

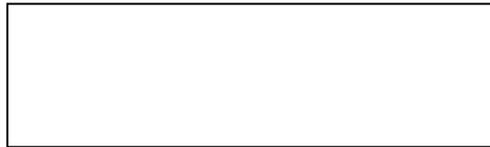
Long Island Bonsai Society - Monday - April 21, 2014

7:30 pm - Beginner's Corner - Repotting - Jim Stopfer

8:00 pm - Azaleas - Hal Mahoney

Main Classroom - Planting Fields Arboretum

Long Island Bonsai Society
PO Box 308
Malvern, NY 11565



Azaleas make wonderful bonsai.

We grow them for their beautiful floral display, but unlike many other flowering bonsai that are placed on a back shelf after flowering, azaleas are attractive bonsai in their own right and deserve a front row place all season long.



Two reminders

Please if you have not done so, pay your dues for the 2014 club year – we truly appreciate your membership. Membership Chairman is Jim Stopfer. \$40.00 single, \$45.00 couple, \$10.00 student, and supporting member \$50.00.

We will once again be participating in the Arbor Day celebration at Planting Fields. This is a good opportunity for us to show off our work – whether it is on a beginner level or something created and cared for by some of our long-time experienced members. The dates are Saturday April 26th and Sunday the 27th – we will need a few willing hands for the set-up on Friday the 25th and some willing souls to plant sit during the event, and help breakdown at the close on Sunday. It is always appreciated when someone is willing to step forward and say “Hey I’ll give you a hand”.

Please contact either Tom at oakie585@aold.com or Chris at 212 282-2763 – jreacher620@gmail.com to let them know you will have a tree or two to display or that you are willing to help out on Friday, or to breakdown on Sunday, or during the show itself on Saturday and Sunday. *This should be a club effort, not just a few faithful members trying to do it all.*

This is our club’s opportunity to show the scope the hobby of bonsai covers. Companion plants, stands, scrolls are all nice additions to the display, but not required – newly started trees, or those that make the rest of us jealous are all welcome.

Thanks – we appreciate whatever help you can give.

March's Meeting...

Our speaker for the evening, was Rodney Clemons – he was informative, laid-back and a delightful speaker.

He worked on his favorite plant material – boxwood (*mycophylla compactor*) Boxwoods are classified as a shrub, the same as an azalea. It is a broadleaf evergreen, maintaining their leaves for three years.

Boxwood can be magnesium deficient exhibited by a pale border around the leaf edges; using Epsom salt, which is a form of magnesium, applied at the rate of 2 to 3 tsp per gallon of water once a month will provide enough magnesium to alleviate this deficiency.

As with most styling the first thing Rodney did was find the root system by cleaning away some soil. He used a brass fan brush then a plastic brush and finally a stainless steel brush to whiten the trunk as this gives the illusion of the tree being further away.

Rubbing alcohol or vinegar can be carefully applied to kill the algae that grows on the trunk. (vinegar can be harmful to the roots)

Boxwood have a vigorous root system that can be cut back hard. The proper way to prune is one leaf at a time (time consuming) You want to maintain a style that allows light to reach the interior branches and the lower branches to avoid their dying out.



Vinny won the styled tree – congrats.

Boxwood Blight...

As many may be aware, Boxwood Blight has appeared on Long Island last year and is unfortunately killing off many foundation plantings and can and will affect boxwood bonsai. I believe in one of last year's articles I printed some information about this new threat to our landscape. At present there is no known cure for this fungus. It would be wise not to add any new boxwood to your landscape or bonsai collection as the fungus can easily be transferred to your existing collection.

The only control for this is to prune out any dead or inflected branches when the weather is dry. Vacuum up fallen leaves and bag them – the pathogen can remain viable for up to 5 years

It is hoped that new resistant varieties will be developed by commercial growers. If you have established boxwood in your landscape or bonsai collection it is best not to introduce any new boxes as the fungus

can easily be transferred to your existing boxwoods.



