

LONGWOOD
GARDENS

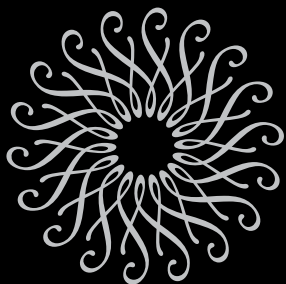
Bonsai Festival

Auction Catalog

June 27

Auction preview 12–7 pm

Auction begins at 7 pm



Engage in a live auction of bonsai trees, provided by participating vendors, nurseries, Longwood Gardens, and The Kennett Collection. A portion of the proceeds supports local nonprofit bonsai clubs.

Auction bidder registration begins June 27 at 12 pm and lasts until 6:45 pm. All bidders are required to provide a credit card and identification for registration. All registered bidders will be given a bidder number paddle with which to bid during the auction. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder that does not display a bidder number paddle.

At the end of the auction or at any time during the auction, a bidder may return their number paddle and pay for any tree(s) they have purchased. Payment may be made in cash or by credit card, with a 15% buyer's premium added to all cash transactions and an 18% buyer's premium added to all credit card transactions. Upon payment, buyers will receive a completed tree release form from the cashier for the specific tree number they purchased. This release form will provide instructions for pick-up.

Access to the auction is free with Gardens Admission.



1. Jade
Portulacaria afra

Age: 18 years

Years in training: 16

Size: (H) 10 inches, (W) 28 inches, (D) 10 inches

Container: South Korea

Notes: Originally started in 2008.

From member of Brandywine Bonsai Society

Estimated range: \$500–\$800



2. Cork-bark Chinese Elm
Ulmus parvifolia 'Suberosa'

Age: Approximately 30 years

Years in training: 25

Size: (H) 33 inches, (W) 27 inches, (D) 24 inches

Container: Japanese, Tokoname-ware

Notes: Started from young cuttings of Cork-bark Chinese elms which were grouped together to form a clump. Now a couple of decades later they have all fused together. The rough bark is especially appreciated in winter.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$4,000–\$5,000



3. Shimpaku Juniper Itoigowa
Juniperus chinensis

Age: 80+ years

Years in training: 20

Size: (H) 24 inches, (W) 32 inches, (D) 22 inches

Container: Origin unknown

Notes: Very well-developed Shimpaku

From Sebesta Bonsai Studio

Estimated range: \$7,500–\$8,500



4. Trident Maple
Acer buergerianum

Age: Approximately 40 years

Years in training: 35

Size: (H) 27 inches, (W) 29 inches, (D) 26 inches

Container: Chinese

Notes: Started from a young container-grown seedling which had a hollow under the base. Student in South Carolina bought a native stone for the base. Unfortunately the stone color is not the best because it matches the bark. Several small seedling Trident maples were inarched grafted to the trunk base to appear as roots clinging to a rock. The rock is in there, but you must search for it.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$8,000–\$10,000



5. Japanese White Pine
Pinus parviflora 'Zuisho'

Age: 25 years

Years in training: 5

Size: (H) 28 inches, (W) 24 inches, (D) 24 inches

Container: Chinese

Notes: Created by air layer by Julian Adams. Photo from mid-September 2025.

From member of Pennsylvania Bonsai Society

Estimated range: \$800–\$1,000



6. Koto Hime Japanese Maple
Acer palmatum 'Koto Hime'

Age: Approximately 50 years

Years in training: 50

Size: (H) 34 inches, (W) 19 inches, (D) 19 inches

Container: American, Joseph Godwin, for Yuji Yoshimura

Notes: Started from a cutting rooted in 1970 and completely container-grown and -trained. The mature bark is grey and shows the age of this bonsai. It is in a rather unusual form with the low branch crossing, but not touching the trunk. Can be appreciated from many front views. An excellent and distinctive focal point raises the level of elegant beauty.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$9,000–\$12,000



7. Magnolia
Magnolia stellata

Age: 20 years

Years in training: 4

Size: (H) 32 inches, (W) 22 inches, (D) 18 inches

Container: Chinese

Notes: Reliably blooms each spring. Last repotted in 2024.

