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# Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



## From our President

Greetings Friends,  
Our Special September program which featured formal displays of Spruce from Bill, Harvey and myself as well 3 Demos! Bill worked on an old Tanuki and totally transformed it, Harvey refined an old dwarf Ezo and I did an initial styling on a rare cultivar from nursery stock. We had a good turn out but I wish we could have recorded it for those that missed it or might want to view it again.

I don't think anyone has done this at the Club level before and we work well together so we hope to utilize this format in the future. The Grand Bonsai ride Tree has progressed well with Tom's help and appears to have a very bright future! Our October meeting will feature our own Les Allen on Suiseki with support from Suiseki Study Group members Bob Blankfield & Tom Macinski. Les is a Nationally recognized Suiseki collector who travels the US as well as the rest of the world pursuing his passion for this Art.

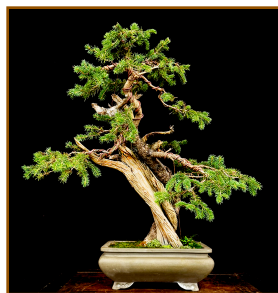
Unfortunately Bill and I will miss his program as we will be traveling 3,000 miles to participate in the Pacific Bonsai Expo in California.

This will be our 3rd trip across the entire country and back . Once for the Artisans Cup in Portland OR and 2 years ago for the 1st Pacific Bonsai Expo. Keep track of our adventures on Bill's Bonsai Blog and we will see you all in November.

- - Mark



Bill's Demo before repotting



Bill's Demo after repotting

## Next Meeting

**Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm  
Suiseki Study Group Exhibition, with  
a presentation on collecting by Les  
Allen**

For the October 22 meeting, Les Allen will be giving a presentation on all things Suiseki. He will be discussing Tanseki (collecting stones in rivers, creeks and the desert), Suiseki exhibitions he has attended and participated in the past, and Suiseki display. If you have any Suiseki or viewing stones, bring one or two to the meeting for discussion. Bob Blankfield will discuss the art of Daiza making (wooden bases for the stone).

*Also note on page 2 in this Billboard, more details about our new silent auction plan. Bring your donations and bring your checkbook.*

### **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](mailto:mmacinski@mac.com).*

## 2024 Programs:

- Oct October 22 - 7 pm Suiseki Study Group Exhibition and presentation on collecting by Les Allen, with help from Bob Blankfield and Tom Macinski

*See more dates and info on page 4*

## New Fundraising effort at Club meetings - second time! And a heads up to prepare for the Holiday Party Auction

We tried the idea of a silent auction at each meeting. Our first effort in September was successful and raised just under \$100 for the club. So let's do it again.

Bring your small items (value less than \$50) and set them up on perimeter tables. We will have bid sheets and you can list the item and the minimum bid you are willing to accept. Keep in mind, the sale price will go to the club, but we still want to have minimum bids so people have to invest something. If the minimum bid is not met, you will take the item home.

Bids will be open from the beginning of the meeting until the break, and then the final price will be called and the purchaser will pay the club. We are hoping this will supplement the raffle as a fundraiser. While the raffle raises money for the club, there is usually a cost involved for the raffle tree, so the net to the club is not as much as it appears.

And don't forget to start thinking about the Holiday Party and Auction and what you might bring for that. All items at the Holiday party are donated, wrapped if possible (bonsai related and no gag gifts please!) See the picture to the right for an example of what can be available through our auction, and thank you to our President Mark Arpag for this excellent donation.



A Star is born, Grand  
Bonsai Ride taking shape.

## Hungerford Exhibit in December - looking for help!

Hungerford Exhibit - On the first Friday in December (Dec 6), in the evening

I'm coordinating the Hungerford Exhibit coming up this December and since I'll be a "newbie" to this affair, I'd love to have one or two local club members work with me on this event. As I understand it, an assortment of bonsai will be assembled for the exhibit and we'll be in attendance to answer questions and promote our club. This sounds like a great way to share our love of bonsai with the Rochester community. Please let me know if you can help with tree transportation and/or attendance at the Friday, December 6 event. John Wiessinger [natureetours@gmail.com](mailto:natureetours@gmail.com) 607-277-2116

## 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.

Pacific Expo - October 26 & 27, Oakland CA  
[www.pacificbonsaiexpo.org](http://www.pacificbonsaiexpo.org)

Winter Silhouette Bonsai Show Dec 7 - 8 Kannapolis NC  
[www.winterbonsai.net](http://www.winterbonsai.net)

Shohin Bonsai Seminar - January 30 - Feb 1, Santanella, CA  
[www.calshohin.org](http://www.calshohin.org)



Pacific Rim Bonsai preparations

## Suiseki Study Group

The newly invigorated Suiseki Study Group - which is open to all Club members - has had an active schedule through this year, with plans in process for more throughout 2025.

If you missed the Tanseki this year, the picture to the right will encourage you to make plans to join us next year.

This was a great year for club member participation and the end result was a great Suiseki Study Group exhibit at the IBA Open House. And we'll close this year's study group with our October meeting.

**Tuesday, October 22** 7 pm - Club meeting, Study group Exhibit, presentation on collecting by Les Allen. Please bring a Suiseki or viewing stone for display and discussion. At this meeting, there will be information about plans for the Suiseki study group going forward into 2025.



Idyllic secret Suiseki collection location

## September program - great success



Another great program on spruce bonsai. Harvey Carapella, Mark Arpag and Bill Valavanis presented simultaneous demonstrations, in addition to a formal display of one of our personal spruce bonsai. Harvey worked on refining an old Ezo spruce bonsai. Marc showed how to make the initial design selection on a large spruce. Bill worked on redesigning and wiring a neglected spruce bonsai from a workshop over 25 years ago.

## SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH

### Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Kumquat

A powerful little tree, starting with the contorted exposed root trunk and dense twigs creating a mass of foliage and fruit. Is it a Slanting, Semi-Cascade or Full Cascade style? To be a full Cascade, the cascading branch needs to go below the bottom edge of the pot. To be a Slanting style, I feel the tip of the cascading branch needs to move upward into a more horizontal direction. Although it's a close call, I am calling it a Semi Cascade style. The slanting angle is strong and the cascading branch is dropping below the top edge of the pot, which it needs to do to be a Semi Cascade. The apex of the tree is beyond the rootball if you drop a straight line down to the top surface of the pot. This is an important feature if it was a Slanting style, as a Cascade or Semi Cascade the Apex can be over or beyond the root ball. The bright Orange fruit against the Green foliage is the Focal Point and is more attention getting than the ornate pot. There is no competition between the ornateness of the pot, which is a fine texture and the fruit and foliage, which has a coarse texture. The coarse over powers the fine. Visually for some, the pot may be a little small compared to the mass of foliage and fruit.

Harvey Carapella



### Shohin Study Group

Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella, and Bill Valavanis will be working to re-invigorate a Shohin Study Group. Like the Suiseki Study Group, this would be a series of separate meetings to more closely focus on Shohin Bonsai. If you are interested in participating (and perhaps helping to plan), please reach out to Mark, Harvey or Bill.

**Billboard** is brought to you by:

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Harvey Carapella, John Wiessinger

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 - 2025 Program dates:

- November 26 - 7 pm Critique and Design Studio
- December 17th - 6 pm, Holiday party and Club Auction
- January 28 - 7 pm Balance, Color and Perspective in Bonsai, Harvey Carapella
- February 25 - 7 pm, John Romano TBD
- March 25 - 7 pm, Surprise, Bill Valavanis
- April 25 - 7 pm TBD
- May 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