

May 2020

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Billboard

Newsletter of Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc.



From our president: *It is finally spring! We all got some extra exercise with the Bonsai Dance - shuffling our trees in and out of winter protection. We should be in great shape AND closer with our trees than ever! One cancellation after the other, has us all looking forward to resuming our club activities, each of us, of course deciding how best to return to our activities. Many thanks to Brian Heltsey and John Wiessinger for dreaming up our Virtual Bonsai Show - and all of you who submitted photos on our Facebook page or sent them to me to post. We'll include some photos in each of the next few newsletters, and hopefully you will be inspired to keep submitting more. We're looking forward to getting back on track and will do our best to keep you informed and involved.*



Our July meeting will be a Garden Tour at Bergen Water Gardens - this from their website:

Bergen Water Gardens and Nursery has everything a pond owner needs to be a successful water gardener and koi hobbyist. Bergen Water Gardens is proud to display and offer for sale the largest collection of Chinese Lotus in North America. In addition, an outstanding collection of aquatic plants: waterlilies, lotus and shelf plants have been gathered and offered for sale. Our fish selection is one of the finest in Western New York. Explore our growing collection of carnivorous plants. There are unique conifers to complete your landscape around your pond, with an assortment of colors and unusual growth habits. Drive out to Churchville and explore our display ponds, see some extraordinary aquatic plants or just have some fun!

Bergen Water Gardens & Nursery
7443 Buffalo Road
Churchville, New York 14428
585-293-2860
To check out their website:
<https://bergenwatergardens.com>



****Don't Miss ****



**INTERNATIONAL
BONSAI
ARBORETUM**

**2020 Spring Open House
Saturday & Sunday
June 6 - 7, 2020**

See flier for complete details

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, June 23rd
**Meeting
Canceled!!**

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

Billboard is brought to you by:
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2020 Programs

- **JULY 21: GARDEN TOUR - BERGEN WATER GARDENS & NURSERY**
- **JULY 28: BYOT WORKSHOP - PART 1**
- **AUGUST 25: BYOT WORKSHOP - PART 2**
- **SEPT. 12-13: 7TH US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION**
- **SEPT 14 - MR. HIRAMATSU DEMO (JUDGE FOR US NATIONAL)**
- **TBD - SUISEKI COLLECTING TRIP**

Mentoring, anyone?

In last month's Billboard, we told you about the mentoring program and encouraged you to reach out to Joe Moore to participate. We interviewed Dewey McLeod, who has taken advantage of this program, to help give you some insight. Dewey's been a member of the club for 4 years, after going to the May show, getting a flier from Rick (Marriot) and then taking Bill's course. (Sound familiar?!) After many years of interest, he bought a tree, bought some books, and asked a lot of questions. He very modestly claims that "I'm not a bonsai master, and I don't expect to become one". BUT, he enjoys the work. Dewey specifically asked for Bob Blankfield to be his mentor, as he had seen some of his trees and "I knew this guy was good". The connection to one person has helped Dewey in thinking about his own trees. In addition to taking advantage of the mentoring program, Dewey has gone above and beyond basic membership. He stores the fabric for tables (for shows) and he keeps the lights and the screen for presentations at club meetings. He's been helping with the auction for a couple of years as well. Maybe YOU should follow Dewey's lead - ask for a mentor, and find out what you can do to help with club activities. Just a thought . . . For mentoring information, let Joe Moore know you are interested: jmoore431@aol.com. To find out how to become more involved in club activities, contact Mark Arpag, president@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org.

Virtual Bonsai Show

While we have been paused from physically meeting, some of our members decided to pull together a Virtual Bonsai Show. In part we hoped to make up for not having the May Monroe Community Hospital show, where this year we were making a focused effort to include ALL members of the club, regardless of experience.

And while we hope to get all photos up on the (newly revised and beautiful) website, timing was not right to have that happen now. So, we'll include photos in this and the next few newsletters. No names (in keeping with our practice at the show), but only identifying the species, and where noted, the size.

Please note that you can also see these on our Facebook page, mostly posted as comments to the May 9 post about the Virtual Show.

We haven't "heard" from everyone in this Virtual Bonsai Show, so we're extending the ability to post pictures until the end of June, and we'll continue to include photos in upcoming newsletters.



Waxy Hawthorn



Brazilian Rain Tree



American Larch



Smoke Tree



Syzygium Paniculatum



Quaking Aspen



Shimpaku Juniper



Ficus Natalensis



Green Island Ficus



Orange Flying Dragon



Japanese Flowering Plum



Crabapple, Indian Magic



Eastern White Pine



Japanese Wisteria



Cotoneaster



Eastern White Cedar



Japanese Maple



Texas Flowering Quince

To see all entries for the Virtual Bonsai Show, go to our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/bonsaisocietyofupstatenewyork>, click on the May 9 post inviting submissions, and then the photos are each a separate comment.

Excerpt from Bill Valavanis' Blog: a unique online opportunity

"*Bonsai Empire* by Oscar Jonker has produced another stellar educational and entertaining online bonsai course taught by Masahiko Kimura, the magical technician of contemporary bonsai. *This is the first time Mr. Kimura has presented an online bonsai course.*



. . . Bonsai Empire was able to capture the essence of Mr. Kimura's art and techniques in the easy to learn Kimura Masterclass. . . . The photography was superb showing all details of the techniques. . . .

The four hour bonsai course is divided into three sections which are complete close up views of two demonstrations, plus a bonus content. The first demonstration on an old collected Japanese five-needle pine shows how Mr. Kimura studies the untrained tree and how he prepares the tree for creating into a stunning windswept bonsai. . . . Bending techniques for heavy branches are featured as well as the proper use of guy wires. . . . Before concluding the new windswept bonsai demonstration Mr. Kimura talks about refining the design and the apex silhouette aesthetics. The finished bonsai is typical of the fine quality work of Masahiko Kimura.



The second demonstration lesson shows how Mr. Kimura creates a clinging-to-a rock planting bonsai using Sargent junipers. . . . He was greatly influenced by his many trips to see mountains in China.

The third or Bonus Content will be an eye opener for most students. Mr. Kimura takes a tour through his back area where his unfinished compositions and client's bonsai are kept and

trained. Many future masterpieces can be seen in this section. After the private area tour students are shown the public garden where world-famous bonsai masterpieces can be enjoyed and studied.

Finally to conclude the private lesson an interview with Mr. Kimura explains how his creativity was influenced and how he developed many of his masterwork bonsai. A great conclusion to a stimulating private lesson with Mr. Kimura. . . . This Kimura Masterclass is really special because he has no intention to travel to teach bonsai. In Mr. Kimura's own words about the reason for his first online bonsai course: "to share his knowledge and legacy on."

Clearly photographed the entire online Kimura Masterclass features Mr. Kimura explaining everything in Japanese. However, Makiko Kobayashi did an excellent job translating all his comments in proper English subtitles. . . .

I suggest the Kimura Masterclass to any serious bonsai enthusiast who wants to learn techniques and aesthetics directly from the master to improve their bonsai skills and understanding.

As an extra added bonus, at the conclusion of my four hour private lesson I was able to print out a Certificate of Completion which can be framed and displayed. Well done Mr. Kimura, Oscar and Makiko!

Kimura Masterclass 4 hours of private instruction \$79.99

Students can easily enroll in the 4 hour Kimura Masterclass at:

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/courses/kimura-masterclass> “

To read Bill's full blog go to: <http://valavanisbonsaiblog.com/2020/26/16696>