



SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2023

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INVITATION TO SUBMIT PHOTOS OF YOUR FINEST BONSAI

January 2, 2023

Dear Exhibitor,

Thank you for displaying your beautiful bonsai in past US National Bonsai Exhibitions. Sharing your bonsai with the world is the main reason our exhibitions are such a success. If you have not had the opportunity to see the formal portrait of your bonsai in the *Commemorative Albums*, they are still available and can be easily ordered through our web site at: www.internationalbonsai.com/page/1442819

I'd like to personally invite you to again show one of your finest bonsai at the upcoming **2023 8TH US National Bonsai Exhibition** on September 9-10, 2023 in the same spacious well lighted venue. A few photos of several bonsai have already been submitted, but have not been officially accepted yet.

As before, simply e-mail me a current photo of your bonsai. It does not need to be a formal photo, just a simple image will do. I realize your bonsai might be transplanted in spring, which is fine. Also your bonsai might be under several inches (or feet) of snow now so feel free to wait until spring. Remember, we want to show superb bonsai in many different styles and species. Rock plantings, especially vertical clinging-to-a-rock style as well as cascade style bonsai are especially desired to present a wide variety of bonsai to the public. In the past many juniper bonsai were submitted. This year all junipers really need to be unique to be accepted.

It is time to improve the quality, not the size of the bonsai on display. Therefore, we will **be reducing the number** of bonsai accepted in order not to crowd their display. The selection process will be more selective than in the past. Please try to submit photos of your smaller, rather than larger size bonsai. The large size trees are difficult to move, especially into Joe's Photo Studio. It would be a shame for you to train a bonsai, have it accepted for display bring it to Rochester, then NOT have it professionally photographed for the *Commemorative Album* because it is too heavy or will not fit in the door...

The submission deadline is June 1ST and acceptances will close once the display areas are filled. Once your bonsai is accepted the entry fee of \$75 per bonsai or shohin bonsai composition which can be easily paid for on our web site. You many NOT pay your entry fee on the day of the exhibition. Your bonsai will not be formally accepted without the entry fee. Exhibitors might be disappointed with tardy payments. Other bonsai of the same species and styles you want to display may already be formally accepted by others with the required entry fee.

Of course, a complimentary weekend pass will be waiting for you at the door. Please note that the deadline for delivering your bonsai is on **FRIDAY, September 8TH, 12:00 Noon, NO EXCEPTIONS**, kindly *make your travel plans accordingly*. The judges need time to carefully evaluate your bonsai before the exhibition opens.

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Judges for this year's exhibition will be Koji Hiramatsu (Japan), Gerald Rainville (Canada) and Corin Tomlinson (England). They will bring their expert opinions to evaluate each bonsai and will also be presenting demonstrations. In the past we had eight demonstrations and 16 bonsai/suiseki/display critiques which will again be free with paid admission.

Please let me know if you need assistance with transporting your bonsai. We usually have three trucks carefully moving bonsai from Portland, OR, San Francisco bay area in CA and central Florida. Our sponsors, benefactors and donors have provided funds for helping to transport your bonsai.

Attached is a promotional postcard for distribution. Let me know how many postcards you would like for distributing. Vicki Chamberlain, has created and maintains our beautiful new web site with many photos and details of the exhibition (www.usnationalbonsai.com). Updates will be posted.

Any ideas or suggestions are most welcome to make **2023 8TH US National Bonsai Exhibition** another success. If you have ideas how to publicize the event, kindly let me know. Perhaps your club's newsletter has an event calendar or areas for ads. I can provide ads of any size for publication.

Costs continue to increase and donations are most welcome and needed to properly stage the **2023 8TH US National Bonsai Exhibition**. If you would like to help support the growth, appreciation and improvement of the art, please consider a contribution to this worthwhile important event and be part of creating the history of bonsai in the United States.

Thank you again for your past support and I look forward to seeing your submission and to welcome you to the **2023 8TH US National Bonsai Exhibition!** I WILL be in superb condition this year, no surgeries "*planned*" for this year.

Have a rewarding spring and new bonsai training season,



William N. Valavanis
US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION