



Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

Bonsai Times

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

September, 2023

Message From the President

Bonsai is like painting a picture but you only get to make one brush stroke per year...
—David Easterbrook

Good day to all you bonsai enthusiasts,

September has begun which to me triggers some fall activities for our bonsai trees. Hopefully the summer and early fall heat is past and temperatures have returned to normal (86 degrees.) ...as I write this though, we are expecting a temperature of 93 degrees!

Time to fertilize again to help consolidate this year's growth and add strength for winter's rigors. For this time of year I use a lower nitrogen mix:

"In autumn, it is preferable to use fertilizers that are low in nitrogen, which is better for encouraging vegetative growth, especially for young plants and those that are in the construction phase. The feed also needs to be rich in phosphorus – to stimulate root growth and prepare a good flowering for the spring – and in potassium, to strengthen the plant, increase the roots' assimilation capacity and consolidate the new growth that has been produced during the season." (Bonsai empire).

As late fall sets in and winter arrives you can trim for shape, prune heavily and wire some plants. Also, remove old pine needles, remove dead leaves, treat with fungicide, etc.

Thank you to all that attended the BSLV Picnic in June. I think we all had a good time. A reminder for the joint meeting on October 14th with Pennsylvania Bonsai Societies and will be held at Chase Rosade's in New Hope, PA.

You will receive email reminders. Our September meeting is currently being planned. It will be a BYO with emphasis on preparing trees for the upcoming club display at Glenmar Nursery the weekend of September 30-October 1. Glenmar Nursery is participating in the Northampton County Farm Tour that weekend as well so we are hoping for a lot of foot traffic! Help will be needed with setup, tree-sitting during open hours and with take down.

See y'all soon,
Bob Ruhe



BSLV President, Bob Ruhe

BSLV Board

President: Bob Ruhe

Vice President: vacancy

Secretary/ Treasurer: Jack Kane

Program/Education: Jim Gillespie

Newsletter: Linda Kondikoff

Director: Don Graham

Director: Jim Heacock

Past President: Greg Krause

We are looking for members to step up and join the board. We have an opening! The club can always use new ideas.



BSLV Fall Semester 2023

Currently our club has been meeting at the Lehigh Valley Active Life Center, 1633 West Elm Street, Allentown, PA. BSLV board members felt this location was centrally located to our membership, offers close parking and has rental fees comparable to our past meeting places.



September 21 (Thursday) Bring Your Own Tree: Work on your own tree and get comments and helpful hints from the more experienced members of the club. Bring tools and other essentials. This meeting would also be the time to prep and preen trees for our upcoming show!

September 30 –October 1: Mark your calendars! It's BSLV's Annual Members' Exhibit at Glenmar Nursery & Garden Center, Bath, PA. Come view a true bonsai show featuring our members' own trees! We would love to display at least one tree from every member if possible, no matter what stage you are at in your bonsai experience. There will be People's Choice Awards given to the most popular trees as chosen by visitors during the weekend. Our show will be under cover in one of the greenhouses on site.



Besides a collection of impressive trees, we will be displaying suiseki (viewing stones) and a collection of unique and unusual bonsais. We will offer educational materials, answer questions from visitors and will also demonstrate basics such as re-potting, wiring and designing bonsai.

(at left, a photo from last year's Members' Exhibit.)

BSLV Fall Semester 2023 *(continued)*

October 14 (Saturday) 10:00: Joint Meeting with Pennsylvania Bonsai Society-Lecture by Mark Arpag, free to members of PBS and BSLV. Ezo Spruce Workshop after lecture by sign up only. Fee. (info@pabonsai.org.)

Location:
Rosade Bonsai Studio
6912 Ely Road
New Hope, PA



Mark Arpag

Mark Arpag has won multiple awards at the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition through the years. He is best known for his work on larches and white cedars as well as with shohin bonsai in general. In addition, Mark is a suiseki enthusiast.

