

Billboard

Newsletter of The Bonsai Society of
Upstate New York



The Art Of Suiseki

Visit Our Website

<http://www.bonsai-upstateny.org/>

Sean Smith, proprietor of Custom Oriental Woodcraft near Harrisburg, PA will present a program on the Art of Suiseki at our meeting on January 24th. Suiseki (viewing Stones) are used often when displaying bonsai to present a complete picture of nature.

Mr. Smith has studied the art of carving wooden bases for suiseki (called daiza) in Japanese. It is very difficult to carve a perfect fit to the bottoms of irregular stones. He has mastered the art and is considered the number one daiza carver outside of Japan. If he were living in Japan we were told that he would be among the top three carvers. In addition, he carves and makes bonsai display tables and shoji screens. Since he is also an accomplished bonsai artist he has constructed an authentic Japanese room with a traditional tokonoma display alcove for suiseki and bonsai display. Last year he spent several weeks in Japan studying with the number one carver

and also spent some time meditating in a Zen temple in Kyoto. He has made many trips to Japan and will be returning a few days after our program to Japan for study before he joins Bill Valavanis for his bonsai exploration tour in Japan.

Considered the foremost authority of suiseki outside of Japan, Mr Smith has taught his art and carving techniques in Europe as well as throughout the United States.

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Sean Smith Creating a Suiseki Daiza

Meeting Date

**Tuesday
January 24, 2006**

**Brighton Town Park
Lodge**

7:00PM Meeting

777 Westfall Road
Rochester, New York
near corner of
Westfall and Clinton

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Holiday Party Review

Over fifty members and guests attended our Annual Holiday Party, in spite of the poor weather. Thanks to everyone who brought in the delicious goodies. Bill Valavanis showed slides from his recent trip to Belgium to attend the Ginkgo Bonsai Exhibit which featured the best bonsai from Europe. Then he shared views from England, especially the bonsai garden of Harry Tomlinson. Finally, to round up this series he shared slides from this year's National Bonsai Exhibition (Kokufu Bonsai Ten) held in Tokyo, plus some photos in Omiya Bonsai Village. Afterwards he repeated his Yoshimura Tribute which was presented to 1,000 people at the banquet at the World Bonsai Convention held in May.

After some more goodies, Harvey Carapella auctioned off some great items including: Chinese pots, books, scrolls, calendars, Christmas wreath, plants, wine, and lots of great bonsai oriented items. A special thank you to Jim Reed who donated a beautiful Juniper. It was so good that Harvey bid on it and won it! The Wolfgang Putz demonstration tree was also auctioned.

Our generous members really donated some splendid items and it helped. They realize that our Holiday Party Auction is our greatest income producing activity of the year, much more than our annual spring exhibition. The funds we raised will be used to bring quality, educational programs to our members. Another hearty thank your to all members who brought in goodies, items for the auction and to those who bid and were lucky to get a special gift. We raised \$1,200 in the one hour auction. Also thanks to Harvey for doing such a great job and for winning the Juniper bonsai.

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At our meeting Mr. Smith will show some slides of suiseki in Japan and of what he has seen during his many study trips to Japan. Following the slides he will actually carve a suiseki daiza in about one hour and show us how he performs his magic. The completed daiza and suiseki will then be raffled.

On Tuesday afternoon before his demonstration Mr. Smith will conduct a workshop instructing and helping members carve their own daiza. He will bring a stone, wood and all supplies for each student. Each participant should bring their own eye protection and dremel tool if they have one. The registration fee for this special workshop is only \$125. There are a few opening left, please call Will Hebert at 256-2492 to register.

Members are invited to bring a suiseki to display during the meeting. Lets hope for good weather so many of our distant members can enjoy and learn from Sean Smith.