Varieties that are susceptible:

Common (American) Boxwood, English Box, Korean, Hybrid, Little leaf Box are all vulnerable to this fungus.

It probably would be wise to take a good look at your boxwoods.



Moss...

Nothing transforms a tree in a pot into something that resembles a bonsai, or elevates a good tree to a great tree like the illusion that it has been growing there for many years. Well applied moss is an extremely important ingredient that ties everything together.

While a styled tree is the main component, the pot, and the finishing touches is what brings out the perfection that we should be striving for.

What do you know about moss beyond it is usually green, likes damp growing conditions with shade?

There was a time that moss was not considered “good” for bonsai, it impeded water penetration, could harbor harmful pests, and could cause the bark and roots to rot by keeping them too moist.

Moss has come back in favor with those detractors for the following reasons.

1-Assists in water holding capacity near the surface, where the soil dries out the quickly.

2-Creates much greater root growth in the top layer of soil that is otherwise too dry for roots. Since a bonsai pot is a greatly limited space, this is very significant.

3-Prevents soil erosion.

4-Gives a year-round feeling of stability, age, and cleanliness.

There are over 12,000 species of moss worldwide – and

most likely one or several species grows within walking distance of your home. Use random size pieces rather than one or two large sheets of moss, and mixing the varieties provide a believable landscape.



Using a variety of moss gives a more realistic view of a long establish tree growing out in the woods, rather than in a pot surrounded with soil.



Keep a variety of moss handy to “dress” your bonsai – if not for everyday use, certainly when showing



Brush off stray soil from the moss



Some people use shredded sphagnum moss under the moss as sphagnum holds moisture well and will keep the moss green especially during summer's heat.



Look for moss with interesting features.



British Soldier moss (actually lichen) is also a nice accent. (not an easy variety to find)

Mossing should complement the overall picture, not be the focal point; maintain good scale and balance.

On the Sunday prior to our regular meeting, Rodney conducted a “Bring Your Own Tree” workshop at Planting Fields.



Bob Kavanaugh and Garry Feil were two of the participants.

REMINDER...

Sunday, May 4th we will have the opportunity for a behind the scene visit to Brooklyn Botanic Garden with Julian Velasco, curator of the bonsai collection.

We are asked to make a \$10.00 donation, check made out to LIBS. We will not be charged admission to the garden, but there is a \$10.00 parking fee. The donation will be given to Julian for the sole use of the bonsai collection, but the Garden in general.

Meet at the main gate, parking lot entrance, at 10:30 am. RSVP to Francine – 593-1855

Hard to believe this came from that



We need a couple of volunteers to be responsible for Coffee AND for the June meeting and the July meeting. (You will be reimbursed for expenditures.)

We just need someone to come in and set up the table and put on the coffee, etc.

The Long Island Orchid Society
in conjunction with Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park
presents the second annual

LONG ISLAND
Orchid Festival 2014

Orchid Vendors from Around the World

May 2 - 4, 2014
9 AM to 5 PM

Planting Fields Arboretum
State Historic Park
Conference Center
1395 Planting Fields Road
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Admission is **Free**
(Planting Fields Arboretum Parking \$8 per car)

For more information email
festival@longislandorchidsociety.org
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A person can't have too many addictions!

We have indoor greenhouse facilities for winter storage for both tropical and hardy plants.

We also carry hard to find specimen plants for your garden.

All Club Members are entitled to a **20% Discount** on All Bonsai Related Purchases.



We are always interested in purchasing Interesting and finished bonsai plants.

We are located on several acres and carry a complete line of **Bonsai Containers, Tools – Wire, Soil Mixes**, etc. including finished and pre-finished tropical and hardy bonsai plants.

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One of our members brought in a boxwood that obviously has been well cared for and styled over many years.

Welcome to our new member – J.P. Del-