

February  
2024

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# Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



## President's Message

Greetings Friends,

This month we are doing a Special Program on Cascade Bonsai featuring formal displays by Bill Valavanis, Harvey Carapella, and me! In addition to the formal displays, we will each work on a different Cascade tree and take turns sharing our thoughts on our work on these trees and answer questions. It is a unique format which we used with great success at our Special October meeting. In addition, we will each style a Dwarf Red Japanese Quince Chojubai to be raffled. The winner of the raffle will choose one of the 3 Chojubai! (Raffle funds will cover the modest cost of the tree thanks to Bill V, and the rest helps our club's coffers, so buy those tickets!) And, just like in October, we each will have a tip jar with ALL "tips" going to the Club Treasury to help support more great programs! We are working to bring back more Suiseki Study Group activities and also Shohin Study Group activities too so stay tuned!!

Mark



*Japanese Maple with historic  
Suiseki from Yuji Yoshimura  
by Bill Valavanis*



*Japanese flowering plum*



*Variiegated porcelain berry  
by Mark Arpag*



*Eastern White Cedar by  
Creighton Bostrom of North  
Carolina on stand he created.*

## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday February 27 at 7:00 p.m.  
Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella and  
Bill Valavanis will discuss and  
demonstrate Cascade style bonsai.**

Those of you who came to our October meeting and saw these three artists in action know that they need no introduction. We are so fortunate to have such experienced, talented and communicative artists as our club members. And we are extra fortunate that they are willing to share their expertise, talent and artistry with us so often.



*Magnolia tree on  
Bob Blankfield stand*

## Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park

*Our Refreshment Manager, Marti Macinski will provide snacks, coffee, and individual drinks. If you are willing to bring something to share, please email Marti at [mmacinski@mac.com](mailto:mmacinski@mac.com).*

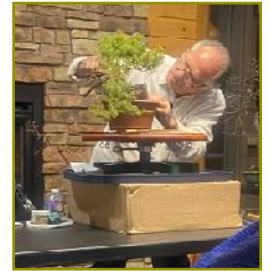
## 2024 Programs:

- February 27 - 7 pm Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella and Bill Valavanis, Cascade Bonsai
- March 26 - 7 pm Bill Valavanis, Spruce bonsai with workshop in the afternoon - limited to 10 people so sign up now!
- April 23 - 7 pm Suthin Sokosolvisit presentation, with workshop in the afternoon. Reserve now, limited to 8 people, at a price of \$150 each

*see page 4 for more dates for 2024, and  
page 2 for some more info about the  
upcoming programs*

## Winter and spring programs - super values for your membership dues!

Harvey Carapella presented the January program on Literati style Bonsai. As always, Harvey's presentation was well organized, informative, inspiring and energizing. His generous donation of the demonstration tree raised valuable funds for our club's coffers, and we all learned something that will improve at least one of our trees. Thank you Harvey!



February brings us a very special program: Mark, Harvey and Bill will present Cascade style bonsai. We were fortunate to have these gentlemen present a very special program in October, and the enthusiastic reception from Club members for that program led to this one. You won't want to miss this.

March brings back Bill Valavanis, with a program on Spruce, and a workshop in the afternoon. Don't delay in reserving your spot for the workshop!

Then in April, our featured artist is Suthin Sukosolvisit. We have not had the honor of his presence in many years, so this is quite a treat. Some background info from Suthin's website:

*Born in Thailand, Suthin has extensive experience with tropical bonsai. His expertise also includes Japanese maple, Juniper, Azalea, Black Pine and many other species.*

*Suthin has won multiple National Bonsai Awards in Thailand and the United States. He lectures all around the world and at some of the most important bonsai conventions in the United States. Suthin shares new information and techniques whenever he teaches. His Bonsai are known for their proportion, refinement and detail. He is mostly admired for his remarkable Shohin Bonsai designs.*

We are excited that Suthin will not only offer his presentation at our meeting, but during the afternoon, he will offer a workshop (you bring the tree of your choice) from 1 - 4, for a fee of \$150.00 (this money goes to the club). In addition, Suthin is also available for a private session on Wednesday, April 26, at the daily rate of \$700. This may be split between 2-3 people. This is an excellent opportunity to have one on one work with a very special bonsai artist. If you are interested in this opportunity, please speak with Bill Valavanis to coordinate. Increase your excitement about this program - connect to Suthin's website here: <https://www.suthinbonsaistudio.com/>

## SUISEKI CORNER

### ROCKY'S CORNER

Kumagawa ishi (Waterfall Stone)  
8" x 5" x 5" (displayed on antique cloth)  
Owner: Ronald C. Maggio III, USA  
Previous Owner: Wil Lautenschlager, Japan  
Recently shown at:  
- 2023 10th Nippon Suiseki Association  
Exhibition (Japan)  
- 2023 U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition  
(Rochester, N.Y.)  
- - - Ron Maggio



## 2024 Dues Renewal Notice and Membership News - LAST CALL!

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.

