

September
2022

Volume 52
Number 11

Billboard

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate NY



President's Message

Greetings Friends!

It has been a busy summer for our Club with a Road Trip to Pennsylvania, a Tanseki in the Finger Lakes region, 2 full day Open Workshops, a wonderful educational program on fighting insects and disease and finally our 8th Suiseki Study Group Display. There were 45 unique Suiseki displayed from all over the world including a number from our collecting trips, perhaps our best yet. That was pretty good for our "off season" Club schedule!

We start up next with a long time Club favorite David Easterbrook. David has come to Rochester many times for our Club but also as a Judge for the US National or as exhibitor and as a presenter. We have also traveled to Montreal twice to visit David, his Bonsai Garden and the Bonsai Botanical Garden.

It will be great to have him back. We have a great year lined up and looking forward to Celebrating our 50th in style! - Mark

Bring your own Trees August meeting



As with the July meeting, Bring Your Own Tree sessions continue to provide valuable support and advice for our club members. Our membership has very accomplished bonsai artists, and they generously offer

their time and their expertise to help us all improve our trees. We used the Club for the first session in the afternoon, which saw many participants. Then before the evening session began we enjoyed a presentation by Peter Hobbs on fighting insects and disease. This was a very useful presentation with many good details. Many thanks to Peter for sharing this presentation with us.



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday September 27 at 7 p.m.

David Easterbrook

David EASTERBROOK is a very talented and skilled bonsai artist. As the former curator of the famous bonsai collection at the Montreal Botanic garden he improved and expanded the image of bonsai. He is an author, exhibitor and is also now producing videos. His evening program will be a pinecone science lecture demonstration.

During the afternoon David will offer a Bring Your Own Tree workshop, from 1 - 4 at a cost of \$50 per person. This is a unique opportunity to have individual consulting from a very renowned bonsai artist. To participate in the workshop, send an email to treasurer Diane Koretz: treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org. Space is limited, so reserve now! .

Brighton Town Lodge at Buckland Park

The Brighton Town Lodge is at 1341 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY near the corner of Westfall and Clinton. Our new Refreshment Manager, Marti Macinski will provide coffee, individual drinks and treats., and will be calling some of you to help with set up and take down. Don't wait - you can volunteer by sending an email to: billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org.

2022 Programs:

- September 27 - 7 pm David Easterbrook, with workshop in the afternoon from 1 - 4. Cost for the workshop is \$50, register via email to treasurer@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org
- October 25 - 7 pm TBD
- November 15 - 7 pm Design Studio: please bring a tree for advice from our experts
- December 13 - pm Holiday party and Auction
see page 3 for dates for 2023, and for some more info about the upcoming events

Suiseki display at the International Bonsai Arboretum Open House

Our club is fortunate to have several folks who encourage and lead the study of Suiseki, with study groups and a once a year Tanseki. So it was very appropriate to have the Club organize and present the 8th Annual Suiseki display at the Open House of the International Bonsai Arboretum. These are just a few pictures from that display, which was beautifully organized.



Library update from Joe Lentner

As we move into Autumn things begin to slow down on our Bonsai benches. I would recommend you take a little time to review some of the holdings in our library. Now is the time to investigate trees that you might acquire next year. We have material that should appeal to both the novice, intermediate and experienced Bonsai enthusiast.

For the experienced practitioner using the many catalogs from Japanese shows may inspire new styling decisions and help in planning changes in your future. While many of us may not read Japanese, it doesn't take a linguist to appreciate fine art and these catalogs are filled with fine living art. As we progress in our artistic development it never hurts to study the "masters."

The intermediate Bonsai hobbyists will find a wealth of information in the library for species they have never worked with. Perhaps you want to develop new deciduous trees not in your experience, chances are we have information to help you. As you plan for next Spring's show the books in our library may help with planning how you can best display your trees.

Novices to Bonsai have the ability to learn more with each page in a variety of books in our library. While it is often believed that you can learn from the internet, how proficient is the poster when he/she talks about your favorite tree? You can both fact check and get reliable information as you progress in developing your skills. Yes, you still have to wire, prune and pot to develop your Bonsai skills but you'll have a wealth of information available to better understand what and why you do certain things to successfully develop your trees.

In addition to tree information the library has help with developing Japanese gardens, moss, companion plants, combatting diseases, even insights to Japanese culture. The library is one of the benefits of membership, make use of it as you spend those cold winter nights thinking about your Bonsai and wishing for Spring to arrive.

