BSGNY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

A message from Mary Ward, Our Picnic and Auction Coordinator: Thank you Rob and Helen for lending your backyard for a very enjoyable afternoon!!! The weather, view, and company were perfect. We had some nice trees donated which were auctioned off to club members and everyone walked away with something. (I think if Joe was a pickpocket everyone would have ended up with a tree in their shirt or pants pocket). We had 10 out of 15 members attend today. For those who missed this nice day, I wanted to update you on what we talked about for the future. John has a relationship with Starkie Brothers in Farmingdale. They would like us to do a display in October and everyone today agreed to commit. We are looking at the first weekend in October. We will be in charge of social distancing protocol and whatever state requirements are followed. Also, a suggestion was made to have a September BSGNY meeting at Starkie Brothers since our town park meeting room is presently still closed. We can also use that meeting to plan the logistics for the October display. Everyone today were in favor of that. John will be contacting Starkie for a date which will probably be a weekend day meeting, since they usually close at 6 pm. We are still working on club T-shirts and golf shirts. Look for our next newsletter for updates on what we are working on. Let's all keep in touch and get through these crazy times, until we all feel safe to be together. We have a very nice group of people in this club and I always look forward to our monthly meetings, as I'm sure everyone else feels the same. Stay safe and healthy and thank you everyone that came out today and for those that couldn't attend, you were missed.

September 2020 Meeting

September 12, 2020
Saturday, at 11 am

Starkie Brothers,

721 Main St, Farmingdale,
Their phone is (516) 293-7148

Bring your trees for a critique and guidance on how to fix and prepare for our display.
Please wear a mask and plan to keep your social distance.

Stay home, Stay Healthy, Do Bonsai, Save the World

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Meeting Notes

2 BSGNY INFORMATION AND OFFICERS

3 News, Announcements & Future Events
Photos from our Annual Picnic

4

WELCOME

2020 BSGNY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	JOHN CAPOBIANCO
VICE PRESIDENT	CHRIS ARBONO
TREASURER	PAUL FOGELBERG
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MARY WARD
RECORDING SECRETARY	JOE LESNICK
DIRECTOR	FRANK KONDRICH
DIRECTOR	CLAIRE LANE
DIRECTOR	MARY WARD
PROGRAM CHAIR	MAX BUCKLAND
WEB MASTER	JUSTIN WASIK
NEWSLETTER	FRANK KONDRICH and JOE LESNICK



Like the article reprints in this and the previous newsletter? BSGNY had printed a "Bonsai Bulletin" for almost 30 years. They have been scanned on to a DVD disc. The DV[illegible] here. The price will be $29.95 plus $4.00 shipping and handling. The DVD will also be available for sale at our meetings for ($29.95).

Continued on page 2

Please mail this form to:
BSGNY, PO BOX 115, Baldwin, New York 11510.

Make out your check to "Bonsai Society of Greater NY"

Name_____

Street_____ Apt. #_____

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS and FUTURE EVENTS



Thank you Mary for another excellent event! How will you top this one next year? Thank you Helen & Rob for your hospitality. We all enjoyed visiting you, your dogs, lizards, birds, coy & bonsai. Thank you for making us feel welcomed.





View of the canal from Helen and Rob's backyard, 50 Coy in the pond to the right



Mary and John check out the plants for auction



Mary, John, Ted, Chris and Claire







Rob did a phenominal job cooking, everything from sausages to hot dogs and hamburgers. Mary made the potato, macoroni and tuna salads





Helen's collection




Our next meeting will be on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 11 am at Starkie Brothers, 721 Main St, Farmingdale, NY 11735 Their phone is (516) 293-7148.

At the meeting, we will plan for our October display. Bring your trees for a critique and guidance on how to fix and prepare for our display. Plan to discuss your availability to man the display as well as ensure visitors are socially distancing and maintain the number of visitors below the maximum number of people allowed in the room at one time.

