

January
2026

Volume 57
Number 12

Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends,

It's been a wild start to our winter but I am very pleased we have snow! For our Bonsai, it's the way I "water" my Trees in cold storage so it's like automatic watering. When things warm up the snow starts to melt giving them a a drink on demand just when they need a wee sip or two. As our time away from most of our Bonsai is happening now is a great opportunity to study Bonsai books & Exhibition Albums especially Kokufuten albums. This year is the 100th Anniversary of this prestigious show and several of our members will be there to celebrate. I look forward to many photos and Blog Posts from Bionic Bills Blog which are always unmatched as well as many others doing their best. Our Holiday party was a great success with wonderful food thanks to Marti & Members and of course Bill's Slide show is always the highlight. This year we also raised money and had a spirited auction that sent our friends home with many new treasures. Thank you to all who donated, bid and bought we are Grateful for all of supporting the cause!

Sean Smith kicks off the year and we are fortunate to have this gifted Artist for our evening program, guest appearance for the Suiseki Study Group and an afternoon workshop! Next Month is the Year of the Fire Horse and we Horses are chomping at the bit so be ready! ——Mark



Tokyo Museum of Art display



Louise Leister's display with Cardinal scroll



Sakakuten Award winning tree with rising sun scroll

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 pm

Sean Smith: All about Scrolls

Start the year with a very informative, (and, knowing Sean Smith, very entertaining) program on scrolls, with many beautiful examples to view. While your trees are away for the winter, we'll use this time to learn about an important part of the display of bonsai for exhibitions, and in our homes. You won't want to miss this.

And an added bonus is the afternoon workshop! For \$125, you will get all supplies, 2 scrolls each, 3 brush's, ink well, ink, watercolor, practice rice paper and expert instruction

Each person will create 2 scrolls. Seats at this workshop are limited, so reserve now with treasurer Diane Koretz: Diane.Koretz@gmail.com. The workshop will also be at the Lodge.

Before the meeting, at 6 pm, the Suiseki Study Group will meet. Bring a stone for a discussion about the use of Suiseki with bonsai in a display.

Buckland Lodge at Brighton Town Park

Refreshment Manager, Marti Macinski will provide shrimp, coffee, and individual drinks. If you are willing to bring something to share, please email Marti at mmacinski@mac.com.

2026 Programs:

- January 27 - 7 pm Sean Smith: All about Scrolls
6 pm Suiseki Study Group - see above
- January 27 - 12 - 4 pm Sean Smith, make your own scrolls workshop, \$125, register with treasurer Diane Koretz - see above

See page 4 for dates and programs into 2026

Suiseki Corner

The Suiseki Study group will kick off the year with a Study Group session at 6 pm, before the regular meeting. Members are invited to bring a stone for a discussion about the use of Suiseki with Bonsai in displays.

Those in attendance will also discuss Suiseki study group activities for the 2026 year. To inspire a repeat of the traditional Tanseki, here's a picture from last year's Tanseki walk.

All members are welcome to participate in all Suiseki Study group meetings and activities.



December Holiday party and Auction a success! Now, back to silent auction



Once again, our annual Fundraising event was lots of FUN! Shrimp and more for appetizers, lots of desserts, and Mark's now famous punch.

We heard from Bill Valavanis about his travels, with pictures and pictures and pictures.

And then we got down to work. Our fearless auctioneer (many thanks to Jason Henderberg) 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 almost \$1,500! A very good night for BSUNY.

Now it's 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 for you to 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. Everyone wins!

Help wanted - open position

Are you ready to become more involved in the club by taking on some responsibility? We need you! Marti Macinski has been our refreshment coordinator for the past few years, and is ready to let someone else take over. Email Marti to ask questions and get more information. Please consider taking this on after June 2026! mmacinski@mac.com

Bonsai and Suiseki events around and about

Every year, Bill, Mark and many others find it difficult to stay home, and go trekking across the country in search of additional Bonsai knowledge and camaraderie. Going to other club events and exhibitions is an excellent way to learn something new, gain a new perspective and meet like minded Bonsai folks.

- Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Bonsai Festival, April 17 - 19 2026
Holiday Inn Harrisburg (Hershey) www.midatlanticbonsai.org
- 2026 Meijer Gardens MI All State Bonsai Show, May 9 - 10, 2026
Grand Rapids, MI - more information to come as Bill learns it
- Longwood Gardens Bonsai Exhibition, Auction and Sale, June 24 - 29, 2026
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA
- 2026 Michiana Bonsai Show, September 19 - 20, 2026
Wellfield Botanic Garden, Elkhart IN www.michianabonsai.club
- Fall Fruit & Foliage Bonsai Exhibition, October 17 & 18, 2026
Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton, MI

All of these events offer incredible opportunities to learn, purchase, network and more.

2026 Dues Renewal Notice and Membership News

Membership dues for the 2026 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 1/31/2026 for membership through the end of 2026.

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 the address below.

BSUNY Dues and Membership form

Name: _____

Bonsai Society of Upstate NY, Inc

Address: _____

PO Box 92215, Rochester, NY 14692

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Membership \$50.00

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership \$50.00

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Japanese Flowering Apricot

It's a Mame size Shohin bonsai or "Bean Size". Style wise, it's a Semi Cascade. Which is the Focal Point, the flowers or the great little textured pot? Usually it would be the flowers, but this pot is so eye catching it is demanding your attention, so I would say it is the Focal Point. I wish it was potted in the center of the round pot, but more than likely the roots probably wouldn't cooperate. The White background of the pot harmonizes nicely with the White flowers. They balance each other, the eye moves back and forth between the two White elements, which creates an overall visual connection between them. —— 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:
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2026 Program dates:

- February 24 7 pm - TBD
6 pm, Shohin Bonsai study group, presentation by Toby Ziegler on air layering
- March 24 7 pm - Bill Valavanis TBD
- April 28 7 pm - Andrew Robson
- May 16 & 17 TBD times, Club Show
- June 23- 6 pm Club picnic @ Auction
- July 28- TBD, summer outing
- August 25- Bring your own tree