2005 - 2006 Programs

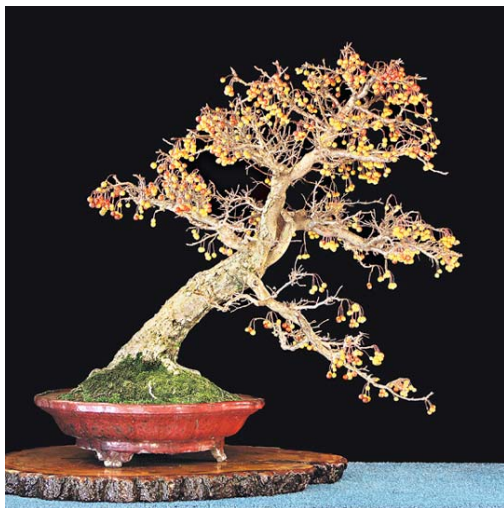
Feb. 21	Harvey Carapella, Formal Upright Foemina Juniper
Mar. 15-19	GardenScape 2006
Mar. 28	Bill Valavanis, Accent Plants Lecture/Demo/Workshop
Apr. 25	Boon Manakitivipart
May 20-21	Upstate New York Bonsai Exhibit Suthin Sukosolvisit Lecture/ Demo
June 27	Picnic / Bonsai Sale and Auction
July 25	Field trip to John Nucitelli garden
Aug. 22	Dwarf Conifer Garden Tour
Sept. 12	Kathy Shaner

World Bonsai Contest

The results for the 2005 World Bonsai Contest were recently announced and two of our members were among the top 100 winners. Over 200 photographs were entered from 25 countries to Japan for judging by professional bonsai artists. The “International Winners” were selected based on nutrition, technical skill and beauty of the bonsai. Congratulations to Harvey Carapella for his Crabapple which was shown in bud and to Bill Valavanis who entered his large Crabapple which was shown in full fruit. Both were in the International Winners category among the top 50 entries. We hope many more of our members will enter their bonsai photos for next years contest. We have some of the finest bonsai in the country in our member’s collections.

All the winning bonsai can be seen on the BCI website at:

<http://www.bonsai-bci.com/WorldBonsai05/wbc.html>



Crabapple by Bill Valavanis

Two New Websites

Bonsai artist Julian Adams has visited our club in the past and has just retired from his car dealership. Now he can dedicate more time to his business Adams' Bonsai. Check out his new web site at:

www.adamsbonsai.com

Many years ago our club was visited by Japanese bonsai artist Mikio Oshima. He made several trips here to teach our members. He has now retired and his son Kenji Oshima has taken over the family business. Last year he started a new web site. It is entirely in Japanese, but if you click around you are bound to discover many bonsai. Try clicking on any of the photos except the large one on top which is his prize winning multi colored Dwarf star jasmine. The photos are of high quality and show the tree from many different angles. Each tree is priced and dimensions are also given. He also offers containers, mostly antique and updates his site nearly every day. An interesting site to visit, not to purchase from. Visit Kenji Oshima at:

www.bonsai-master.com



Crabapple by Harvey Carapella

It's That Time Of Year Again...

If you have not put your bonsai away for the winter yet, don't bother. It's probably too late. You will not have to worry about transplanting or pruning next spring either. But you can start all over with a new bonsai collection, correcting errors as you progress. That's not a bad idea anyway.

Bonsai will need watering from time to time when they are not frozen, even though they are dormant. Be sure to water until water runs through the drainage holes. Clean snow is also good for a light watering during the winter. It might be a good idea to spray again with a contact fungicide such as Captan.

This is a good time to begin studying tree silhouettes around town and in your own garden (exercise cautions when driving). Note that the overall silhouette is different for each species. East Avenue is an excellent place to study large mature Beech, Weeping beech and Ginkgo. Highland Park and Mt. Hope Cemetery are also good locations for large Japanese maples and paper bark maples.

A warmer winter project is to study books and magazines. Work schedules often prohibit studying during the active growing season. Our book and video library has excellent selections.

Keep warm and study bonsai styles in nature and in books and tapes, because **It's that time of the year again.....**

W.N.V.

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