

August
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Billboard

Newsletter of Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc.



Words from our President - please see page 2.

Bergen Water Gardens July Tour recap

We began our tour of Bergen Water Gardens on the porch, with Larry Nau giving us an overview of his program. He started 20 years ago, and appears to have been expanding ever since. He and his wife Lily grow 400 varieties of Lotus, which are truly beautiful.



They range in size from tiny tea cups to over 6 feet tall!

Larry offered LOTS of information about Lotus, including the parts of the plant. We learned that the seeds are edible, as are the tubers - in fact we had pizza with Lotus root as a topping!



After the overview, Larry and Lily took us on a tour of their Garden, which is ever expanding. We



saw many pond boxes of different varieties of Lotus, and we learned that if you want Lotus in your pond you should grow them in boxes. The



leaves are hydrophobic (meaning they repel water), and the buds open in the morning and close by 2:00 pm (a hint on how to schedule YOUR tour.) Larry took us into one of the greenhouses and



showed the differences between some of the varieties. The 16 acre grounds are quite beautiful and they have plans to continue the development of the property, so there are many reasons to return again and again.



In addition to Lotus, Bergen Water Gardens has Koi, waterlilies, goldfish, pond supplies, carnivorous plants and dwarf conifers. Many of us were unable to resist bringing something home, and we all plan to return.



Bergenwatergardens.com

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, August 25th

Bring your own Tree!

This is a great opportunity to get some hands on expert advice, often from multiple people!

And a second option: For those who went on the Tanseki last week, bring 2 of your favorite stones! Ron Maggio will lead us in a session about suiseki display and decide on stones to be displayed at Bill's upcoming Open House.

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.

2020-21 Programs

more details on page 4

- AUGUST 25 BYOT PART II AND SUISEKI DISPLAY SESSION
- SEPTEMBER 15 BILL VALAVANIS SEKKA HINOKI CYPRESS PRESENTATION AND DEMO, FOLLOWED BY WORKSHOP (SIGN UP FOR WORKSHOP, SEE PAGE 3)
- OCTOBER 27 HANK MILLER INDOOR/ TROPICAL TREES
- NOVEMBER 24 DESIGN STUDIO
- DECEMBER 15 HOLIDAY PARTY & AUCTION
- JANUARY 26 SEAN SMITH DIAZA CARVING (WORKSHOP DURING DAY)
- FEBRUARY 23 HARVEY CARAPPELLA CASCADE STYLE BONSAI
- MARCH 12 -15 GARDEN SCAPES
- MARCH 18 - BILL V SURPRISE TOPIC LECTURE DEMO
- APRIL 27 BOON MANIKITIVIPART
- MAY 15 & 16 BSUNY BONSAI SHOW
- JUNE 15 PICNIC & AUCTION

From our esteemed President:
 Greetings Friends, I hope you & your Bonsai are enjoying this beautiful summer! We held our first meeting in months and also enjoyed a spectacular suiseki hunt (Tanseki) with a socially distanced but fully engaging lunch following our time in the stream. It was a reminder of just how fortunate we are to have such wonderful friends! We all love refining our best Bonsai but it is fun & exciting to bring new works of Bonsai Art to life. The extra time we have been given is a great opportunity to redesign older specimens or create new ones. Please share a recent project with us!

Here is a Literati Dwarf Hinoki I just created. (picture just to the right)
 Thanks to John Wiessinger, there will be an all day Literati Bonsai event in mid October - stay tuned for details next month. Finally, I would like to encourage you to take a hike in nature and observe & appreciate her beauty. It will soothe your soul & help your Bonsai work too!



For inspiration, we include this photo of Harvey Carapella's Bonsai garden.

August meeting Bring Your Own Tree

With blinking eyes (what is that big round yellow thing in the sky?) some of our members emerged for our first meeting together since February. Fortunately the weather was quite cooperative, and we were able to be outside and keep our distance. We all wore masks, and we have obviously been practicing, because it was easy to hear and understand each other,



This was a great opportunity to bring a tree that needed some problem solving, or just a fresh set of eyes. Opinions and advice flowed freely. Our fearless foodie, Rick Marriott, carefully selected individually packaged drinks and snacks. While we miss the shrimp and shared offerings of previous meetings, we all understood the need for these precautions and we all enjoyed what we had. Thank you Rick! Mark brought pots for people to pick up, and a few did so. He will bring them again to the August BYOT meeting, so make sure you pick yours up.



them again to the August BYOT meeting, so make sure you pick yours up.



If you missed July, you have another chance to Bring Your Own Tree in August as that is the format for our August 25th meeting. We'll see you there, with masks on!



Late Fall Pruning of Young Trees

by Ross Clark Article from *American Bonsai Society Newsletter September 2019 edition*

Timely pruning in fall is a technique that definitely helps prebonsai develop more quickly. It also encourages compactness and branching in established bonsai. Incidentally, pruning before wintering also can save a lot of space if plants are crammed in close together.

Other factors notwithstanding, it's been shown experimentally that the surface area of a plant's leaves is directly related to the amount of photosynthesis which occurs; the larger the leaf surface area of a plant, the more photosynthesis it can carry on. The more photosynthesis that occurs, the faster a plant can grow—and in bonsai talk, the more photosynthesis, the faster the plant can develop.