Membership dues for the 2024 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.

Our current policy states that annual membership dues are due during the month of January, therefore not later than 1/31/2024 for membership through the end of 2024.

Annual dues are now \$50, both for an individual and for a family.

Please note that all news and announcements, including the Billboard, are provided only via email. If you have questions about your membership, please send those questions to: [diane.koretz@gmail.com](mailto:diane.koretz@gmail.com)

Thank you, Diane Koretz, Treasurer

BSUNY Dues and Membership form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make payable to and mail your check to:

Bonsai Society of Upstate NY, Inc.  
PO Box 92215, Rochester, NY 14692

Membership \$50.00

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

2023 saw our Club expand. These are our new members - please look for them and welcome them at Club meetings.

James Chin  
Alicja Cygan  
Miguel Cortes  
David Dennstedt  
Andrew Hayes  
Breann Coffaro  
Jeff, Alyssa, Colden, Makayla, Porter Klein  
James & Margaret Murdock  
William Pellett  
James Roger  
Duncan & Patricia Romans  
Jeremy Sargent  
Kevin & Laura Turley  
Susan Wall  
Rachel Osinga

### Member opportunities and value:

Club meetings, obviously, provide membership value. And with expert bonsai artists as speakers, that is no small value at all. But there's more! You also have opportunities for workshops, as in March and April, where you receive more individualized attention to your trees from a very experienced bonsai artist. Our club library can save you literally hundreds of dollars as you can borrow books and magazines that have been carefully curated by Joe Lentner, with lots of input from our Board members. The Club show provides the opportunity to show off your hard work to friends, family and more. An annual tanseki (suiseki gathering walk) in a hidden location helps you refine your appreciation of viewing stones.

In addition, there are opportunities to travel for bonsai appreciation and education, not just Bill's tours to Japan, but also here in the U.S. An ABS learning seminar in Michigan May 9 - 12 offers a wealth of information and collegiality - find the link here: <https://www.americanbonsaisociety.org/abs-learning-seminars/>. And the St. Louis Convention on May 3 - 5, is yet another such opportunity to learn and grow in your artistry - find that link here: <https://bonsai-central.com/>

It takes quite a few people to keep this club "happening", and we want you to get involved. Here are some of the opportunities that might enrich your bonsai appreciation while spreading the club work over many hands. You can volunteer to help organize and set up the Club show, you can volunteer to work on the web site, you can volunteer to work on a committee to beef up our Shohin Bonsai and Suiseki Study groups, you can help John Wiessinger organize and set up our display at the Hungerford December First Friday program. If any of these appeal to you, please email Mark Arpag, [presidentbsuny@gmail.com](mailto:presidentbsuny@gmail.com). We need your talents!

## SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety Chinese Lantern Plant:

The flowers and seed pod together resemble a Lantern. The top photo shows the original tree, I feel it is potted too high in the pot. The surface roots at the base of the tree have a very vertical feeling to them and that is accented too much when it is also potted so high in the pot. The bottom photo has it lower in the pot creating a better relationship between the tree and the pot. Visually it also makes for a better looking Semi Cascade style tree, because the lowest flower is extending down to the bottom edge of the pot. Blue and Orange are a Direct Complementary color combination, in this case the Blue and Magenta flowers are a Split Complementary color combination that also makes for a dramatic looking tree.

Harvey Carapella

## BSUNY Community Outreach

A quick reminder that we have a “user-friendly” presentation available for any BSUNY member to provide a talk at garden clubs, nature-oriented organizations, or any interested group. This past October, the Osher group at RIT received a bonsai presentation and presently, we have talks lined up for the Henrietta Garden Club in April, and the Geneseo Garden Club in October. If you know of any organization that might be interested in hearing about bonsai, please let John Wiessinger know at [natureetours@gmail.com](mailto:natureetours@gmail.com)

**Billboard** is brought to you by:

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Contributors: Mark Arpag, Bill Valavanis, Marti & Tom Macinski, Harvey Carapella, John Wiessinger, Ron Maggio

Please submit any ideas for the Billboard to Marti & Tom. If you have ideas for the BillBoard, please email Marti & Tom: [mmacinski@mac.com](mailto:mmacinski@mac.com)

### 2024 Program dates:

- May 19 - 9 - 5 Club Show at Golisano Autism Center
- May 18 & 19 - IBA Spring Open House
- June 25- 7 pm Club Picnic and Auction
- July 23 - 7 pm Field Trip TBD
- August 27 - 7 pm Bring your own Tree
- September 7 & 8 - IBA Fall Open House with Suiseki exhibit by club members
- September 24 - 7 pm TBD