The exhibit will be held at Starkie Brothers on Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4 with set up on Friday night, October 2nd. Starkie is open 8-6 and our exhibit is scheduled for a 9-5 display on that Saturday and Sunday.

Justin will be promoting the exhibit on our web site. Max, who has been assigned Administrative privileges (in addition to John) to our Facebook page will develop a Press release for the event. Chris will bring our PVC backdrops

ALL THINGS BONSAI

New Book on Horticulture, by Frank Kondrich

We have heard it for years that gardening in any form is good for the body and the mind. Working on our trees for any amount of time and losing ourselves in this natural world can have a positive effect on the way we feel. Think Mr. Miyagi giving Daniel a pair of clippers and turning him loose on his bonsai trees. . . or maybe not.

The August 24, 2020 edition of *The New Yorker* magazine has an interesting article under the heading, Annals Of Horticulture. The core of the article is about a recently published book by Sue Stuart-Smith entitled, "The Well-Gardened Mind" with the sub-title, "The Restorative Power of Nature." Sue is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist and her husband, Tom, designs gardens for a living. (Two of his clients are Victoria Beckham and the Queen.) Many of Sue's ideas in the

book are born out of 30 years of clinical practice and her life with Tom. Sue provides the reader with ". . . evidence not just of a garden's power to distract and inspire but of its power to console through its cyclical replenishment."

When the book came out in early May, the UK was in nationwide lockdown and it became a surprising best seller there. The article points out that the British are obsessed with gardening. So the book's success shouldn't come as a complete surprise. The horticultural industry alone adds about 30 billion dollars a year to the UK economy and British consumers spend more than three billion dollars annually at garden centers.

The article gives us more than just an overview of Sue's book, though. It also gives us some background on Sue and Tom, their family, and their home in a restored 17th century barn outside of London which includes a five acre adjacent site called the "Barn Garden."

We already understand the wonderful effect that working on our trees has on our mind and spirits. Seeing it in print makes it all the more real. I put "The Well-Gardened Mind" on my to-read list. But I'll wait for the paperback.

Here's the link to the article. Enjoy!
https://link.zixcentral.com/u/7e4a262b/0r-uhDPp6hGmMCLThnsoMg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.newyorker.com%2Fmagazine%2Fannals-of-horticulture

Wabi-Sabi: The Japanese Philosophy for a Perfectly Imperfect Life

By Thomas Oppong, submitted by John Capobianco

Wabi-sabi represents a precious cache of wisdom that values tranquility, harmony, beauty and imperfection. Life is unpredictable. And that's okay. Embrace it. When nothing is certain, everything is possible! Your plans for tomorrow, next month or next year may not unfold as you expect. But it's important to make plans and move on. Landon Donovan once said, "Life isn't perfect, of course, but we all know it's how you react to things that counts." Imperfection is the basic principle of Wabi-Sabi, the Japanese philosophy of accepting your imperfections and making the most of life.

"Wabi" is said to be defined as "rustic simplicity" or "understated elegance" with a focus on a less-is-more mentality.
"Sabi" is translated to "taking pleasure in the imperfect."

The concept of wabi-sabi, is wide and almost impossible to distill in a single post, but can easily be applied simply to moments of everyday life. The relentless pursuit of perfection — in possessions, relationships, achievements — often leads to stress, anxiety, depression and hasty judgement. This is where wabi-sabi invites a pause. The Japanese philosophy encourages us to focus on the blessings hiding in our daily lives, and celebrating the way things are rather than how they should be. Wabi-sabi prizes authenticity.

