

# The Pennsylvania Bonsai Society

## Newsletter

October 2023

Founded 1963



# PBS

President:

David Downey

Treasurer:

Jim Troyer

Secretary:

Linda Brant

Past President:

Robert Mahler

Advisory Committee

Chase Rosade

Jim Gillespie

Karen Harkaway

Joseph Jacovino

Jesse Cook Jr.

Walter Scott

Newsletter:

Jim Brant

Website: [PAbonsai.org](http://PAbonsai.org)  
email: [info@PBS.org](mailto:info@PBS.org)

*In the dark forest  
A berry drops:  
The sound of water.  
Shiki*

## October Meeting

October's program features **Mark Arpag**, an award winning bonsai artist living in Rochester, New York. Mark's last visit, in 2019 was very well received.

Mark is a long time active member & current President of the Bonsai Society of Upstate New York. Additionally he presents demonstrations and workshops where he freely shares his knowledge and passion for bonsai with others. Mark often assists Wm. N. Valavanis teaching and organizing exhibitions. His love of nature leads him to collect trees and stones in New York state which he often combines to create distinctive award winning displays.

Mark has won National Awards for his Eastern White Cedar, Balsam Fir and Larch and has a passion for Native Bonsai and Stones.

Shohin bonsai and bonsai display are of interest to him and he spends a considerable time studying and practicing display and creating shohin bonsai. He has a large and fine quality collection of shohin bonsai as well as larger size trees. Mark's bonsai have won major awards in many prominent national exhibitions. His Bonsai have been featured in numerous albums, books and magazines. His articles have been published in the ABS Journal, BCI Journal and INTERNATIONAL Bonsai magazine.

Mark' will be working on specially grown ezo spruce for his demo. Participants in the afternoon workshop will be creating group plantings of these difficult to find trees. The morning's demonstration material will be raffled

This will be a combined meeting with the Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley.

**Guest Artist: Mark Arpag**

**Date: Saturday, October 14**

**Location: Rosade Bonsai Studio - 6912 Ely Rd., New Hope, PA**

**Time: Demo -10:00 am - Workshop 1:00-4:45**

*Workshop participants - be sure to bring your tools. Pots, screens, soil, and wire will be provided.*





## Future Meetings

November - TBA  
December - TBA - Holiday Party

## September Meeting

PBS welcomed **Hugo Zamora Luna** as our featured artist for September. Hugo's demo material was a *picea orientalis*, a member of the spruce family. The material was furnished by Kifu Bonsai which has been cut down from a larger (8') piece. Hugo, ably assisted by Karen Harkaway, proceeded to begin by cleaning the tree of unwanted growth. Hugo spent a good deal of time explaining his philosophy of bonsai - emphasizing maintaining the health of the tree, while Karen did much of the preliminary wiring.

With most of the wiring in place, Hugo began forming a jin from the cut-off remainder of the trunk, then placing branches with the strong emphasis that this is only an initial styling, with much development necessary as time progresses.



Congratulations  
to our raffle winner,  
Walt Livingston!





## Seasonal Notes

We have a few weeks before our bonsai leaves begin to fall, and that serves as a reminder to us that winter isn't that far off, and we need to start making plans for winter storage.

Before going into storage we want to make sure our trees are healthy. We also should plan on removing any surface moss or moss clinging to trunks. Both can harbor moisture, insect eggs, and fungi. Prevention sure beats losing a tree to disease or root rot next spring.

Our trees received their last fertilization this week. We've been using a 0-10-10 fertilizer for the past month or so, with the idea of not encouraging new leaf growth and encouraging root growth and winter hardiness. Watering will continue on an as-needed basis even after leaf drop.

Where to store trees for the winter brings up the question of winter hardiness. Most native trees have no problem with winter conditions in our area, but those that are "imports" might need more shelter.



Larches, most pines, hornbeams, and native azaleas have no problems coping with our winters, so outside storage with wind and sun protection usually works well. Some Japanese maples and trident maples and Japanese azaleas require more protection, so a cold greenhouse or unheated garage may be best. Trees kept inside must be monitored carefully to avoid drying out. Trees in our garage are watered every 7-14 days provided the root ball is not frozen. Growth will begin earlier in the spring than outside trees, so the "bonsai shuffle" usually commences, trees out during the day, trees in at night.



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## PBS Notes

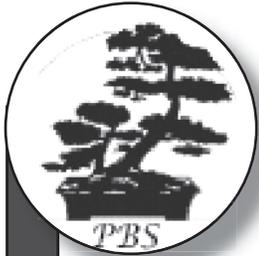
As an organization, PBS has shown tremendous growth in the last few years. Much of that is due to the hard work of individuals, giving of their time and effort. As the Society grows, there is a need for more members to step forward and offer a hand, whether it is helping during meetings, joining one of the committees, reporting through the newsletter, or becoming an officer.

As we've grown, the number of committees has expanded as result of outreach - workshops at Morris Arboretum, bonsai talks to garden clubs, etc.

Examples of committee works are as follows:

**Program:** Plan upcoming programs, contact bonsai artists for presentations, schedule meeting sites, provide materials needed for demonstrations and workshops, assist speaker.

**Membership:** Promote PBS through social media. Maintain contact with members.



**Education:** Promote bonsai through talks with various clubs. Conduct "beginner" workshops with outside groups.

**Bonsai Buddy:** Provide advice and assistance to program members. Act as a bonsai mentor.

**Web Site:** Maintain the PBS site with updates as needed, monitor email responses from the site and direct to appropriate persons or committees.

**Newsletter:** Publish news of the Society on a regular (currently monthly) including schedules, previews of upcoming artists' appearances, photos of demonstrations and workshops, and related bonsai information.

Current Committee Leads:

Program: Dave Downey

Membership: Bill Strehse

Education: Brian Tuel

Bonsai Buddy: Bill Strehse

Website: Bill Strehse

Newsletter: Jim Brant

Flower Show: Bob Mahler



*Bonsai Buddy  
Event*

Would you like to join us and become a larger part of PBS? Many committee meetings are held over Zoom. Right now we need some volunteers to act as Secretary and Treasurer, as well as joining one or more of the current committees. You can put forth your name by emailing [info@pbs.org](mailto:info@pbs.org) and including *volunteer* in the subject line.

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## 8th National Bonsai Exhibit

Wow!! That's the only word to describe the 8th National Bonsai Exhibit - a tremendous collection of masterpiece bonsai. Vendors? Absolutely incomparable variety and quality (and prices!).

Two PBS members' bonsai received awards. **Karen Harkaway** won the North American Award for the "*Finest Native American Species*" for her Colorado Spruce, and **Lucas Glass** was awarded "*Best Deciduous Bonsai*" for his Arakawa Japanese Maple. Congratulations to you both!

