

# Long Island Bonsai Society

Monday, October 20, 2014

7:30 Early Workshop - Air Layering Part 2 - Hal Mahoney

8 pm Main Program - Pauline Muth - Yew

Pauline Muth Demo @ Hicks Nursery - Saturday 10/18

- 2:30-3:30 - ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Long Island Bonsai Society  
PO Box 308  
Malvern, NY 11565



*Enjoy the grandeur of fall with its beautiful colors and the exquisite ramification visible only after our bonsai shed their leaves and start to rest awaiting spring's return.*

*For some reason my computer refuses to cooperate this evening and rejects my desire to do the newsletter in three column format which is the usual format.*

It seems like such a long time since our September meeting as this meeting is being held on the third Monday of October due to the Columbus Day holiday when Planting Fields is closed.

Thanks to Ceil's contagious enthusiasm and her willingness to put extra effort into helping our club grow and thrive we are having a special demonstration at Hicks Nursery on Jericho Turnpike. They agreed to allow us to hold a lecture demonstration from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in their classroom on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>; Pauline Muth will be the presenter and the demo tree will be raffled off at the conclusion of the demonstration. All our members are invited and encouraged to attend. We hope this outreach effort will introduce our club to a wider audience and perhaps bring a few new members by introducing them to our club and the joy of bonsai.

Not to be outdone by Ceil's efforts, Joe redid our bonsai pamphlet telling about the virtues of our club and also contains our membership application. It is absolutely beautiful and professional - tri-fold, two sided, full color on heavy glossy stock. It helps to "know what you are doing".

Between the new projector, the Hicks outreach and new updated pamphlet we have elevated our club status to the next level. Long Island Bonsai has enjoyed a reputation of consistently providing its members and guests with first rate demonstrators over the years, now the new additions will further enhance our long standing reputation.

While Ceil and Joe have given so much of their time and effort to us all, we still need willing helpers – not to do as much as they have, but to pitch in when asked, or even better pitch in before we ask for help. Our slate of offers for the coming club year is almost complete with the exception of the Corresponding Secretary – a position I have held for over 10 years. Over that time, I took on the role of Newsletter editor because it was a job that benefited the club and needed to be done. Certainly not because I had time on my hands! We hope that someone will find it in their heart to take over as editor. The new editor can produce a paper totally different from the one you are used to getting. There is no formula or way it has to be done, but reaching our members, and having something on our website showing the world what we do and what we are about it a good way to bait the hook – hoping it brings us additional members, and informs our current members of things they might have missed.

October's meeting is when we elect our Officers for the coming year, and we truly appreciate those members who were willing to do a bit more than just watch demos and buy a few raffle tickets each month. We realize not everyone wants to be a "leader" but there are many jobs that need a willing soul to do – be responsible for the **"Coffee and" each month, stay and clean up at the end of a meeting, help put things away or put them out prior to the meeting's start.** We are all familiar with the saying "Many hands make light work" that translates to a big job because small when everyone pitches in. Thanks for helping us and helping your club!

## *September's Meeting...*

Brian did a wonderful job of trying to sell us on the idea of making fertilizer cakes - a smelly undertaking, but one that proponents of fertilizer cakes swear is the best way to organically feed our trees. Brian was kind enough to share his recipe.

### *Ingredients.*

*Bag of Plant Tone Organic Fertilizer 8 lbs, 5-3-3 \$10-\$12 bag Made up of Bone Meal, Alfalfa Meal, Poultry Manure and other items.*

*1 Cup of Flour 1/2 Cup or so of Micronutrients, (brand such as Maxi-Crop liquid) \$30 per gallon, available in smaller sizes as well made up of minerals, vitamins and enzymes. All natural extracte from Algamin Kelp 1-0-4.*

*Water, Cooking Spray, Aluminum Foil, large board, bucket, rubber gloves.*

*Cover the large board, with foil and spray with cooking spray. Mix plant tone, flour, micronutrients into the bucket - add water, a little at a time while stirring thoroughly until oatmeal like consistency. Time to throw on the rubber gloves and dump it out onto your board. Use your hands to spread it out and begin to flatten it. You want it to be 3/8-1/2 inch thick. Let it sit out in the sun for a bit and then cut into one inch squares. It will take another few days*

*to dry completely if you separate and turn them a few times. Make sure they dry completely before storing in Ziploc bags or an old plaster container with a lid. If they aren't dry you will get mold. This recipe will make a lot of cakes*

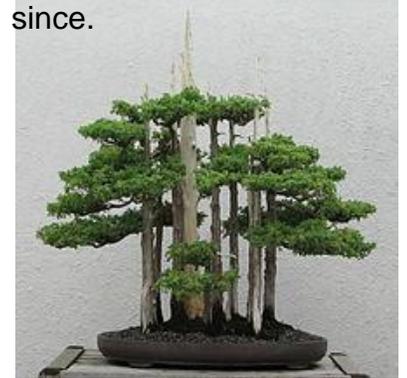
*Recommended usage is 1 cake for every 2 inches of pot width or so. I say an extra one or two on top of that for safe measure. Placed on the soil surface your trees will be fed with every watering. They break down over time and may require a poke with a chopstick to break up the surface where it sits. In addition to this I also water the trees once a week with Neptune's Fish and Seaweed Fertilizer. That is a stinky liquid that I will only use if not in the yard for the day.*

**Thanks again Brian for the early program and for providing your secrete recipe.**

Our main speaker for the evening was Jack Sustic, always a pleasure. He has so much knowledge and experience and is always willing to share. It is no wonder Jack is the curator of the bonsai collection at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

Jack proudly mentioned the 2014 Commemorative Issue of the American Bonsai Society dedicated to John Yoshio Naka. Jack did an article on Goshin, probably the most recognized bonsai in the

word. Goshin translates to Protector of the Spirit and was started in 1948 to represent John's grandchildren. Goshin was donated to the National Arboretum in 1984 and has been there on display ever since.



