



Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

Bonsai Times

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

September, 2026

Message From the President

"Bonsai is a reflection of the natural world, not a competition with it." – Ryan Neil

Good day to all you Bonsai enthusiasts!

I'd like to thank all those members who helped make The Longwood Gardens Bonsai show a success. The drive was a little long but many of you persevered (several times) to either sit the trees, or help with transporting material around the area.

I think we have a good program schedule lined up for the fall...make plans to attend the meetings! From a food point-of-view, last season was great! After the banquet in February and the picnic in June, I think I'm still trying to lose some of that weight!

Our new picnic location appears to have worked out fine and we are actively booking the site again for next year.

As we head towards fall, it's time to fertilize again to help consolidate this year's growth and add strength for winter's rigors. I use a lower nitrogen mix at this point because "it supports 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 to 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. Remove old pine needles, remove dead leaves, treat with fungicide, etc. Check your watering this time of year. We can have winds and warmer weather which can dry out the soil.

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BSLV President, Bob Ruhe

BSLV Board

President: Bob Ruhe

Vice President: Brad Kramer

Secretary/ Treasurer: Jack Kane

Program/Education: Jim Gillespie

Newsletter: Linda Kondikoff

Director: Don Graham

Director: Jim Heacock

Director: Dennis Schappell

Past President: Greg Krause



Think Fall!

BSLV Fall Semester 2026

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 17 (Thursday) 7:00pm: **BYO:** Bring your own tree to work on. Bring tools, equipment and any questions you might have on repotting, pruning or styling. If you need to purchase an item from Sho-Fu-En Bonsai, contact Jim Gillespie ahead of time so he can bring it. Our in-house pros will be happy to answer questions and give advice.

October 19 (Monday) 7:00 pm : Lecture/Demo by Tony Bebb, Australia. *See bio page 3.* Tony will probably use a large bougainvillea for his demonstration plus he may have another tree in addition to that.

October 3&4 : 4th New Jersey Bonsai Society “The Art of Bonsai” Exhibit & Sale, same location as last year: The Brookdale Community College, Warner Student Life Center, Lincroft, NJ. <https://njbonsaisocieties.com/> *This is not a BSLV event but still may be of interest.*

November 19 (Thursday): BSLV member Brad Kramer will present a Power Point “The Importance of Water Quality for Bonsai.”

Something to Think About

We would like to get some feedback from members to determine whether or not we should run a bus trip to the PBA May Festival (5/8-10, 2027) at the National Arboretum, Washington, DC. Another topic up for discussion... Should we hold a Pot Making Workshop at Kifu Bonsai led by the talented Justine Stelmach from Palmerton? Justine was a former member of our club and is familiar to many of us.

Planning Ahead

The MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Festival will be held April 16-19, 2027 at a **NEW VENUE:** The Holiday Inn, Piscataway/Somerset, NJ

The Longwood Gardens Bonsai Exhibit will be held from June 9-14, 2027.

Message from the President, *continued* Heavy rains can saturate the soil. Remove dead, damaged, diseased, or badly misplaced shoots. Light trimming is acceptable but avoid major structural pruning now. Check wires every week or two. Remove or replace any wire beginning to mark the bark. Late August can be suitable for taking cuttings from some species, particularly softwood or semi-hardwood material, but success varies by species. Inspect weekly for spider mites, especially on junipers, and under leaves. Also check for scale insects, aphids, caterpillars and powdery mildew.

See y'all soon,

Bob Ruhe

BSLV Fall Semester 2026 *continued*



Tony Bebb is one of Australia's most experienced and respected Bonsai Artist and Teacher. With 40 years experience working in the Bonsai industry, he regularly shares his knowledge, experience and passion for Bonsai all over Australia and New Zealand. He is a nationally and internationally registered Bonsai tutor and demonstrator, and is well respected for his ability and expression, as well as his individualism and freedom of thought. He has been a feature presenter at numerous National Conventions in Australia and New Zealand and has a history of demonstrating at World Bonsai Conventions. Tony is currently Principal of the Brisbane International Bonsai School where he runs classes and group workshops as well as private workshops for fellow

bonsai enthusiasts. Currently, Tony and his wife Keiko host Bonsai & Cultural Tours to Japan to share their passion for better Bonsai and the life and culture of Japan. He is a past President of the Bonsai Society of Queensland, where he has been a member since 1984 and is current Vice President for AABC, Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs. He enjoys working with Azaleas, Maples, Elms, Cedars and Tropicals.