November 16 (Thursday) 7pm: Tips on Preparing Trees for Winter, learn about plucking needles, trimming, wiring, spraying and other necessary procedures for over-wintering your trees.

December-January: Holiday break

February: BSLV Annual Banquet (a buffet) at Asia Oriental Cuisine Chinese Restaurant, Allentown, PA. Details to follow.

Recent Club Events

On May 18 our club held a Design by Committee session in which small groups discussed and agreed on the styling of an Emerald Green Arborvitae. After the leaders of each group demonstrated pruning and wiring techniques in accordance with the groups' wishes, the trees were raffled off. Leaders were Joe Sauer, Jim Heacock, Greg Krause and Bob Ruhe. Lucky raffle winners got to choose which group's tree to take home. Winners were Mohammed El-Aasser, Jim Heacock, Jan Martin and Anthony Peluso.



Some of our BSLV members working together on nursery stock, transforming them into future bonsai trees.



On April 20th, the ever-popular lecturer Jim Gillespie played to a packed house! He worked on a 60-75 year-old *pinus resinosa* from Maine. Jim explained and showed how to anchor a free form stoneware dasu pot into another pot in order to stabilize it. He then proceeded to do that thing he does so well....transform it into a stunning semi-cascade style bonsai. Jim showed us how to wrap the trunk with raffia so the attractive bark would not get hurt before he wired and altered its shape. I was thrilled to have won the raffle for this tree and am pleased to report it is still thriving!



The BSLV Annual Picnic & Auction was held again in June. It is certainly one of the highlights of the year and many were able to acquire trees, pots and other bonsai materials that will inspire them to create. We sincerely appreciate all who spent hours planning and preparing for this fun event and also to the “performers,” our auctioneer Jim Gillespie and deliverers, Jim Heacock and Dave Tettemer. Bob Ruhe and Jack Kane provided us with their expert financial record-keeping skills. Thanks too, to our lawn mower, grill meister, site director and parking lot attendant, Jim Kondikoff. Thank you to all who brought delicious side dishes and desserts to share.



In Memoriam

Present at our Picnic was Lifetime Member, Jean Kessler. Jean passed away shortly thereafter at the age of 102. Jean had expressed a strong desire to attend the Picnic and Alice Gillespie was kind enough to take the time to bring her to the picnic and take her home again afterwards. Jean won a little plant at the auction and drank a little sangria on the porch as she chatted with her old friends in the club, happy as a lark. We will miss her very much.

The BSLV is grateful to Don Graham, who stepped up to be a Director on the BSLV Board. He participated in his first Zoom Board meeting last night. We still have the Vice President position vacant and invite anyone interested to fill it. We also thank Dennis Schappell for agreeing to be a BSLV representative to the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies. Dennis, along with Jim Gillespie, will connect us to that larger group and all it has to offer such as the Spring Festival. Our club would also like to express thanks to Doug George and Greg Krause who are taking the Mark Arpag workshop. Hopefully they will be able to share some of the bonsai knowledge they picked up during this hands-on activity.



Happy Fall!

Please Keep in Mind

We will continue to hold **silent auctions** during all club meetings as an on-going fundraiser for club activities. Please consider offering up some of your bonsai trees, materials, tools, books or art for these monthly auctions. You keep 75% of the final price, the club gets 25%.

Please check the BSLV website for links to upcoming Bonsai-Related Events (to be posted shortly) <http://www.bonsaisocietylehighvalley.org>

Also, be sure to check out Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley on Facebook.



"Experience Art in Nature"

Jim Gillespie
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BSLV DUES



\$40. Individual
\$45. Family

Benefits include:

- Educational Programs & Workshops
- International Speakers
- Newsletters
- BSLV Website
- 10% Discount on Sho Fu En Merchandise
- Auction/Picnic
- Annual Banquet

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR FIRST-TIME
MEMBERS ARE ONLY \$25.00!