

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Mark Arpag on Your Bonsai
Saturday, June 21, 2025, 10:00 am
Longwood Garden's Headhouse

June Cookie Person: Karin Simmat

June Program

This month's meeting is especially exciting. Mark Arpag, a bonsai artist from Rochester, NY, will entertain us with his kind suggestions for the bonsai we bring for him to comment on. **So please bring one or two bonsai so you and the rest of us can learn from his ideas.**



Blue Atlas Cedar for Winter Silhouette

Mark Arpag Artist Profile

Currently the President of the Bonsai Society of Upstate New York and long-time member. Mark is a co-founder and organizer of the Suiseki Study Group of Upstate New York. Additionally he

presents demonstrations and workshops where he freely shares his knowledge and passion for bonsai with others. He also has several study groups & private clients that often coordinate with Club visits. Mark often assists William 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 amount of 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 has displayed Bonsai at the Artisans Cup, both Pacific Expo and all 8 US National Exhibitions. 3 entries were accepted to the 2024 Pacific Expo as well as the 2026 Winter Silhouette in North Carolina. He has also enjoyed designing & installing all of the Welcome Gardens that greet visitors from around the world at US National Bonsai Exhibition.

National awards at include:

2010 2nd US National Exhibition
2011 BCI Award Native Exhibition
2014 4th US National Exhibition
2018 6th US National Exhibition
2019 2nd US National Shohin Exhibition (2 awards)
2022 ABS Creative Display Shohin
2023 8th US National Exhibition.
2024 ABS Michigan Exhibition
2024 Winter Silhouette Exhibition
2025 All Michigan Exhibition

His bonsai have been featured in numerous albums, books and magazines. His articles have been

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President, Steve Ittel; Treasurer, Greg Kanaskie; Newsletter Editor, Karin Simmat (610-325-0677)*

published in the ABS Journal, BCI Journal and INTERNATIONAL Bonsai magazine. **Mark suggested that BBS members join us at Longwood Gardens after the meeting where he will continue with his comments about the LG bonsai.**



Longwood Garden's Headhouse location



Address: 1010 East Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA

At the intersection of route 52 (on right) and route 1 (at Lenape Road) when driving in the south/west direction on route 1, turn left and immediately left again and proceed straight ahead to the LG headhouse building. The door is on the building end facing the direction you came from.

Boxwoods and chrysanthemums are not allowed on LG property. Do not bring them.

2025 Brandywine Bonsai Schedule

June 21: Your Bonsai with Mark Arpag (LG HH)

July 19: Club Auction and Lunch (ABN Park)

August 16: Concrete Slabs with Steve Ittel (Huf's)

September 20: TBD (BTC)

October 18: Sergio Cuan (BTC)

November 15: Business Meeting and Garage Sale (BTC)

BTC = Brandywine Town Center, Wilmington, DE

ABN Park = Anson B Nixon Park, Kennett, PA

Mark Huf's = Huf Landscaping, Oxford, PA

LG HH = Longwood Gardens Headhouse

TBD= to be determined

Other Bonsai Events of Interest

Karen Harkaway's Open House. June 7 & 8 from 1 to 4 pm. 2 Henry Lane, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060. Cell # 609-792-8568.

Sean Smith's Three Mountain Bonsai School.

Spring Open House, June 6 (6 to 9 pm), 7 (9 to 5) and 8 (9 to 4), guest artist: William Valavanis. Free lectures and demos. 124 Park Drive, Marysville, PA. 20% discount on bonsai and pre-bonsai. Phone # 717-580-4684.

American Bonsai Societies (ABS) Learning

Seminars, September 12 & 13, 2025 DoubleTree, 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623

9th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, September 12 & 13, 2025, Rochester, NY

May Meeting with Marco Invernizzi

The meeting went very well. The weather was super and Marco had a good time, entertaining us and teaching us.





Japanese white pine before and after.



Winner John Cordts with Marco and pine

Thank you, Mark Huf, for these pictures and information.

Share a Tree

Do you have a tree of which you are particularly proud? Maybe one that is flowering, fruiting showing brilliant colors or maybe just one that you want to share. Bring it to a meeting regardless the topic of the meeting. We can always carve out five minutes for you to do a show-and-tell with it. It doesn't have to be display ready or a "masterpiece"; just something you would like to share.

July Auction/Picnic

Our July 19th meeting is our annual Auction/Picnic at Anson B. Nixon Park in Kennett Square. This is our biggest fundraiser. We ask members to donate items that will then be auctioned off with the proceeds going to the club. The schedule consists of three parts: Pre-lunch auction, club-supplied lunch, and post-lunch auction.

Free Classified Ads: We are still carrying your classified ads in the newsletter for free. Are you planning on selling things that will not be included in the silent auction and that you want the club to be aware so they can bring some extra money or are offering some sort of bonsai-related services. You can send this info to Karin Simmat (ksimmat@verizon.net) for inclusion in the next newsletter.