

July 2020

Volume 49
Number 5

Billboard

Newsletter of Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc.



Words from our President - please see page 2.

We are very excited to have TWO opportunities to gather in July! Our first will be a special Garden Tour at Bergen Water Gardens



Our special Garden Tour at Bergen Water Gardens is on July 21, at 6 pm.

We will meet for a 10 minute (or so) intro by Larry Nau on the porch of their Pole Barn. The barn is big, with plenty of room to space chairs out with lots of distance. They have ample space so we can spread out, and they have ample hand sanitizer. Please wear your masks.



Larry has this to say about what we will see: "Our growing wall is complete and the pots are filling in. We just moved out our micro lotus and will have them all labeled by July 4th." Bergen Water Gardens just received the first International Waterlily and Water Gardening Certification for their Nelumbo Collection of Excellence, Lotus Paradise.



We will explore their display ponds, see their fine selection of Koi and explore their collection of carnivorous plants.

Bergen Water Gardens & Nursery
7443 Buffalo Road
Churchville, New York 14428
585-293-2860

To check out their website:
<https://bergenwatergardens.com>



We'll get together twice in July!!

First: Join us for a tour of Bergen Water Garden on July 21. See article on this page.

Time: 6:00 pm
Wear masks!

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, July 28th
Bring your own Tree!

And wear your mask

Brighton Town Lodge at Buckland Park
1341 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY
near corner of West-fall and Clinton
We will have individual cold drinks and some light snacks, packaged individually. Thank you to all who usually bring snacks to share, but this time we won't do that.

Billboard is brought to you by:
President: Mark Arpag
president@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org
Co-editors & photographers:
Marti & Tom Macinski
Billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org
Contributors: Mark Arpag, Bill Valavanis, and all who posted photos for our Virtual Show

2020 Programs

- JULY 21: GARDEN TOUR -
- BERGEN WATER GARDENS & NURSERY : 6:00 PM
- JULY 28: BYOT WORKSHOP - PART 1
- AUGUST 25: BYOT WORKSHOP - PART 2
- SEPT. 12-13: 7TH US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION **POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER 11 - 12 2021**
- TBD - SUISEKI COLLECTING TRIP
- THE BOARD WILL MEET IN EARLY AUGUST AND PLAN OUT MORE MEETINGS - LOOK FOR UPDATES IN THE AUGUST BILLBOARD

From our president: *Greetings friends, I hope you and your Bonsai are enjoying these beautiful summer days! The current Corona virus situation seems to be slowly improving with NYS entering phase 4. We are scheduled for a field trip to Bergen Water Gardens on July 21, and the Buckland Lodge has finally opened for our July Bring Your Own Tree Workshop on July 28.*

Bill has an Introduction to Bonsai class in session, and is also hosting a few open workshops. I ventured to the Hudson Valley this past weekend where the Mighty Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society held an all day workshop on Saturday, with a demo on Sunday. All care was taken to socially distance, all wore masks and it all worked out well. I felt much more comfortable than when I have to go to Wegmans. There is some sad news. Despite the super human effort by our spiritual leader Bill Valavanis, the travel restrictions on visitors from out of state proved to be too much to overcome, and the 7th US National Bonsai Exhibition is now postponed until next September. Bill is already working on an Open House for September, with more details to follow.

Information will be coming from Ron Maggio and Les Allen about a Tanseki this summer.

I am looking forward to seeing those that do attend our July events, and will miss those that are not comfortable with attending just yet. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay happy!!! Mark



Satsuki Azalea

Virtual Bonsai Show

Some of our members pulled together a Virtual Bonsai Show, in part 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. We're including the photos that weren't in the May Newsletter here. 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 hope you are enjoying the opportunity to post pictures of your trees, as well as seeing the photos from your fellow club members.



Syzygium Paniculatum



Larix Kaempferi



Russian Olive



Dwarf Jade



Hawaiian Umbrella Tree
Schefflera



Japanese flowering quince 7"



Satsuki Azalea 23"



Ficus



Variegated Ficus
and Ficus Benji



Ficus



Corylopsis puaciflora



Azalea



Seiju Ulmus parvifolia



Eastern White Cedar



Plectranthus



Japanese Black Pine



Korean Hornbeam



Triple trunk Larch

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.

Notes and photos from the IBA Open House June 6 & 7

Bill's Open House went forward on June 6 & 7, with extra precautions of temperatures taken at the door, sanitizing hands and wearing masks. None of that extra activity interfered with the bounty of beauty and information that is always on display at the International Bonsai Arboretum.

Before sitting down to absorb the demonstrations, we walked around and admired the trees. Bill claims that he has had extra time due to no classes and workshops, and that's why the trees all look so good, but we all know that is not the case. As usual, the garden is beautiful, and the trees are displayed to show off all the hard work that has gone into them. What wasn't visible was the extra effort this year of the "daily dance" required to take trees in and out frequently with the incredibly variable "spring" weather.

The first demo was by Mark Arpag, our club president, and bonsai artist extraordinaire who worked with an Apple tree he collected over 20 years ago. We saw the various tools to be used, and got to help Mark vote on the front of the tree. (Although it was clear that Mark was the final vote!) Mark focuses on lines of interest with movement, and showed us his analysis of the tree, which has been a work in progress over several years. Several points Mark made bear repeating: 1. Hand tools give more control than power tools, but take more time. 2. Flowering fruit trees have flowers against bare bark before leaves emerge, which is a nice feature. 3. One small piece of interest can make the difference between a good tree and a great tree.

Mark spent just over a full hour on the trunk, and knowing Mark, there was plenty more to do..



Bill's demo was on Saturday afternoon, and his tree was a Japanese Yew from Garden Factory. Bill explained how he analyzes the trunk, both to find the front, but also to find movement to use. Bill quizzed us: "What style don't I like?" Answer: "Deadwood." They he headed off to the races to create a beautiful example of deadwood! (He did say he could always cut it off later!)

Bill used the tree to re-emphasize some basic concepts. 1. The triangular shape is so all branches receive light. 2. The back of the tree is fuller to add depth. Bill also reviewed working with copper wire, and wiring in general. As always, everything Bill did seemed obvious and easy - we all know better!

Harvey Carapella has a large Ginkgo forest which needed to be transplanted. He took the large forest and used a sawmill to completely cut off the bottom of the established root mass. Then he added more trees and moved the position of the trunks to create a spectacular Ginkgo forest. As with Mark and Bill, Harvey had obviously thought about this project for quite some time before the demonstration, and he made it look obvious and easy.



Alan Adair showed many examples of Japanese and American larch bonsai which he grew and shaped. He explained and demonstrated both small seedlings and well developed masterpiece Larch bonsai. He trimmed one of his best formal upright style Larch bonsai. And like the three demonstrations before him, Alan had thought about these trees at length, and then made the demonstration look so easy.

Bill is planning another Open House for September, with details to follow. We're hoping more demonstrations will be a part of it, and look forward to watching these skilled artists work!