may get some one else to take your place and there may be a waiting list but it is your responsibility regardless. This is the perfect time to work on Larch and there will be a great selection to choose from! Kris is booked at Jim Doyle's for workshops but we will have first choice of material, don't miss out on this great opportunity.

2023 Program dates:

- 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 7 - Memorial Art Gallery Display, beginning at noon
- May 21 - 9-5 Club Show at Golisano 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, the speaker will be Koji Hiramatsu*

www.bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

Suiseki Feature

Many thanks to Bill Valavanis for some very nice Suiseki photos. For future Billboards, if you have pictures you would like included in the Billboard, please let us know and we'll include them. Send a note to : 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: 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 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