

**A**nother year has come to a close – it doesn't seem possible that it has been ten years since the Y2K media hype – now it is global warming, economic meltdown and universal health care. Some resolutions we were able to keep, some were finished practically before the year began. But most of us reflect on the things we did, those we didn't, and promise ourselves to do and be better in the New Year.

January 1, 2010 is the start of a new bonsai club year – officers officially start their duties – some have been Board Members for several years, being willing to give of their time and energies to help keep the Long Island Bonsai Society a viable entity; some are new to the Board and it is the new blood, with new ideas and perspectives that will help our club grow. We appreciate your willingness to guide us in the right direction and we thank those members who have kept us afloat in the past. The club belongs to each of us, and the Board will be more than happy to have input as to what you might like to see presented, what early workshop topics you feel might be helpful, what workshops you might be interested in, what ideas you might have to increase our membership, or any other topic that might improve our club. We would also be grateful if you would step forward and offer your help whether it is teaching an early workshop, doing “coffee and”, helping set up for an event, or any of the many other things that need an extra hand for.

January 1 is also when dues are due – Our new treasurer, Lily

Stiel, would love to report that we have all renewed our membership. Special “*thank you*” to those members who have already done so.

\$40.00 for Single Membership  
\$45.00 Couple Membership  
\$50.00 Patron Membership  
\$10.00 Student Membership

Please give your check to Lily Stiel, at our meeting, or you may mail it to her at 46 Bond Avenue, Malverne, NY 11565

Thanks for your continuing membership and continuing support.

I missed the Holiday Celebration, but by all reports, it was a good time had by all, and Francine sent pictures to prove it. Our proceeds for both Marion's special auction and the regular club auction brought in more than \$1,100 that we can use to bring us the kinds of demonstrations we have come to expect.

We are starting off the new club year in a new location – the former gift shop, now called the **Classroom in the Main Greenhouse Building** – the location where the Holiday party was held. We feel this environment will be an improvement over the close quarters we have been using. We will also be able to house our supply cabinet in that building, which will be a help when we are getting ready for our meetings, and returning club supplies at the end of the evening.

*Our missing turntable is no longer missing – staff found it left out after a meeting and put it away for safekeeping.*

***An old black briefcase was found by the Arboretum staff after our holiday party – we will have it at our next meeting, so if you're missing such an item, we have it***

### ***Important Notice***

***There will be no early workshop in January or February.***

***HOWEVER, our meeting will start at 7:30 pm for those two months.***

Steve Villandre, our early workshop chairperson is unable to continue due to an extended work schedule.

We hope to have that position filled soon.

Our speaker for the January meeting will again be Vin Russo – our November speaker.

Vin did an outstanding job styling the cryptomeria and for this meeting he will be doing a maple forest. I am eagerly looking forward to our meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully you will be able to make this meeting – you won't be disappointed. Sorry Snow Birds you are going to miss out.

Thanks to Tom Nerrie for graciously agreeing to work with Tom O'Connor as club workshop chairmen. Tom O has been doing this job single handedly for quite a number of years, and is glad to have a helping hand.

**Thanks**

Paul Fogelberg is happy being the successful bidder on a rectangle bonsai container



Linda Fleigner had two new helpers to record the auction bids. Thanks to new members, Liz Travers, and Camille DeRosa for pitching in.



Marty Haber is showing off his latest acquisition – and Ruth is smiling but really thinking – Oh no- not another one, the storage shed is overflowing.



Charles McCarron's smile says it all – he is delighted with his purchase. Your indoor collection is going to out-grow your space soon.



Our auction wouldn't be complete without Tom Marinace and Jules Zuch hawking their wares and driving up the bids.



Steve Borakowski is carrying off his prize – a nice ivory colored hobnail round pot

Someone, whom shall remain nameless, called in sick to work so that he would be able to attend our auction.

D.C. never misses a chance to bid – and he is even often successful. Glad you could come!



David Parker is spreading a little holiday cheer to Jim Stopfer – which is, of course, against State Park policy – Just say it was cough medicine if you get caught!

*Thanks Francine for supplying me with pictures – I think it makes the Newsletter more interesting – and it puts faces to go with the names of our members.*

*Now we can ask David Parker why we didn't get any holiday cheer.*

Bonsai design is best approached with some of the principles of art in mind. We should always strive to present a realistic image of a tree that was naturally shaped by the events of its environment - harsh, windy, gentle, rocky, etc.

Often this can be achieved by a direct approach – you achieve depth, symmetry, scale, balance and proportion. Sometimes the material you are working with requires you to create an optical illusion – or to fool the viewer into seeing or not seeing something that is missing or something that does not fit the criteria of good design.

When a branch is out of proportion as in the picture below, you



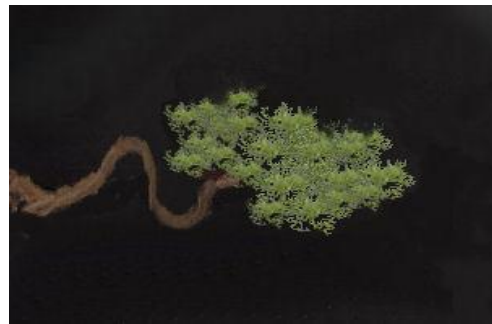
might consider some options such as using jin after removing the foliage portion of the branch – that would yield a tree that is not in balance. You might prune some of the foliage and hope and pray for bud-back – but on some species such as pine, spruce and juniper that is not likely to happen. A third option is to foreshorten the branch by wiring in some curves or movement,



giving the impression that the branch is shorter than it is.