Wabi-Sabi is "a way of life that appreciates and accepts complexity while at the same time values simplicity," writes Richard Powell in his book, Wabi Sabi Simple. Richard says it acknowledges three simple realities: "Nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect."
In Zen philosophy, there are seven aesthetic principles in achieving wabi-sabi:

- Kanso — simplicity
- Fukinsei — asymmetry or irregularity
- Shibumi — beauty in the understated
- Shizen — naturalness without pretense
- Yugen — subtle grace
- Datsuzoku — freeness
- Seijaku — tranquility

The timeless wisdom of wabi-sabi is more relevant now than ever for modern life, as we search for meaning and fulfilment beyond materialism. Wabi-sabi is like minimalism with a conscious choice. The concept has its roots in the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. A common explanation is the example of a well-loved teacup, made by an artist's hands, cracked or chipped by constant use. Such traces remind the observer that nothing is permanent — even fixed objects are subject to change. A great example of wabi-sabi in creativity is the art of ***kintsugi***, where cracked pottery is filled with gold dusted lacquer as a way to showcase the beauty of its age and damage rather than hiding it. The fault is not hidden but highlighted. This is not to say the Craftsman was sloppy (wabi-sabi isn't an excuse for poor craftsmanship). Wabi-sabi draws attention to the cracks in a tea cup as part of the beauty of the object.

In his book The Unknown Craftsman, Soetsu Yanagi argues that imperfections are necessary for a full appreciation of the object and the world. We in our own human imperfections are repelled by the perfect, since everything is apparent from the start and there is no suggestion of the infinite. Wabi-sabi is everywhere, you just need to know how to look, and what to do to embrace the concept in your life. The cracks in the old teacup are seen as assets rather than flaws. "Wabi sabi is a different kind of looking, a different kind of mindset," explains Robyn Griggs Lawrence, author of Simply Imperfect: Revisiting the Wabi-Sabi House . "It's the true acceptance of finding beauty in things as they are," he says.
What does it take to embrace Wabi-sabi in your life?

Robyn explains that you don't money, or special skills to appreciate your imperfections and make the most of life. Bringing wabi-sabi into your life doesn't require money, training, or special skills. It takes a mind quiet enough to appreciate muted beauty, courage not to fear bareness, willingness to accept things as they are — without ornamentation. It depends on the ability to slow down, to shift the balance from doing to being, to appreciating rather than perfecting. Mike Sturm says Wabi-sabi is about accepting yourself and building on what you already have in life. He writes.

Embracing wabi-sabi is as easy (or as difficult) as understanding and accepting yourself — imperfections and all. It's about being compassionate with yourself as you are, and building on whatever that is — not feverishly trying to rebuild yourself in order to pose as something else entirely.

Today, appreciation of the things we have, people we love, and the experiences we have the opportunity to weave into our lives is losing value. Wabi-sabi represents a precious cache of wisdom that values tranquility, harmony, beauty and imperfection, and can strengthen your resilience in the face of materialism. It gently motions you to relax, slow down, step back from the hectic modern world and find enjoyment and gratitude in everything you do. Put simply, wabi-sabi gives you permission to be yourself. Embrace the perfection of being imperfectly you.

Thomas Oppong is the founder of AllTopStartups and writes on science-based answers to problems in life about creativity, productivity, and self-improvement.



Maple air layered in April



Growing in July



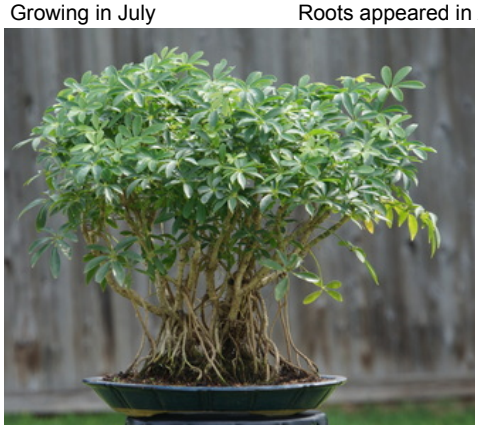
Roots appeared in August



base and air layer separated



The new root over rock maple



Schefflera bonsai



Wabi-sabi pot



Schefflera bonsai



Wabi-sabi pot



Keeping a plant moist allows aerial roots to form



Aerial roots like moisture



More schefflera bonsai with aerial roots



Schefflera bonsai



Shohin schefflera bonsai



Schefflera bonsai



Schefflera bonsai