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# Billboard

Newsletter of Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc.



**Words from our President - please see page 2.**

## August meeting: Bring Your Own Tree

Once again, our members gathered, mostly outside and all wearing masks, to share their questions and ask for advice. Only our second meeting together since February, and all clearly understood the need to maintain precautions. It can be hard to keep distance when trying to closely examine a tree together, so masks stayed on.



This meeting format is conducive to bringing out questions that many are afraid to ask. The more experienced members shared their stories of



mistakes made, trees that died unexpectedly, and surprising finds. We probably won't have this format meeting again until next summer, so if you were inspired by all you learned, maybe this is the time to sign up for the mentoring program, and to participate in Bill's Open Worship sessions (see flier attached to the email forwarding this Billboard.) For the mentoring program, email Joe Moore: [jmoore431@aol.com](mailto:jmoore431@aol.com).



We're still not able to share food that we bring from home, so our "catering director" Rick Marriott brought individually wrapped chips, cookies, and cheese/cracker packs, with individual drinks - once again, thank you Rick!



Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, September 15th  
Sekka Hinoki Cypress Demo  
William N. Valavanis

7:00 pm

Sekka Hinoki Cypress Workshop with Bill Valavanis in September -

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 signup, contact Diane Koretz:

[treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org](mailto:treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org)

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

*continued with more details on page 4*

- **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 CHRISTMAS PARTY & AUCTION**
- **JANUARY 26 SEAN SMITH DIAZA CARVING (WORKSHOP DURING DAY)**
- **FEBRUARY 23 HARVEY CARAPPELLA CASCADE STYLE BONSAI**

### *From our President:*

Greetings Friends,

I hope everyone is coping well with our unusual year including our record setting hot summer. To keep up has required extra watering, pruning and generally more attention. Our August Open workshop was again busy with us working outside on a number of trees. Everyone was masked and observing social distancing. We recognized most, even with half of our faces covered!

September has been the start of the Bonsai Club year in the past, but we are adapting to the times. Please read our new dues proposal (see the bottom of this page), and come to the meeting to raise your hand in support of this change.

We have some great programs & events to look forward to and to greet you as we start to return to regular meetings hopefully uninterrupted for the next year.

As part of our club "reopening" we hope to reinvigorate the Shohin Study Group, and we'll get started with that at 6 pm, before our September 15 regular meeting. And I'm also putting in a plug for my Shohin Demo at Bill's upcoming Open House, along with all the Demos. See the Open House flier attached to the email forwarding this Billboard. All the best in Bonsai, Mark



Shohin: good trees come in small packages!

### **August special workshop: Suiseki display**

Ron Maggio shared his expertise about suiseki display with a select group of our members who participated in the Tanseki the previous weekend. His goal is to encourage some newer members to be ready to display their stones at Bill Valavanis' Open House in September.

Ron reviewed the importance of taking and keeping notes as we learn. He pointed out sources for Diaza, and reviewed the different materials for the pot to hold the sand, including purchasing an inexpensive forest pot and using tape to cover the holes. The members present learned how to clean our suiseki, and a few tolerated some teasing about what not to do! Above all, Ron emphasized the importance of the meaning of suiseki: "viewing stone". This means the viewer needs to see what you think is there.



*Brushing the sand smooth - an ongoing effort!*

*We encourage some newer members to be ready to display their stones at our exhibit at the International Bonsai Arboretum's Open House this coming weekend.*



*Tools to keep sand*



*Stonehenge??*

### **\*\*\*\*Membership and Dues News\*\*\*\***

From our President:

Due to the impact of the virus on our Club functions for 4 months, the Board is proposing to suspend Dues for 4 months.

The Club Dues currently are payable in September. The proposed change would move the date to January 2021 and every January thereafter.

This change requires a vote to change the Bylaws. Members present at the September meeting will vote by a show of hands.

Our Dues will remain the same amount and we continue to have excellent programs, workshops & special Project Involved events.

**Another Cause of Chlorosis: Poor Drainage** —This article is by Ross Clark, the editor of the American Bonsai Society Newsletter, and is from the September 2020 newsletter.

Among the common reasons for chlorosis (= foliage that is abnormally yellow) are mineral deficiencies and growing shade-tolerant species in too much direct sun. These young Chalkbark Maples (*Acer leucoderme*) are the same age. Both had normally green leaves when they were defoliated three months ago. The newly-defoliated tree on the right was repotted into a shallower bonsai pot; the tree on the left remained in its original pot. They were positioned side by side on a bench in a dappled sun location. Addition of nutrients did not correct the yellowed tree's chlorosis. Based on prior experience with this problem, I have concluded that inadequate drainage is stressing the roots of the tree on the right. It must be repotted and given better drainage. (And so it was.)

