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# Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



## President's Message

Greetings Friends,

Holiday Greetings 🌲

My Bonsai are all tucked away, precautions taken to keep the vermin at bay and me with great visions for their future dancing in my head! One tip for your stocking, don't let them get too dry! I like to use snow, as temps warm it's like auto watering. But last year I had to rely on actual watering all winter rather than occasionally. Make sure to keep checking on the little rascals too.

Our November Design Studio program is a great opportunity to get expert opinions on improving your trees and we had some great discussions this year. Unfortunately the weather prevented many from attending.

Our Holiday Party is ALWAYS a great time with Bill's PowerPoint Show of the Bonsai year in Review, wonderful food and amazing donations from our most generous members. We all get to have fun trying to get the winning bids!

It is also the biggest fund raiser we have and with our costs sky high we need you to be extra

generous with bids & donations 🌲

Bill and I are on our way back from the the last Exhibition of the year in Kannapolis NC. Our good friend and long time member Joe Noga photographed all the trees just like he does for the US National. I am sure Bill will share photos at our Holiday party also. I hope everyone has a wonderful season with family and friends and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Mark



Memorial tribute Composition to Artists lost in 2022:  
Lenz, Muth, Schmalenberg

## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, December 19 6:30 pm**

Let's gather with food and bonsai stories while we warm up our bidding paddles for our annual Holiday party and auction. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. It is up to you whether to eat dinner first, but there is usually more than enough food and no need for excuses! The club will provide the ever famous shrimp, coffee, tea and some cold drinks (all non alcoholic per Lodge Rules). Bill Valavanis will present a slide show of his recent travels to Japan and North Carolina and some more general Bonsai pictures and info from this year. THEN we'll get down to business with our auction. This is a MAJOR fundraiser for our club - gotta pay for that shrimp! *More info on WHY we need to raise funds on page 4.* Bring *wrapped* bonsai and bonsai related items, with no gag gifts, and also bring your check book so you can bid early and often. This is a great opportunity to pick up some finds, and to clean out your cellar to make room for more pots!

### **Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park**

*Our Refreshment Manager, Marti Macinski will provide shrimp, coffee, and individual drinks. It would be helpful for you to let her know you plan to come and what you will bring: email Marti at [mmacinski@mac.com](mailto:mmacinski@mac.com).*

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## **2023 & 2024 Programs:**

- See page 4 for the complete listing
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## November meeting Design Studio

Our November Design Studio showed off what talent and expertise we have in our club. Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella and Jim Dolce led this session. Each of our experts carefully studied the trees (Harvey caught each tree as it came through the door and did his studying in advance!) Rather than offer opinions from the get go, they usually started by asking the club member their thoughts about the tree, and then went from there. For some of the trees, the advice was in general agreement from all 3 of the leaders. Occasionally there was some controversy: did you know that a branch could be “disturbing”?!

Many thanks to Toby for bringing 2 trees that he brought last year, WITH drawings from last year so that we could see the progress. All agreed that this level of follow up and progress is very educational. The crowd was very light, we think due to the weather, which means many people missed a great opportunity to learn from masters. We hope everyone will put this on their calendars for next year to get maximum value from YOUR club dues!





## Shohin Bonsai section



Shohin Bonsai  
Variety Sargent Dwarf Crabapple

Mark Arpag acquired this tree over 30 years ago. It was created from a cutting by Bill Valavanis. Mark has been developing it for many years in a teaspoon or two of bonsai soil. When developing a young tree, especially a cutting, larger training pots are commonly used to help with more growth and faster development, even though it's not aesthetically pleasing.

#1 was its first bonsai pot. It is a quiet Green pot that harmonizes nicely with the tree and stone. The right side branch is the same length as the left side - I would shorten it.

#2 was the next pot in its yearly repotting schedule. I feel the pot was too small for the heavy mass of foliage and stone together, they overpower the pot. The length of the right and left branches is better. The pot is a quiet color again.

#3 The tree has developed a lot more foliage and has become a cascade rather than a semi-cascade. The foliage could be thinned out to create some negative spaces. The bright Blue pot is more dramatic and balances the mass of the stone and tree.

#4 The current pot is very decorative, very common with shohin bonsai and complements the stone and tree combination nicely. It works because the color of the stone is the same as the background color of the pot.

#5 I would prune the right side ranch back to highlight the front of the stone. Also prune the back branch so there is a small amount of foliage behind the stone for depth. Now there is a nice balance between all 3 elements and feels more like a Semi Cascade style and it's not crowding the pot anymore.

Harvey Carapella

*Thanks to Harvey and Mark for this extra detailed shohin bonsai presentation!*



## Holiday Party Planning

Our annual Holiday Party and Auction is a fun get together and a chance to socialize. It is also a wonderful fundraiser for our club. What should you bring to contribute to the auction? Clean out your shelves and bring your extra/unused/duplicate pots, tools and more. Trees are also welcome. Most importantly, bring your cash, checkbooks and cards and plan to do some holiday shopping. *Note: we think we have the ability to take credit cards, but sometimes it does not work well. If you can bring a backup stash of cash or your checkbook that will be helpful. We'll do our best to make it work.*

Why do we need this fundraiser? Our dues alone do not cover the cost of the Buckland Lodge (\$200 per meeting), speakers' fees and travel expenses, (and that's with our senior members' generous donations of their time and talents - many thanks to Mark, Harvey, Jim and Bill.) We also provide modest food/coffee/snack offerings. And we can't ignore our superb library which is maintained and stored by Joe Lentner, who also carefully reviews books that make sense to purchase so our members can borrow them. This fundraiser keeps us in funds to offer excellent programming throughout the year. some of it from "out of town experts".

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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: mmacinski@mac.com

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### 2023 and 2024 Programs:

- December 19 - 6:30 pm Annual Holiday Party and fundraising auction. Start sorting now and plan to donate your extra items to our fundraising auction. No gag gifts, wrap items as possible, and bring your checkbooks to help support your club.
  - January 23 - Harvey Carapella: Literati
  - February 27 - TBD
  - March 26 - Bill Valavanis Topic TBD
  - April 23 - Suthin Sukosolvisit
  - May 18 & 19 - Club Show
  - June 25 - Annual picnic and auction
  - July 23 - Bring your own tree
  - August 27 - Bring your own tree
  - September 24 - 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 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)

