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Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



From our President

Greetings Friends!

I am so grateful for all the teamwork from our members in making our 52nd Annual Bonsai Exhibition and Sale a great success! Originally we were promised a full two day show with set up on Friday evening but due to an unexpected health issue we instead crammed it all into a very compressed time frame and everyone pitched in to pull it off!! I would especially like to thank Marti and Tom for handling the Wine and Cheese reception, Joe Noga for his incredible dedication driving with a U-Haul trailer from North Carolina and his helper's Debbie, Nick, Toby and Tom F. John Wessinger with the education table, Diane K. with the admissions and raffles and Alan with the vendors. Toby did a great job organizing and setting up the Shohin Study group display and getting the table cloths to the venue. Thanks to Teresia and Carbones for the most delicious pizza pies! Thanks to all who took the time to prepare and display Bonsai and Suiseki especially Les and Harry who drove 3 hours each way to be part of it!

The set up was great and the support in take down way excellent and at the end of a long weekend was so appreciated. A special thank you to the entire Executive Board only through your dedication and leadership could our Club do what it does!

Next up our Club Picnic, Sale and Auction!

This is a great opportunity to enjoy some good food and socialize while supporting the Club and perhaps selling, buying or donating Bonsai and Suiseki related items! Last year there was very special auction item won by Tom Macinski look for another different but unique similar offering!

It's been a late spring and I am still behind so I need to get back to my trees!

- - - Mark

Club Picnic and Auction

Tuesday, June 24

5:30 pm - Sales outside before dinner

6:30 pm - appetizers, including Shrimp

7:00 pm - dinner: pulled pork and BBQ

**chicken from Colby's, with dishes to
pass provided by club members**

7:30 pm - Auction begins

There is always a bit of confusion about our Picnic and Auction, with so many moving parts. Here's the time line, with more info about the auction on page 2.

5:30 pm - those of you who want to sell items directly to other club members are welcome to set up a table (which you must bring) outside. Please respect the club for providing you with this opportunity, and give 10% of your proceeds to the club, to Diane Koretz, Treasurer. Any items that don't sell, you are welcome to put into the auction. Items sold at the auction will be paid for to the club, and then the club will send you a check for 80% of the proceeds (unless you choose, as many do, to donate 100% to the club.)

6:30 pm- we'll start appetizers, with the club providing shrimp, as usual. Please bring a dish to pass: either an appetizer, a side dish, or a dessert.

7:00 pm - we'll get dinner going. The main course is pulled pork and BBQ chicken from Colby's, provided by the club, with sides from all of you!

7:30 pm - we'll start the auction, so please register your items before you dig into the shrimp! Also get your bidder number so you can get yourself some really special bonsai items.

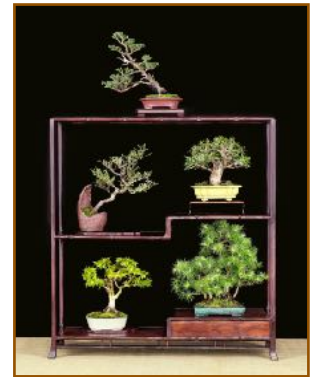
Read more about auction items on page 2.

2025 Programs:

- June 24 6 pm - Club picnic and Auction
 - See dates with more info on page 4
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Club Show - a BIG success!!!

Many hands made light work - setting up the biggest ever BSUNY Club show. Over 80 trees were displayed, several vendors offered a variety of bonsai and bonsai related stuff, the Shohin Study Group display was a new feature, the Suiseki Study Group showed off some very cool stones, and formal and informal demonstrations were enthusiastically received. Many, many, many thanks to Joe Noga for taking professional photos of the members' trees. Some of those are included here to the right (with the dark background). Thanks to Bill, Tom, and Jason for pictures from the show.



Suiseki Corner and Suiseki Study Group

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

The Suiseki study group will meet on Saturday, June 14 at 1 pm, at Bob Blankfield's home. Members are encouraged to bring a stone, and share their story about the stone.

The group will meet again on Saturday, July 26, at 1 pm, at Les Allen's home in Erie, PA.

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. Email sign up will be announced in July. 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.

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.

