

Long Island Bonsai Society
Monday - June 13, 2011
Early Workshop - 7:30 p.m. - Jim Byrne - Trimming and Defoliation.

Min Hsuan Lo - San José Juniper - 8 p.m.

Shore Juniper Workshop \$60.00 - Sunday June 12, 2011 - Call 516 352-6453

The Classroom - Main Greenhouse
Planting Fields Arboretum

Long Island Bonsai Society
38 Elm Street
Lynbrook, NY 11563



Shore juniper created from landscape material



Award winning Ficus created by Min Hsuan Lo

Hopefully you have finished up on all those many Spring chores you promised to take care of. But for those who basically only have weekends to do major tending of our trees Mother Nature conspired against us most weekends.

The heat of summer has descended on our trees, and some are happier when situated in a dappled light rather than full sun. Keep in mind that we have microclimates within the confines of our growing area, and with some careful observation you should be able to determine which area is best for which tree.

Trees are in active growth now and fertilizing will help promote good growth and development of young trees, with established trees, you may wish to feed less often in an effort to maintain the shape you worked so hard to achieve. Be on the lookout for insect and fungal attack – the rain and humidity generally encourage both.

We had two new visitors to our meeting last month - Melaine Feliciano and Matt Byington, hopefully you will be able to come again. We always welcome visitors and happily include them on our mailing list.

May's Meeting...

Tom O'Connor finally was able to do his early workshop on re-potting. Since this program was postponed several times, Tom spoke about the process, and especially interesting was the information on the Italian Stone pines that he often works on. They do not like their roots touched, so they stay in the potting soil that the grower's use.

Our main speaker, Doug Phillips was a wealth of information on how to develop big roots in a relatively short period of time – but in my opinion you have to have faith that this is going to work – his results sure were impressive. Doug used olive as his demonstration tree and it had an impressive trunk with flaring roots. Doug explained about the symbiotic relationship between the roots and branches of

a tree – each feeds the other – each benefiting from the health of the other. Roots develop from the cambium portion of the tree and Doug is able to capitalize on this when using large material as bonsai.

The details of his lecture were interesting, and hopefully I will be able to adequately outline his method – nothing beats seeing it firsthand.

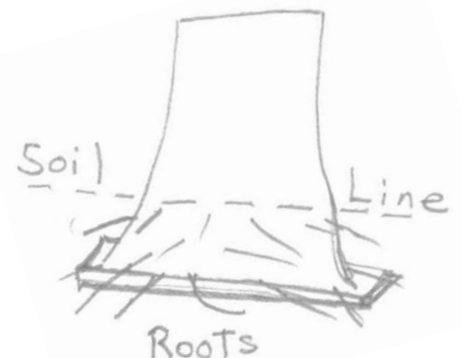
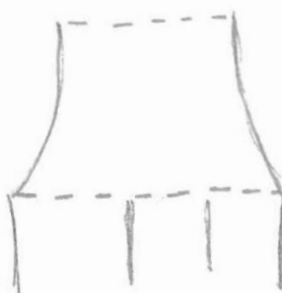


Tree cut off just above its widest point. Chamfer (cut off the corner) the flare of the tree's base

The roots will develop from the cambium layer that surrounds the trunk. The roots will grow straight down from the cut portion and to remedy this Doug places a board which is just slightly larger than the tree's base flush up under the cut trunk. Making the board slightly larger will accommodate the trunk base increasing in girth as the roots continue to develop.

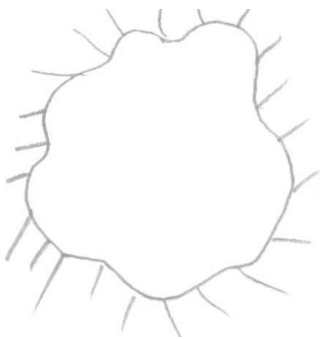


You will bury the trunk and board up to where the base flare begins..

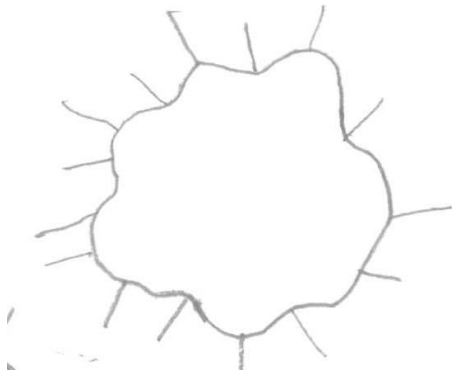


Roots will develop all over the buried portion of the trunk and around the cambium layer of the cut off base.

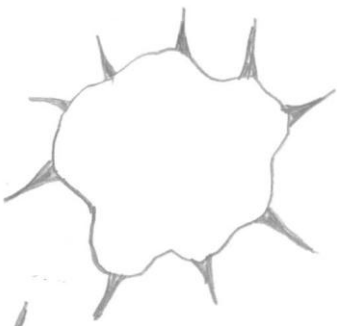
When you repot for the first time, remove the roots that have formed on the trunk portion, leaving those developing along the base untouched. The second repotting, remove some roots from the base – at the third repotting, remove half that amount again, but maintain those that have developed along the high parts of the irregular trunk line.



Roots left after removing the high root along the trunk have been removed.



