

Long Island Bonsai Society  
Summer Picnic & Auction,  
Saturday August 9, 2014

12 Noon - Planting Fields

\$15.00 Auction and Lunch

Island Bonsai Society  
PO Box 308  
Malvern, NY 11565



Lunch with fellow bonsai lovers, auc-  
tion following lunch and silent auc-  
tion throughout - \$15.00.

It's fun & proceeds go to future programs.

In lieu of a regular monthly meeting with a speaker and demo, our August meeting is the summer Auction and Picnic Lunch. Our newsletter is going out a bit early – will be out of town so it is kind of now or never.

Please donate something to our auction, bid often, and participate in the silent auction as well.



Mike selected this good sized green island ficus for his demonstration. Loads of branching and ramification with an impressive volume of

We had a “new” speaker for our July meeting – Mike Lane – new to us, but not new to bonsai. Mike works for Erik Wigert’s Bonsai in Florida, and so his vast experience is with tropical material. He has studied bonsai for 7 years including one in Mexico.



Mike took care of the impressive foliage by plucking each and every leaf off each and every branch. Makes wiring easier. Summer is the ideal time to work on tropical material and this tree was healthy and would leaf out without missing a beat.



The fine branches were reduced in number revealing the main structure of the tree. All the remaining main braches and secondary branches were wired out to the end using aluminum wire. Ficus are generally fast growing – especially when growing in Florida, and the tree will be re-wired several times. Aluminum wire is cheaper than copper, and easier to work with. New growth will sprout from adventitious buds and perhaps they will be developed to change the look of the tree, some of the current branches may be removed as the vision changes for this tree. The thick vertical branch is in the shape that it will have in the future so movement and flow will come from the remaining branches and planting angle. Mike tilted the tree in to a full cascade style rather than have the branch jutting straight out from the trunk.



Joe was our evening's lucky raffle winner.

Mike was a delightful speaker, perhaps we will have him again sometime in the future.

It's great to see young artists with visions that allow them to break the rules so many of us learned in the past. Bonsai design is totally open these days. As is often said you need to know the rules in order to break them. "Think outside the triangle."

Mike mentioned that on cascades material the lower branches are the least vigorous so you might only defoliate the upright portion which will allow all the energy to focus on the lower cascade part of the tree.

"Get rid of the stuff you don't need" right away – everything that doesn't look like a tree before you start styling. Mike

mentioned that Ficus Benjamina can be difficult as a branch can die off for no apparent reason a process called *apoptosis*, death of cells occurring as a normal, controlled part of growth and development. It is a plant's efficient use of its energy. Mike also explained

(but I didn't quite follow) his 3-point anchoring method of wiring in his constant pursuit of aesthetic perfection. Ideally the tree is wired without crossing the tree's front. Ficus love the sun – but can grow in less light

Our own Dan Skabelkis gave us a great early program on unusual plants for bonsai. Often we use the term trees for our bonsai, but some are in fact classified as shrubs such as privet, beautyberry, podocarpus, cotoneaster – it can be evergreen or deciduous material depending on the species. We style them in the bonsai manner, and bonsai is a plant in a pot so almost any material that can be grown in the smaller "bonsai" pots, on slabs, etc are bonsai. Beautyberry (*Callicarpa*) is a flowering shrub with small flowers, but nice lavender berries clustered along the stem and remain into winter. They are self-pollinating, but you will get more flower = berries with two or more plants. Prune beautyberry hard in early spring.



Common juniper which grows abundantly on Long Island is similar to Juniper Rigida (needle juniper)

Privet (*Ligustrum*) can be either deciduous or evergreen depending on the species. They can have interesting trunks, are just about "pest free", survives being dried out. (look for old garden plants)



Atlantic White Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) does well with lots of water, but can grow in drier conditions.

Dan also mentioned dwarf hydrangea – *Peconic River*, *Pee.Gee.*, *BoBo*, *Brookside Little Leaf (vine style)* – all of which can be used as Kusamano (either as a companion to bonsai, or as a stand alone art)

## Upcoming workshop with Pauline Muth – Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup> -10 am at Planting Fields.

Depending on the number of participants – 10 maximum - the price will range from \$27.50 WITH 10 people, up to \$39.00 for 7 participants. There is an additional fee for the plant material offered, and prices vary as well – mugo pine - \$35.00 and up, wild flowering potentilla \$45.00 and up, and cotoneaster which will produce berries in the fall will be either \$42 OR \$45.00.

We are requesting a \$20.00 deposit to reserve your place.

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 **10% Discount** on all bonsai related purchases.



We are always interested in purchasing interesting and finished bonsai.

We are located on several acres and carry a complete line of Bonsai Containers, Tools – Wire, Soil Mixes, etc. including

**[www.suburbanbonsai.com](http://www.suburbanbonsai.com)**

**[infor@suburbanbonsai.com](mailto:infor@suburbanbonsai.com)**

**Open Mon-Sat 8:30-4:30**

**Sun & Holidays 10:30-2:30**

### **Suburban Bonsai**

**211 Burrs Lane • Dix Hills • NY 11746  
631-643-3500 • Fax 631-643-3399**

*While this Public Service Announcement may seem far off - October will be here before we realize it. October is the month we present the club's slate of officers - those volunteers who help keep our club *going and growing*. Don't be afraid to say "Yes" when asked.*

*We will be seeking a new treasurer, newsletter editor, and a trustee or two. No skills or knowledge is needed, just a good heart and know that our club only exists because others have come forward to take on a "job" for a year or two, or three, but not "forever" as some of us have, or so it seems.*

*While growth is good for our bonsai, your personal growth is important as well - being a volunteer provides that opportunity - **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY!***

*(this PSA will be repeated ad nauseam.)*