



Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

Bonsai Times

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

September, 2022

Message From the President

If you can't find the front, instead find the back and rotate it 180 degrees. -John Naka

Fall is coming fast. Trees are losing leaves—not sure if it's the dry spell from a few weeks ago or typical fall behavior...or both! All I know is that I 'm constantly cleaning maple leaves out of the pool! In contrast, the bonsai trees are still green and new growth is hardening up for the winter. Trees are now translocating their sugars and carbohydrates throughout the tree in order to obtain balance. Now is the time to start preparing for winter storage. Clean out that space in the garage, enlarge your cold storage beds (you probably added to your collection this year), or ready your over-wintering area. Keep trees out of the wind. Remember once they are in storage they do need to be watered periodically when soil is dry to the touch. I put snow on mine in the garage so it melts slowly. That's assuming we get snow.

If for some reason you re-pot a tree in the fall, remember it needs extra protection so the roots don't freeze. Also, you may want to apply a fungicide and insecticide prior to storage. Winter can be a good time for structural (hard) pruning, replacement pruning and maintenance pruning. Other dormant period tasks include:

- Working on jin and shari (dead parts of branches or trunks) whether small or large
- Doing major work on deadwood on junipers, pines and Prunus
- Bending trunks and branches, small or large
- Treating deadwood with jin seal to prevent it from rotting
- Using jin seal as a preventative measure (dilute 1 part jin seal with 30 parts water) on trunks and major branches of broadleaves.
- Removing old pine needles from pine branches to allow more light to penetrate. That will allow light to stimulate dormant buds. Sort through terminal buds at the ends of branches leaving only two buds.

There is a brief guide on the Bonsai Empire site for winter care: <https://www.bonsaiempire.com/basics/bonsai-care/overwintering>

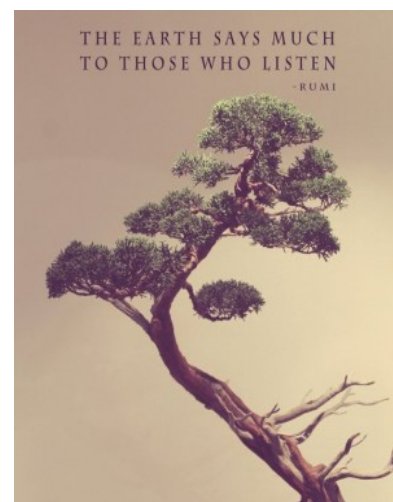
-Bob Ruhe



BSLV President, Bob Ruhe

BSLV Board

President: Bob Ruhe
Vice President: vacancy
Secretary/ Treasurer: Jack Kane
Program/Education: Jim Gillespie
Newsletter: Linda Kondikoff
Director: Rodney Conn
Director: Jim Heacock
Past President: Greg Krause



BSLV Spring Semester 2022

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 22 (Thursday) 7:00 pm: BYOB (Bring Your Own Bonsai) A time to prepare your tree(s) for our upcoming show at Glenmar Nursery in October. Bring your tree, tools and other necessary equipment to repot and preen your trees to perfection.

October 20 (Thursday) 7:00 pm: A lecture demo by Bob Mahler, owner of Kifu Bonsai: www.kifubonsai.com

Bob Mahler discovered his passion for bonsai early in life. At 15, Bob was apprenticing under the direction of bonsai artist Chase Rosade of Rosade Bonsai Studios in New Hope, PA. From there, Bob traveled to Tochigi-Ken, Japan, where he would spend the next four years under the exclusive direction of world-renowned bonsai artist, Susumo Sudo. After he returned to the states in 1993, Bob spent the next 11 years as the curator of bonsai at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens in Brooklyn, NY. Bob opened Kifu Bonsai in 2017 and continues to consult for horticultural institutions. As president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society he oversees the bonsai exhibit at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's annual Philadelphia Flower Show. Bob's personal favorites are Japanese White Pines, Satsuki Azaleas and Japanese Flowering Apricots. Bob resides in a small farming community north of Philadelphia with his wife Jessica and their dogs.