Late summer and fall are times when woody plants rapidly increase in diameter and top off food storage for winter. The diameter increase of healthy woody plants at this time is noteworthy.

Pruning in fall helps to increase branching and encourage more compact growth the following spring. But if fall pruning is done too early, we lose some or most of the diameter growth that otherwise would occur.

That's especially significant in young plants, where hastening the diameter of trunks is a very important goal. October probably is the best month to prune young stock. Below are a couple of examples.



A hairy-lookin' youngster . . . a 12 year-old golden larch, (left picture) *Pseudolarix amabilis*, in August after a season of rapid growth. Pruning cuts will be made at the indicated places, to encourage new compact growth from buds closer to the trunk. In addition, wire will be used to straighten the trunk, because the trunks of this species are usually straight, and we want the tree to attain a natural silhouette as it matures.

Because of habitat loss, very few wild individuals of golden larches remain. (right picture) They are native in mixed moist warm Temperate forests in the Yangtze Valley of eastern China. They require moist, well-drained, acid soil. (Thanks to the Threatened Conifers of the World project for these details.)

Golden larches are almost irresistible in their beauty, and worthy of any bonsai practitioner's attention. However, since their root systems soon become coarse and aggressive, they are challenging to grow in smaller containers.



Acer griseum, courtesy of Wikipedia



This paperbark maple (*acer griseum*) sprouted from seed 6+ years ago. Its bark is already showing its "appleeling" character. A good season of growth has thickened the trunk somewhat, and late season pruning is in order (note red cut line) to



encourage compact growth next year. *Acer grissom* is native in central China. Its close relative, three flowered maple (*Acer triflorum*) is native in northeastern China and the Korean Peninsula. Its gray, peeling bark and similar foliage also make it a plant that bonsai people also should consider for medium to large bonsai.



****Sekka Hinoki Cypress Workshop with Bill Valavanis in September - don't forget****

After our September 15 meeting, William Valavanis will lead a Sekka Hinoki Cypress Workshop. The workshop is FREE but the participants must pay for the very fine tree. Tree Cost for this workshop is \$60 payable to BSUNY. Trees will be selected in order of reservations and payment received. Register early and be certain to be at the meeting on time if you want to select your tree in order of payment receipt. Bring your own tools and wire. To sign up, contact Diane Koretz: treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

International Bonsai Arboretum Autumn Open House September 12 - 13, 2020

This “not normal” year will feature an expanded Autumn Open House at IBA. What’s happening? LOTS!!!

Displays - fine quality bonsai will be displayed formally and informally in the studio, and in the garden.

Sales - bring your wallet as you will be amazed at everything available. And all - bonsai, pre-bonsai, containers, tools and wire - will be discounted 20%

Free Demonstrations by Mark Arpag (shohin bonsai), Wm. N. Valavanis (Kusamono creation and display with bonsai), Ron Maggio (Suiseki introduction & appreciation) and Wm. N. Valavanis (Fruiting & Flowering Bonsai creation & care).

And more!!! Over 580 pre-bonsai and bonsai from the famous Joe Noga Collection in North Carolina.

And the Suiseki Study Group of our club will present an exhibit of members’ suiseki. Don’t miss this event!

Wear your masks, and prepare to maintain distance, please.

More events information

Our newer members may want some more information about upcoming events- here goes!

August 25: see BYOT article on p. 2, and Tanseki article below for more details.

September 15: See notice and sign up at bottom of p. 3 to participate in the workshop.

October 27- Hank Miller’s Tandamiti bonsai site www.tanadamiti.com is beautiful and shows his love of trees. Hank will share his thoughts on indoor and tropical trees.

November 24 - Design Studio: bring your Bonsai for suggestions and ideas from 3 Bonsai artists. Ideas include care and maintenance, pots and more.

Tanseki outing Saturday August 8, 2020

Once again, the weather smiled on us as we spent a lovely morning searching for stones. Not just any stones, but special stones that will be chosen as suiseki. Our *Tanseki* (stone collecting trip) was a special time to gather with friends and fellow suiseki enthusiasts, while enjoying a lovely outdoor walk in the stream (literally). The day was all sunshine, the mood was all smiles, and the stones we found were special and will be lingering

remembrances of a special time. For those who participated and are thinking about displaying one or more of their stones during Bill’s Open House, there will be a study session at our next meeting on August 25th. Ron Maggio will lead the session. Please bring your stones and Ron will help evaluate their potential for display. He will also bring sand and some stands to show how to best prepare the display.



The Little Book of Bonsai by Jonas Dupuich

Excerpts from a review by Bob King, editor ABS Journal (full review in ABS Journal Vol. 54 No.2.)

“. . .well written beautifully illustrated introductory book . . . I wish that I had this book on my shelf when I first jumped into growing trees . . .” And more: “This little book would fit very well into a beginners library but it also has numerous nuggets for the experienced practitioner.” King also quotes favorable comments by our own Bill Valavanis, as well as Michael Hagedorn and Boon Manakitivipart.

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Please submit any ideas for the Billboard to Marti & Tom. Next month look for a new quarterly listing of helpful YouTube bonsai instruction (with a goal of helping you avoid wasting time on those that aren’t!)