

February
2022

Volume 51
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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



President's Message

Greetings,

Although it's currently 12 F and a wind chill below zero, the days are getting progressively lighter and some of my trees in winter storage are starting to show buds fattening! It's important to monitor your Bonsai even in the winter for moisture, pests, premature opening and to start planning for spring work. Friends around the country have already started or are about to start working on their trees. A few of our members have been helping Bill send out seedlings and pre bonsai from the International Bonsai Spring Catalog to these areas. It is exciting to see the great offerings this year and even for someone with too many trees, it is very tempting. I would encourage you to look and perhaps start to dream of new spring projects. We are still looking for a great location for our May Exhibition but I have made an important contact with a facility Director that looks very promising, I will keep you posted.

We are all looking forward to David Knittle's visit and I promise you won't be disappointed!

Mark

Dues notice for 2022 - Last Call

The dues notice is found on page 2, and dues were due before January 31, 2022. When we get to the end of February, we will be cleaning up the membership list and those who have not paid will no longer receive the Billboard. Thanks for your understanding. Newsletter of Bonsai Society of Upstate York Inc.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 22 at 7 p.m.

David Knittle

Working on Collected Trees

We expect a very informative presentation by David Knittle as he shows us how he works on collected trees.

During the day, David is offering workshops (see details page 3). Registration for the workshops have been filling up quickly. Currently there are only a few opening available. Please look carefully at the remaining options and make your registration before it's too late! David has been working hard in his shop preparing and we are looking forward to a very special day!

Brighton Town Lodge at Buckland Park

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 provide coffee, individual drinks and treats.

2022 Programs:

- February 22 - 7 pm David Knittle Demo , with 2 workshops to make a table during the day. *See details and how to reserve on page 3. Space is limited.*
No study group
- March 29 - 7 pm Bill Valavanis Forest planting and demo, workshop during the day
No study group
- April 26 - 7 pm Mark Fields Shohin Bonsai
No study group

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January's Carving workshop a great success

On Tuesday, January 25, the BUSNY hosted a "Deadwood/Carving Workshop" from 10AM to 4PM at the Brighton Town Lodge, organized by John Wiessinger and led by our own Society President Mark Arpag. The workshop originally planned for two years ago was cancelled because of a snowstorm. This workshop was definitely worth the wait.

There were 6 Society members in attendance who brought a variety of species for study, styling, and carving of shari and jin. Weeping cherry, spruce, crab apple, juniper, yew, hemlock and others were represented. Mark began with some initial comments on the nature of the workshop and promptly began to consider trees by each participant as we gathered around at the front table for his comments on styling and how to make the most of each tree. After studying each tree for a while, he made suggestions about how the it could be improved through the addition of deadwood to complement the foliage and how the remaining foliage could best be redirected to accentuate the new deadwood to best advantage. He then demonstrated a variety of tools and techniques to achieve the design while we all watched.

For lunch, Mark brought in a tasty bean, ham, and elbow macaroni soup which was enjoyed by everyone prior to starting the afternoon session. Rick Marriott provided liquid refreshment and a welcomed pastry to complete the lunch.

After lunch, the participants worked on their trees to the sounds of Dremel™ tools, grinders, knives, pruners, and scissors. Mark made the rounds, providing additional pointers on how to proceed and leveraging his decades of experience in bonsai to the benefit of the attendees and their trees.

Toward the end of the session, there was one particular tree which was a challenge to the owner. Mark suggested that "I can make this into a tree you'll love in about 15 minutes." He then, with the owner's permission, applied some radical surgery, trimming branches, and removing bark on others to create well placed deadwood. The owner was greatly pleased with the result and those of us who witnessed the expert transformation were content that Mark's prediction was true.

Special thanks to Tracy Thieret for this write up in the Editors' absence, and thanks also to Tracy and to Michael Lesniewski for the pictures

Bonsai Society of Upstate York Inc.



Dues Renewal Notice 2022

Dear BSUNY member,

We hope that you have enjoyed your membership in the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY, Inc. and that you have found it helpful with your bonsai work. With your continued support we can continue to provide high quality educational material at our meetings, of course, while working around COVID restrictions! Membership dues for the 2022 calendar year are now due. Please send your check now to keep your name on our membership list and to continue receiving the Billboard and other membership news.

