

# Billboard

Newsletter of The Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc



## Sean Smith

Carving and Use of Root Stands  
Talk/Demo & Workshop

The October meeting will feature a talk on **Carving and Use of Root Stands** by **Sean Smith**. Sean will fill us in about how these unique display stands are made. Root stands are a wood carved display stand for Bonsai trees. They come in many shapes, styles and various sizes. Carved from a one good size block of wood. Quite often, it also raises the tree up off the table for better viewing. Bonsai display stands are also perfect for displaying small sculptures, figurines or viewing stones. Root stands look very detailed, modern and unique. We have all seen them in bonsai displays, now come and find out what goes into creating and using Root Stands.



Sean has become internationally known and recognized for his excellence in the creation of bonsai, suiseki, daiza, and display stands.

Prior to the evening talk and demo, in the afternoon from **1:00pm to 4:00pm** at the International Bonsai Arboretum, Sean will conduct a **Root Stand Workshop** for a **\$75 fee**. There is a limited number of openings of 12 so register and pay early to avoid disappointment.

Sign up ASAP by emailing Diane Koretz at [treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org](mailto:treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org)

**A Little About Sean...** He lives in Marysville, PA, where he owns and operates Custom Oriental Woodcraft since 1994. Utilizing his interest in bonsai and carpentry, Sean started his business making bonsai display stands and carving daiza (carved wooden base) for suiseki. Sean is internationally known for his skills in suiseki and bonsai and has won numerous awards for both. In 2003 he was proclaimed the number one daiza carver outside of Japan by the President of the Japanese Suiseki Association, Mr. Arishige Matsuura. Sean was the first American to exhibit an American suiseki in the Japanese National Suiseki show at the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo, Japan. To know more about Sean, visit his web site at <http://www.bonsai-suiseki.com>

*Join us for this informative evening about Carving and Use of Root Stands*



**Next Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7:00 pm**  
**Sean Smith**  
**Carving and Use of Root Stands**  
**Talk/Demo and Workshop**

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

**Billboard is brought to you by:**

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## August Meeting Highlights

The August meeting featured a **free open workshop** that was attended by about 18 members. They are to be applauded for the big number of trees they brought. There was a good mixture of pre-bonsai, almost finished bonsai, and collected bonsai. Those who were there came away with lots of fresh ideas and useful advice from some of our more experienced members. Bill, Mark, Harvey, Will, Jason, Joe & Rick helped with any questions and/or problems members had with their trees. Some members came and watched, and made comments or asked questions. We can all learn a lot by simply observing, listening, and asking questions. The trees that were brought in definitely got a lot of help before they were taken home to be improved on further. We hope that those members who brought trees in for assistance found the experience worth while. Maybe we'll see the trees in future society shows and at meetings.

**Rick Marriott** provided the usual great refreshments which everyone enjoyed during the meeting. Thanks Rick!

Thanks go to **Bill Valavanis, Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella, Will Hebert, Joe Moore, Jason Henderberg, & Rick Marriott** for sharing their expertise with those in need of help.



### September Shohin Study Group Meeting

Prior to the **BSUNY** meeting on **September 24th**, the **Shohin Study Group** held their meeting. The Shohin Study Group members discussed the entire progression from seed stratification through training and refinement of shohin bonsai.

**John Romano** who knows this subject was the guest speaker. John and Dave Paris brought several plants that were started from seed. Some members brought **shohin** or **mame bonsai** started from seed that they shared with the group.

*Great job everyone!*



### 2019-2020 Program

- Oct. 22: Sean Smith (PA)
- Nov. 26: Design Studio with Mark, Harvey, and Jim
- Dec. 17: Holiday Meeting & Auction with treats & Bill Valavanis travel pictures
- Jan. 28: Harvey Carapella-5 Styles Bonsai
- Feb. 25: Mark Arpag – Display & Accents
- Mar. 24: Bill Valavanis
- Apr. 28: Suthin Sukosolvisit
- May 16-17: BSUNY Spring Show featuring Literati & Cascades
- June 23: Club Picnic
- July 28: Bring Your Own Tree Workshop
- Aug. 25: Bring Your Own Tree Workshop 2

## September Highlights

The September meeting featured a demonstration by bonsai artist **John Romano** from Massachusetts. It was well attended by **45 members** and guests. Mr. Romano styled **three different Shohin bonsai** after his talk and photo presentation on *"History of Shohin Bonsai"*. He started with a very nice **Harland Boxwood** which is tolerant of pruning, and flowers in the Spring. Mr. Romano then worked on a **dwarf Hinoki Cypress**. This variety has rapid growth and needs to be pinched, not cut, to prune. It was styled into a formal upright bonsai. The third tree was a **Pitch Pine** which buds back nicely, was styled into a great Literati style shohin bonsai. The presentation gave everyone from beginner to advanced bonsai fancier great insight on what can be turned into a Shohin bonsai. We all can use new ideas for our own trees. Try creating a Shohin Bonsai for yourself.



*Our thanks go to John Romano for sharing his techniques and information with us!*



All three good looking Shohin bonsai that Mr. Romano created were raffled off. The **Boxwood** bonsai was won by **Wendy Mendola**. The **Hanoki Cypress** bonsai was won by **Brian Whitcomb**. The **Pitch Pine** bonsai went to **Bill Valavanis**. Hope we'll see them in the future at a meeting or Spring show. The Society appreciates everyone who purchased tickets for the raffle.



## It's That Time of the Year Again...



All your indoor species should be protected in the home. Do not be surprised if some of the leaves turn yellow and drop, it is natural to lose some foliage due to the reduced light. Plants tend to dry out a lot quicker indoors than they did outside for a while, then they will adapt to the dry conditions indoors. It is much too early to put your hardy outdoor specimens away for the winter. Wait until we have had a few good hard frosts, at least the end of November or early December. While you are waiting, now is the time to remove all the old needles on pines. Do not put them away for winter with old dead needles because they might harbor pests or diseases. Also, removing the old needles will provide good sun and air to the inner sections of the tree that will stimulate new buds from the old wood. After you remove the old dead needles, remove some of the new needles leaving a few clusters around the tips of each bud. New buds will grow more vigorously if you remove these needles. If the moss is lush, green and thick around your bonsai, you might want to remove some of it before winter to allow better air circulation to the roots and to prevent fungus from growing in the thick moss. Enjoy your bonsai during their bright autumnal color-fest. Remember, it will not last long because it's that time of year again.... **W.N.V.**



Trees and Photos courtesy of Bill Valavanis



## Suiseki Study Group meeting this Month

The **Upstate NY Suiseki Study Group** meeting on **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** will begin at 6:15 pm prior to the regular club meeting.

This month's featured stone could be a chrysanthemum stone, a flower stone, or a pattern stone, i.e., something to honor the Fall season.

As you know Sean Smith will be the guest speaker for the main part of this bonsai meeting but he is also known as one of the top suiseki experts in the country.

Please bring in your stone to share with us so we too can appreciate it. If at all possible, your stone should be displayed in a daiza or suiban.

Hope to see you there!

*Ron Maggio*



**Dues Are Due!**

**Society dues are now overdue!**

If you joined us at or after the spring show, you are already paid through August 2020. Otherwise, see our treasurer, Diane Koretz at the next meeting. If dues are not received, this will be the last Billboard you receive. So, if you start missing the Billboard, you know it slipped your mind.