The results give you a tree that is now in balance and is attractive.



This is an above view of the branch - the movement is side to side – toward and away from the viewer which creates the illusion of a shorter branch. If you shortened the branch by wiring it in an up and down fashion, the outcome would be less appealing.

You should consider the technique of foreshortening whenever you are wiring or styling your trees. It can be utilized on the apex or top portion of a tree to reduce the height – tipping the trunk forward towards the viewer. Foliage can be made to appear denser by foreshortening the secondary and tertiary branches. Keep in mind that you want to create a believable image, not one looking too contrived. Gentle movement is what you should be striving for.

## Some New Year's

### Resolutions...

- Give each tree the time it deserves in order to achieve the best outcome for that tree
- Recognize that not all your bonsai material will reach perfection
- Keep in mind that it is the journey not the destination as your work on your trees
- Have patience, patience and more patience
- Increase your knowledge through trial and error
- Study and try new techniques
- Share your knowledge and secrets
- Exhibit a tree in the club's tokanoma
- Be supportive of other members efforts

Don't forget to frequently check on your trees that are wintered over outdoors. A heavy snowfall will go a long way to keep them cozy and moist, but temperatures warm up, a snowfall melts, and the ground can thaw, pots can dry out, mulch can be disturbed by squirrels, or other creatures foraging around your trees – or if the pickings are slim, some may decide your trees are a tasty snack and can easily girdle a trunk.

While winter technically has just begun, when you pursue bonsai, you tend to be thinking ahead - planning the jobs that will need to be done prior to mid to late March, which generally is the beginning of the hectic repotting season. Make sure you have enough supplies of annealed wire, various bonsai soil components; make sure your pots are scrubbed clean and sanitized, wire in the screening, make certain all your tools are sharp - replace any that are beyond repair. Somehow no matter how much stuff you accumulate, you always run short of something in the middle of repotting.

Making a list of those trees that need attention is helpful - ideally you should keep an on-going list, as memory of which tree needed what, is not always accurate. Using metal tags that you can scribe/engrave information onto with an old ballpoint pen is very helpful, and not too unattractive. You can record the tree's history, repotting info, flowering, defoliating, grafting, or any other pertinent information that will make its care easier.



They come in assorted sized, and color finishes, and are generally readily available through

mail order, or larger garden centers, and are fairly inexpensive.

Winter is also a good time to study the art of bonsai - re-read some of the books you have, or take one out of our library - view or re-view some of the videos that are available. For the most part, each time you re-read or re-watch something about bonsai, you learn or see something you missed or did not quite understand the first, or second-time around.

If you read or see something that is not clear to you, make a note of it, and bring your questions to a meeting where it can be discussed - even members with 40 years experience can learn something - there are always advances in techniques, styles, tools, culture, etc.

You might want to consider taking photos of your trees so that you can see the progress they are making. Also remember my suggestion of making a sketch of the plan you have in mind for a particular tree - all these things will help you reach your goal - the tree of your dreams - the one that speaks to your soul.

Your trees will only improve if you take action. Be brave - make those cuts, change its style, rethink your approach. If you just care for, water, fertilize and trim your tree, it will not reach its potential as a bonsai - it will be just a tree in a container. Planning and research will get you on the path to a nice bonsai, and maybe even to one that takes your breath away.

Whether your trees ever reach the state of development that you planned, enjoy them for what they are - and recognize the fact that

some will be like our pets, (or our children) not perfect, but they make us happy regardless of their training and breeding, and that you will never stop trying to make them into what you want them to be - a thing to be proud of.

Your record sheet can be as simple or as complex as you wish - but you might want to include some of the following basic information:

**Bonsai Record Sheet**

Botanical Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Common Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Obtained \_\_\_\_\_  
 Purchased \_\_\_\_\_ Collected \_\_\_\_\_ - location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Propagated \_\_\_\_\_  
 Propagation: Seed \_\_\_\_\_ Cutting \_\_\_\_\_ Graft \_\_\_\_\_  
 Layering \_\_\_\_\_ Auction \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Training & Maintenance Record**

	2010	2011	2012	2012
Jan				
Feb				
Mar				
April				
May				
June				
ETC.				
Misc. info.				

To indicate what work has been done, place code number in applicable box  
 1 - hard pruning 2 - soft pruning  
 3 - pinching 4 - leaf pruning  
 5 - repot 6 - wiring 7 - wire removed  
 8 - fertilized 9 - treated for insects or disease

Comments

Long Island Bonsai Society - Monday - January 11, 2010

NO EARLY WORKSHOP

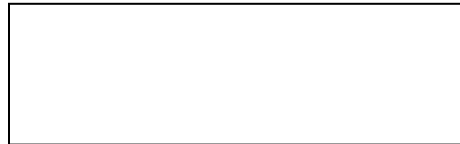
MAIN MEETING STARTING AT 7:30 pm

Vin Russo - Maple Forest

The Classroom at the Main Greenhouse

Our new permanent location at Planting Fields Arboretum

Long Island Bonsai Society  
c/o 38 Elm Street  
Lynbrook, NY 11563



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