



Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

Bonsai Times

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

March, 2025

Message From the President

"The art of bonsai is a reflection of our own connection with nature." – Unknown

Good Day to All,

It has reached 40+ degrees today as I sit here this afternoon. I just checked my trees that are in the ground on the north side of the garage. The ground is as hard as granite. The garage-kept trees are another story. The soil is thawing and I hope the root balls will do so as well.

It was a cold February, with an average temp of 29.07 degrees. That is lower than the last 15-year average and the coldest since Feb 2015. Yes, I am a nerd and keep winter temp records from November till April! December and January were also similar. So what does that mean for our trees? The trees in an unheated garage can freeze as mine did, with temps in the mid 20s at times. Always remember that plants, like people, need to stay hydrated! I have been placing snow on my frozen trees after each snow fall rather than using a watering can. If you do any kind of watering, just make sure the root ball is not solid. If you over-water you can asphyxiate the tree. I believe there still is time to prune and wire according to species. Also, you can create Jin and Shari now.

Spring is right around the corner, groundhog be darned!!!! If you plan on repotting trees, now is the time to get your supplies ready for the chore ahead. Soil, wire, screens, and pots should probably be acquired now so you aren't scrambling for them at the last minute, like I normally do.

We have a full and interesting program roster for this Spring and already have some fresh new bonsai activities for the Fall. —Stay warm, Bob Ruhe



BSLV President, Bob Ruhe

BSLV Board

President: Bob Ruhe

Vice President: *vacancy*

Secretary/ Treasurer: Jack Kane

Program/Education: Jim Gillespie

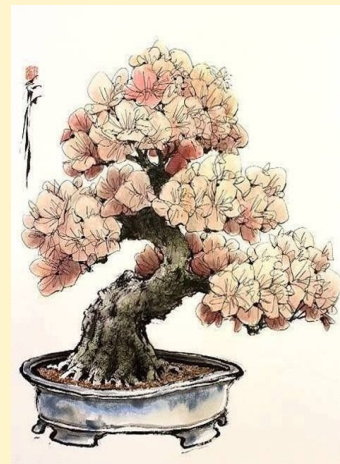
Newsletter: Linda Kondikoff

Director: Don Graham

Director: Jim Heacock

Director: Dennis Schappell

Past President: Greg Krause



BSLV Spring 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.



March 20 Meeting (3rd Thursday, 7:00pm) BYO: Bring a tree to work on. This could be a tree that will be displayed at MABS or one you are currently working on for yourself. 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. A second round of raffle tickets for MABS will be sold and then the winner will be picked! *Reminder: Dues are due!*

March 25 (Tuesday) Lecture/Demo by Hugo Zamora Luna



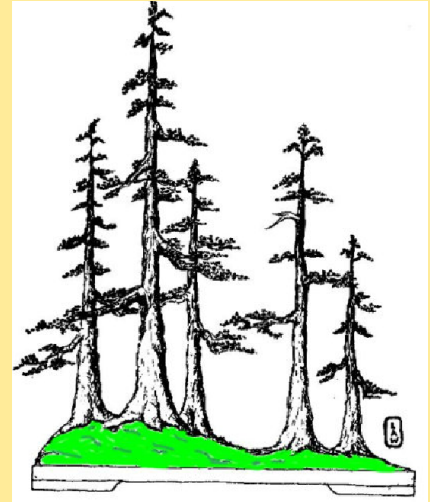
Hugo Zamora Luna's first experience in the world of bonsai was through a basic bonsai course at the age of 16. Hugo has since been involved in bonsai for over 24 years. In 2000, he started giving demonstrations and presentations at the local congresses in Mexico City. Not long after, he started working at different places around the countryside. Hugo has been teaching courses since 2001 and was the Mexican Bonsai Federation Didactic and teaching leader for 6 years. Hugo studied in Tokyo with Japanese Bonsai Master, Kunio Kobayashi, one of the most respected Masters in the world. He completed his apprenticeship in 2015. Hugo has continued to travel back to Japan for several months at a time to work at the Shunkaen Bonsai Museum and meet with Mr. Kobayashi on a regular basis. This has allowed Hugo to continue practice the art of bonsai at the highest level.

