



Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

Bonsai Times

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

October, 2025

Message From the President

Hello all members and friends of Bonsai,

Fall has arrived officially today the 22nd of September. Time to start thinking about where to winter the trees and start preparing the area, just in case it gets colder sooner than later. Late fall or early winter is a good time to prune and wire, depending on the species.

I would NOT repot now, unless you drop a tree and the pot breaks, which I hope doesn't happen, although a few years ago I did have a pot fall off a bench during high winds!

Taper off on your fertilization regimen. Your tropicals may be on the verge of being ready to move indoors....or to Florida.

For those who were at the first meeting in September, thank you for coming out. I hope you all had your questions answered and designs tweaked.

Thank you, Jim G., and Dave T. for assisting.

Stay tuned for some new upcoming meeting dates that are currently being finalized. We hope to have speakers at both meetings if possible.

Stay Well,

Oidhche Mhath (Good night)

Bob



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

Director: Dennis Schappell

Past President: Greg Krause



Happy Fall!

-Walter Pall

Don't shape a deciduous tree to look like a juniper that wants to look like a pine.

BSLV Fall Semester 2025

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 18 BYO: Bring your own tree to work on. Bring tools and 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.

September 11-14 2025 US National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY

September 12 & 13 2025 ABS Learning Seminar, Rochester, NY,

October 23 (Thursday) Design by Committee. Come participate in a small-group strategy for styling, pruning and wiring an impressive Spreading English Yew (*Taxus baccata* 'Repandens') Each group will be lead by one of our in-house experts as the group decides on the best approach to making the most of their tree. Jim Gillespie spent hours hand-picking these trees according to their varied design possibilities. They are beauties. At the end of the session each tree will be raffled off.

BSLV Fall Show at Glenmar Nursery

Note: BSLV has put on an educational bonsai show at Glenmar Nursery during the Northampton County Farm and Garden Tour in several recent years. In his research, Jim Gillespie found that the most likely dates for this event would be October 4 and 5. Because of conflicts with the NJ Bonsai Society "Art of Bonsai Exhibition and Sale", in which several key BSLV members will participate, it was decided that BSLV will NOT do a show at Glenmar this year.

BSLV Fall Semester 2025, *continued*

November 20 (Thursday) Sean Smith from Marysville, PA

Part 1: Sean will present an informative PowerPoint presentation on “Scrolls for Bonsai Display.” This talk will cover the history of scrolls, how they are made and the part they play in traditional bonsai display. He will also do a hands-on demo.

Part 2: Scroll workshop. Sean will explain how to do a simple version of a sumi painting which will then become part of a scroll that can be taken home. He will show you how to break down your pre-chosen image or one of his available images into simple strokes...no need for fear! Sean is an encouraging teacher who will enable you to do your best. Though this workshop is limited to 10 people, others are welcome to stay and observe. In the near future we will email all members a sign-up form with cost information and other details.

Sean Smith Bio

Sean Smith lives in the United States in Marysville Pennsylvania, where he owns and operates Custom Oriental Wood-craft. With a passion for bonsai and suiseki for over 20 years, and an extensive background in carpentry, Sean took the two, put them together and started his own business in 1994. He makes bonsai display tables, and carves daiza for renowned bonsai and suiseki enthusiasts all over the world.

He has lectured on suiseki as well as bonsai in the United States and Europe, and is internationally known for his skills in bonsai and suiseki. Sean has won numerous suiseki and bonsai awards.

In 2001, Mr. Arishige Matsuura, President of the Japanese Suiseki Association, proclaimed Sean the number one daiza carver outside of the Japan.

In 2003, Sean was the first American to exhibit an American suiseki in the Japanese National Suiseki show at the Meji Shrine in Tokyo, Japan.

In 2004, Sean was asked by Senji Morimae to come to Japan to study Bonsai and suiseki at his nursery outside of Tokyo a few weeks a year, and continues to do so every year.

In 2005, he was invited to study Zen in Daitokuji-in, at the sub temple of Hoshyu-in in Kyoto, Japan, Sean also studied daiza carving in Hamamatsu Japan, with Japan's leading daiza carver, Mr. Koji Suzuki. Sean was his first and only student.

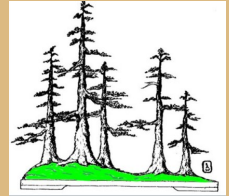
Sean is also a contributing editor of the North American Viewing Stone Society, and the International Stone Appreciation Society and a member of the Nippon Suiseki Association, European Suiseki, and the past president of the Susquehanna Bonsai Club in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He is also a director of the National Bonsai Federation in Washington DC.

BSLV Fall Semester 2025 *(continued)*

December and January No meetings

February 19, 2026 Annual Member Banquet (Snow date February 26, 2026.) Location TBA

April 17-19, 2026 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, Grantville, PA



Bonsai Activities on the Horizon

October 4-5, 2025 The Third Annual Art of Bonsai Exhibition and Sale sponsored by the New Jersey Bonsai Society, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ
More info: <https://njbonsaisocieties.com>

2026 Bonsai Event

BSLV was contacted by Kevin Bielicki, curator of the bonsai collection at Longwood Gardens in regards to an exciting opportunity. To celebrate their newly-expanded bonsai collection and its new display area that was completed in November of 2024, BSLV, along with other local clubs, were invited to showcase some of our trees in their Regional Bonsai Club Show!

This one-week exhibit would include demonstrations by each club as well as awards. We are considering arranging for bus transportation to this summer event when scheduling is finalized.



Recent Club Events

32 of us gathered under the tent at the Kondikoff farm in June for our annual picnic and auction. We had great fun socializing and enjoying the myriad of dishes members kindly brought. Jim Kondikoff did a bang-up job at the grill. Jim G. energized us with his lively and entertaining auctioning as he does every year. Bill Honig, Dave Tettermer and Jim Heacock delivered the auction items to the winners and were on their feet for hours! Bob Ruhe and Jack Kane diligently kept the financial records during the entire auction. Special thanks to Don Graham in his yellow vest for safely directing all the incoming cars as they parked. This picnic continues to be a very successful event because of everyone's cooperation and caring. Thanks to all! We hope you are pleased with your newly acquired bonsai trees, books, art, tools and supplies.



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.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

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!