



# Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

## *Bonsai Times*

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

February, 2026

### Message From the President

Let go of the illusion of control. -- Master Oogway from Kung Fu Panda

Hello BSLV Members,

December 2025 was the coldest since 2009 and January 2026, was the coldest since 2014. This data is based on average temps from the Airport as reported on the Weather Underground, [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com). February is starting out just as cold. As I send this note, through Feb 6, average temp is 19.22 with a high of 25.3 and a low of 5. My fingers are cold as I type this so please forgive any typos!

My trees have been frozen, even with a small heater in the garage. Temps hover right at 32 or a little colder. I put some snow on my trees for future watering, or runoff.

I want to extend thanks to all who helped with our successful fall program. On the subject of helpful people, member Brad Kramer has recently stepped up to be our club's Vice President! Brad is both able and enthusiastic and we appreciate his volunteer spirit!

We have a busy spring season ahead with MABS (registrations now available) on the horizon. A guest speaker has been found for one of our meetings both to lecture and to lead a workshop. We will also be preparing and choosing trees for a show at Longwood Gardens (more to follow). So when you are ready and nature cooperates, start prepping your best trees for MABS and/or Longwood.

The picnic this year will be June 6th at a NEW LOCATION....Moore Township Recreational Center, only 5 minutes away from the Kondikoff Farm. We will have our own pavilion!

Hope to see you all at our first meeting of the year in March.

Stay warm and Healthy.

Bob



*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 Spring!*

# BSLV Spring 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.



**February 19:** BSLV Annual Banquet at Gourmet Buffet & Grill

**March 19, 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. Bring a tree for consideration to be exhibited in the MABS AND/OR Longwood Garden Shows. We will also discuss traditional 2-point bonsai display with special emphasis on stands and show prep. More raffle tickets will be sold and the winner for MABS registration will be chosen.

**April 9, 7:00 pm : VERY IMPORTANT MEETING!!!! : FIRM COMMITMENT TIME!** We need **SOLID CONFIRMATION** on trees BSLV will be sending to 1. MABS Spring Festival and 2. Longwood Gardens Summer of Bonsai shows. All labels and information on these trees must be recorded. More information on the choosing process will be forthcoming.



**April 17-19:** MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival: See page 4

**April 22 (Wednesday, am & pm): BYO WORKSHOP & LECTURE/DEMO:** by Jonas Dupuich (MABS speaker.) The workshop will be during the day and the lecture/demo at our regular meeting time in the evening. More details, including cost, info and sign-up procedure will be forthcoming. (*Spring Semester continued, page 3*)

## BSLV Spring Semester 2026, *continued*

**May 21: POT-O-RAMA!** There will be 3 demonstrations going on simultaneously. One experienced member will show how to remove a tree that is in a nursery container and wire it into a bonsai pot while discussing issues involved in that process. Another member will show the best way to repot a bonsai tree from one bonsai pot to another. President Bob Ruhe will demonstrate how to re-pot a raft or group style tree and provide useful tips that will benefit both beginners and experienced bonsai owners. Learn from each pro!

**June 6 (Saturday):** BSLV's Annual Picnic/Auction at Moore Township Recreational Center which is only 5 minutes away from the Kondikoff Farm. Mark your calendars now! Our private pavilion area has electricity, a kitchen, refrigerator bathrooms and easy parking on level terrain. More details to come at a later date.

**June 24-29 (Set-up June 24, Pick-up June 30)** Summer of Bonsai Exhibition at Longwood Gardens (see page 5) We will have 5 trees from our club on display! We are responsible for providing sitters/docents for 4-hour stints during visiting hours. Though BSLV members must pay to enter Longwood Gardens, BSLV members who agree to tree-sit get in for free!

BSLV Spring Semester 2026, *continued*



## MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies

Presents It's Annual

# Spring Bonsai Festival

**April 17-19 2026**

Holiday Inn Harrisburg (Hershey) Off I-81 in PA

*Featuring Artists:*



**Peter Warren - UK**



**Jonas Dupuich - USA**



**Kaya Mooney JAPAN**

*Exhibitions - Demonstrations - Workshops - Raffles - Auctions - Vendors*

Info and Register at [www.midatlanticbonsai.org](http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org)



@midatlanticbonsai

## Also of Interest

About 3 months ago CBS Sunday Morning had an informative segment on bonsai trees. I have personally visited the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Washington and it was an unforgettable experience. If you missed this portion of the show you can check it out here :

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z\\_JHFW951c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_JHFW951c)



## LONGWOOD GARDENS

1001 Longwood Rd.  
Kennett Square,  
Pennsylvania

# Summer of Bonsai

## Exhibition, Auction & Sale

### June 24-29, 2026

### Vendor Fair

Open days / hours:  
Friday 4 pm - 8 pm  
Saturday 10 am-6 pm  
Sunday 10 am-4 pm

### Lectures & Demonstrations

Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
Professional Bonsai Artist  
presenting at 2 pm each day  
additional demonstrations  
at 11 am and 4 pm each day

### Bonsai Tree Auction

Saturday June 27  
Cocktail Reception  
6 pm-7 pm  
Auction  
starts at 7 pm

### Bonsai Tree Displays

#### See over 70 Bonsai

Open Daily from June 24 thru June 29



**Participating  
Bonsai Societies:**  
Brandywine Bonsai Society  
Deep Cut Bonsai Society  
Great Swamp Bonsai Society  
Bonsai Society of Lehigh Valley  
Pennsylvania Bonsai Society  
Susquehanna Bonsai Club  
New Jersey Bonsai Societies

## Past BSLV Events



Members work on Spreading English Yews in a Design by Committee approach during our October meeting.

## Past BSLV Events, *continued*



Tech trouble shooters group together prairie dog style to regulate the sound system before the lecture/demo.



Visiting bonsai artist, Sean Smith, explained how stick sumi ink is made and described the types of brushes and paper used to create scrolls that hang in tokonomas. He also had many slides that depicted various seasonal indicators that add to the overall feeling of spring, summer, fall and winter tokonomas. After the Power Point presentation Sean taught a group of members sumi painting techniques.



## Recent BSLV Events



This past Thursday BSLV's annual banquet was held at the Gourmet Buffet & Grill. It's always a perfect time to catch up with friends and enjoy lots and LOTS of tasty food! Great door prizes too...thank you to all who helped organize and direct this event.



## 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, 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"*

Jim Gillespie  
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Danielsville, PA 18038

(610) 837-6688  
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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!