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Billboard

Newsletter of Bonsai Society of Upstate York Inc.



President's Message

Greetings Friends!

I hope this message finds you and your Bonsai enjoying summer. We kicked it off in style with another well attended, well supported and all around great time sharing food, friendship & laughs at our Annual Picnic! A big thanks to all who helped make it a success!

We are looking forward to an Open Workshop later this month and then again in August. I would like to remind everyone of the long awaited 7th US National Bonsai Exhibition.

For me there is NO excuse for not attending this World Class event in our home town. It is an absolute must see for our Members. It is a great opportunity to share your interest in Bonsai with family, friends & out of town visitors too! A number of our Members volunteer to assist in the setup, operation and take down which is an amazing chance to support the Art we love. I look forward to seeing you there!

Mark



NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, July 27 at 7 p.m.
Bring your own Tree Part 1
Brighton Town Lodge
at Buckland Park**

This meeting is an excellent opportunity to get ideas and suggestions for those trees that have you stumped. Bring one or two trees that you want to focus on, and ask the experts, as well as the not-so-experts, for their thoughts on your trees. No re-potting at this session, just be ready to focus on the shape and health of your trees. These events are always fun, informative and collaborative.

The Brighton Town Lodge is at 1341 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY near the corner of Westfall and Clinton. Our fearless Refreshment Manager, Rick Marriott, will continue to provide individually wrapped snacks and drinks.

June Picnic and Auction a success

Everyone was enthusiastic about our opportunity to have a shared picnic meal. Our own Rick Marriott did a hero's job of organizing the perfect summer picnic with food from Crosby's - pulled pork and chicken, delicious coleslaw and macaroni salad, and brownies for dessert. Theresia brought appetizing garlic pizza. And as always, even though we all did our part, there was lots of food sent home with everyone. We were well fortified for the auction and it showed. Bidding was fierce and furious, and very successful. Many trees, pots and tools found new homes, and the club raised some money to support bringing in speakers over the next year.



2021 Programs:

- July 24 - Fused Ficus workshop at Tandamiti Bonsai *see flier page 4*
- July 27 - Bring your own tree - this is a terrific opportunity to get help from several experts in an informal setting. 6 pm Shohin Bonsai study group
- August 7 - Tanseki: Suiseki collecting trip
- August 24 - Bring your own tree - see info for July 6 pm Suiseki study group
- September 11&12 - National Bonsai Exhibition
- September 13 - Marco Invernizzi from Italy will offer a demonstration *note this is a Monday evening*

June special meeting report

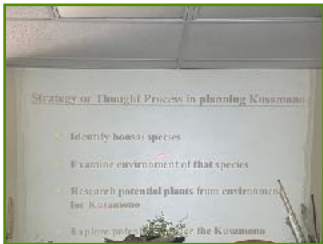


We were delighted to host Kusamono artist Young Choe in June, taking advantage of her being nearby for the Buffalo Bonsai Society's meeting on Saturday, the day before. We knew before the meeting that Young is a kusamono artist who studied traditional art, ink painting and calligraphy in her native Korea



before she moved to the United States, and that with her BS horticultural degree she currently works at the US National Arboretum, in Washington, DC. And we knew that Ms. Choe traveled to Japan to study this unique and little-known art form with Keiko Yamane, the leading kusamono artist in Japan and former student of Saburo Kato. (Before she could do this, she had to learn to speak Japanese, which she did!) But reading about Young Choe does not begin to compare with the detailed, informative and entertaining presentation we experienced with her live and in person. Those of us who were fortunate to take her workshop during the day heard much of the information twice, but in totally different ways, AND we watched a bonus slide show on moss (did you know there are 1,200 species of moss in North America?!?) Young Choe obviously

loves her work with plants, and is passionate about the art of Kusamono. While her work with native plants at the USDA, NRCS, National Plant Materials Center in Beltsville, MD and as a propagation horticulturist at the US National Arboretum is certainly impressive, it is the combination of her artistic background and her solid understanding of plant material that has helped her become the leading kusamono artist outside Japan.



What we learned about Kusamono - some of the basics. Kusamono is a potted arrangement of wild flowers and grasses, a companion planting to a bonsai display, a combination of horticulture and art, and is natural, simple, modern and beautiful. Plants chosen for Kusamono must match the environment where the type of tree is found. It is important to consider not just that the kusamono is beautiful at the moment, one must consider how it looks all season.