April 11-13 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' Annual Spring Festival: *Details on page 3*

MABS Annual Spring Festival 2024

April 11-13
Holiday Inn, Harrisburg-Hershey
604 Station Rd.
Grantville, PA 17028

<https://midatlanticbonsai.org>



David Easterbrook



Mark Fields



Peter Chan

Bonsai Lecture/Demos, Workshops, Critiques, Exhibits,
Vendors, Silent Auction, Banquet, Raffles & More!

BSLV Spring Semester 2025 *(continued)*

May 24 (Saturday) Morning/Afternoon Hybrid Meeting

Morning- Lecture/Demo by Bob Mahler at his studio, Kifu Bonsai (kifubonsai.com)
(lunch break—details to come)

Afternoon- A hands-on workshop using provided material or a tree of your own. Due to space restraints, the workshop is limited to 10-12 people however observers are welcome. More info will be forthcoming.

June 28: BSLV's Annual Picnic/Auction at the Kondikoff Farm, Bath, PA Mark your calendars, details to come!

Bonsai Activities on the Horizon

September 13-14, 2025 The 9th US National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY. This is a combined event with the ABS Learning Seminar to be held September 12-13
More Info: <https://www.usnationalbonsai.com>

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>

October 9 (Thursday) Lecture/Demo by Hiroyoshi Yamaji followed by a workshop



Mr. Yamaji is a second generation bonsai grower from the Japanese island of Shikoku near the city of Takamatsu. Following his graduation from Kansai Gaidai Junior College he took over his father's bonsai business of growing bonsai. His business now includes exporting bonsai to many countries in the Americas and Europe.

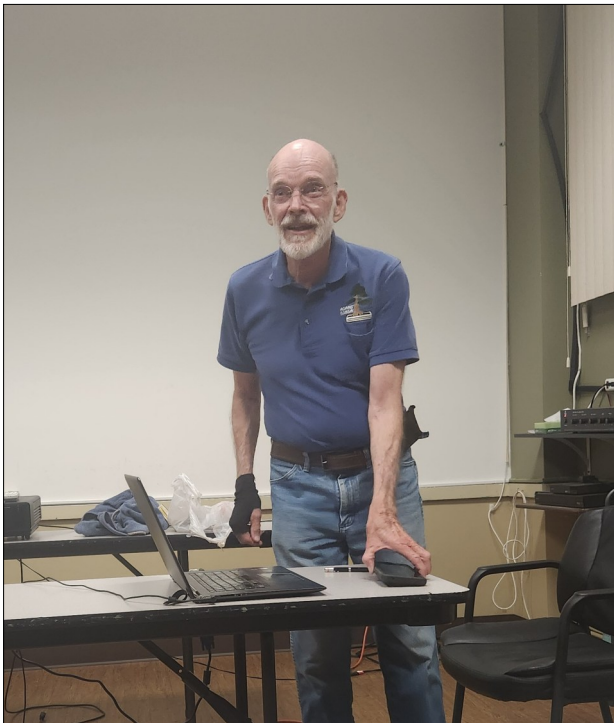
Mr. Yamaji is married with four children, three girls and one boy. Consistent with Japanese tradition, he also cares for his parents in their retirement.

For the past 35 years the Yamaji family business, Sanshoen Bonsai, has provided leadership for the bonsai growers of

Shikoku Island. Mr. Yamaji is a member of the Nippon Bonsai Association and he is Vice President of the Bonsai Division of the Kokubunnji Agricultural Cooperatives. In addition to being an excellent bonsai artist and grower, Hiroyoshi speaks English fluently. He has a very disarming personality all of which make him a wonderful teacher.

Recent Events

On January 30 club members met at the Gourmet Buffet & Grill for an Asian feast. Lots of catching-up took place and fun was had. We enjoyed the food, the company and the raffle prizes! Thanks to all who helped coordinate this event.



Julian Adams of Adams' Bonsai gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation in September on pine development.



Happy Spring!

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.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!