Often, when roots are under stress, the symptoms show up in the leaves. Maples in the Sugar Maple group appreciate evenly moist soil that drains well.

Incidentally, the smallest-leaved wild Chalkbark Maples I have observed were on the northern Cumberland Plateau (= Sand Mountain) of Alabama. I could still (50+ years later) lead you straight to them, unless someone has built houses or a zip line there.



**Summer Serendipities** by Ross Clark ,from the ABS September newsletter

Late summer is a time when it's enjoyable to watch young plants' beginnings. Here are a few that I've discovered in our mature (31 species of trees, not counting bonsai) yard. If you look closely, you might discover some in your yard, too. Some of them could and should become future bonsai. (A long-lost good friend of mine called plants that began like this his "cheapskate bonsai".)



Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) seedlings. The seedling on the left is in its first year; the one on the right is in its third. Both of these came up in pots that contain bonsai.



(Picture to right) **Left:** A second-year red-phase Japanese Mountain Maple (*Acer palmatum*). **Right:** A three-year old Yellow-wood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) seedling. The maple's future is definitely a bonsai pot. Yellow-

woods are wonderful, medium-sized, ornamental landscape trees, but our yard is full of trees. Maybe someone will adopt the little Yellow-wood. (In 4-inch pots)



← This year's special prize: a Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) that came up four months ago in a flower bed, on this hilltop, nowhere near a swamp. It's definitely a keeper!

This summer's crop of rooted maple cuttings. Three months earlier, these tiny new trees were merely twigs attached to trees. Going forward 20 years, some of them might be nice ungrafted bonsai. At least, that's the hopeful idea. Next, they will have to make it through their first winter outdoors, in the mulch with their big sisters. Some won't make it, but the stronger ones will.



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

The full flier is attached to the email that forwards this Billboard, but we want to highlight this event. You won't want to miss it. Much to see, much to learn, much to buy. See you there!



*Special Literati Workshop*

The Project Involved committee is working on a special literati seminar for October. It will be an all day event that will include a slide presentation, display of finished literati, hands on demonstrations with work on your own tree, and plenty of question and answer opportunities for participants. We'll have two, maybe three, top notch bonsai artists as instructors for this informative all day workshop. Stay tuned for this special event!!



Save the date: October 31, 2020  
Buckland Lodge  
More details in October Billboard.

**You Tube recommendations**

Ongoing learning is essential to improving our Bonsai, but with the internet there is almost too much information. Many of us have looked to YouTube for inspiration and instruction, but we can waste a lot of time with folks that don't have the skills or the background that we need. Our leaders have spent (?wasted?) a lot of time watching YouTube videos in order to bring you a consolidated list of those that are most worthwhile. This is their list - we hope it helps you.

Bjorn Bjorholm: Eisei-en Bonsai [www.eisei.com](http://www.eisei.com)  
Peter Warren Saruyama: Bonsai-[saruyama.co.uk](http://saruyama.co.uk)  
Mauro Stemberger: Italian Bonsai Dream [italianbonsaidream.com](http://italianbonsaidream.com)

*More events information*

Our newer members may want some more information about upcoming events- here goes!  
September 15 - details on page 1 for Bill V's demo and workshop, starting with demo at 7, right after business meeting to vote on dues.

6 pm - for those interested in Shohin, Mark Arpag, our President, will be jump starting the Shohin study group. Mark will discuss Shohin displays, Shohin creation and answer questions on Shohin. Club members can bring in a Shohin to display or just ask for advice on health, styling and refinement.

October 27- Hank Miller's demo will show how to create fused trunk bonsai, and he will discuss tropical bonsai.



Hank Miller's site is beautiful and shows his love of trees:  
[www.tanadamiti.com](http://www.tanadamiti.com).

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

*and continued from page 1:*

- **MARCH 12 -15 GARDEN SCAPE**
- **APRIL 27 BOON MANIKITIVIPART**
- **MAY 15 & 16 BSUNY BONSAI SHOW**
- **JUNE 15 PICNIC & AUCTION**
- **JULY 24 BRING YOUR OWN TREE**
- **AUGUST 28 BRING YOUR OWN TREE**

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Please submit any ideas for the Billboard to Marti & Tom. Next month look for a new quarterly listing of helpful new Bonsai instruction books. If you have ideas for the BillBoard, please email Marti & Tom:  
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