

Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Inc



November Meeting: Design Studio Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella, and Jim Dolce



Our November meeting will begin with a short business meeting followed by **Mark Arpag, Harvey Carapella, and Jim Dolce** who will present a **Bonsai Design Studio** on trees brought in by the members of the club. If you have a bonsai and would like some great advice on what to do with it, how to trim it, design it or make it well again, this will be the place to bring

the tree. Trees not in bonsai pots will be discussed if time permits.

Anyone in need of ideas or you've got a problem bonsai then bring them with you. You will get three distinct opinions on your tree. Every year, this has proved to be an informative, informal discussion about bonsai design.

This will be a lot of fun, and filled with a great deal of useful information for all. Hope to see YOU there!

Autumn Color For Display Table



If you have a tree that looks good please bring it with you and share it with the rest of the members.

Let's try to bring in some nice **deciduous bonsai** with good autumn color or colorful fruit (if you have any left). **Evergreens** are always welcome too.

This is your chance to show off what you have been working on in the past few months.

Billboard is brought to you by:

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SOCIETY DUES ARE NOW VERY OVERDUE!



If you joined us at or after the spring show, you are already paid through August 2020. Otherwise, see our treasurer, **Diane Koretz** at the next meeting. If dues are not received, this will be the last *Billboard* you receive. So, if you start missing the *Billboard*, you know it slipped your mind. Thanks!!!

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Nov. 26th, 7:00 pm

Design Studio

**Mark Arpag, Jim Dolce,
and Harvey Carapella**

Brighton Town Lodge at Buckland Park
1341 Westfall Road, Rochester, New York
near corner of Westfall and Clinton

2019-2020 PROGRAMS

- Dec. 6: BSUNY display-"The First Friday Exhibit" at The Dojo 4th floor in the Hungerford Bldg. 1115 E. Main (free parking) TIME: 5-8 p.m.
- Dec. 7: Ceramic pots workshop
- Dec. 17: Holiday Meeting & Auction with treats & Bill Valavanis' travel pictures
- Jan. 28: Harvey Carapella-5 Styles of Bonsai
- Feb. 25: Mark Arpag, Bonsai display & Accent plants
- Mar. 24: Bill Valavanis, TBD
- Apr. 28: Suthin Sukosolvisit, TBD
- May 16-17: BSUNY Spring Show
- June 23: BSUNY Picnic
- July 28: Bring Your Own Tree Workshop
- Aug. 25: BYOT Workshop-Part 2

October Meeting Highlights



The October meeting featured a talk on **Carving and Use of Root Stands** by **Sean Smith**. Sean has become internationally known and recognized for his excellence in the creation of bonsai, suiseki, daiza, and display stands. He presented pictures about their history and how these unique display stands are made. Root stands are a wood carved display stand for Bonsai trees. They come in many shapes, styles and various sizes. Carved from a one good size block of wood.



Bonsai display stands are also perfect for displaying small sculptures, figurines or viewing stones. Root stands look very detailed, modern and unique. Near the end of Sean's demo he was able to carve a complete root stand in less that **14 minutes**. This shows how much talent and experience Sean has. **Great Job!** This stand was raffled off and won by **Rick Marriott**.

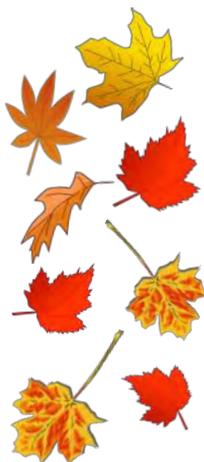
Prior to the evening meeting the **Suiseki Study Group** with **Ron Maggio** met and discussed stones brought by in by group members and those brought by Sean Smith. Some very interesting stones were displayed.



In the afternoon prior to the meeting, Sean held a **hands-on workshop** for eight members at the International Bonsai Arboretum. It took us close to three hours to carve and create our own root stands. Sean assisted with the entire fun process and shared his techniques. Everyone put in lots of hard work, enjoyed ourselves., and learned a new skill.

Sean is always a great pleasure—informative, friendly, humorous, and his work is stunning. If you missed him this time you missed a great presentation.

Great job Sean Smith! Thanks for sharing your expertise with us!



The Value of Practice

By Harvey Carapella



How to Learn the Art of Bonsai, and Create Quality Bonsai:

- Teach yourself-Seek out different ways of doing things:
- Read books-Utilize the Society library
- Online courses-Society website offers some suggestions
- Watch DVDs-Society has a number of good ones
- Take a class-Society has a world famous teacher-Bill Valavanis
- Take a workshop, over and over again-Society offers workshops that should be filled.