November 10 (Thursday) 7:00pm: Fall Auction! If you didn't get a chance to attend BSLV's auction in June, come participate in this one. Bring any bonsai-related items (trees, pots, tools, books, art, etc.) you would like to sell. You will get 75% of the sale price and our club gets 25%. Clear off those shelves! Empty those storage boxes of bonsai things you are not using....so you can make room for more! *No landscape plants, please.*

December: Winter recess, no scheduled meeting.

January or February: BSLV Annual Banquet. Time and location to be announced.

Recent BSLV Events

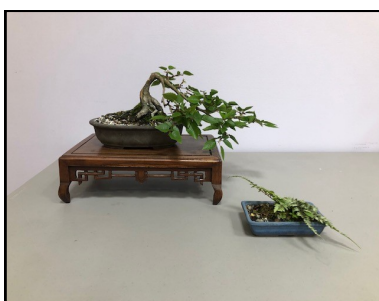
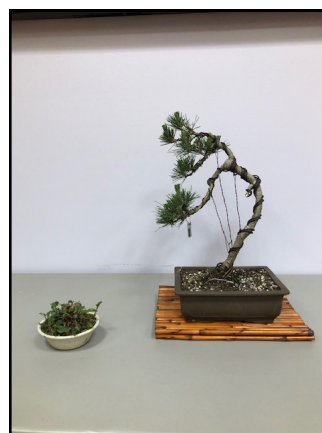
Design by Committee Workshop

At our Design by Committee workshop earlier in the year, nursery stock collected by Jim Gillespie (thanks, Jim!) was styled by 4 of our experts (Jim Heacock, Joe Sauer, Bob Ruhe and Jim Gillespie) aided by input from groups members. There were some dramatic transformations! We learned quite a bit about styling methods from each expert. After the styling we compared and discussed the finished trees then each tree was raffled off.



May Workshop-Members' Show

Participating members brought in a favorite tree, accent and stand. Jim Gillespie expertly set up the trees in an attractive arrangement with attention to size, shape and direction. He then led a discussion as each tree owner described the origin, history and challenges each tree presented. A lot of questions were answered and we learned several cultural facts about tokonoma displays. All trees exhibited artistic design and personal aesthetic. Here are some of the trees we got to enjoy at the show.



Annual Picnic/Auction in June

Covid concerns threw a monkey wrench into our annual picnic planning for a couple of years but we decided to finally schedule BSLV's Annual Picnic/Auction in 2022. Though we were a little out of practice organizing the event, everything miraculously came together and we enjoyed a great day. It sure was good seeing everyone! As usual, there was a fine array of food and specialty dishes....thank you to all who brought tasty things to share. Thanks to Jim K. for rustling up a mammoth batch of barbeque, getting the yard in order and parking cars. Jim G. tracked down a tent from a new vendor, picked it up, and helped raise it with Jim K. Bob, Robin, Jim H. and Jim G. took it down and packed it up at the end of the day. Their efforts were truly appreciated. Jim G. set up his Sho-Fu-En satellite store so that all who needed to purchase bonsai supplies could conveniently do so. He also spent hours auctioning off the items people brought with his usual expertise and humor. Thank you, Jim, and thank you to our "runners" who hand-delivered each item to the people who won them. We really appreciate everyone who put time and effort into making this day possible.



A special thank you goes to Joe Sauer for donating a huge amount of bonsai pots and other items to the Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley. Joe and Diane recently moved and needed to downsize. After Joe hosted a bonsai sale, there were still many items left over and he very generously issued them to our club for donation/auction. Your kindness is appreciated, Joe. We all benefitted by your generosity.

Please Keep in Mind

We will continue to hold **silent auctions** during all club meetings as an on-going fund-raiser 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"

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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 COST FOR FIRST-TIME MEMBERS IS ONLY \$25.00!