

July  
2025

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# Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



## From our President

Greetings Friends,

Wonderful turn out, meal, and auction!  
Many went home either real treasures  
and/or excellent prices!

This month is full on Bonsai, make sure  
you keep up with water, fertilizer and  
pruning.

It's already the MIDDLE of July and the  
9th US National Bonsai Exhibition is  
hurdling towards us at lightening speed! I  
will still make time for a couple Suiseki  
trips, a Field Trip AND an open workshop  
in August!

Got to run and catch some sun and more  
work on my trees, enjoy our fleeting  
summer while you can.

Mark



## Summer Outing

**Tuesday, July 22**  
**6:00 pm - Field Trip to**  
**Oriental Garden Supply**

Every summer we travel as a club to a local  
garden spot. Most of our members like to find  
sources for bonsai material, as well as plants for  
our often extensive gardens. This is a great  
opportunity. Oriental Garden Supply is under  
new ownership, and we look forward to new  
owner Rob Koschnic showing us what he has  
done.

Here's a bit from Rob's website, and you can  
read more at [www.orientalgardensupply.com](http://www.orientalgardensupply.com):

*Rob holds degrees in Building Trades Building  
Construction and Horticulture Design and Install;  
both from Alfred State College. His 20 plus years  
of landscaping experience have exposed him to  
numerous designs, site characteristics,  
maintenance requirements, and overall needs of  
both the homeowner and the plants.*

We will meet at Oriental Garden Supply at 6 pm,  
and tour the gardens.

Bring your own drink, snacks or supplies if you  
need them. This should be a fun and informative  
tour, and will provide you with lots of ideas for  
expanding your garden and bringing in some  
new trees!

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## 2025 Programs:

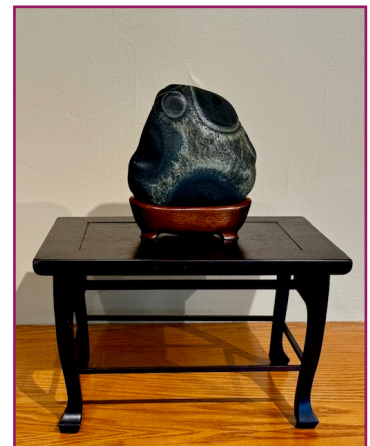
- July 22 6 pm - Club outing, meet at Oriental Garden Supply
  - See dates with more info on page 4
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## Suiseki Corner and Suiseki Study Group

Our Suiseki Study Group, newly invigorated just a year ago - which is open to all Club members - is keeping the enthusiasm high in 2025.

- The Suiseki study group met on Saturday, June 14 at 1 pm, at Bob Blankfield's home. Members brought stones and shared stories about their stone, as well as stories about collecting the stone.
- The group will meet again on Saturday, July 26, at 1 pm, at Les Allen's home in Erie, PA. Pictures of several of Les' stones he has collected over the years are below. This should be a most informative and inspiring event.
- This year's Tanseki walk will be on August 9 at 10 am. When you sign up to participate you will be given the directions to the location. We always follow this fun event with lunch (dutch treat) and discussion. This is a very special event, with camaraderie, shared expertise on suiseki and collecting, and a lovely day outside in the heart of our beautiful Finger Lakes. To sign up, send an email to President Mark Arpag: [bsunypresident@gmail.com](mailto:bsunypresident@gmail.com), and you will receive confirmation of your participation and directions to the site. Plan to wear shoes that are safe and comfortable in a stream, and bring bags/backpack for stones, walking stick(s) as needed, water to drink, and a towel and shoes to change into after the walk.
- During the US National Exhibition, on Sunday, September 14, Les Allen will lead a guided tour of the Suiseki portion of the exhibit, with a discussion of the stones and their stories.

The Suiseki Study Group is a wonderful addition to our club as it expands our appreciation of another aspect of the Bonsai world. Consider joining this special group.



## Club Picnic and Auction -a very big success

Many eager members showed up for outside sales, even though the day was HOT! We all shared stories of our bonsai and suiseki, commiserated about the heat and the difficulty of keeping trees cool and watered, and generally discussed their bonsai summer work. Everyone shared LOTS of snacks, from shrimp, to chips and dip, to salads, to veggies and dip, to watermelon (a BIG hit in the heat!) and more. We decided it wasn't going to cool down, so we started dinner a bit early. Again, LOTS of food, but everyone did a good job of digging in and making it disappear.

And then, on to the auction. An amazing variety of items were available, and auctioneer Joe Moore did a great job of keeping the bidding moving upward, added some humor, helped Diane and Deb keep track of what happened, and raised the prices. At the end of the auction, the club coffers are about \$2,000 better than before, and everyone went home happy.

Thanks to all for donating items for the auction, for bidding early and often, for bringing delicious food to share, and for supporting our very special Bonsai Society!



## 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 America Bonsai Exhibition August 15 - 17, 2025  
Location: Chicago Botanic Garden [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)
- American Bonsai Society Learning Seminars September 12 and 13, 2025  
In Association with 9th US National Bonsai Exhibition Double Tree, Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY
- 9th US National Bonsai Exhibition September 13 and 14, 2025  
Total Sports Experience, East Rochester, NY  
Tickets and more now available on Bill's web site:  
[www.internationalbonsai.com](http://www.internationalbonsai.com)
- Winter Silhouette Bonsai Exhibition, December 6 & 7, 2025  
Kannapolis, NC

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



## SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Chinese Elm

Developing a Mame size Shohin bonsai, start with a tapered trunk with a heavy base and cut it back drastically to force back budding. The back budding will become new branches, which will grow and be cut back drastically again and again to become secondary branches. This technique will be performed over and over again until a dense pattern of branches is created. Even though this pot is small it is oversized for the size of the tree to supply it with extra nutrients for dense branch production.

Harvey Carapella

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### 2025 Program dates:

- July 26 - 1 pm, Suiseki Study group, Les Allen home in Erie, PA
  - August 26, 7 pm, Bring your own tree
  - September 15 - 7 pm Toru Suzuki, speaker from the US National Exhibition *Note the date change to fit with the schedule of the US National.*
  - October 28 - 7 pm TBD
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