

Long Island Bonsai Society – Monday, August 8, 2011

Main Program – 8:00 p.m. Marty Schmalenberg

San José Juniper Styling

Early workshop – 7:00 p.m. - Tom Marinace - Wiring Techniques

The Classroom at the Main Greenhouse

Planting Fields Arboretum

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



Sunday, August 7th – 11 am

*In the Classroom at the Main
Greenhouse – Show your LIBS
membership card for free admis-
sion to the park – join in the
fun...*



Hope you can make the annual picnic and bonsai auction.



There are always treasures to be had, some wonderful trees are again being donated to the Society by Waldo Hutchins – if you were here for last year's picnic and auction you know the kind of trees Waldo has. We are sorry that his larger trees have become too much for him to maintain, but we are so fortunate that Waldo is willing to donate them to our club for our fundraiser - Waldo would love to know that they are going to the homes of members who will appreciate all the care that Waldo gave them over the years they were in his possession, and continue to develop them into the masterpieces that they are capable of becoming.

Tom Nerrie has graciously agreed to take on the responsibility of the picnic and he will be getting wraps, heroes and all the timings.

While it would have been helpful to know how many members to expect, the early bird fee of \$13.00 by August 1st has passed, Admission at the door is \$15.00.

Marion will be holding her

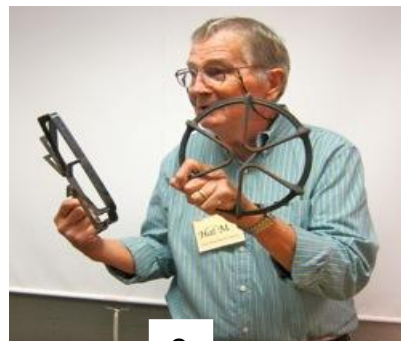
special auction, so if you have any items to donate, bonsai related or not, please bring them on the 7th. We will be indoors – air conditioned – rain or shine!

There will be some special items at auction from Tom Ilijec's collection. Again we appreciate Helen's generosity, but sad that we have lost a wonderful hard working member.

July's Meeting...

Early Workshop

Hal Mahoney was full of helpful ideas – he does come up with some innovative – radical – ideas and techniques. In the next issue of the Newsletter I will highlight a technique using cement to create taper and a buttressed base. Hal has amassed an entire collection of stove top grates – they make great trays under bonsai pots – allowing for good drainage and air flow – with the added plus of making bonsai bench clean up easy. He is now finding that using the grate upside down is better than using them in their conventional orienta-



tion. Even broken grates are used for smaller pots.

Hal gave credit to Warren Hill who introduced 25 years ago the soil mix that Hal uses for all his trees – 50% peat moss, 50% pool filter sand – to the National Arboretum.

Hal stashes some 25 gallon containers of water to allow him to water trees that are located too far away to be reach with his garden hose.

Hal cuts down a flexible nursery plant container to fit inside a decorative ceramic garden planter – with the liner containing the soil rather than placed directly in the ceramic pot, containers can be left out all winter – the expansion due to freezing takes place in the plastic container, which then does no cause cracking of the ceramic one.

Hal was able to readily obtain white marble trays to create his landscape scenes on, but they have become difficult to obtain – so now he buys marble topped tables from Salvation Army, or church thrift shops – and they are cheaper than the trays he was once able to obtain.

Hal is always full of wonderful information and ideas.

Pauline Muth was our evening's main speaker on of Collected American Larch. She used trees collected along the bog edge in Northern Main right after the snow leaves the ground. Pauline admitted to now using diggers rather than



doing the work she once did herself.

The Larch showed obvious signs of good healthy soft green growth.

Pauline pointed out that if you look closely at a tuft of green growth you can see that the panicles are stacked, one on top of another.

panicle



The tree develops one layer each year. Larch are generally slow growing. In order to maintain tight compact foliage, you need to cut off elongated growth. This will

develop short space between the internodes. Larch remain fairly flexible even when growth is fully mature. Pauline said you can drill down into the center of a thick trunk, and it will allow you enough flexibility to bend the trunk.

In Mid-June a larch can be defoliated every second year to achieve smaller needles by grasping each tuft of needles and cutting off most of it _ HOWEVER if you remove all the green nothing will grow back.

In the early Spring when the buds turn glossy is the ideal time to re-pot a Larch. Adding iron to the first feeding will produce good green coloration – if you use a regular fertilizer early on it will encourage long needles. Once the needles have set (reach their full size) you can fertilize Larch as you would any of your other trees. Pauline also cautioned about excessive moisture in the spring – too much will produce long needles – so it may be necessary to protect the pot when we have a rainy spring.

Larch are slow learners – it can take at least five years for a branch to stay in the position you wired it to. Needless to say that you need to keep rewiring it, not leave the same wire in place

for five years. Wiring in the winter when all the foliage is off, makes the job much easier. You need to take care that you do not damage the panicles when wiring.