Club Picnic and Auction - things to know

How does the Club picnic, Auction and Yard Sale work? A bit of a refresher for members old and new. First, find your extras and bring them: pots, trees, books, magazines, all Bonsai related. Clean them up, look them over and see the section below about anything that is of higher value.

Bring your things to Buckland Lodge on June 24. To sell items directly, bring a table and set up outside the Lodge any time from about 5:30 on until the auction starts, about 7:30.

Register as a seller at the auction with treasurer Diane Koretz, and also get a bidder number. The proceeds from the auction items will be paid to the club, and then Diane will send you the sale amount less 20%. You MAY volunteer that the entire proceeds stay with the Club - do that when you register.

Use your bidder number at the auction to get yourself some new bonsai items AND support your club!

NEW LAST YEAR, and it worked, so repeating this year! In acknowledging feedback from prior years' auctions, we've noted people saying "I love the auction, but I wish, . . ." Sellers have said "I have a really nice tree or a special high quality pot I'd love to sell but I don't want to have to let it go for a fraction of its worth!" And potential buyers have said "I already have a handful of young trees in early development but I'd love to have a chance to buy a tree that's already well-developed, and for a fair price!" Is this possible?? This seemed to work last year, so here we go again . . .

With this year's picnic just a few weeks away, we'll allow sellers to place a reserve price on select items, with a reasonable expectation that the eventual auction price would achieve that reserve price or more. Such a "reserve" status will be allowed on items reasonably expected to sell for \$300 and above.

Sellers wishing to utilize this reserve bidding process will need to meet with the auctioneer and another Board member before the auction (maybe over a bite of shrimp or two!) to mutually agree on a fair reserve price for their item(s). Sellers are still welcome to use our traditional "yard sale" style market outside the lodge entrance prior to the picnic and auction. What is left unsold by picnic time is (as always) more than welcome to be included in the auction sale.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER AS A SELLER AT THE AUCTION TABLE SO THAT YOUR ITEMS CAN BE TRACKED AND TO ALLOW YOUR BEING PAID APPROPRIATELY.

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.

- Buffalo Bonsai Society Club Show June 7 & 8, 2025
At Buffalo-and Erie County Botanical Gardens see www.buffalobonsaisociety.com
- Sean Smith Open House June 7 & 8, 2025 Marysville, PA
- Saratoga Bonsai Club Show June 14 & 15, 2025 Saratoga, NY
- Mid America Bonsai Exhibition August 15 - 17, 2025
Location: Chicago Botanic Garden 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

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

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



A historic Shohin Bonsai Japanese Maple

The original tree is on the top. It's being developed as an Informal Upright, but I feel the foliage and branching growing upward and to the left is moving the eye away from the Informal Upright shape. It's creating an openness to the lower half of the tree and visually cutting it in half. My suggestions are in the bottom photo, a combination of pruning back and wiring the upper branches downward creating a more compact tree. With these corrections I feel the tree works as one now and doesn't feel like it is being cut in half visually. The foliage is no longer all at the top, but has a better distribution and balance creating a smaller tree and a more convincing Informal Upright. — **Harvey Carapella**

This famous shohin bonsai has been container grown for about 130 years. I was fortunate to add it to my collection in 1985 and it has been displayed around the country. Harvey's two photos are from 1973. Below is a more recent photo. Check out the development on the next page. — **Bill Valavanis**



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2025 Program dates:

- July 22 - 6 pm, Field Trip, Oriental Garden Supply
- August 26, 7 pm, Bring your own tree
- October 28, 7 pm TBD
- 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.

This extra page relates to the Shohin article on page 4 - many thanks to Harvey and Bill for this expanded coverage of this month's Shohin bonsai.

Development Of A Japanese Maple From The Matsudaira Shohin Bonsai Collection

I obtained this shohin Japanese bonsai from the Matsudaira Shohin Bonsai Collection in February 1985, but could not afford the unglazed round shallow container. This bonsai has been turned around several times in its 128 years of training. I was acting as a "curator" trying to maintain the original design when purchased. In 2005 I decided to change the design and added several branches by inarch grafting. As can be noticed my new design is very similar to the original design by the Matsudairas as seen in 1973. It was displayed in the 1957 and 1974 Kokufu Bonsai Exhibitions.

