

# Billboard

Newsletter of The Bonsai Society of  
Upstate New York



## *Bill Valavanis* *Early Spring Flowering Bonsai* *Lecture/Demo/Workshop*

Visit Our NEW Website

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

### Meeting Date

**Tuesday**

**March 24, 2009**

**7:00PM Meeting**

**Brighton Town Lodge**

at

**Buckland Park**

**1341 Westfall Road**

**Rochester, New York**

near corner of

**Westfall and Clinton**

**President**

Harvey Carapella

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**Billboard Staff**

Mark Arpag

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William Valavanis

Tom Friday

**A**fter the business meeting and election of officers for next year Bill Valavanis internationally noted proclaimed bonsai artist, will present a lecture and demonstration on Early Spring Flowering Bonsai. He will present a slide show and discuss all the aspects of creating and caring for bonsai that flower, emphasizing early flowering bonsai.

Anyone who has attended one of Bill's lectures knows that they are always well prepared, educational and entertaining. He will offer a complete program before beginning the workshop, so plan to attend the presentation even if you will not participating in the workshop. Observers will be welcome during the workshop, but remember that attention will be given to paid participants. The Crabapple bonsai that Bill creates during his demo will be raffled that evening.

### March workshop

Immediately after our regular meeting, Bill will conduct a workshop for members using three Japanese Flowering Crabapples. Each student will wire and then pot the three trees in a plastic bonsai container. The trees can be created into a multiple trunk style or small grouping. Members not participating in the workshop are welcome to watch the creation of the bonsai.

There is no charge for the workshop instruction, but the three Japanese Flowering Crabapples and plastic bonsai container are \$30. Please bring your own tools, wire and soil. Some soil and wire will be available for sale at the workshop. Please register by phoning Ron Maggio at 872-0382 to register for this exciting workshop. Members should pay Ron at the meeting for the workshop material.

## Election Time

At the March meeting we will be electing new society officers. During the business meeting, the candidates for the offices will be presented and voted on. If anyone has any nominations give one of the nominating committee a call and let them know. Just make sure the person you are nominating knows about it before you call.

### Nominating Committee

**Joe Galley, Chair**      334-9472  
**Ron Maggio**            872-0382  
**Dave Steele**            671-2438

## Spring Show Committee Meeting

There will be a spring show meeting on March 27th to discuss the upcoming spring show in May. The meeting will be at 8:00PM, at the bonsai studio of Bill Valavanis. This meeting will follow a board meeting at 7:00PM. Anyone interested in helping with the show in any aspects, give Bill a call (334-2595). For those interested, members are also welcome to attend the board meeting. Ask one of the board members for details.

## New GardenScape Procedure

Like last year, there will be no passes for people working at GardenScape. However, the Bonsai Society will be buying flower show tickets to distribute for the day to members signed up to work at the clubs exhibit. See Bob Pfromm if you are going to be working at Gardenscape. More details will follow as we get closer to the flower show.

## 2009 Programs

April 28	David Easterbrooke, Presentation Montreal Bonsai and Penjing Collection, Demo/Workshop
May 16-17	Upstate New York Bonsai Exhibition Sean Smith Demo, both days
June 23	Club Picnic, Members Sale and Auction
July 25-26	Road Trip to Montreal Bonsai Collection
August 25	Tour of Hosta Collection
September 14	Urushibata from Japan: Shohin Bonsai

## April Meeting and Workshop

The April meeting will feature David Easterbrook, curator of the bonsai and penjing collection at the Montreal Botanical Garden. He will present a program on Weeping Style Bonsai and then demonstrate using a special cultivar of Weeping Willow

David Easterbrook will be using pretrained Japanese Larch for his workshop. They have had several years of training and will develop into fine bonsai. The cost of the workshop and plant is \$60. Please bring your own tool and wire. Please register by phoning Ron Maggio at 872-0382 to register for the workshop. Members should pay Ron at the March meeting for the workshop. The workshop will be held on Tuesday afternoon, April 28th from 1-4PM, right before our regular meeting. Hope to see you there.

## Help Needed For Gardenscape 2008

GardenScape 2009 will take place at the Dome Arena in Henrietta on March 12 to 15. Our societies booth will this year be moved to the main showroom. We need members to help answer questions and provide the public with information on bonsai and our society. Please see Bob Pfromm to schedule your time and help our society spread bonsai information to the public.

Also, we need fine quality flowering bonsai for the show. Please phone Bill Valavanis at 334-2595 (if you can find him) to offer your bonsai for the society display. We will be setting up our display on Tuesday, March 10th at 5 pm and need help. Also, we will be taking down the display on Sunday, March 15th at 5 pm and many hands make light work for everyone. More information about the show can be found at,

<http://www.rochesterflowershow.com/>

Hope to see you there. Please tell your friends.



**Raffle winner Glen Morton viewing his prize with its creator Brussel Martin**

## February Highlights

By Tom Friday

Last month Brussel Martin, the largest importer and grower of fine bonsai in the United States, showed fifty plus members how to design a mixed group planting or forest of Trident Maples, Korean Hornbeam, and Dwarf Hinoki Cypress. The transformation was interesting to watch, and we also heard some entertaining stories while he worked. It was also educational as he talked about bonsai, and some of the problems that can occur, and gave us some tips to help trees grow properly.

Some things to follow for a successful forest bonsai planting are:

Mixed forests look the best when a few trees of another species accent the main species. Small plants or shrubs used sparingly can provide variety to the landscape and replicate the floor of the forest as it is found in nature. In a bonsai forest, it is just the opposite of trees that appear in nature, because the smaller ones are planted behind the tall ones, which gives a group of trees more depth visually. Pruning is required to maintain the overall appearance, and the entire bonsai forest should be transplanted regularly as it ages. At some point, the roots will have grown together and the entire arrangement should be treated as a single plant.

A mixed species planting is one of the most difficult to achieve. All species in the tray must share the same growing requirements. If they are not compatible it will become very hard to care for your bonsai forest.

The completed forest bonsai that Brussel created was raffled and won by Glenn Morton. The Society appreciates everyone who purchased tickets.

Thank you Brussel for a great program!

## It's That Time Of Year Again...

I know it's hard to imagine, but in a few short weeks the buds on some of our bonsai will begin to swell. If your bonsai have swollen buds, it might be a good idea to lower the temperature if possible or change location. The longer you delay bud break the better, except when permanent dormancy sets in. If your bonsai are not frozen they will probably require watering. If they are frozen, keep a little clean snow packed around the soil surface. When the air temperature rises, some snow will melt and water the bonsai. With increased daylight fast approaching, additional moisture will be necessary. Indoor bonsai can now be lightly fertilized. Now is a good time to match bonsai with containers for spring transplanting. Conifers are usually planted in unglazed containers to present a quiet feeling. Broadleaf evergreens and deciduous species are generally planted in glazed containers to highlight the seasonal beauty of their flowers or autumn foliage. Unglazed containers come in more than one shade of "common" brown; they can also be found in gray, red and tan. There are many different shades and textures and the end finish can also vary widely, as can prices! Look through books from our extensive library for ideas on containers colors and shapes. Although many bonsai are planted in shallow containers, I prefer deeper pots because of our severe low temperatures. Although it is a bit early to begin transplanting, drastic pruning and wiring can be performed if the bonsai are kept above freezing afterward. A temperature of 35° F is ideal, but 27° - 30° F is fine. Start thinking about spring. It's just around the corner because **it's that time of the year again...**

*W.N.V.*

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