

# Billboard

Newsletter of The Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc



## Next Meeting: Tuesday June 25, 5pm Summer Picnic/Auction/Sale

Be sure to arrive early on **June 25th** for our special meeting at the usual meeting place, the Buckland Park Lodge. Spouses and significant others are more than welcome. Starting at about **5:00pm** there will be a “**Sell or Swap Fair**” where members can show and talk about their trees, and possibly find a new home for them for a price. We will then eat our picnic supper at **6:00pm**. The club will be providing Pulled Pork, Chicken, coffee, tea and the usual soft drinks. If you have volunteered to provide food for the table, **please remember to bring it**. If you would still like to bring something, please call **Rick Marriott** at **247-3401**. At 7:00pm we will have a short business meeting led by Mark Arpag, our club president. The auction will follow with our esteemed auctioneer **Joe Moore**.

*This meeting is always  
a lot of fun for everyone!  
Come and enjoy yourself!*

**Please label your food,  
indicating any allergy agents:  
seafood, peanuts, etc.**



## Sale & Auction Rules Sale Items and Tables



Members are invited to bring in plants and bonsai related materials for sale. This is your opportunity to sell items which others might be interested in buying. 10% of sales proceeds go to the club as commission. This “**Sell or Swap Fair**” begins at **5:00pm**. Have your prices clearly marked on each item. You must set yourself up at a table or area and arrange to have yourself or someone else to deal with customers. Takedown and cleanup are also your responsibility. This auction is one of the Club's major fundraising events, helping us to provide first-class programs, speakers and workshops. Please be generous and active in your donations and in your bidding.

**Auction Items:** You are encouraged to enter bonsai or pre-bonsai plants, pots, tools or other bonsai accessories for the auction. Register your entries at the meeting from about **6:30pm** until **7:00pm**. You may put items in the auction in two ways. First, items can be donated and **100%** of the auction proceeds go to the Society. Second, items can be auctioned and you get **90%** of the auction proceeds, the society gets **10%** commission.

**Bonsai Pot Swap:** It's bonsai repotting time again and the perfect time for you to attempt to find a pot for your tree. We all seem to keep a personal collection of pots around for our trees. As a result, many of us have shelves full of pots waiting for that right tree. A bonsai pot swap is a way to ‘flush-out’ extra pots from our collections for those in need. **Bring yours and gain space** for more pots in the future. Who knows what you'll find for yourself.

**Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, June 25, 5:00 pm  
BSUNY Picnic  
Don't forget the earlier  
time for this meeting**

Brighton Town Lodge at Buckland Park.  
1341 Westfall Road, Rochester, New York. Near  
corner of Westfall and South Clinton

**Billboard is brought to you by:**

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## 46th Spring Show: Great Job! Everyone!

On May 18-19 BSUNY hosted it's **46th Annual Spring Bonsai Exhibition and Sale**. This year's show had a **special exhibit of 10 Masterpiece Forest and Rock Plantings** that were brought in by members to share with us. A special area was designed just for this display. There were 76 bonsai on display with many different varieties in the exhibition which included 15 Larch which is about 20% of the exhibition. Everyone enjoyed and appreciated the amount of time necessary to create these bonsai, maintain, and also display them. The trees were displayed by members of our society of over 150 people with members from Erie and Williamsport, PA, Syracuse, Buffalo, Ithaca, NY as well as in the greater Rochester area. Members from these far distances prepared their bonsai and brought them for display for others to enjoy and learn from. *Many thanks to the members for bringing their beautiful Forests & Rock Plantings!*

The show was enhanced by the **Upstate New York Suiseki Study Group** display, the **Ikebana International Rochester Chapter #53** exhibit, and the trees, and wares of the vendors. Saturday afternoon after closing down, members, wives, and significant others enjoyed the trees at a private viewing. During this time members voted for the **Member's Choice Award** given in memory of Yuji Yoshimura. Congratulations go to **Harvey Carapella** for his **Juniper** that won the award this year. A second special award, **Founder's Award**, in honor of Irene Valavanis was chosen by Bill Valavanis and presented to **Dave Bennett** for his **Bay Laurel**. *Congratulations to both recipients!*

The society appreciates everyone who helped set up, iron, answer questions, and do security over the two days; **Rick Marriott** for taking care of the refreshments and food; **Glenn Morton, Jason Henderberg**, and others for the setup and take down of the Tokonoma; **Mark Arpag** for his demonstration on Saturday, and **Ikebana International Rochester Chapter #53** and its president **Doug McDade** for their demonstrations on Sunday. Thank you to all the members of the **Suiseki Study Group** and the **Shohin Study Group** for the great display this year.

