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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends,

Following a successful Tanseki (Suiseki collecting trip) the Suiseki Study Group has a wonderful display prepared for visitors to the Open House Weekend at the International Bonsai Arboretum including several from the most recent Tanseki. Our program this month is on Spruce Bonsai and we will once again have 3 formal displays and also 3 demos on Spruce by Bill Valavanis, Harvey Carapella and myself. This format has proven to be educational, entertaining and very well attended!

A reminder that we are encouraging you to share your time, talents and ideas as part of Project Involved. Please reach out to myself or any other Board member!

Your watering is still very important for your trees' health but look for changes in your trees' needs. The times, they are a changing!

Mark



Spruce as far as the eye can see!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00 pm
Spruce Bonsai

We are perfecting the format for the Bill, Harvey and Mark show. They pick a particular tree, set up 3 formal displays, and then do 3 individual demos. As Mark says, these are educational, which is expected, of course. But what is surprising, perhaps, is how much entertainment comes with the program. You will find yourself laughing a lot, while absorbing lots of information.



Bill's dwarf Ezo Spruce

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.

2024 Programs:

- September 24 - 7 pm Spruce Program
Mark, Harvey and Bill
- October 11 - 13 - Toronto Bonsai society show
- 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

Your Board of Directors works hard to plan out programs, manage the finances, think ahead to next year's show and more. We reported on the Board meeting in the last Billboard. This month we want to highlight the idea of a new silent auction at each meeting.

How will this work??

Bring your small items (value less than \$50) and set them up on perimeter tables. We will have bid sheets (probably copied from the Ithaca Club, which does this regularly). 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.

We will start this at our meeting in September, so please think about bringing something.

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
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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

Toronto Bonsai Society - October 11 - 13

Club show and 60th Anniversary Celebration www.torontobonsai.org

Winter Silhouette Bonsai Show Dec 7 - 8 Kannapolis NC www.winterbonsai.net

Shohin Bonsai Seminar - January 30 - Feb 1, Santanella, CA www.calshohin.org

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.

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.



Idyllic secret Suiseki collection location



Tuesday, October 22 7 pm - Club meeting, Study group Exhibit, presentation on collecting by Les Allen. At this meeting, there will be information about plans for the Suiseki study group going forward into 2025.

International Bonsai Arboretum Open House a success

The International Bonsai Arboretum Open House (still ongoing as this Billboard comes out) is a wonderful opportunity to see Bill Valavanis' artistry (and some whimsy!) on display, This year Bill added ongoing demonstrations by club members. Maybe this is Bill's way to ensure that members are keeping up with necessary work on their trees!



SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



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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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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Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Chinese Quince

A powerful little tree, starting with the heavy contorted trunk and then the impressive dense twigs. It's an Informal Upright styled tree in a round symmetrical pot and should be potted dead center and it's not. Normally the fruit is the Focal Point of the tree, having only one fruit becomes a distraction instead of a Focal Point for me. The bright Red pot is the Focal Point, it overpowers the one fruit. The way the pot is used has multiple problems for me. First, the White drip in the glaze is dead center over the one foot, which is dead center under the trunk. This alignment visually is creating a much too strong vertical line down the center of the tree. The tree has a left to right directional movement, ideally the White drip would be on the left side of the trunk, also moving from left to right, rather than centered. Second, I prefer seeing two legs rather than one, two legs feels more stable and I find one leg distracting.

Harvey Carapella

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 Perspective Presentation, Harvey Carapella
- February 25 - 7 pm, John Romano TBD
- March 25 - 7 pm, Surprise, Bill Valavanis
- April 22 - 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