

Billboard

Newsletter of The Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc



Shohin Bonsai with Mark Arpag

This month we are pleased to feature our President **Mark Arpag** who will be doing a lecture and demo on **Shohin Bonsai**. He loves small size trees, especially shohin and mame bonsai, and excels in their creation and display. **Shohin** is a Japanese word. It means *tiny thing* and in the **bonsai** world, **shohin bonsai** refers to trees that are within a certain size, 6"-10" to be specific.



A Little About Mark.... He has been a member of the Bonsai Society of Upstate New York for 29 years and is our current President. He is a long time student of Wm. N. Valavanis and teaching assistant at the International Bonsai Arboretum. His Bonsai have been displayed in all 6 US National Exhibitions and the Artisans Cup. Mark has received a number of National and Regional Awards as well as photographs featured in a number of Bonsai books and magazines.



Firethorn by Mark Arpag

Mark will be talking and demonstrating. The program will include general and practical wiring, and pruning information for bonsai in general and **shohin bonsai** creation and maintenance more specifically. Mark enjoys participation from the audience as part of his talks. Be prepared to take part in interaction and perhaps be challenged to improve and hopefully increase your enthusiasm for the love and care of your bonsai.

Come and find out about caring for your Shohin bonsai and lots more great information!

**New Year's
Resolutions**

1. I will remove wire BEFORE the tree grows into it.
2. I will fertilize my bonsai correctly and on time.
3. I will repot all the bonsai that need it.
4. I will critically look at my bonsai and restyle those that need it.
5. I will remove bonsai from my collection that I do not like and cannot see a way to restyle into something I like.
6. I will work on my bonsai more often, and I will trim on time.
7. I will not grow more bonsai than I can properly care for.
8. I will bring my bonsai to club meetings to show it off or to get advice when needed. I will photograph my bonsai in all stages.

Courtesy of MHBS, THE TWIG newsletter

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday
January 22, 2019 at 7:00 pm
Mark Arpag:
Shohin Bonsai

Brighton Town Lodge at Buckland Park.
1341 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618
(near corner of Westfall and Clinton).

Billboard is brought to you by:

PRESIDENT:

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CONTRIBUTORS:

William N. Valavanis, Harvey Carapella,
Jason Henderberg

Officer Election Soon

At the **March meeting** we will be electing our 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
Rick Marriott, 247-3401
Will Hebert, 413-0346



**Visit
our
Society
website**
Click on the
link below



Holiday Party Highlights

Our annual Holiday Party was another tremendous success. Over thirty-five members attended and enjoyed the large variety of very delectable goodies, deserts and beverages. After the munching and eating the next activity was **Bill Valavanis** showing photos from his recent multiple trips to Ritsurin Garden and Shikoku Village, Tokoname pots, Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Kokubunji & Kinashi Bonsai Gardens, 38th Nippon Bonsai Taikan Ten Exhibition, 92nd Kokafu bonsai and suiseki Exhibition, Nakazu Basho Garden. Bill shared some great stories too. A wonderful presentation as usual!

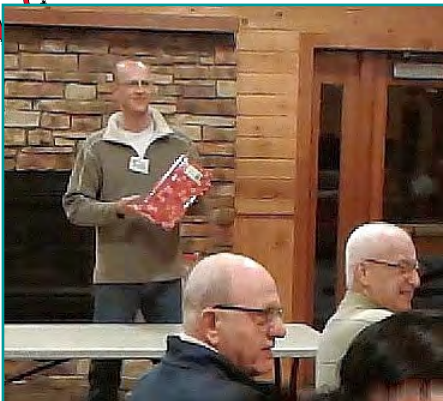
Thanks Bill for your great photos, and interesting information on the places you have visited this year!

After a brief break for some more great goodies, **Mark Arpag** started our annual Mystery Auction. **Jason Henderberg** with the help of **Dewey Mcleod**, took bids on the wrapped and donated items. These included: Bonsai trees, Suiseki, books, magazines, bonsai pots, wine, plants, and lots of other great items. **As usual our generous members donated some really wonderful items.**

The Holiday Mystery Auction is one of our income producing activities each year. The funds raised will be used to bring superior, educational programs to our members.

A **great big thank you** to all our members who brought in goodies, items for the auction, and to those who bid and were lucky to get a special item. Thanks also go to **Rick Marriott** for another great job with the refreshments tables. The mulled cider was an added treat for a winter night.

*Many thanks to
Jason Henderberg, Diane
Kroetz, Rick Marriott, and
Dewey Mcleod for making the
party and auction a big success!*



Message from the President



Hi To All,

Congratulations to all of you for helping to make our Annual Holiday Meeting Special! The generosity of our Members & Friends was on display in so many ways. It truly created a wonderful feeling the entire evening! Bill's program was incredible as usual. Thanks Bill!!

