

January
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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



President's Message

Happy New Year 🐉

The Year of the Dragon is starting out with a Literati Bonsai Program by Harvey Carapella. For those who love Literati Bonsai, as I do, this program is one you do not want to miss! For those that don't "get" Literati and want to try to understand what the fuss is about it is a can't miss opportunity!

Dues are DUE this month, as a reminder we changed the due date from September to January a few years ago. Over the years we have worked hard to provide many opportunities to not only improve your Trees but to continue to enjoy Suiseki, Shohin, Kusamono and display. You have access to an absolutely amazing Library and you can request any book you like on any area of interest. We also have ramped up workshops and travel opportunities as well. This year the Board is looking to increase your participation as we continue Project Involved. The idea behind Project Involved is simple, everyone has talents and interests and we would like to see everyone participate and contribute as it is your Club! There is a greater satisfaction and feeling of ownership when you help out even in the simplest or smallest way. Your Club needs YOU!

In addition to our meetings, programs and workshops a few of our members are involved in promoting Bonsai and interest in our Club with programs to Osher Learning, garden Clubs and community programs. Look for opportunities to support these efforts. At our January meeting I will mention several opportunities to help support our Missions and I hope you will consider joining in the fun! - Mark



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Harvey Carapella will discuss and demonstrate Literati Style Bonsai



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 (45 years!) Harvey will present a Lecture on Literati Style Bonsai, and

then will work on a Dwarf Garden Juniper, which will be raffled off. And because Harvey has taught for many years (Assistant Professor at RIT for 45 years teaching Basic Design and Basic Drawing) there is pre-"homework" in the form of a handout that will accompany the email forwarding this Billboard. 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!

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.

2024 Programs:

- January 23 - 7 pm Harvey Carapella program on Literati style Bonsai
- 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

see page 4 for more dates for 2024, and page 3 for some more info about the upcoming programs

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

Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella, and Bill Valavanis - these are our very own artists in residence. Other clubs pay them as featured speakers. We are so fortunate to have them donate their time and talents to provide special programming to our club members, and we need to make sure to thank them at every opportunity. These three are in the lineup for the winter and early spring programs. Make sure you come to these meetings to learn from the masters. In addition to their presentations as listed on page 1, Bill Valavanis will offer a Spruce workshop in the afternoon before the March meeting. Space is limited, and the fee will be ever so reasonable, so don't delay and reserve your spot now.

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/>

LIBRARY UPDATE

Our collection is always available to members in good standing. We have books and videos that span a wide spectrum of interests, including topics in Bonsai, Suiseki, Japanese gardens, display and even propagation. One of the most overlooked section of our library is the collection of catalogs from Japanese exhibitions. The catalogs contain pictures of many masterpiece Bonsai which can inspire our tree development just as viewing the Old Masters inspire developing painters. Additionally we also have an extensive collection of magazines including the publications of BCI, ABS and International Bonsai. If there is a topic of interest we may have what you need. We are presently adding new books so if you have any suggestions let me know. Before we add new material we will continue to check its validity so we don't include misleading material.

Speaking of misleading, there are a lot of people who rely on the internet for their information. Be sure you check the dependability of the authors or the posters. Also research where the information is from. Are they in a similar climate or even in the same hemisphere? Anyone can post but anecdotal postings may not be very dependable. If you find a good site I'd appreciate you sharing it and it will be checked out for its worth. In the mean time as a Media Center I can recommend for your viewing - YouTube video, "Great Scot! My BIGGEST Bonsai Yet" done by Bonsai Releaf. Although he's in the UK the presentation is great. - Joe Lentner, BSUNY Librarian

2024 Dues Renewal Notice and Membership News

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

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. There are several 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. We need your talents!

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



NOT A SHOHIN BONSAI, BUT AN IMPORTANT COMMENT ON BONSAI BALANCE & DESIGN:

The original bonsai tree in the photo on the left has a small Apex extending way out to the left. Its position is isolating itself away from the main tree. It doesn't feel visually a part of the main tree, because it is creating an unbalanced feeling to the overall tree. It draws your eye away from the main tree's composition. The tree in the photo on the Right has removed the original Apex, now it's a beautifully balanced tree between the positive and negative space. Your eye can now appreciate the dramatic movement of the thin trunk and its relationship to the minimal amount of foliage creating an excellent example of a Literati styled bonsai.

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

Billboard is brought to you by:

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Contributors: Mark Arpag, Bill Valavanis, Marti & Tom Macinski, Harvey Carapella, John Wiessinger, Joe Lentner

Please submit any ideas for the Billboard to Marti & Tom. If you have ideas for the Billboard, please email Marti & Tom: mmacinski@mac.com

2024 Program dates:

- April 23 - 7 pm Suthin Sokosolvisit presentation, with workshop in the afternoon. Reserve now, limited to 8 people, at a price of \$150 each
- 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 Bring your own tree
- July ?? TBD Field Trip
- 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