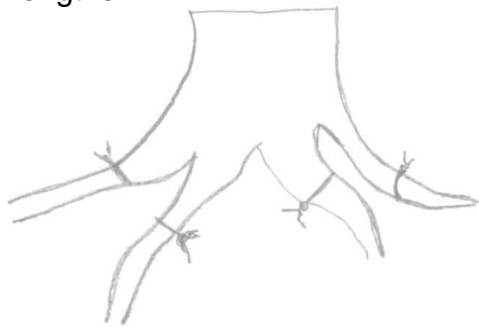
After the next repotting lots of roots still remain – these will start to thicken as well as elongate.



At the next repotting, the remaining roots should be on the outer curves that have now formed at the trunk's base.

When roots are reduced in number, the roots that remain have an increase in demand to sustain the branches, which causes the roots to thicken to meet the demand the foliage growth makes on them. Both bark and cambium are undifferentiated cells and the trunk thickens to compensate for the loss of the four or five growth rings when the trunk was chamfer cut = fattening trunk.

When the roots are about 1½ inches thick, cut to various lengths.



And apply wire tourniquets tightly around the roots – as the roots thicken, the wire will cut into them and new roots will form where the roots are being constricted by the wires. This will increase the ramification of the roots.

Doug feeds his trees with cottonseed meal and rape seed cakes which provide continuous feeding supplemented once a week with Miracle Grow for all the trace elements that it provides and which is generally not available to plants fed just organics.

Doug suggested having a backup apex in case one does not make it. If your first one develops, cut the “extra” on off

Some wise words of advice from Doug...

“We learn the rules by the book, so we know when and why we break them”.

“When making an artistic choice, chose wisely, make the best choice for the tree, not just for artistic reasons”



The olive when Doug started working on it – tree has massive roots, and a wide trunk base.



Doug wiring the few remaining branches that remain after massive pruning.

Doug made a creative training pot which is in the picture above by cutting in half a large nursery container – slipped the top portion down into the lower portion

and riveted it together (but screws will do the same job) – making a sturdy, free, quick and easy training pot.
(will work on any size container)



Several members gather around for an up close view of the fine details Doug is working on.

Hal Johnson was the lucky raffle winner of this wonderful tree. Hopefully it will grow and continue to develop under Hal's care. Perhaps he will show it off to us one day in our Tokonoma.

Doug was a new speaker to our club, and I thought he was a nice addition to the outstanding programs that we seem consistently privileged to. Thanks Francine for scouting out new talent for us.

Last month I was short on time and space to do justice to the wonderful display that represented our club at Planting Fields' Arbor Day celebration.



The display was truly reminiscent of the "old days" - which many long term members remember. Some of the people who made the original display material are no longer around, but it was great to see our shoji screens and table runners looking brand spanking new. The set-up could not have been more attractively laid out – and the trees that were displayed are works of art. If this does not bring us new members, I don't know what can or will.

Open House Invitation

Hal and Marion asked that I invite you to their Annual Open House. If you have never been to one, you are in for a treat - and a letdown when you realize your trees are never going to look like that. But the good thing is when you think you have way too many trees, you won't think so when you see all that Hal has.

Date: Saturday, July 9th

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

See Hal or Marion for further Information



Special thanks to both Francine and Jim Stopfer for picking up our speaker at the airport and for hosting him at

their home for last month's meeting. Thanks Francine for driving him to the half way point to meet the next club's transportation volunteer.

It is generosity like this that allows our club to function, and I hope you will be thinking of a way that you can help too – doesn't have to be anything big, every help is helpful.

Speaking of help, as far as I know we will not be having coffee and cake at the June meeting as no one stepped forward to say "I'll do it!" So stop at Starbucks or Dunkin Donut on your way to the next meeting if you want to have refreshments.

If you have not as yet signed up for the Shore Juniper workshop being given by world class speaker Min Hsuan Lo which will be held at Planting Fields Arboretum on Sunday, June 12th please contact Tom O'Connor at 516-352-6453 to see if there are any openings still available.

The fee is \$60.00 and will include tree, soil, pot, wire and instructions.

Participants should supply their own tools.

An opportunity for a workshop of this quality does not come along too often, and you should really try to take advantage of it – if space is still available.

Picnic Reminder
Our annual
summer picnic and
club auction will be
on Sunday -
August 7th
Further details in
our next
Newsletter.

Start looking around for things to donate to our auction - remember it is our auction funds that provide our programs.

I believe Marion Mahoney is once again holding her famous Silent Auction as well offering bonsai and non-bonsai related items - always fun and always successful.

Last year we had some truly magnificent trees at auction donated by a couple of members who have decided that the trees have exceeded their owner's strength, and it was time for them to find new loving homes with younger members.

They were a bargain of a lifetime.

Bonsai artist Collin Lewis has worked on some outstanding San José Junipers and has made the following comments: "San José Juniper have complex, chaotic trunks and masses of deadwood - or potential for deadwood, at least. They are not easy to conquer, but once done, the results are extremely pleasing. Care must be taken when working this species - they are far more brittle than you would expect of a juniper and branches do snap clean remarkably easily."



Most junipers are fun to work with – of course having a tree with the potential of the one above does not generally come from your local garden center, but perhaps someone in your neighborhood is doing some makeover to their landscaping, or there is construction going on and old landscape material is being replaced – and that might be just the ugly, beat up material we are looking for. Generally the discards are yours for the asking – you might have to do some of the digging, but bonsai people aren't afraid of getting hot, sweaty and grimy in the pursuit of the perfect tree.

Bonsai hunting knows no season!