Many thanks to **Bill Valavanis & Harvey Carapella** for making our 46th Exhibition one of the best one yet. So many people helped. Thanks also to **Diane Koretz & Joe Lentner** for a great job with admissions all weekend, and also **Irma Abu-Jumah & Tom Friday**, and their helpers at the Raffle table. **Alan Adair** did a stellar job working with the vendors and taking care of signs; **John Wiessinger** for the expanded and manned Education table. **Rick Marriott** did another great job at the Membership table to bring in new members. *Thank you all very much!*

Thanks to everyone who showed up and put in the extra effort when it counts to make the show a great success!!!

*Finally to all members who displayed a tree, we couldn't put this show on if it weren't for all of you.*



# Bonsai Basics You Need to Know

No matter how you envision your bonsai, there are basic principles and techniques that are essential to be sure you have a healthy, thriving specimen. It is wise to start by visiting a bonsai garden or exhibition to learn more about this art form, or research through books and other resources available about the history and practice of creating bonsai. When you are ready to get your hands in the dirt and a tree into a pot, however, you must begin with.....

- ◆ **Choosing the Appropriate Tree Type:** Whether you choose to grow your bonsai indoors or outdoors, you must be certain it can adapt to the climate conditions where it will be kept. This includes sunlight levels, humidity and temperature changes. Tree varieties that are native to your area will be hardiest and best adapted to local conditions.
- ◆ **Buying or Starting a Healthy Tree:** You can start your bonsai from seed, but it may take 3-5 years before the seedling is large enough to begin training. If you prefer to get a tree that is already grown, you may be able to purchase one from a local nursery or bonsai supply store, or order one online. Be sure the tree is healthy and in good condition so it can withstand the stresses of its training and the restricted growth necessary to keep it miniaturized.
- ◆ **Using the Best Tools:** You will need several types of tools to properly work with your bonsai, including shears, concave cutters, saws, root rakes and pliers. All your tools should be the appropriate size for working with tiny trees, and should be kept sharp and clean to minimize stress to the tree. You may wish to test several tool brands to be sure their grips are comfortable and you will have proper control for very precise movements as you use them.
- ◆ **Proper Pruning:** It takes precise work to properly prune a bonsai, and it is necessary to make certain types of cuts to minimize damage to the tree and ensure scars are nearly invisible when healed. Pruning is essential to keep the trees small and to help train the shape to mimic fully grown forms. Prune carefully and minimally to keep your bonsai in good shape.
- ◆ **Wiring Wisely:** Wiring is another common technique for shaping bonsai. Use only the proper wires of suitable strength, and be sure the wire is not wrapped so tightly that it begins to cut into the tree's bark, which can damage the tree and destroy its aesthetic lines. Ideally, wires should be wrapped so they are not visible when the tree is on display, or else they may detract from its natural appearance.
- ◆ **Watering Appropriately:** Because bonsai trees are rooted in very shallow pots, they often dry out more quickly and the trees need frequent watering to stay properly hydrated. Overwatering can quickly lead to root rot, however, which is the top killer of bonsai trees. Drainage holes in the pot are essential and can help ensure excess water flows away from the tree to keep it moist but not soaked.
- ◆ **Fertilizing Appropriately:** A bonsai tree cannot spread its roots far and wide to seek out nutrition in the surrounding soil, so regular fertilization will be necessary to nourish the tree. It is important to adjust a fertilizing schedule and application rates to account for the smaller size and slower growth of these trees, however, to keep the fertilizer from inadvertently burning delicate roots.

