

September
2026

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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends,

Well it may not be official but Fall is already here. It looked like we might not have a Suiseki Exhibit at the International Bonsai Arboretum as we have held on alternate years to the US National Bonsai Exhibition but the stars did finally align and the Open House is ON and so are WE ! The dates are in October with the details in flier accompanying the Billboard.

We have a great year planned starting this month with Bob Mahler and his Satsuki Azalea workshop.

For the first time we have scheduled a couple of meetings on Saturdays so members with longer drives can come during daylight hours. *See the calendar on page 4 for meeting dates and times.* One year away is the 10th US National Bonsai Exhibition and almost 20 years ago was the First one! Planning for the 10th began immediately following the 9th last September and great progress has been made but there is still much work to do.

Our members have been essential to the success of each of the previous Nationals and the 10th is a really big deal and we are excited to be a part of this historic event!

- - - Mark



Fall Firethorn Mame



Fall Hut Stone display
with moss

Next meeting Open Workshop

Tuesday, September 29

7:00 pm - Bob Mahler, Kifu Bonsai

**Buckland Lodge
Brighton Town Park, Rochester**

Bob Mahler will talk about and demonstrate Satsuki Azalea at our evening meeting. In the afternoon, from 1 - 4, Bob will lead a Satsuki Azalea workshop. This workshop will cost \$125, is limited to 8 participants, and is full with a wait list. To get on the wait list, contact Treasurer Diane Koretz: diane.koretz@gmail.com. *See more info about Bob and Kifu Bonsai on page 3.*

Bring your small auction items for the silent auction - our ongoing fundraiser.

Please help us thank Margaret Cochran for stepping up as our new refreshment manager. Please welcome Margaret to this position, and help her with setting up, bringing a snack now and then, and cleaning up the refreshment area at the end.

If you plan to bring a snack, please let Margaret know at: mar.cochran2@gmail.com.

2026 Programs:

- September 29 - 1 pm, Bob Mahler, Satsuki Azalea workshop, *workshop is full.*
 - September 29 - 7 pm, Bob Mahler, Satsuki Azalea presentation and demo
 - October 10 & 11- 9 - 4, IBA Fall Open House, with club Suiseki Exhibit, *see flier attached to email forwarding this Billboard*
 - See dates with more info on page 4
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Possible meeting day and time change - weigh in with your thoughts!

The BSUNY Board met recently, to plan programming, and to discuss the ongoing work of our Club.

Several members have expressed interest in moving meetings (or some of the meetings) to Saturday, to avoid evening driving, and to avoid conflicts with work schedules. The Board has decided to try this out in January and February, so those meetings will be the 4th Saturday, January 22nd, at 1 pm and February 27th, at 1 pm. This will be at our current location.

We would like to collect opinions about this change from all of the membership, so please register your "vote" on this issue.

1. Do you want a permanent change of meeting day and time to Saturday at 1 pm?
2. Would you prefer a mix of daytime and evening meetings?
3. Any other thoughts on meeting day, time and location?

For ease of collecting info in one place, please send your thoughts to Marti at mmacinski@mac.com.

Thank you to those who have responded already, and please let's get some more input!

From our librarian, Joe Lentner

Libraries today are no longer just a collection of books, today they are "media centers". Since the growing season is coming to a close and our thoughts begin to turn to winter dormancy I thought it would be good to introduce a new base of information for bonsai enthusiasts. The computer has become a common source of information and we can find a wide variety of bonsai information and "Bonsai Porn" (as Bill likes to callout) on the internet. Each month I will cite three sources of this and I invite anyone to give me any additional sites they have discovered. Please be aware that these are not necessarily an endorsement but simply a source of information which you may choose to use or ignore.

On You Tube < Bonsaify >

On Facebook <Gunawan Nikita>

Evergreengardenworks.com

Anyone who has additional sites can give me a heads up at our meeting by coming to the library table.



Suiseki Corner

The Suiseki Study Group continued this year, and will wrap up the year with a Suiseki Exhibit by Club Members at the IBA Fall Open House on October 10 & 11.

If club members have a Suiseki they would like to display, bring it to the September meeting and show it to Bob or Mark.



Upcoming September meeting and workshop - more info

Our speaker for September is Bob Mahler of Kifu Bonsai in Pennsylvania: www.kifubonsai.com. Robert "Bob" Mahler discovered his passion for bonsai at an early age. By fifteen, he was already apprenticing under accomplished bonsai artist Chase Rosade at [Rosade Bonsai Studio](#) in New Hope, Pennsylvania. That early dedication led him to Tochigi-Ken, Japan, where he spent four years studying under the exclusive direction of internationally recognized bonsai master Susumu Sudo.

Following his return to the United States in 1994, Bob served for eleven years as Curator of Bonsai at the [Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#), where he helped care for and shape one of the country's most respected public bonsai collections.

In 2017, Bob founded [Kifu Bonsai](#), where he continues to work with collectors, students, and horticultural organizations. He currently serves as Vice President of the [Pennsylvania Bonsai Society](#).

Bob will talk about and demonstrate Satsuki Azalea at our evening meeting. In the afternoon, from 1 - 4, Bob will lead a Satsuki Azalea workshop. This workshop will cost \$125, and is limited to 8 participants. Make your reservations with Treasurer Diane Koretz: diane.koretz@gmail.com

The workshop will take place at International Bonsai Arboretum, and the evening meeting will be at our regular meeting place: Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park.

Bonsai and Suiseki events around and 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.

- 2026 Michiana Bonsai Show, September 19 - 20, 2026
Wellfield Botanic Garden, Elkhart IN
www.michianabonsai.club
- Fall Fruit & Foliage Bonsai Exhibition, October 17 & 18, 2026
Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton, MI
- Winter Silhouette Bonsai Exhibition, December 5 & 6, 2026
Kannapolis, NC
- 10th US National Bonsai Exhibition, September 11 & 12, 2027
Rochester, NY

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



Samurai Cedar going to Michiana Bonsai Exhibition



Bill's Olive Bonsai on its way to display at Michiana

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety:
Shimpaku Juniper

The top photo is the original tree, Full Cascade, because the cascading branch is below the bottom of the pot. The visual weight of the foliage and being so far away from the pot, it is unbalanced. The lower photo shows the branches more compressed to bring the foliage closer to the pot and up making it more of a Semi-Cascade. This gives it a better overall balance. I also think the base of the tree is too dominant for the size of the pot. A slightly larger pot would allow for the tree to be lower in the pot and would balance the visual weight of the foliage. Remember, the size, color and shape of the pot is an important element when creating balance in your bonsai.

Harvey Carapella



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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:

mmacinski@mac.com

2026 - 2027 Program dates:

- October 27 - 7 pm, Bill Valavanis, how to grow trees for Bonsai from young trees *Note: changed location to Carmen Clark Lodge*
- November 24 - 7 pm, Design studio
- December 15 - 6 pm, Holiday Party & Auction
- January 30, Saturday - 1 pm Harvey Carapella
- February 27, Saturday - 1 pm *Note date & time change on a trial basis for Jan & Feb*
- March 23 - 7 pm, Bill Valavanis TBD
- April 27 - 7 pm, TBD
- May 16 - 9 - 4, BSUNY Club Show
- June 29 - 7 pm, Club picnic and Auction
- July 27 - 7 pm, Open Workshop, *Carmen Clark Lodge*
- September 13 - 7 pm, Shinji Suzuki
Note: day change to accommodate speaker for US National Bonsai Exhibition