

January
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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



Next Meeting

**Tuesday, January 28, 2025
at 7:00 pm**



This is a wonderful opportunity for our members to hear from and watch one of our founding members. Harvey Carapella has been a Bonsai hobbyist since 1979 (46 years!) Harvey will present a Lecture on Balance, Color and Perspective in Bonsai. Harvey was an Assistant Professor at RIT for 45 years teaching Basic Design and Basic Drawing, so we will enjoy a very polished and professional presentation. In addition to his professorship, Harvey has been a Freelance Graphic Designer/Illustrator at RIT for 36 years. He is also a past president of this club for over 20 years, a Nationally recognized award winning Bonsai artist and the Art Director and Designer of International Bonsai Magazine. You don't want to miss this!

Harvey gives us an overview of his talk:

In my Shohin Bonsai comments, I often use the term Balance and refer to Color relationships between pot, tree, fruit and flowers. Of all the elements of Design, Balance is the one that has the most application to bonsai design and can help in determining, for example, how much to prune, where to prune, tree to pot proportions etc.

The second presentation and also an element of design, is Color. In many cases we use it based on our feelings, what we like and don't like, but don't really understand why the color combinations we picked work together, or don't work together to give us the effect we are after.

If time permits, a 3rd presentation Perspective in Bonsai, how to create the illusion of space and distance in a small area, like our pots for group plantings. Hopefully these presentations will give some insights and help in creating and improving the quality of your Bonsai.



Harvey at work at his January presentation to the club last year. Always a treat!

Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park

Our Refreshment Manager, Marti Macinski will provide coffee, and individual drinks. Please start the new year right and email Marti at mmacinski@mac.com to let her know you will bring something.

2025 Programs:

- January 28 - 7 pm Balance, Color and Perspective in Bonsai, Harvey Carapella

See dates with more info on page 4

From our President

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Last year was the year of the Dragon, this year the Year of the snake. No matter, focus on your trees and it will be alright!

A reminder that your cold storage trees can suffer or die if they get too dry! I like to “water” with light fluffy snow if possible but will also pack a handful of heavy snow if that is what’s available. Last winter I mostly hand watered with a watering can with a long thin neck but it takes a very long time. Also remember to check for any sign of rodents and act swiftly to eliminate the threat.

On another note, studying photos of your own trees can be helpful in learning what can improve and make notes on each tree and also assess the current pot and potting position. Another reminder, you have one of the largest Club Bonsai Libraries in the country at your disposal, plan to take out a book or two. Often you will find a tree that reminds you of one of yours but see Ideas you can use to elevate your own Bonsai!

We have a new Shohin Study Group Leader who I will announce at the January meeting and I am excited to see the group get active again!

Also remember we change our membership year so dues are NOW Due.

Mark

Forest Fantasy composition featuring ceramic Birch log with Valavanis Dwarf Cypress, Dwarf creeping potentilla and Eastern White Cedar. This unique sculpture container was created by Eric Serritella and was completed 2 days before it was displayed. The planting selection & design was completed by me only hours before it was exhibited along with a companion planting on a ceramic Birch creation by Eric with Wintergreen & Friends. This wonderful collaboration was captured by Joe Noga whose dedication to perfection in photography is unsurpassed. I am grateful!



Winter Silhouette Bonsai Exhibition 2024
Sasanqua Camelia Shishigashira trained from nursery stock for almost 35 years.
Wonderful portrait by Joe Noga of my sweet Tree!



Larch Bonsai the Little Dragon in a Dragon pot.
No, there will not be a Little Snake in a snake pot!

Holiday Party a big success - AND a reminder about ongoing silent auctions



Auctioneer Jason Henderberg maximized the auction sales while entertaining us all.

We definitely put the “FUN” in this Fundraising event! First, the food. This group is over the top in sharing special delectable delights. We devoured the shrimp, licked clean many plates of appetizers, gorged on tenderloin sandwiches and still had room for LOTS of dessert! While consuming all this food, we shared stories - happy and sad - about our bonsai trees, and welcomed some new members.

We heard from Bill Valavanis about his travels, with some interesting new side trips instigated by Diane.

And then we got down to work. Our fearless auctioneer cajoled and teased more money out of everyone, and everyone went home happy. Some with more bonsai treats, some with a cleaner cellar after sharing their contributions, and the club came out to the good by over \$1,000! A very good night for BSUNY.

So now we'll go back to the silent auction format at each club meeting, as a small fundraiser in addition to our raffles.

Bring your donated items and set them up on perimeter tables. We will have bid sheets and you can list the item and the minimum bid you are willing to accept. Keep in mind, the sale price will go to the club, but we still want to have minimum bids so people have to invest something. If the minimum bid is not met, you will take the item home.

Bids will be open from the beginning of the meeting until the break, and then the final price will be called and the purchaser will pay the club. We are hoping this will supplement the raffle as a fundraiser. While the raffle raises money for the club, there is usually a cost involved for the raffle tree, so the net to the club is not as much as it appears.

2025 Dues Renewal Notice and Membership News

Membership dues for the 2025 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 1/31/2025 for membership through the end of 2025.

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

Thank you, Diane Koretz, Treasurer Please make payable to and mail your check to the address below.

BSUNY Dues and Membership form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Bonsai Society of Upstate NY, Inc

PO Box 92215, Rochester, NY 14692

Membership \$50.00

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Pyracantha

A powerful little Semi Cascade tree with a powerful twisting trunk. It is a Semi Cascade, because the Apex extends out beyond the rootball and the horizontal branch does not drop below the upper lip of the pot. This is Fall, so the Red berries are the Focal Point, in Spring the Focal Point will be the small White flowers. The White flowers will also complement the White background of the ornate pot. The tree is potted dead center, which it should be, because it is in a symmetrical round pot. The only problem is the one leg in front, I prefer to see two legs for better stability, but when there is a feature on the surface of the pot it can be difficult to use the two legs and have the feature in the best location.

Shohin Study Group is alive again!

Stay tuned at the January meeting for an important announcement about our newly invigorated Shohin Study Group. And if you are interested in being a part of this effort, please let Mark Arpag know.

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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

2025 Program dates:

- February 25 - 7 pm, John Romano TBD
 - March 25 - 7 pm, Surprise, Bill Valavanis
 - April 22 - 7 pm TBD
 - May 18 - all day, Club Show
 - June 24 - 6 pm, Club picnic and Auction
 - July 22 - 6 pm, Field Trip, Oriental Garden Supply
 - August 26 - 7 pm, Bring your own tree
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