

March
2022

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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



President's Message

Greetings Friends,

This year has gotten off to a great start for Bonsai. In January we had an all day carving workshop and I provided Chili for lunch followed by an evening demo. Last month we had an all day workshops with David Knittle and many members went home with amazing tables and stands! In the evening David presented a fantastic program on collected trees. This month we have offered an afternoon Forest workshop with Wm. N. Valavanis. In my opinion, Bill is the foremost authority and creates the best Forest compositions in the WORLD.

Not kidding, if you want to learn from the best & go home with your own Forest sign up before it's filled up! Bill will follow with an evening program that will delight and amaze as he always does.

Dues are NOW over due. There is not much more we can do to encourage your Bonsai enjoyment and education but we keep trying anyway. In my travels to do programs for other Clubs I will share with you our dues are half as much as some.

We have not had a Spring Show since 2019 and it is now 2022. The MCH has offered to let us back in, but the requirements are not workable for us. I have been working to find a temporary location for this year and have tentatively found a location closer to the Lilac Festival. It will be a setup on Saturday and Show on Sunday. Details will follow as we work to display, but wanted to be prepared. We had planned to have a workshop on selecting and preparing trees these announcements. Remember, displaying your Bonsai is your reward for your dedication to them!

- Mark

Membership Dues 2022

If you are reading this on the website, you may be curious that you did not get the March Billboard in your inbox. We have cleaned up our email list, and only members who are paid for 2022 will receive direct emails going forward. If you want to catch up - check for the dues payment information in the February Billboard!

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday March 29 at 7 p.m.

Bill Valavanis

Lecture and Demo Forest plantings

We are so fortunate to have Bill Valavanis as a club member. Bill is very generous with his time and expertise, and his presentations are always entertaining and informative. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from one of the top Bonsai experts in the world, and to take a chance on winning the raffle tree!

During the day, 10 people will have the opportunity to participate in a Trident Maple Forest workshop with Bill. This is a terrific opportunity, ESPECIALLY since Bill will not be doing a Trident Maple Forest workshop at the studio this year. Make your reservation with

Treasurer Diane Koretz:

treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org. The cost is \$175, and includes all materials for the forest planting - trees (established maples in pots), pot, soil, wire, etc. Limited to 10 people, so don't hesitate!

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,

2022 Programs:

- March 29 - 7 pm Bill Valavanis Forest planting and demo, workshop during the day. Reserve with an email to Diane Koretz: treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org
No study group

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February's Table making Workshop

David Knittle shared his expertise with us in February, and our club members were very fortunate. We learned LOTS of good information, AND we all went home with at least one very special table. David's tables are famous in the Bonsai community, and after hearing about everything that goes into them, it is easy to see why. And we learned that this was extra special, as David does not offer many workshops. The fact that he did this for us is a tribute to his good relationship with Bill and Mark.

David got started in 1987. He was a furniture maker, and then met Bill Valavanis, who encouraged and mentored him. He buys a lot of wood in Maine, starting with rough lumber. He also uses exotic woods from around the world. He cuts the wood oversize, and lets it sit in his shop to relieve stress - often for a couple of months. David explained many of his techniques, which many of the woodworkers in the group appreciated (and understood!) His whole process without rushing takes four to six weeks. He told us that Rick Marriott has one of his first table stands, which he uses as furniture in his house. It is a four tree Shohin bonsai stand, and has been in every National Exhibition.

David spent a lot of time talking about finish, which is one of the things he is known for. Bonsai trees and pots at shows are showing age, so the goal is to make tables finished so that they "glow, not shine". One of the best compliments he has received was at this year's National Exhibition: "Did you make that? It looks just like a Japanese antique".

David gave lots of information about wax for the finish, including brands and sources, and he also spent time describing the process and then demonstrating. After that, we got to work. The pictures below show some of what you missed.



BSUNY Club show is back!

After a two year hiatus, we are excited to announce that we will hold a club show this year! The show will be held on Sunday, May 22, with set up and an opening reception on Saturday, May 21. President Mark Arpag is still working out many of the details, but at this point we can tell you Save the Date, and start looking at your trees. We want every club member to display at least one tree. The location is the Golisano Autism Center at 50 Science Parkway.

We will have a Project Involved Saturday session dedicated to helping you get your tree(s) ready for the show.

We will also have a Suiseki display, so make sure you look at your collection now!

Suiseki Corner

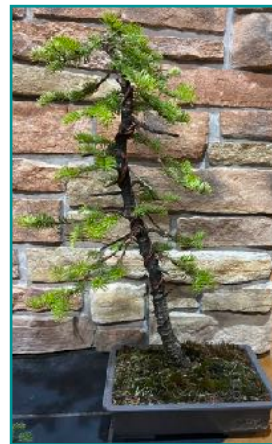


Here are pictures of both sides of my Banded Iron stone that has an exquisitely made rosewood Daiza by Daiza maker Bob Blankfield. Bob's work accentuates the unique shape of the stone with its folds and beautiful bronze coloration. The stone is one of my favorites. I purchased the stone from Prospector Bob Scholl about ten years ago.



David Knittle Program on Collected Trees

David Knittle offered a fascinating presentation about working with collected trees. He and his wife did a lot of hiking in the Adirondacks. He started with a Nick Lenz book "Bonsai from the Wild", and picked the brains of people from the West Coast. Bill told him Balsam Fir would be too difficult, then saw what he was doing and said "You're doing something right".



SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Mame Shohin Bonsai
Wild Rose

Is this a Bonsai or an Accent Planting? It's both, it could be exhibited either way. We plant Bonsai on flat rock slabs all the time, this is a ceramic slab. The interesting geometric pattern of the slab contrasts nicely with the texture created by the small Rose leaves. It's a Semi-Cascade style, because the long lower branch extends out horizontally beyond the edge of the slab. The light Yellow of the Fall Rose leaves creates an interesting visual contrast with the darker Teal color of the slab. This contrast would change in Spring when the leaves are Green. In Spring we would have a harmony between the cool Green Rose leaves and the cool Teal of the slab. Green Hues are cool colors.

Harvey Carapella

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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

2022 Programs:

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- April 26 - 7 pm Mark Fields Shohin Bonsai
No study group
 - May 21 & 22 - Fingers crossed - Club Show!
 - June 21 - 6 pm Summer picnic and auction
No study groups
 - July TBD date: Field trip to Pennsylvania
 - July 26 - 7 pm Bring your own Tree
 - August 23 - 7 pm Bring your own Tree
 - September 27 - 7 pm TBD
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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