From Green Witch Gardens, Michigan

Estimated range: \$500–\$800



8. Mugo Pine
Pinus mugo

Age: Approximately 40 years

Years in training: 35

Size: (H) 30 inches, (W) 26 inches, (D) 25 inches

Container: Japanese Tokoname-ware

Notes: Developed from a young container-grown nursery stock seedling. Originally created in an informal upright style, then a large prominent branch was removed to develop this tree in the literati style. It is an accomplishment to keep the trunk in the same diameter for over 30 years. The rough flaky bark adds beauty and the feeling of age to this elegant design.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$4,000–\$6,000



9. Japanese Zelkova
Zelkova serrata

Age: Unknown

Years in training: Unknown

Size: (H) 22 inches, (W) 19 inches, (D) 20 inches

Container: Chinese, unknown origin

From Bonsai Learning Center, North Carolina

Estimated range: \$2,500–\$3,000



10. Daruma Dwarf Ezo Spruce
Picea jezoensis 'Daruma'

Age: 56 years

Years in training: 56

Size: (H) 20 inches, (W) 26 inches, (D) 21 inches

Container: Japanese, Tokoname-ware, handmade for this bonsai by Gyozan

Notes: Ezo spruce bonsai in the United States are rare. Even more difficult to find are dwarf (yatsubusa) cultivars. There are many different cultivars and 'Daruma' is one of the finest. Developed from a rooted cutting in 1970 and has been completely container-grown for 56 years. This bonsai has been widely displayed and is well-known.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$9,000–\$15,000



11. European Hornbeam
Carpinus betulus

Age: 30+ years

Years in training: 20+

Size: (H) 28 inches, (W) 24 inches, (D) 20 inches

Container: European, unknown origin

From Nature's Way Nursery

Estimated range: \$1,100–\$1,500



12. American Larch
Larix laricina

Age: 150+ years

Years in training: 46

Size: (H) 28 inches, (W) 33 inches, (D) 20 inches

Container: Japanese, Tokoname-ware

Notes: Collected north of Toronto, Ontario, Canada in 1980. Trained in the forest style with connected roots all one tree, sinuous style. Incorrectly called "raft style", however, the original trunk is not in a straight line. Movement and depth are creative by the curved trunk. Originally developed in a deeper container while developing the canopy.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$6,000–\$9,000



13. Winged Elm
Ulmus alata

Age: Unknown

Years in training: Unknown

Size: (H) 34 inches, (W) 30 inches, (D) 34 inches

Container: American, Byron Myrick

Notes: This tree has been in North Carolina for the last three years and is growing strong.

From Bonsai Learning Center, North Carolina

Estimated range: \$2,800–\$3,500



14. Colorado Blue Spruce
Picea pungens

Age: 150+ years

Years in training: 9

Size: (H) 30 inches, (W) 30 inches, (D) 34 inches

Container: Chinese

Notes: Collected in Colorado in September 2017 by Todd Schlafer. Grown in a large plastic training pot for two years until 2019 when I shaped it.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$6,000–\$8,000



15. European Beech *Fagus sylvatica*

Age: 35+ years

Years in training: 10+

Size: (H) 30 inches, (W) 31 inches, (D) 27 inches

Container: American slab, unknown origin

Notes: This forest planting was created from individual trees grown for many years separately. Purchased from Bill Valavanis in 2020 and developed since then.

From member of New Jersey Bonsai Societies

Estimated range: \$3,500–\$4,000



16. Mugo Pine *Pinus mugo*

Age: Approximately 50 years

Years in training: 40

Size: (H) 32 inches, (W) 45 inches, (D) 34 inches

Container: Chinese

Notes: Developed from common nursery stock over 40 years ago. It was selected because of the short straight needles. Originally planted on a huge stone, which I could not lift. Now, I can't even lift it in the container. The heavy contorted base makes an excellent focal point for the well-tapered aged trunk.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$8,000–\$10,000



17. Blackthorn
Prunus spinosa

Age: 25+ years

Years in training: 25+

Size: (H) 26 inches, (W) 28 inches, (D) 20 inches

Container: Contemporary Chinese

Notes: Blackthorn produce small flowers in the late spring and have clusters of black berries in the fall.

From member of New Jersey Bonsai Societies

Estimated range: \$1,000–\$1,200



18. Kishu Sargent Juniper
Juniperus chinensis var. *sargentii*
'Kishu'

Age: 45+ years

Years in training: 45

Size: (H) 8 inches, (W) 8 inches, (D) 13 inches

Container: Japanese, Tokoname-ware

Notes: This is an old, well-trained bonsai of the 'Kishu' cultivar of Sargent juniper. It was already an established bonsai when 'Kishu' was introduced to the general bonsai world. Originally trained in the semi-cascade style, then let the tree do its own thing. Easy to maintain in the high-quality deep container. Started from a cutting grown in Los Angeles, California.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$3,000–\$5,000



19. Japanese Black Pine *Pinus thunbergii*

Age: 100 years

Years in training: Unknown

Size: (H) 29 inches, (W) 27 inches, (D) 22 inches

Container: Japanese

Notes: Tree is from Takamatsu

From member of Pennsylvania Bonsai Society

Estimated range: \$8,000–\$11,000



20. Wild Crabapple *Malus* spp.

Age: 60+ years

Years in training: 40

Size: (H) 45 inches, (W) 45 inches, (D) 34 inches

Container: Chinese

Notes: Collected in Rochester, New York, by Joseph Noga who developed the beautiful clump style bonsai. Reliable bloomer in mid-spring with white fragrant flowers. Usually every other year it produces numerous small apples, which actually look like miniature apples. Turns clear yellow in October/November.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$6,000–\$9,000