And just like watching Bill, Mark, Harvey and others who offer us demonstrations, it looks incredibly easy to create a beautiful Kusamono, but it is not! In the workshop, we all struggled, even though we had the advantage that all of the plant selections and basic decisions have already been made. For those of you who missed this special meeting and workshop, you will have another change to experience Young Choe's expertise and artistry at the upcoming National Bonsai Exhibition.

The pictures below are the 3 Kusamono created by Young Choe during the workshop and evening presentation, with their auction winners.

For those of you who missed it in the last Billboard, an article in the Washington Post last summer featured Ms. Choe and her work: https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/kusamono-the-softer-side-of-bonsai/2020/07/28/1ee152b0-cc3a-11ea-bc6a-6841b28d9093_story.html



SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Bonsai Accents, Black Pine

You can have a lot of fun and exhibit a lot of creativity with accent elements that you exhibit with your trees. They can be: a bonsai, grasses and plants, figurines, ornaments and the unusual, like this sprouting Pine cone. What would improve this accent, I would like to see some interesting movement in the branches rather than have them all point straight up. An element that would really make this more dramatic and eye catching is the choice of pot. This pot is the same color as the Pine cone, so it blends in, rather than stand out. This is a missed opportunity to express yourself. This screams for a bold colorful pot or maybe an odd shaped pot or a pot with a busy design on it or a pot with all 3 elements. There are many traditional approaches to accents, but it's also an opportunity for the non-traditional and self-expression, go for it.
Harvey Carapella

SUISEKI BONSAI FEATURE & TANSEKI OUTING

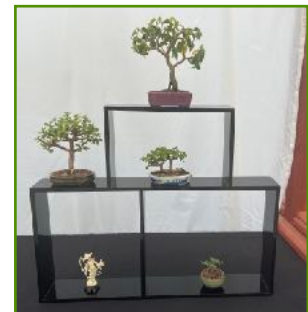
Suiseki features have been a regular feature in the Billboard, and hopefully this has inspired some members to get more involved in collecting viewing stones. For the past few years, we have held Tanseki outings - an opportunity to collect stones together, in a beautiful and peaceful setting. This year's Tanseki outing is on Saturday August 7, starting at 10 am. If you want to participate, please email Project Involved leader John Wiessinger: naturetours@gmail.com, and he will give you specifics of the location, along with directions. Don't miss this unique opportunity to watch some experienced collectors at work, and to observe how they assess the stones and their potential, all in a very pleasant environment.

The pictures show stones collected last year, and the beautiful setting for the Tanseki, with a stone Les Allen collected a couple of years ago at the same site.



Buffalo Bonsai Society Show

Our friends at the Buffalo Bonsai Society invited us to enjoy their show in the beginning of June, and some of us were fortunate to have the time to attend. For those of you who did not go to this show, hopefully these pictures will inspire you to think about displaying one of your trees in our club's show next May (more details will be forthcoming in future Billboards).



FICUS FUSED TRUNK WORKSHOP

By Tandamiti (Hank Miller)

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021

Time: 1pm **Cost:** \$80

Place: Tandamiti's Workshop

12642 Planck Road
Perrysburg, NY 14129

Workshop includes:

Rooted Ficus Natalensis cuttings, use of tools and materials, along with step by step hands on creation of your own Fused Bonsai. *Limited to 12 participants.*

Questions or to reserve your place:

tandamiti@localnet.com

[2021 7th US National Bonsai Exhibition Update - click on this link to read Bill's blog with the latest news!](https://valavanisbonsaiblog.com/7/11/2021-7th-national-us-bonsai-exhibition-update/)

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Please submit any ideas for the Billboard to Marti & Tom. If you have ideas for the Billboard, please email Marti & Tom:
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New FREE Bimonthly International BONSAI OnLine Magazine

After publishing International BONSAI for 42 years and producing 164 issues, Bill Valavanis has decided to suspend the printed edition and start producing the magazine in a FREE digital bimonthly format in order to expand his educational offerings. International BONSAI OnLine will continue with the high standards of quality introduced to English language bonsai magazines, and continues to be the first and only professional bonsai magazine published in the United States. In the first month of publication over 16,000 people have viewed the magazine and over and over 1,300 have subscribed. Check it out, and subscribe FREE too! www.internationalbonsaionline.com

