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# Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



## President's Message

Greetings Friends,

I am happy to announce we are once again having our Spring Exhibition after a 2 year pause! New location, new format, new schedule, new focus. Same enthusiasm and passion our Club has shared with the community for almost 50 years. We will set up late Saturday afternoon on May 21 and our One Day Show will be on Sunday May 22. We want to have a broad spectrum of Bonsai including species, styles and time in training. We strongly encourage all members from longtime to new members to prepare a tree and display in this show. There will be opportunities to get help or advice if you are interested. Please email Marti Macinski ([billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org](mailto:billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org)) to be included on communications.

Our March Forest workshop and demo was a great day. Many thanks to Bill Valavanis for sharing his expertise with us!

This month Mark Fields joins us for yet another workshop opportunity with a Nationally recognized Bonsai Artist for a very reasonable cost. Don't delay in signing up! Then in the evening he will do a demonstration and talk on Shohin Bonsai. You will not want to miss this. It is now Spring, and I am thrilled to be reunited with my Trees. It is time to get working on them again!

Mark

## Voting for Officers in April

We'll be voting for officers at the April meeting. See the current list of officers and vacancies on Page 3. We especially need a Secretary, Webmaster and an assistant to Rick Marriott, our refreshment manager. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let us know! We'll get the word out, and make sure you have some support!

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 26 at 7 p.m.

Mark Fields

### Lecture and Demo on Shohin Bonsai

We are fortunate to have Mark Fields as our speaker this month. Mark Fields specializes in shohin bonsai, is the proprietor of Bonsai by Fields, and is President of American Bonsai Society. He is a Nationally recognized and awarded bonsai artist. He will do a demonstration, and once again we will have a nice tree for a raffle.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from an expert.

During the day, 10 people will have the opportunity to participate in a hands on workshop with Mark. Bring your own tree, and let Mark guide you on styling. No repotting, please. Make your reservation with Treasurer Diane Koretz: [treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org](mailto:treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org).

The cost is \$40, which is very reasonable for such expert consulting. Limited to 10 people - 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, will provide coffee, individual drinks and treats.*

## 2022 Programs:

- April 23 - All Day. Prep your trees for the Club show on May 22.
- April 26 - 7 pm Mark Fields Shohin Bonsai Workshop from 1-4 during the day
- May 22 - all day Club Show Golisano Autism Center, 50 Science Highway
- 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

## March Trident Maple Forest Workshop

This workshop was, as expected, incredible. Bill provided each participant with 9 pot grown trees. One three year old tree for the main focus, two two year old trees, and six one year old trees. He explained how growing in bigger pots allows for more growth, and he also showed the difference between pot grown and seedling trees. The pot grown trees are much easier to work with for putting together a forest planting. As always, Bill made it sound simple - decide if one group or two, start by setting three trees,, vary the spacing, don't worry about the heights as you will cut it all off, measure the space with your fingers, use an odd number of trees, and more. His very important and key advice: "stick 'em in and arrange 'em"! As each of us got to work, Bill was everywhere, suggesting, complimenting, changing, and occasionally doing it for us. Everyone left with a very nice forest planting, and a newfound level of understanding from this very special bonsai artist and teacher. Bill is not doing a forest planting class at the studio this year, so this was a truly unique opportunity provided to our club.



## BSUNY Club show is back!

We are still working out details, and you can expect another flier with those details over the next week or so. But it is good news that after a two year hiatus, 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. 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, and also a suiseki. 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're working out the details, but pretty sure this will be Saturday, April 23 so save the date.

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

Some of you signed up at the last meeting to indicate your intent to bring at least one tree (or suiseki) to display in the show. If you did not sign up then, please send an email to:

Billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org, and we'll make sure to keep you in the loop on everything related to the show. If we don't hear from you, we will reach out to make sure you think seriously about displaying one of your trees in the show. This is an important benefit of your club membership, and it can help you take one of your trees to the next level, while receiving some recognition and admiration!

## Board Members and upcoming Elections

We have received no nominations, so we will be voting to confirm these officers at the March meeting.

President & Special Projects.....Mark Arpag  
 Vice President.....William Valavanis  
 Secretary ..... **Open position, please apply!**  
 Treasurer ..... Diane Koretz  
 Billboard ..... Marti & Tom Macinski  
 Education ..... John Wiessinger  
 Exhibitions.....Harvey Carapella  
 Library & Club History ..... Joe Lentner  
 Membership Table ..... Harvey Carapella  
 Photographers.....Marti & Tom Macinski  
 Project Involved.....Will Hebert  
 Publicity .....The Entire Club

Refreshments &  
 New Members ..... Rick Marriott  
 Rules & By-Laws ..... Joe Galley  
 Suiseki Study Group ..... Les Allen  
 Ways & Means/ Mentorship ....Joe Moore  
 Webmaster.....**Open position, please apply!**  
 Shohin Study Group..... Harvey Carapella, Bill Valavanis, Mark Arpag  
 Society Consultants.....Doug McDade, Will Hebert  
 Past Presidents Jim Dolce, Harvey Carapella  
 Special thanks goes to our officers who have served in these positions previously and continue to provide guidance to the society.

## Bill Valavanis Program on Forest Plantings



Bill Valavanis was our presenter for the meeting. He thanked Brian, Harvey, Mark and Diane, who helped with the workshop. Bill likes forests, and it showed. He explained that forests are pictures of nature, but they try to show the good parts, not everything. Forests can be made in two ways, either a single root system (sinus or raft), or a multiple root system of individual trees. Several design factors are important. A focal point is needed for eye movement. Spacing of the trees needs to be uneven. Trunk thickness and lines are different to add interest. Many forests are a good place to put misshapen, wire scarred, and trees with other issues. Bill explained spacing with 3 and 5 trees, trying to avoid straight lines. Drastic pruning needs to be done after putting the forest together, to get the twigs to come out. Bill's slide show was very good to show good examples, and things that are problems and mistakes. He explained how to use small trees in back to show perspective, as well as leaving beech leaves on during the winter to show the strength of the tree. Bill explained that when re-potting a forest, there is no need to separate the trees. Bill then proceeded to demonstrate building a forest, from wiring the pot, cleaning the roots of the trees, placing the trees, and more. As you can see from the pictures, it takes several hands bring all the trees together to make a forest. It is always such fun to watch Bill work his magic, and it is inspiring to all of us as we think about our new creations. Many members brought forest plantings to display, including some from the workshop during the afternoon.



## SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



### Shimpaku Juniper

This is not a Shohin bonsai, but it is a great opportunity to comment on Bonsai Design. This bonsai has a lot of very busy Deadwood, the long cascading branch on the right just adds more busyness, creating a very unbalanced tree. I find it confusing to the eye, trying to make sense of the busy deadwood and the busy foliage. I have created two possible designs, both improve the design and reduce the busyness and confusion and gives the tree a better overall balance. The upper right design removes the cascading branch only and the lower right design removes all the foliage on the right side, which adds a little more deadwood. The large deadwood on the lower left could be thinned down more and the cascading deadwood on the lower right was removed. This would improve the balance of the tree from left to right and allows for a better view of the base of the tree. —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](mailto:billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org)

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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](http://www.internationalbonsaionline.com)