Finally, a review of a new acquisition to our library:

The Little Book of Bonsai by Matthew Puntigam (Not the one by Jonas Dupuich)

While it covers the basics (that we all have become familiar with), the real value is in coverage of 50 popular varieties of Bonsai. Light, moisture, temperature and soil requirements for each species are all given in short one page summaries. It's a book well worth checking out when you're at the meeting.

Remember books can be checked out without charge and are available for one month's reading. Overdue books carry a charge of \$1.00 per month but may be renewed if there is no immediate request for the title. While the available books are rotated for display at each month's meeting any individual title can be requested (a week in advance or at the meeting) and will be brought to the next meeting for your convenience.



International Bonsai Arboretum Classes and workshops

Many of our newer members have not yet had the opportunity to experience beginner classes at International Bonsai Arboretum. The flier will be attached to the same email that forwards this Billboard, and those who have not yet take these classes should seriously consider signing up. You can choose between Monday evening and Saturday morning. You will receive a wealth of knowledge, you'll have some beginner trees that you style to get your collection started, and you will thoroughly enjoy all the stories and history about bonsai and bonsai people that you will hear.

For those of you who have taken the beginner classes and now need some help moving your trees forward with details about styling and care, consider signing up for the workshops that begin on Saturday afternoons, starting on September 24. This flier will also be attached to the email forwarding this Billboard. These are excellent opportunities to learn more in depth information from the master - Bill Valavanis. And just like in the classes, you will hear no end of fun stories about trees and bonsai artists from around the world.

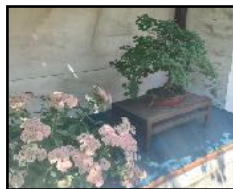
Bill's Open House



Bill and Diane Valavanis held their International Bonsai Arboretum Open House over September 10 & 11. As always, the Arboretum looked beautiful, the trees showed off Bill's incredible artistry and

decades of experience and dedication, and some new folks began to dip their toes into this wonderful art form.

The Bonsai Society put on a wonderful Suiseki display (see pictures on page 2) and many Club members helped with tours, answering questions and working on trees.



2023 Program dates:

- January 24 - 7 pm Harvey Carapella, Cascade Bonsai
- February 28 - 7 pm TBD
- March 28 - 7 pm Bill Valavanis, spruce bonsai with workshop in the afternoon
- April 25 - 7 pm TBD
- May 21 - 9 - 5 Club Show at Golisano Autism Center: 50th Anniversary Club Show!!!
- June 27- 7 pm Club Picnic and Auction
- July 25 - 7 pm Field Trip to Dwarf Conifer Garden
- August 22 - 7 pm Bring your own Tree
- September 9 & 10 - National Bonsai Exhibition
- September 11 - 7 pm Meeting: *note special date - we will offer a speaker who will stay after the National Bonsai Exhibition*

SHOHIN BONSAI FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Shohin Bonsai, Mixed Varieties

I debated with myself, should I comment or shouldn't I comment on this, but I couldn't let it go by, because it is created by a young up-and-coming Japanese bonsai artist. It is popular right now, all around the world, to try new and more contemporary bonsai styles and displays. Some of them work and some of them don't. I tend to be more old school, and the focus is always on the tree first. That's not the case in this example, one of a half a dozen I have seen by this artist with the same approach. I have a number of problems with this creation. Overall it's very busy and confusing to look at, you don't know what tree to look at first, your eye is too busy bouncing around trying to make sense of the composition of multiple trees and busy display. It makes it difficult, if not impossible to focus on one tree. It is totally off balance and looks ready to fall over. I will admit that it definitely is creative, but that doesn't always mean good, an important point I would like to make. Harvey Carapella

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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: billboard@bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org



New FREE Bimonthly International BONSAI OnLine Magazine

After publishing International BONSAI for 42 years and producing 164 issues, Bill Valavanis has decided to suspend the printed edition and start producing the magazine in a FREE digital bimonthly format in order to expand his educational offerings. International BONSAI OnLine will continue with the high standards of quality introduced to English language bonsai magazines, and continues to be the first and only professional bonsai magazine published in the United States. In the first month of publication over 16,000 people have viewed the magazine and over and over 1,300 have subscribed. Check it out, and subscribe FREE too! www.internationalbonsaionline.com