Starting in 2021, annual membership dues are due during the month of January, not later than 1/31/2022 for this year, for membership through the end of 2022. The timing of dues payment will follow this pattern in subsequent years as well.

Please note that all news and announcements, including the Billboard, will be provided only via email going forward.

If you have questions about your membership, please send those questions to: treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org.

Thank you, Diane Koretz, Treasurer, BSUNY

BSUNY Dues and Membership form

Name: _____

Individual member: \$30.00
Family membership: \$35.00

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please make payable to and mail your check to:
Bonsai Society of Upstate NY, Inc.
PO Box 92215, Rochester, NY 14692



www.bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

Mentor program - please read

As we hope to emerge from our COVID woes, we'd like to breathe new life into the mentoring program. This program was started with the aim of helping newer bonsai enthusiasts learn from more experienced club members, giving the less experienced an easy opportunity/access to have their bonsai questions answered. It usually involves email communication between the two, sending photos, making recommendations and mainly helping a new member avoid mistakes many of us have made over the years. So we will be eliciting interest for this program from any "newish" member seeking mentoring and from more experienced members willing to help guide others. I will then attempt to pair you up with a suitable match. If interested, please email Joe Moore with your name, species of trees you have, your interests, (ie: deciduous, pine, tropical,...) to assist us in teaming you up with a good match. jmoore431@aol.com

David Knittle table making workshops in February

David Knittle will be conducting two workshops during the day of our February 22nd meeting. The stands and tables will be prefinished. Participants will be assembling them and taking home a quality table that can be used in the highest level exhibitions. David will begin each session with a short description of how they were produced to get them ready for the assembly process.

There are morning and afternoon sessions still available, and those descriptions and pictures are shown below.

Participants will be given a choice on a first-to-register basis. The stands and tables vary in style, type of wood, size, details, and color tone. Please read the descriptions carefully.

Session One - morning. Participants will assemble a two level stand. David's mentor, Bill Valavanis, encouraged him years ago to make this style. Bill has one and says it is one of the most versatile and most often used in his studio. There are three versions available, all 31" x 8.5" x 12" high. The top shelf is 11" x 8.5". These can be used to display shohin or slightly larger bonsai.

Version 1 - 2 are available. This version is not pictured. It is identical in size to the one pictured (*right*) with pseudo bamboo details but without those carved details. Genuine mahogany with a medium dark brown finish. \$290



Version 3 - 2 are available, *see picture to left*. Walnut with pseudo bamboo carved details on the posts and shelf edges. Not pictured but with details similar to version 2. Dark rosewood finish, \$335

Session 2 - afternoon. Participants will assemble a single tree table.

The three different sizes and styles are appropriate for trees from shohin to chuhin bonsai. All are mortise and tenon, frame and floating panel construction. (Only version 1, below, is still available.)



Version 1 - 1 are available, *see picture to left*. 14" x 10" x 8" high. Walnut with a dark rosewood finish. \$200

To register for these workshops, pick your choice of table, and email Diane Koretz (treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org) to confirm your choice is still available, then send your check to Diane to confirm your spot.

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Mame Shohin Bonsai
Japanese Flowering Quince

This bonsai is a Slanting style, because the Apex extends out beyond the edge of the root system. The trunk has good taper from the ground to the apex and the Pink flowers are clearly the Focal Point. This bonsai is a great example of using texture for visual interest. The neutral color of the pot does not compete with the flowers for attention. The visual texture of the striped pattern on the pot creates an interesting contrast with the texture created by the mass of Pink flowers. The visual contrast of the textures is created between the soft irregular form created by the group of flowers and the more rigid geometric pattern of the stripes and the shape of the pot.

Harvey Carapella

Mid Atlantic Bonsai Spring Festival

Festivals are opening up, and one that is nearby and upcoming is the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival. This event will be held April 8 - 10 at the Hampton Inn in Parsippany, NJ 07054, and will feature prominent Bonsai artists Bjorn Bjorholm, Kathy Shaner and Suthin Sukosolvisit. Registration info available at www.midatlanticbonsai.org.

Billboard is brought to you by:

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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:

billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org

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

2022 Programs:

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- May 24 - 7 pm TBD stay tuned for upcoming information about a club show in May, with project involved prep session in April
- June 21 - 6 pm Summer picnic and auction
No study groups
- July 26 - 7 pm Bring your own Tree
- August 23 - 7 pm Bring your own Tree
- September 27 - 7 pm TBD