Pauline prefers using copper wire on larch as the holding power is greater on a thinner gauge copper wire than a comparable aluminum wire. However, aluminum is easier to work with. Pauline also stated that a second wire placed along the side of the first wire has greater holding power, and offers more control than that of one wire whose thickness is equal to the two wires combined (2 – 2mm wires have more holding power than 1 – 4 mm wire).

When the weather cools down, larch generally have a second flush of growth. You want to wire all the braches, even the small ones to achieve the feeling of motion in the tree.

Larch often lack good nebari, so splitting roots in half with a root splitter greatly enhances the appearance.

Larch are cold growing plants, we are probably at the very edge of their temperature range so they don't like the heat, but they do love the sun. They love to be frozen and can stay on your benches all winter long. After leafing out, growing in an Eastern exposure if best.

Pauline recommend PC Pe-trifier as a good product to deal with decay; use lime sulfur on shari.

When asked how to find the live vein on a tree (the part you want to keep intact if you are creating deadwood.) The live vein is the part that feeds the foliage – if it gets damaged, all or part of the foliage will die.) she suggested on a hot day place a well-watered larch in full sun, and the area that is warmer to the touch will be the live vein – the dead area will feel cooler. Larch tend to heal well so creating an area with dead wood is a good technique. Using Preparation H, or Vaseline along the cut edges and covering with aluminum foil – shiny side in - will keep the cut edges moist and to heal quicker.

Pauline removes those branches not needed for the style she envisions for this tree



You want to develop a soft crown (foliage pads) make sure each branch receives enough light.



All the remaining braches are fully wired – including the smaller ones.



Pauline felt a round drum pot was a good choice for the tree she styled.

You should always study a tree before starting styling work on it.



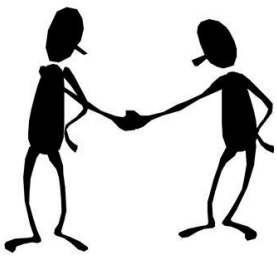
Many bonsai artist make a sketch of the tree they envision before working on a tree. Pauline showed the picture she drew at home after considering the merits of the Larch she would be working on. It certainly looks like the tree we had before us.



Eric Anderson is the proud winner of the Larch, and hopefully it will be on display in our tokanoma one day down the road.

We offer our condolences to Vincent Antonelli and his family on the death of his wife-Terry. She will be missed by us all.





Welcome

*to our newest members,
Sal Garrusso and
Frank Kondrich - It is
great to have you.*

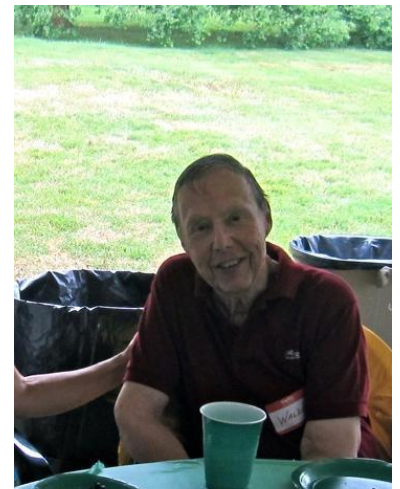


Thanks to Henry and Mei for volunteering to do Coffee And for our August meeting. Our tireless president, Steve Borakowski, volunteered to bring in a tree for our Tokonoma for August. Waldo Hutchens and Helen Ilijec for their donations. Thanks too to Carol Kasdan for researching information for a club shirt. They will have an embroidered logo, have a collar, be medium blue piqué fabric shirt of good quality; thanks Hal for drawing a logo tree for our shirt. And as always to my faithful photographer, Francine Stopfer – her photos add so much to our Newsletter. Thanks to all for their helping hands – that makes our club work – and we always welcome new hands to the task.

Since I have been having a wonderfully busy summer, and have put off the task of writing a Newsletter until the 11th hour, I now need to apologize for getting this to you at such a late date.

Retraction/Correction

When I stated I used saran wrap on my bonsai while away I had forgotten that I found something better last summer. It is the packaging wrap ilm that comes on a rolling handle in a few widths - available in Staples, or MailBox stores. It sticks to itself, and the pots easily, and being on a roller dispenser, it is much easier than doing battle with saran wrap. When I was getting my trees ready for my mini-vacation I remembered the new and improved method over the saran wrap



Remember to wear your nametag to our meetings, you get an extra raffle ticket when you do – and perhaps you will be the lucky winner of the tree styled by Marty Schmalenberg next month.

If you have not received a nametag, please let me know so I can make one up for you.

dfleck@manhassetlibrary.org

It is so much nicer when we all know each other by name.

Rain didn't dampen our spirits at last year's picnic...

