

Billboard

Newsletter of The Bonsai Society of
Upstate New York



Harvey Carapella Root-Over-Rock

Visit Our Website

<http://www.bsuny.org/>

At our June meeting, Harvey Carapella will be continuing a lecture he began last year. In 2008 he spoke about Clinging-to-a-Rock style bonsai. This month he will be expanding on that lecture as he gets into more detail about a variation of Clinging-to-a-Rock style. In this style, the tree(s) are planted directly on to the surface of the rock. Usually the rock and the tree have to be in harmony with each other. The shape of the rock, the moss and sometimes the presence of smaller plants are all important elements. Harvey will discuss all this and demonstrate how to put them together and more. There will be several hand-outs relating to the topic as well as examples of several other rock planting styles. The finished small rock planting and the container will be raffled.

Harvey Carapella is a retired graphic designer and current (assistant professor) at the Rochester Institute of Technology as well as a past & current president of our club. He has thirty years of bonsai experience he has worked to apply his knowledge of design to the art of bonsai and has made presentations to several bonsai conferences and clubs.

**Don't forget the earlier
time for this meeting**

BUSNY Picnic

Be sure to arrive early on June 23rd for our special meeting at the usual meeting place, the Buckland Park Lodge. Spouses and significant others are welcome. The first part of the program, starting at about 5:00, will be a "Sell or Swap Fair" where members can show and brag about their trees, and possible find a new home for them. We will eat our picnic supper at 6:00. At 7:00 we will have a short business meeting and Harvey Carapella, our club president, will give his special Root over Rock demonstration. The club will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, coffee, tea and the usual soft drinks. We need those attending to bring food to pass for appetizers, salads, and desserts. So far 18 members have volunteered to bring food for the table, but we welcome others. If you would like to bring something, please call Rick Marriott at 247-3401.

Meeting Date

**Tuesday
June 23, 2009**

5:00PM Meeting

**Brighton Town Lodge
at
Buckland Park
1341 Westfall Road
Rochester, New York
near corner of
Westfall and Clinton**

**President
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**Billboard Staff
Mark Arpag
Irene Valavanis
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Tom Friday**

April Highlights

Tom Friday

At the April meeting David Easterbrook, curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden's bonsai collection, gave a talk and slide presentation on training bonsai in a weeping style to over 60 members and guests. After the talk, David demonstrated this style using a special cultivar of a weeping willow, *Salix Babylonica* 'Rokkakudo'. This cultivar is somewhat rare in the US. It is a semi-dwarf tree that weeps just like its full-sized counterpart, but is more delicate in appearance. It is hardy to USDA zones 5-8 and does best in moist, yet well drained soil, and full sun. Earlier in the afternoon David also did a workshop featuring pretrained Japanese Larch that was held at the lodge for twelve members.

The weeping willow bonsai that David created was raffled and won by Debbie Chludzinski. The society appreciated everyone who purchased tickets.

Thank you David for your unique and interesting and very informative presentation.



David with his completed Willow Bonsai

Spring Show A Success

Tom Friday

We had one of our finest bonsai exhibitions last month. The bonsai are developing and becoming better every year. The members choice award was voted on and went to Mark Arpag's Eastern White Cedar collected 18 years ago from a rock "pocket" in Northern New York State. Thank you to the members who came to help set up, answer questions and clean up. A special thank you to Rita and Jim Dolce, Mark Arpag and Rick Marriott for the delicious wine and cheese reception which everyone enjoyed. Also a hearty thank you to all our vendors, Sean Smith for his programs and to each member who took the time and effort to prepare their bonsai for all the visitors to enjoy. Sean's finished bonsai from his demonstration will be auctioned at a later date and a complete report will be presented at a future meeting. Once again, thanks to everyone for participating in our 36th exhibition.



Mark Arpag with his winning tree

2009 Programs

July 25-26	Road Trip to Montreal Bonsai Collection
August 25	Tour of Hosta Collection
September 14	Urushibata from Japan: Shohin Bonsai

NEW LIBRARY BOOK

Our newest book in the society's library is The First US National Bonsai Exhibition Commemorative Album. This historic event was held in Rochester in October 2008. Over thirty of the bonsai on display came from our member's collections. Thank you to Bill Valavanis for the donation.

Thanks Mark and Alice

May is Asian-Pacific Heritage Month and two of our members presented an educational program to 120 students from the Nathaniel Rochester School at the Salvation Army Community Center in Rochester. Dr. Alice Chen presented a program on Calligraphy and Chinese Brush painting and Mark Arpag presented a program on Bonsai. The kids were fascinated and asked many excellent questions. Chinese zither and tea programs were also presented. The students were attentive and respectful and are part of a special pilot program. Thanks to Alice and Mark for presenting these programs.

Montreal Update

Currently we have 27 confirmed plus 4 from Syracuse who have expressed interest. We are going to have a bus that holds 31 passengers. The cost for this bus will be \$70 each, but it is a better bus. We need to leave early (about 6am). The exact time and place will be announced at the June meeting and the balance of your bus payment is due then. We will stop in Syracuse to pick up and details of the location will follow. Everyone must have a passport, passport card or an enhanced drivers license to get back in the USA. It takes about 3-4 weeks for the enhanced drivers license so get it now if you need it. Here are some additional costs; Hotel room is \$101 Canadian (about \$90 US) admission to all Gardens about \$20 Canadian, dinner at La Milsa Brazilian Restaurant with Montreal Bonsai Study group and David Easterbrooke about \$30 Canadian. We need to have an exact number of rooms by June 24 so we will need to know everyone's rooming preferences by the June meeting at the latest. If you are interested in going but did not sign up, please let me know as we will have a waiting list. This promises to be an exciting adventure!

Thanks Everyone

Thank you to all the members who exhibited trees and helped set-up and take down the exhibit. A special thank you to all the committee members who helped organize a very successful and beautiful exhibit and to Karen Napoli, President of Ikebana International Rochester Chapter #52 for their beautiful exhibit.

It's That Time Of Year Again...

Watering is the single most important element in growing bonsai, even more important than fertilizing. Water until the excess water drains through the drainage holes. How often you water depends on many factors, including: sunlight, wind, temperature, species, container size, and depth, condition of plant material and your objectives. Generally, water at least once a day in summer, and twice on particularly hot, dry days. Try to be consistent in the time of day your water. Late afternoon is good.

Fertilizer schedules should have begun by now and should be maintained until October or early November. I'll give you my fertilizer cake recipe if you ask me for it.

Keep up your spray program for pests, don't let them eat your precious bonsai! Malathion and Isotox are excellent pesticides for most species trained for bonsai, but read the labels, some plants don't tolerate all pesticides. A new product on the market is less noxious but works well, a refined oil that smothers the insects instead of poisoning them. The new oils can be used on plants fully leafed out. There are several brands available at nurseries in this area.

Don't forget to keep up with trimming deciduous species and pinching conifers. Remember that undeveloped bonsai should not be trimmed or pinched as often as developed specimens. Now is a good time to wire deciduous species because the twigs are flexible.

Have a good summer and remember to feed and check for pests. Don't forget to make provisions for your bonsai when you go away for vacation, because **it's that time of the year...** *W.N.V.*

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