

March
2026

Volume 58
Number 2

Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY

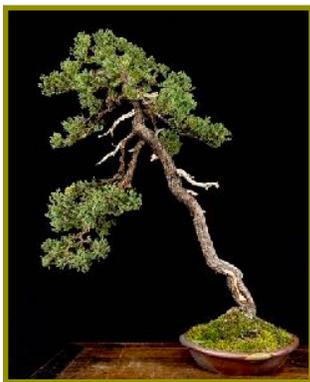


From our President

Greetings Friends,

After several months away from most of my trees it feels good to start working again! This is a time when we need to carefully consider after care or pay a steep price. Root work or major bends require extra protection as temperatures fluctuate dramatically and also water needs to be tended with extra care. Planning your priorities for this season and the order they should be done is most important so windows of opportunity don't close. Our Club Show is now but 2 months away so it's not too soon to start preparing yours trees AND your displays as well. More details coming soon. We always look forward to Bills programs & workshops and also the opportunities at the International Bonsai Arboretum. I strongly encourage you to patronize International Bonsai for all you Bonsai needs as well. We are due to hold elections and since I have not heard anyone suggesting they will step down, be ready to re elect your current Board or if you want to challenge let Tom Macinski know before the March meeting.

— — -Mark



Literati Display - Rick Marriott tree, used for Club Show poster

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm
Sargent Juniper Bonsai
Lecture and Demo

It is always a pleasure to welcome Bill Valavanis as our speaker. Bill gives so much to our club, offering his expertise as well as superb plant material. Bill will show many cultivars of Sargent Junipers, and will discuss their care and training techniques. After a short presentation he will demonstrate on one of the workshop trees.

Speaking of workshop trees, in the afternoon Bill will offer a workshop on Itoigawa Sargent Juniper Bonsai Creation. The workshop will run from 1 - 4, at the International Bonsai Arboretum. Make reservations for one of the limited seats at this workshop by email to Treasurer Diane Koretz: Diane.Koretz@gmail.com. The cost is \$125, which includes a tree.

Before the meeting, at 6 pm, the Suiseki Study Group will meet. Bob Blankfield and Tom Macinski will show a method for setting up Daizas. see page 3 for more.

Don't forget to bring your small items (\$100 or less value) for the silent auction. All proceeds benefit the club, and you can clean out duplicates!

Buckland Lodge at
Brighton Town Park

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

2026 Programs:

- March 24 - 7 pm Bill Valavanis, Sargent Juniper Bonsai, lecture and demonstration
1 pm at IBA Itoigawa Sargent Juniper Bonsai workshop, see above to register
6 pm Suiseki Study Group - see above & p. 3

See page 4 for dates and programs into 2026

February Program - Shohin study group, Literati display and demos



Well, our club certainly packs a lot into one meeting.

Actually, before the meeting, but with probably almost everyone there, Toby Ziegler offered a presentation on air layering. This valuable technique can help you clean up an extra branch on one of your trees, AND as added compensation, you get a ready-to-go shohin bonsai tree! What's not to like?! The process is mystifying to many, but Toby's presentation should help everyone feel a bit more comfortable trying to do this. Thanks much, Toby!



The regular meeting focused on Literati. Bob Blankfield, Mark Arpag and Jim Dolce all offered trees, commentary and insight into this very important aspect of Bonsai Art. Bill could not participate due to illness, but had spent a lot of time preparing, and sent pictures to include in this Billboard. Thanks to all!



Suiseki Corner - study group in March and more

The Suiseki Study group will continue its activity before the March meeting with a Study Group session at 6 pm, before the regular meeting. Bob Blankfield and Tom Macinski will demonstrate Dave Bennet's technique for making Daizas. Bring a Suiseki, a Daiza and/or Suiban.

More Suiseki activities for the year include:

- May 17 - members display Suiseki at Club Show
- June TBD - meeting at Bob Blankfield's house, topic also TBD
- July TBD - possible road trip to view Suiseki
- August 15 - Tanseki outing near Penn Yan
- September 12 & 13 - Club Suiseki display at IBA Open House



Help wanted - refreshment coordinator

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.

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety: Dwarf Kumquat

It's supposed to be an Informal Upright, but the Left and Right side branches are the same length, it throws off the balance. The left to right flow of this Informal Upright is not there, because of the equal visual weight created by the two same length branches. You need to prune the left side, shorten it so the right branch is dominant. This will help create the Left to Right flow up the trunk. The next important change is to create a clear Apex, this will take some drastic pruning and regrowing of branches. The Orange fruit are clearly the Focal Point and the Orange fruit and Blue pot are a Direct Complementary color combination having a dramatic feeling. I don't feel the subject matter on the front of the pot has a bonsai relationship, which I would prefer. We have the one foot in front rather than two, which gives it more stability, but I think in this case if they did, the artwork would be off center. This is a common problem with the placement of images on these small pots. — — — **Harvey Carapella**

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Please submit any ideas for the Billboard to Marti &

Tom, please email to: mmacinski@mac.com

2026 Program dates:

- April 28 7 pm - Andrew Robson. For more information Bill recommends the following: <https://nvbsbonsai.org/events/andrew-robson-byot-workshop> <https://www.rakuyobonsai.com> AND his you tube site which Bill watches: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmXiKQiH1tyn7y72SwxCazmXR1GgKehbX>
 - April 28 6 pm - Shohin Study Group, bring your Shohin Bonsai to help put together the Shohin display for the Club Show
 - April 28 1 pm - Andrew Robson workshop
 - May 17 9 - 4, Club Show (set up on May 16)
 - June 23- 6 pm Club picnic @ Auction
 - July 28- TBD, summer outing
 - August 25- Bring your own tree
 - September 29 - TBD
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