21. Japanese Black Pine *Pinus thunbergii*

Age: 40+ years

Years in training: 40+

Size: (H) 40 inches, (W) 27 inches, (D) 24 inches

Container: Antique Chinese pot, over 200 years old

Notes: This cascade Japanese Black Pine was grown from a seedling by Bill Valavanis for over 35 years; the tree was purchased in 2020 and has been in development since. It was shown at the 2025 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies show and won the Best in Show award. It was also selected and displayed at the 9th US National Bonsai Exhibition.

From member of New Jersey Bonsai Societies

Estimated range: \$10,000–\$15,000



22. Japanese Flowering Cherry *Prunus incisa* 'Kojo No Mai'

Age: Approximately 15 years

Years in training: 7

Size: (H) 21 inches, (W) 37 inches, (D) 28 inches

Container: American, Michael Hagedorn, retired artist and now a bonsai teacher

Notes: Developed from a four-foot-tall nursery plant originally used for a flower show display. Also called Little Twist cherry because of the zigzag branching. Flowers profusely in early spring with pink blossoms becoming white when mature. Sometimes forms small purple fruit.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$4,000–\$6,000



23. Japanese White Pine
Pinus parviflora

Age: 95 years

Years in training: 95

Size: (H) 29 inches, (W) 34 inches, (D) 25 inches

Container: Japanese

Notes: Imported from Japan two years ago

From Kifu Bonsai

Estimated range: \$6,000–\$8,000



24. Red Dragon Contorted Filbert
Corylus avellana 'Red Dragon'

Age: Approximately 25 years

Years in training: 10

Size: (H) 22 inches, (W) 31 inches, (D) 20 inches

Container: Japanese container, Tokoname-ware from the Reiho Kiln

Notes: The Red Dragon contorted filbert is a unique plant with the small dark-maroon leaves which are very attractive when emerging in spring. This cultivar is a mutation of the Harry Lauder's walking stick which maintains the beautiful cork screw branches as the original, but only in miniature form. This clump style bonsai has two good viewing sides which comes in helpful in displays. The yellow container contrasts well with the red foliage. Usually blossoms in spring with long catkin flowers. Developed from an uncommon cultivar of a popular nursery plant.

From Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai Arboretum

Estimated range: \$8,000–\$10,000



25. Dawn Redwood
Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Age: 20 years

Years in training: 4

Size: (H) 42 inches, (W) 20 inches, (D) 24 inches

Container: American

Notes: Wide nebari, field-grown, fast-growing, cold-hardy

From Green Witch Gardens, Michigan

Estimated range: \$700–\$1,000



26. Japanese Black Pine
Pinus thunbergii

Age: 60+ years

Years in training: 36+

Size: (H) 43 inches, (W) 34 inches, (D) 28 inches

Container: Japanese pot, unknown origin

Notes: This tree was won in raffle at 1990 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies in Saddle Brook, New Jersey. Demo by Horst Kreckeler of Bonsai Centrum, Heidelberg, Germany. Dug from Rosade Bonsai Studio field.

From member of Bonsai Society of Long Valley

Estimated range: \$1,000–\$1,500



27. Japanese Zelkova
Zelkova serrata

Age: 65+ years

Years in training: 51+

Size: (H) 33 inches, (W) 26 inches, (D) 20 inches

Container: Chinese pot, unknown origin

Notes: This tree was acquired by Longwood Gardens in 1988 and has been on display many times over the years in multiple locations.

From Longwood Gardens

Estimated range: \$1,200–\$1,600



28. Japanese Black Pine
Pinus thunbergii

Age: 80+ years

Years in training: 70+

Size: (H) 20 inches, (W) 28 inches, (D) 24 inches

Container: American pot, Sara Rayner

Notes: This tree was imported from Shikoku Island, Japan.

From The Kennett Collection

Estimated range: \$1,500–\$2,000



29. Trident Maple
Acer buergerianum

Age: 45 years

Years in training: 26

Size: (H) 26 inches, (W) 24 inches, (D) 22 inches

Container: Japanese pot, unknown origin

Notes: This tree was acquired by Longwood Gardens in 1994. It has been on display many times over the years in multiple locations.

From Longwood Gardens

Estimated range: \$1,000–\$1,400



30. Japanese Black Pine
Pinus thunbergii

Age: 60+ years

Years in training: 50+

Size: (H) 20 inches, (W) 15 inches, (D) 16 inches

Container: Possibly European

Notes: This tree was imported from Japan, acquired from Ueno Green Club.

From The Kennett Collection

Estimated range: \$600–\$1,000