The food was delicious with many bringing dishes that took much time & talent to prepare and **Rick Marriott** as always is the BEST Refreshment chairperson ever! **Jason Henderberg** did a great job with the Auction striking a perfect balance of pace, kind humor and a gentle hand maximizing our bids, not easy but Jason set the tone for a fun & financially successful night! Our course we were blessed with very generous donations AND bidders!!

Thanks to **Jason Henderberg**, and to **Diane Kroetz** for her able assist with the bidding and collections. Well done, everything was smooth & efficient! Best of all, everyone pitched in to help where ever help was needed and that truly brought it together to make this one of the Best Holiday Meetings.

*We have much to look forward to in 2019 - it is shaping up to be a great year!
Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and the Best New Year!!*

Mark

In Memoriam Vic Mellen

Victor Mellen, 94, past president, and long-time member of the Society passed away on Tuesday, December 25th, 2018.

Vic Mellen was one of our earlier presidents of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY Inc. During our formative years he stepped up and helped our organization grow and we had many good educational programs and exhibitions with his leadership.

He was a professional architect and designed the Columbia Bank buildings as well as Wegmans. Later in his career, Wegmans hired him full time and had him take over an entire wing in their headquarters. In Victor, New York, he owned over 90 acres of property which he subdivided. But, before doing so Vic hosted a collecting trip and several members got some great apple trees for bonsai.

Although he had a modest bonsai collection Vic's true passion was suiseki and he traveled to Japan to get containers and water basins. He traveled the northeast searching for American suiseki. He assembled an excellent collection which he shared in our Upstate New York Bonsai Exhibitions. Last year he had a stone in the US National Bonsai Exhibition Invitational Suiseki Display. One of his stones was featured on the cover of International BONSAI, and several others were also featured in that issue. In the past, The International Bonsai & Suiseki Exhibition in Japan included one of Vic's stones in their annual albums as a submission from our bonsai society. Vic had a cottage on Canandaigua lake where he often collected small reddish stones suitable for tray landscapes which he sold at the International Stone Appreciation Symposium in Harrisburg, PA, while attending the conference.

Our organization is now quite strong and active because of our past leaders such as Vic Mellen. His stones will live on reminding us of the passion Vic had for suiseki. Thank you Vic for providing us with a solid background to grow our society. WNV



Dormancy and Leaf Drop

by Rick Choate and Andy Walsh

Dropping leaves is solely an indication of shedding and not at all of dormancy. Shedding leaves is a separate phenomenon and is not a prerequisite for dormancy. Actually some deciduous trees, like the Beech, do not even abscise their leaves and hold them throughout the winter. Although abscission occurs about the time that most of us think the tree is moving into dormancy it is more of a byproduct than it is directly related. Many trees actually start the move to dormancy in the mid to late summer so there really is no correlation.

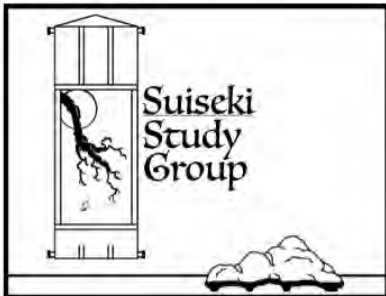
The abandonment of leaves is just a characteristic of the deciduous trees who opt for making flimsy leaves that cannot be maintained in the harshness of winter such as evergreen tree's leaves can.

The weather dictates how long the leaves can last. Cold kills the poorly protected cells in deciduous leaves. One good frost will drop the leaves off many deciduous trees. So actually, the leaves fall off when they fall off, and this is unrelated to dormancy.

LCBS *Bonsai News*, November 2018



Upstate NY Suiseki Study Group



The February meeting of the **Suiseki Study Group** will begin promptly at **6:30pm**, prior to the regular club meeting so we can make the most out of the time we have. Everyone is welcome. **This month the theme will be: Thinking Outside of the Box.** Members are encouraged to bring their own unique viewing stone that is something out of the ordinary. Share with us where you found or purchased it and what you like about it.

Looking forward to seeing everyone then!

Ron Maggio

2019 Programs

- **Feb. 26:** Harvey Carapella-Rock Plantings
- **Mar. 14-17:** GardenScape Display at The Dome
- **Mar. 26:** Boon Manakitivipart (California)
- **Apr. 30:** Bill Valavanis-Black Pine
- **May 12:** Memorial Art Gallery Display
- **May 18-19:** BSUNY Spring Show
- **June 25:** BSUNY Picnic
- **June 28-30:** Tour to Shohin National Exhibition
- **Aug. 27:** BYOT Workshop



Forest bonsai at Arboretum