

Long Island Bonsai Society - Monday - January 9, 2012

Vinny Russo - Japanese White Pine

7:30 pm - No early workshop

Main Classroom - Planting Fields Arboretum

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



*Rest my beauties, spring is coming  
and there is much work to do.*



## Happy New Year – 2012

Another year went flying by with promises made and few kept. I keep saying well there is always next year, but it is time to stop procrastinating, and get doing. I did receive a beautiful new stainless cutter and scissor, so now I have no excuse that my tools are dull, the jaws don't meet, etc, etc. – now my excuse is that all my trees are safely tucked away for the winter. But I have vowed that it is now or never for several things in my "collection"

## Our Holiday Party and Auction...

... was fun and profitable for our club, and for those lucky members who scored big on their purchases. Special thanks again to Waldo for his donations, as well as to Helen Ilijic for more items that belonged to Tom.



Nancy Borakowski is a member by default – being married to our president allows her to be volunteered for all sorts of jobs. Thank you Nancy – and thanks for sharing Steve with us.



David Castro recovered from his mysterious sudden onset illness in time to come to the auction instead of work. Jim Byrne is seriously considering whether he needs one more item to add to his never ending collection on bonsai and bonsai related items.



Gary Feil and Jim Stopfer are all smiles, but Tim Novak looks like he is taking no prisoners when it comes to the bidding.

Henry and Mei are smiling for Francine and her camera.

We are glad you both are enjoying being a part of our club.



Tim Novak proved himself to be quite the auctioneer.



Jim Byrne was busy pointing out the merits of this older volume about bonsai



We sent the right guys out on the dessert mission – Great selection Tim and John.





Camille and Liz did an outstanding job recording the bids and bidder numbers. It's a job that can get overwhelming at times, but both survived the auction.



In case Linda has some free time on her hands, she will read up on what might be her next hobby – flower arranging.

**Special thanks to our Vice President, Tom Nerrie for arranging for the food – we missed you at the party this year.**

One of our members, Emilio Squillante, brought the following to my attention, and I thought it was worth sharing with you and perhaps saving you the grief and frustration he endured.

*I ordered a spherical cutter, a trunk splitter and a set of tools (about \$500 in merchandise). After checking my records it*

*was indeed the Maryland company, Celestial Bonsai, that was a bad apple for the following reasons:*

*1. Paid with Pay Pal but they claimed Pay Pal denied the charge. This could not be true because Pay Pal removed the payment from my credit card and transferred it to Celestial.*

*2. Numerous emails to Celestial went unanswered. (Celestial later claimed that email was 'not the best one' to contact them with. (?!) 3. When you leave a voice message at Celestial they never returned it promptly. I went a whole week waiting for a live person to acknowledge I had a problem.*

*4. When I did speak to a real person (I think it was the same guy; his voice had the same sort of foreign accent) he used different excuses for why my money was taken but the order went unfilled. At one point he was trying to get me to believe the problem was me i.e., that I had called pay-pal and cancelled the order. (Impossible since my emails and phone messages clearly stated I preferred to receive the items ordered rather than have my money returned).*

*It took close to two months to resolve this. I would never do business with this company even if they ran a fire sale and slashed their prices...you might never see your money again. Please circulate these facts as you deem appropriate.*

Thanks for giving us a warning about this company.

**Mark your calendars for this special treat...**

Francine Stopfer has arrange a special guided tour of the Bonsai Museum at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens with Julian Labbie Valasquez. Several of us made the journey to Brooklyn a few years back, and it was a treat indeed – both the public museum and the part that is off-limits to the public – where Julian and his crew of volunteers care for the trees in the collection.

The date is **May 19, 2012**, at 10:30 am. We need to pay for parking, so car pooling might be a good idea, but the entrance fee to the Garden has been waived, and you are welcome to stay the entire day and visit the rest of the Garden.

We are asking each member who participates donate \$10.00 to Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the proceeds will be used to buy a much needed pot for one of the old treasured trees.

In March Francine will be taking a head count and ask that you pay the \$10.00 fee at the April meeting.

Hope you will be able to make this date, it is an opportunity that does not come along often.

*Thanks Francine for arranging this special tour with Julian.*

*Thanks too for all the other outstanding presenters you have given us over the years. We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of the club.*

*I have a favor to ask...* In an effort to conserve the club's funds for programming purposes we are trying to reduce the number of hard copies of the Newsletter that I print and mail out each month. Presently there are only a handful of members receiving the Newsletter via e-mail – please consider updating our list and ask that yours be delivered electronically.

If you don't mind getting the newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to:  
[dmsfleck@verizon.com](mailto:dmsfleck@verizon.com) or  
[dfleck@manhassetlibrary.org](mailto:dfleck@manhassetlibrary.org)

### *Gentle Reminder...*

Our club year runs from January 1 to December 31 – so please take time out from your busy schedule and send or give Jim Stopfer your dues. Dues along with the proceeds from our two auctions are what allow us to continue with the type of programming we have been enjoying over the years. Programs keep costing more, and travel expense and lodging are added to the lecturer's fee – but there are few clubs around with the quality of programs we have been able to offer our members.

Thank you for taking care of your dues promptly.

Winter is a good time to read some of those books and magazines you have on bonsai. Visit your local library and see what they have available on the subject– remember all libraries can inter-loan from each other so you can obtain any book available throughout Nassau County right from your home library. The Internet can provide some good information as well, but some sources can be less reliable than others, so you should always keep that in mind.

Learn as much as you can about the selection of trees; what they should possess that will enable the material you chose to develop into a bonsai. Read about the different requirements different trees have; learn all you can about bonsai care, styling - what style works best for what tree, and what won't work. Check your wire supply; have any of your tools seen better days, do they need replacing. Do you have enough bonsai soil on hand, are your pots clean, screened and ready for planting?

We have all seen many of our lecturers sketch out the design they have in mind for a particular tree. Why not try your hand at being able to do some sketching of your own. Granted we are not all talented artists but we can make a rudimentary sketch of what direction we wish to take a particular tree in.

It is also a good idea to keep some sort of records on each of your trees – it can be on the computer, in a note book, or on file cards. We always think we can remember when and where we purchased or obtained a particular tree, what we paid or traded for it, how long we have had it, when it was repotted last – but we don't remember, and it is good to have some sort of permanent record on a particular tree.

Those of us at the last few auctions were treated to Waldo's immaculate records on the trees he donated. It is nice to know the history of a particular tree.

Or as a last resort, you can just enjoy the time off from caring for your trees and enjoy a lazy winter by a nice warm fire, drinking some nice beverage wondering why you ever got involved in bonsai in the first place.

Vin Russo will be our speaker this month, and the topic is white pine – a tree that is synonymous with bonsai. Vin has been with us before and each time it is a pleasure. His artistry and knowledge of bonsai is so evident. When he finishes the lecture demo you are green with envy that you did not win the raffle. Hope Mother Nature keeps the snow gods at bay and that you will all brave the cold and join us on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.