2026 Past BSLV Events



Jonas Dupuich gave excellent comments on members' trees at the evening meeting and also shared valuable horticultural advice. During the hands-on workshop earlier that day, Jonas gave design suggestions as members worked on their individual trees.

2026 Past BSLV Events *continued*

BSLV Annual Picnic/Auction

On June 6, 27 members gathered at a new site, a nice pavilion within Moore Township Recreation Area in Bath, for our annual Picnic/Auction. Fortunately the weather cooperated! Jim Gillespie, famous for his auctioneering skills, kept everyone engaged, educated and entertained as he auctioned off an abundance of trees, tools, books, art and pots. We surely appreciate Bob and Annette Ruhe picking up the sandwiches too! Thanks also to Jim Heacock and Bob Ruhe for being our accountants. We are very grateful to Shjon Watlington and Brad Kramer who served as “runners” for the won items, thus allowing the rest of us to sit and relax! Finally, thanks to all who prepared tasty side dishes and desserts. It was a great day!



2026 Past BSLV Events *continued*

Coplay Garden Club Presentation

On July 30, the Coplay Garden Club hosted BSLV members Dennis Schappell, Don Graham, Dave Harding and Brad Kramer for an introductory lecture on Bonsai! The night got kicked off by Don, who shared the history of our club. Dennis then proceeded to give a history of Bonsai and define what a bonsai actually is. Following this Dave and Brad highlighted the care needs while Brad did a basic styling demonstration on a cascade Procumbens Nana Juniper. The BSLV club members fielded many questions from the garden club and it was clear that the club enjoyed the presentation! The BSLV members also brought along a good representation of trees in different stages of development, which sparked further discussion! Jim Gillespie supported their efforts by providing club research and Dave Tettemer helped by loaning example trees and plant matter. Fun was had by all! Thanks again to the Coplay Garden Club for inviting us!



Past BSLV Events *continued*

The Longwood Gardens Exhibit

BSLV was invited to show 5 trees at the prestigious Bonsai Festival at Longwood Gardens in June. Trees from Jim Gillespie, Jim Heacock, Steve Olex, Brad Kramer and Dave Tettemer were chosen to be displayed for thousands of attendants to admire at this inaugural event. A very special thanks to the following for putting in many hours at Longwood:

Longwood Gardens Exhibit Committee Representatives from BSLV: Jim Gillespie, Bob Ruhe, Dave Tettemer

Set-up, Wednesday 6/24: Bob Mahler, Jim Gillespie

Sitters & Runners: Jim Gillespie, Jack Kane, Jim & Robin Heacock, Jim & Linda Kondikoff, Dave Tettemer, Joe Sauer, Don Graham, Johannes Cruz, Shjon Watlington

Teardown, Tuesday 6/30: Bob Mahler, Jim Gillespie

Participating in this event earned rave reviews and we will be doing it again next year when Longwood Gardens hosts it's next Bonsai Exhibit. We are considering arranging a bus trip to facilitate the attendance of more BSLV members.



Japanese Dwarf Garden Juniper
Brad Kramer



Hinoki Cypress
Steve Olex

Past BSLV Events *continued*

The Longwood Gardens Show



Japanese White Pine Clump
Dave Tettemer



Trident Maple
Jim Heacock



Elephant Tree
Jim Gillespie



Mark your calendars! The Longwood Gardens Bonsai Exhibit will be held from June 9-14, 2027.

Please Keep in Mind

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

Please visit the BSLV website for a review of the club's activities through the years
<http://www.lvbonsai.org>

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

A special thanks to all who help me put together our club's newsletters....the info gatherers, the content providers and especially the proofreaders!



"Experience Art in Nature"

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BSLV DUES



\$40. Individual
\$45. Family
Dues Year begins
March 31

Benefits include:

- Educational Programs & Workshops
- International Speakers
- BSLV Club Newsletters
- American Bonsai Society Monthly 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!