

March  
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# Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



## President's Message

Greeting Friends,

It's almost spring or so our plants think but you must stay wary as the weather turns on us in the wink of an eye! In many ways one of the trickiest times of the year! Most of us will be doing some version of the Bonsai dance aka the Shuffle.

Last month's program was great fun, educational and raised some appreciated funds. There is a very good chance you may see this format again!

This month we are fortunate to have Bill Valavanis doing an afternoon workshop and a lecture demo in the evening. Bill has been creating and teaching and studying Bonsai for most of his life and there is no one more devoted to the Art we love! Every year Bill makes time to offer open workshops and these are an ideal way to learn and get difficult or simple projects accomplished with Bill's guidance. This is also the time to make sure you are prepared for the season with soil, wire, pots or new trees. Since the pandemic, supplies have been more difficult to obtain so get what you need early so you don't get left out.

We were invited to do a Bonsai display in Buffalo for a local Charity and it is a joint venture with our friends in the Buffalo Bonsai Society.

We also had a planning meeting with the Suiseki Study Group and have planned activities & events for this year so keep watching for Suiseki news & announcements. Ok it's back to work now see everyone soon!

Mark



Larch Bonsai are most beautiful in the spring and dwarf Iris keeps him company



It's already spring in North Carolina but don't blink it will be here sooner than you think!

## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday March 26 at 7:00 p.m.  
Bill Valavanis will discuss and demonstrate Spruce bonsai.**

Bill Valavanis needs no introduction - in fact he is probably the reason most of us are involved with Bonsai! So we welcome this opportunity to hear from Bill on a favorite topic - Spruce Bonsai with a lecture and demonstration in the evening. For the fortunate who reserved early, there is a workshop in the afternoon. Bill continues to provide outstanding educational support to our club, while urging us all to go beyond and really approach the highest level of artistry.

You won't want to miss this meeting.

**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](mailto:mmacinski@mac.com).*

## 2024 Programs:

- March 26 - 7 pm Bill Valavanis, Spruce bonsai with workshop in the afternoon - limited to 10 people so sign up now!
- April 23 - 7 pm Suthin Sokosolvisit presentation, with workshop in the afternoon. Reserve now, limited to 8 people, at a price of \$150 each
- April 27 - 1 pm Suiseki Study Group
- June 15 - 1 pm Suiseki Study Group
- June 25 - 6:30 pm Club Picnic & Auction  
*see page 4 for more dates for 2024*

## Spring programs - super values for your membership dues!



February was our last winter program, and it was wonderful. Bill, Mark and Harvey all talked, displayed and demonstrated cascade style Bonsai. The format was modeled after the 50th anniversary meeting in October, and included formal displays, overall discussion and demonstrations. Lots of information, and even more artistry on display. We are so privileged to have these superb artists as members of our club.



March brings back Bill Valavanis, with a program on Spruce, and a workshop in the afternoon. The workshop is sold out. Once again, we will enjoy Bill's expertise and artistry for our benefit.

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 24, 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/>

May brings our Club show at the Golisano Autism Center. Get your tree(s) ready starting now. Maybe you'll want to sign up for a few of Bill's Open Workshops for some good advice and counseling?! And make sure you plan to get tickets to give/sell to all your friends and family!

In June we have a surprise pop up meeting. Corin Tomlinson happens to be "in the neighborhood" for a workshop with Sean Smith. We're highjacking him and bringing him back for a special June meeting on the 11th. More details to come, save the date. He'll do a presentation and demo, and will also offer a workshop in the afternoon. This is a special treat. Don't delay in reserving your spot in the workshop.

## Access to ABS online magazine via BSUNY membership

As part of your membership, you are entitled to link to the online magazine for the American Bonsai Society. This is the link:

<https://www.americanbonsaisociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-March.pdf>

In addition to this online access, you can also find the physical copy of this journal in our library. We also have the physical copy of the BCI magazine, and hope to provide digital access in the next issue of the Billboard.

## Suiseki Study Group re-organizing

We are happy to report that an active committee including Mark Arpag, Les Allen, Bob Blankfield and Tom Macinski have come together to revive and invigorate our Suiseki Study Group. The purpose of the Suiseki Study Group is to provide an opportunity for members to delve more deeply into specific aspects of the art of collecting, appreciating and displaying Suiseki.

The Suiseki Study group has planned a few sessions throughout this year, and will meet regularly to plan more. If you want to be involved with this, either as a participant, or helping to steer the committee, do speak up!

This is the list of plans for the Suiseki Study Group this year, and these dates are listed on the calendar as well.

Saturday, April 27 1pm - Daiza discussion at the home of Bob Blankfield. More details to come.

Saturday June 15 1 pm - Topic and location TBD

Saturday August 17 9 am - Tanseki walk in previous location which will be supplied when you sign up. Followed by lunch (dutch treat) and discussion.

Saturday & Sunday September 7 & 8. Suiseki exhibit by club members at International Bonsai Arboretum Open House

Tuesday, October 22 7 pm - Club meeting, Study group exhibition and presentation on collecting by Les Allen

## SUISEKI CORNER

### ROCKY'S CORNER

Setagawa tora ishi (Tiger Stone)

12" x 5" X 3"

Previous Owners:

Yoshikazu Sugitatsu, Mikio Nakagawa, Senji Morimae

Owner: Ronald C. Maggio (USA)

Recently shown in a tokonoma display at the

2023 10<sup>th</sup> Nippon Suiseki Association

Exhibition (Japan)

Ron Maggio



## SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Variety Gardenia

The mass of the triangular foliage is the focal point, but not for a good reason. It's visually too massive, it over powers the pot, which is a subtle Gray and blends with the tree's trunk, creating a quiet feeling. The foliage is a dark Green, the dark color adds a visual feeling of weight, giving the Bonsai an unbalanced feeling. How can you correct this? The first thing to do is prune the foliage to create some negative space so you can see through the tree in a few points, Eliminating enough foliage so it doesn't feel so heavy. If that is not enough, then second I would change the color of the pot. A Reddish pot would be a Direct Complimentary color combination with the Green foliage and add a dramatic feeling to the overall tree. Red and Green are a Direct Complimentary color combination on the basic Color Wheel.

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](mailto:natureetours@gmail.com)

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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: [mmacinski@mac.com](mailto:mmacinski@mac.com)

## 2024 Program dates:

- 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 Field Trip TBD
- August 17 - 9 am Tanseki walk
- 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
- October 22 - 7 pm Suiseki Study Group Exhibition and presentation on collecting by Les Allen