The 52 page album is in full color and available for \$15.00 from ABS. (Might make a nice stocking stuffer.)

The National Arboretum is a must see if you are ever in Washington DC.

Jack also mentioned the planned renovation to the Japanese Pavilion which is expected to take 9 months to complete and donations specific to that effort will be most appreciated.

John Naka was the first recipient of the U.S. National Hall of Fame for a Bonsai Master. It is presented to "one who has done a lot to promote the art of bonsai."

The demo tree was a Chinese Juniper "Blue Point". John Naka taught Jack to always sketch your tree - it is a road map or a plan to follow when styling the tree.

*(So many of our demonstrators have done exactly that. It always amazes me how closely the tree resembles the sketch when the artist is done – keeping in mind that the art work usually shows more foliage development than is left on the tree at the conclusion of the demo. Keep this in mind and remember your art is “your road map” it does not have to be viewed by anyone else, but it is an important tool and worth trying.)*

Jack did two sketches that he envisioned for the tree and asked the audience to chose the one they preferred. One sketch was an upright and the other a slant style - the majority chose the upright style. First the roots were exposed – this is important when finding “the front”. A tree’s roots are very difficult to change or rearrange – not impossible, but hard so we try to work with the best presentation based on the roots. You try to find a “major” root – one that show the tree’s strength and anchors it in place.

Several lower branches were removed as they would not enhance the design. The number one branch was chosen. Jack used a saying that has been heard before “You want to “Leave room for the birds to fly through.”

was another of John Naka saying. *(Which means use fewer branches so there is definitive definition of each branch and its foliage pads.)*

Junipers exhibit two types of foliage – scale like = mature foliage, or needle like which is juvenile foliage. *(It is a matter of taste which an artist prefers and often a tree will show both types of foliage.)* The bonsai Goshin is only allowed to be needle like as this is the way John Naka wanted that tree to be.

Jack wires a tree from the bottom up to protect the weaker points. Branches should alternate and avoid “bar branches”. It is okay to have two apex as long as you vary the height. If you are making jin or shari remove the bark right away while it is “green” – otherwise it is extremely difficult to remove once it has dried out. A rule of thumb is that the wire should be approximately 1/3 as thick as the branch it is wiring. Use wire on two branches. *(several years ago wiring showed anchoring the wire into the ground next to the trunk or wiring up the trunk to a branch. All things change – even in bonsai – and now we almost always see two adjacent branches being wired together, nothing in the ground or starting at the base of the trunk.)*

When the branch twists around the wire, instead of the wiring going around the branch it means you need to use a thinner/finer wire. If the wire you can comfortably control/use doesn’t do the job, double wire the branch. When you need to use a second thinner wire should overlap the end of the first wire – it increases the holding power of the second wire.

Fresh jin can be wired and placed just as any other branch. would be

Jack told us this is the “second best” time of the year for styling a tree – early spring is the best. No work was done on the root ball of the Juniper, this will be done next year.

Jack mention a fertilizer “Alaska Brand” 0-10-10 and recommended using it every 2 week until it gets cold – the end of October or even later.



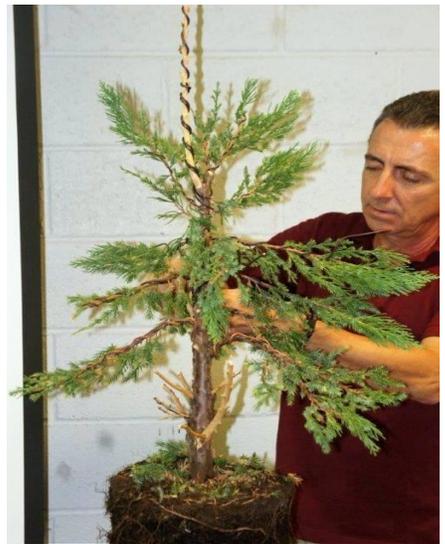
Congratulation Chris A. you won a beautiful tree.



This is the Juniper Jack started with – it is amazing how he envisioned a bonsai out of this garden shrub.



This is the sketch we chose for the Juniper



It is quickly taking shape and starting to look like the sketch. Wiring and trimming of foliage will further the shaping

Recently I had occasion to stop by Bob BonGorno's Suburban Bonsai Garden in Dix Hills. He is adding a new structure that will incorporate bonsai with his koi in a garden like setting. From what I could see it looks like it is going to be a wonderful space. Bob anticipates having it open late this fall. Best of Luck with this wonderful new addition.

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 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.

**Suburban Bonsai**  
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**infor@suburbanbonsai.com**  
**Open Mon-Sat 8:30-4:30**  
**Sun & Holidays 10:30-2:30**

In September Linda and I had an opportunity to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual U.S. Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester. Bill Valavanis puts on one heck of an exhibition. The trees were to die for, the Suiseki were wonderful, the venue was perfect in every way, and the vendor area offered everything imaginable. Highly recommend your going next time if you possibly can.