All the above or some combination of the above are valid ways to become a Bonsai artist. What's important to know is that whatever way you choose to start your Bonsai education, it's not the beginning and end. It's only the beginning, **like any**

art form it's practice, practice, and more practice using all the ways listed above. It's different for everybody, it's dependent on time, money and other commitments you have to work with, so you do the best you can, but you must keep working at it, that's the only way to get quality trees over time. Let's take a look at how I did it, like many people I bought a Bonsai for a souvenir on a trip for work, then I bought a book to learn how to take care of it. The more I read the book the more I got interested in learning about Bonsai and joined our club. Then I took classes with Bill Valavanis our Vice President and internationally recognized professional Bonsai artist and educator. Classes are the best way to get a concentrated beginning education in a short time frame, but it's only the beginning, it gives you a solid foundation to build on and gain confidence in yourself. Next I continued to take workshops with Bill every Friday and Saturday during Spring and Fall for the last 40 years, in between I took numerous workshops with visiting experts to the club, like Yuji Yoshimura, Bills teacher and great friend to our club. Also for 10 years

I attended a two and a half day Bonsai camp in Cleveland in the 1980's, plus I create and work on my Bonsai on my own regularly.

OK I admit, I'm the ultimate fanatic, the question is how fanatical are you? Many of you probably don't realize how lucky you are to be in our area, you have access to a variety of materials, classes, workshops and information through a world renowned expert in Bonsai education as well as a very active club with experienced members to learn from. It's important to take advantage of these resources, most other clubs are hungry for such resources. The club has several free workshops where you can bring your own tree that you collected, or bought from Bill or from a local nursery. Also the club offers several workshops with visiting speakers, sometimes they bring trees or you can bring your own. These are opportunities to practice the Art of Bonsai, to get better, to develop better Bonsai. **Like I said in the beginning, practice, practice, and practice some more. Something to think about.**

Holiday Party Reminder

We will have our Holiday party on December 17th

The society will supply the punch, soft drinks and coffee. This will be a **dessert and appetizer party** so have dinner before you come, and everyone is asked to bring an **appetizer or dessert dish** to share. There will also be a **mystery auction**. All you have to do is bring a **wrapped gift** to the meeting that is preferably **bonsai related** and **NO GAG GIFTS PLEASE**.

The wrapped gifts are auctioned sight unseen. It's a lot of fun. We generally have wonderful and sometimes interesting items! If the gift is bonsai related, please label it so, but no other hints.

Come prepared to eat and have a good time!



Winter Care Information

Our **Winter Care Handout** by Joe Noga and **Over-wintering Techniques** handout by Harvey Carapella can be found on our website under our **EDUCATION** webpage link.

Members who do not receive newsletter by e-mail can pick up a printed version at the November meeting. Please remember that if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask one of our more experienced members. They will be glad to assist you in keeping your trees alive during the winter months.



Upstate NY Shohin Bonsai Study Group

The November meeting of the **Shohin Bonsai Study Group** will begin promptly at **6 p.m.**, prior to the regular club meeting so we can make the most out of the time we have. If you have **shohin** or **mame bonsai** you'd like to display, please feel free to do so and it can be set up on our regular display table for the meeting. If we have time, we'll go over each of the bonsai and learn where the owner procured it.

Think small and dream big! Looking forward to seeing everyone then!

Dave Paris



Winter and Tree Dormancy

What to do with a dormant tree



By Kristin Wong

Your tree might be dormant, but that doesn't mean it's *completely* hands-off. It doesn't need any light while it's dormant, according to horticulturist and plant writer George Weigel. It does, however, still need the occasional watering: once a month (if that) should be enough. Easy enough, but people often over-water their plants around this time of year, which could kill it. Heating your home tends to kill any humidity in the air, causing the soil to dry, which makes people think their plants need to be watered more often. Consequently, indoor trees are in greater danger of being over watered during the winter.

To remedy this, check the soil with your finger. If the soil feels moist one inch down, it doesn't need to be watered.

A plant's dormancy is a natural part of its growing cycle. Aside from waiting out the weather, there's not much you can do for them. They'll go dormant, but once the weather warms, you'll see new signs of life. In the meantime, however, you can trim back any bare stems to make room for new growth.

Plants are tricky and it can be tough to keep them alive. Before you assume you've killed another plant, make sure it's not dormant. It may just be waiting until warmer weather.

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Message from Ways and Means



We'd like to again *thank everyone* participating in the auction done for **Mert Bohonos**, and to especially *thank Mert* again for his tremendous generosity to the Club (several thousand dollars!) This will help enable us to continue having great programs and amazing speakers from around the world.

I'd also like to remind everyone about **having a plan** for care of your trees should you **encounter unexpected circumstances in life** - injury, illness or (God forbid) worse. Many of us (myself included) do not have family members knowledgeable and/or interested in owning and caring for our trees in our absence. If you should reach a point in life's journey where you need to downsize or part with your collection, the Club can help conduct a sale or auction to assure that your trees end up in the hands of people who will care and nurture them properly. If you foresee this possibility, please discuss this now with your family members. The Club is available to help with this. For conducting a sale or auction, the Club would be looking for a minimum of 20% of realized prices to go to the Club to benefit programming. Make sure that you inform family of the Club's website as a way to contact us as well as the urgency of finding care for your trees promptly. Trees experience *system failure* quickly with even a few days of neglect.

I also want to let members know that there will be *additional clothing items for sale* at the next meeting, different sizes too.

Thanks,

Joe Moore