

You need to replace the Newsletter Editor – I am guilty of a major boo boo. Our speaker is not Warren Hill, but Jack Sustic who is the current curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Collection in Washington D.C. I wish I could blame it on early senility, but “early” is no longer applicable.

He is coming to the Long Island Bonsai Society without charge as a courtesy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



JACK SUSTIC – MUSEUM CURATOR

Jack Sustic, who retired as National Bonsai & Penjing Museum Curator in 2005, has been reappointed to this position.

Jack first came to the Museum in 1996 as an intern sponsored by the National Bonsai Foundation. When his internship was completed he returned to his job as nursery and greenhouse manager at the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanic Garden in South Carolina. In 1998 the position of Gardener opened up at the Museum and Jack took this opportunity to return to Washington. Shortly thereafter he was appointed Assistant Curator. In 2002, after a time away from the Museum, he returned as Supervisory Curator.

During this tenure as curator he also served as Co-Chair of the 5th World Bonsai Convention that was held in Washington D.C. in 2005. In July of that year he resigned to help his father in the running of the family farm in Lennon, Michigan.

Jack met his wife, Jung, while serving with the U.S. Army in South Korea. And in that country he came to appreciate the beauty of bonsai. On his return to the United States he pursued a degree in horticulture from Michigan State University and began his bonsai career that led to the Museum.

In his earlier work at the Museum he had the opportunity to study with John Naka, Harry Hirao and other California bonsai artists. He also apprenticed with Saburo Kato at Mansai-en in Japan. As now the fifth appointed curator in the history of the Museum he has had the opportunity to work with all previous curators: Robert Drechsler, Warren Hill and James Hughes.

During his recent hiatus from the Museum he was appointed to the NBF Board of Directors and was a member of the Executive Committee.

Jack has assumed the position on November 1, 2008.