It can be very rewarding to cultivate, train and shape a beautiful bonsai, and this is one art form that every plant lover, gardener or horticulturist can easily indulge in. Once you've learned the basics of bonsai, you're ready to start your first tiny tree and learn how to create amazing beauty in the plants you care for.

Reprinted from Cofers.com blog. Posted: July 1, 2017

**BSUNY extends  
a warm welcome  
to the following  
52 new members  
of our Society:**



Andrew Rupp  
Angela Welsh  
Bernadette Guzzardo  
Betty Smits  
Brenda Allen  
Brian & Cameron Whitcomb  
Chris and Ben Holdridge  
Cory Hendricks  
Cynthia Drake  
Daniel McCabe  
Daniel Wiemer  
Darrell Youngman  
Dean Kolts  
Diana & Jorge Casais  
Donna Jobe

Doug Haessig  
Edmund Lynch  
Gloria Betlem & Kent Divers  
Gloria Garretson  
Greg Prenatt  
Hank Constantine  
Howard Levy  
James Fisher  
Jerry Rucker  
John and Sandy Caulwell  
John Martese  
Jon Robbins  
Jose A. Cuadrado  
Josh Cohen  
Kara Rubio

Malik Abu-Jumah  
Marc Kapilla  
Martha Van Bork  
Matthias Purvis  
Noel Chavez  
Patricia & Tony Pellicano  
Richard Smith  
Rick Mundrick  
Rod & Sue Layton  
Sallie Vandling  
Toby Zeigler  
Tom & Martha Macinski  
Tom Jones  
Vinyas Patel

*Thanks for your interest in bonsai!*



## BSUNY GARDEN TOUR Tuesday, July 23, 2019

In July the club will meet at Marlow Orchids,  
Scottsville, NY

Please join us for an special BSUNY event on **Tuesday, July 23rd at 6pm** at **Marlow Orchids** in Scottsville. Jim Marlow has been growing orchids for over 40 years and has a large variety of orchids and other tropical plants to show the club. Some orchids, and growing supplies will be for sale. To learn more about Marlow Orchids, click in the following link:

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

*Remember, we will be meeting an hour earlier than normal at 6 pm!*

### PROGRAMS & EVENTS

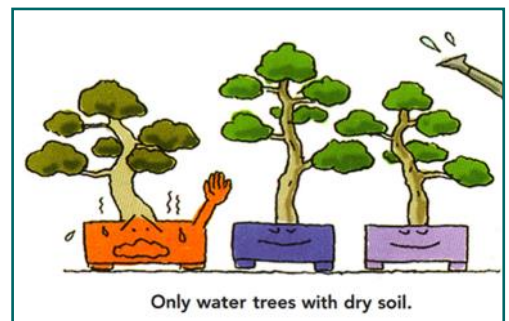
- June 25: Summer Picnic/  
Auction/Sale
- July 23: Garden Tour of  
Marlow Orchids
- Aug. 27: Bring Your Own Tree  
Workshop
- Sept. 24: TBD
- Oct. 22: TBD

## Be Smart – Don't Water Your Bonsai by Schedule!

This illustration by Kyosuke Gun is from *Masters' Series Juniper* book. It is a perfect fit for this post that is borrowed from Michael Hagedorn's Crataegus Bonsai blog: *Michael Hagedorn's watering tips*.

**Before the real summer heat hits, consider how you are watering your trees.**

Have you ever seen your trees grow through spring just fine, only to get fried leaves at the first onset of early summer? Ever wonder why that happens? Those trees just **don't have enough roots**. Those are the trees that got **overwatered**, or simply never dried out, in the cool spring months. Their roots were never encouraged to hunt out water, so these trees could survive in the moist cool weather on about three roots. First hot day: bam, they get hit hard as they have a spindly root system, not enough to support their overlarge, over long leaves and shoots on dry hot days. (A bonsai version of a company that has overspent just before a recession...) Especially on cool overcast days, if you can monitor them, water each tree **only when it is really drying out** and not by rote. Watering by a schedule is the surest way to have some really weak trees that show themselves in the hot summer!



Reprinted from bonsaiark.com by Wayne Schoech on 03/12/2019

## More from our 46th Annual Spring Bonsai Exhibition and Sale

