



JANUARY, 2025

LONG ISLAND BONSAI SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



IN THIS EDITION:

- A Look At The Pacific Bonsai Expo
- Mid-Winter Bonsai Extreme Pruning
- Time For Annual Membership Renewal

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

\$45.00 – Single, \$65.00 – Household, \$20.00 – Student, \$60.00 – Supporting. Your membership will have you entertained and educated by world class bonsai Masters or Artists. You can participate in hands on workshops led by a bonsai Master or Artist and our expert members. You have access to Planting Fields on the nights of our meetings. Member pricing on imported soils. Free monthly loan of Bonsai reference materials!!! Please see Mary (Librarian) for more details and access to our library at our next meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

This meeting will be daytime
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22ND
12:00PM - 3:00PM
Member Swap Meet

Our Mission Statement

THE LONG ISLAND BONSAI SOCIETY

There are no borders in Bonsai. It brings peace to a palace as it does to the most humble of homes, to the young as to the old, to the rich as to the poor.

It invites us to live within the world it is onto itself, and we are drawn, as no words can express, to live within its shade.

The Long Island Bonsai Society invites all to enjoy this living art that can last for generations.

Generally, we meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:25 PM at Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, NY. Doors open at 7PM for refreshments and general membership discussions.

Feel free to bring one of your trees for advice from other members.

Most meetings have a tree styling demonstration by a Bonsai artist which is usually raffled off at the end of the meeting. Volunteers are needed to present Tokonoma at each meeting.

***CHECK FOR SCHEDULE UPDATES AT
LONGISLANDBONSAI.ORG/SCHEDULE***

For more information email
Jim Genesee at LIBONSAI@YAHOO.COM

EXECUTIVE BOARD



HAL JOHNSON, President
JIM GENESEE, Vice President
JOE LESNICK, Treasurer
JOHN GLASSER, Secretary
CHRIS HAYES, Chairperson of Programs



Sergio Cuan at March 11, 2024 LIBS Demonstration

At Our Last Meeting:

BONSAI DEMONSTRATION BY VIN RUSSO

On Saturday January 18, the LIBS hosted an exciting and informative Bonsai demonstration by artist Vin Russo. Mr. Russo is known for his strong professional resume and vast knowledge.

Attending members said they learned a great deal and enjoyed Vin's light-hearted presentation.

As always, the Black Pine (pre-bonsai) used in the demo was raffled off to a lucky attending member David.

Tokanoma- Black Pine, assorted Suiseki and scroll.



**BONSAI ARTIST
VIN RUSSO**



Written By: William N. Valavanis

Submitted By: Jim Genesse. Used with Permission

Pacific Bonsai Expo - An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai Part 1

The highly successful second Pacific Bonsai Expo was held on October 26-27, 2024 at the Henry J. Kaiser Center in Oakland, California. Stars of the educational event were the 74 formal bonsai compositions displayed by exhibitors from across the country from California to New York. The venue this year was considerably larger than the Expo in 2022. This offered more space to appreciate the bonsai without crowding. Over 1,600 weekend passes were sold before the event, with a great number of walk in visitors.





This large national-scale exhibition was sponsored by a new non-profit organization formed so the Expo can financially continue into the future. Organizers Eric Schrader, Jonas Dupich, and Andrew Robson along with an army of volunteers did a superb job organizing, hosting and preparing the high-quality bonsai displayed at their best. Having sponsored and helped produce over 100 events, I can truly say that the entire Pacific Bonsai Expo was excellent and one of the top two national bonsai exhibitions in the United States.

Pacific Bonsai Expo 2024



Written By: Michael Hagedorn, Crataegus Bonsai
Used with permission

Submitted By: Jim Genesee

EXTREME PRUNING

In bonsai, “pruning” is a catch-all word that covers several related plant actions.

On a bonsai, scissors could be considered a pruning tool.

Then there’s the periodic hard cutback into old wood, using concave pruners. Then there’s extreme pruning, applying a saw to every last trunk and large branch, leaving little or no foliage.

Here is a good example of growth following extreme pruning.



Yews just after collection. These are big yews, taller than a person, and these are not pots, but tubs. The plants in the background were not extreme pruned the year before collection. The one in front was. This early extreme pruning gives the yew in front a big advantage—the large in-the-ground root system flushed many low shoots that can support the plant in its first year in a container. The ones in the back will have a harder time this first year.

Not all plants respond well to this. Some plants can be extreme pruned before collection and some should not be.

You may have noticed that few recently collected ancient conifers from the mountains have pruning scars on them. Most of these trees are compacted to begin with, with little to cut off. Secondly, these old plants need all the photosynthetic surface area they can get to reestablish roots.

Some common bonsai plants do not respond well to extreme pruning—leaving little or no foliage—even if strong: Pine. Juniper. Others usually do well with extreme pruning: Azalea. Boxwood. Most deciduous trees.

Timing is the last consideration. Plants such as yew, azalea and deciduous may be extreme pruned in the spring as growth starts. That gives the longest season of growth for the plant to rebuild its resources.



Written By: Chris Hayes
Reprinted with permission

CHECKING YOUR SLEEPING TREES

A helpful reminder to check all your sleeping trees. Don't let them dry out they still need water so roots don't dehydrate. Check them every week or so but don't over water just enough to keep roots hydrated. It's also a great time to clean up your pines. Remove all dead needles and old growth to balance the energy in the upcoming spring. if you didn't already you can select buds and prune unwanted or overly dominant buds. Pruning is also possible but avoid pruning large branches this time of year.

What to prune

- Remove crossing branches, branches that grow up or down. You can also thin out branches in busy areas of the tree.

How to prune

- Prune back to where you can see living buds but leave an 1/8" - 1/4" or so to allow for die back. Never cut right at the bud you risk killing it. As the nub naturally dies back you can remove it later without harm to buds as the branch will compartmentalize itself from the cut.

You can seal larger cuts with cut paste

Why prune

- Pruning allows light into the inner parts of the tree and helps maintain the tree's health.

It's also a good time to wire but only if you have a greenhouse or a shelter to store the tree in after work is done. A freshly wired tree although dormant is still under stress and the added stress of the outdoor environment can kill off branches you just worked on. Or in worse case kill the tree.

Also, a good time to check for cooties (lol) especially on deciduous trees as you can now see the structure. check for scale especially on Maples. This time of year, i would only use horticultural oil and i would only spray the tree if i had a shelter that won't freeze.



**CHRIS HAYES,
OUR BONSAI WHISPERER**

The purpose is more to check to identify issues before spring so u can deal with them as soon as weather changes. Don't panic if u find something the bugs are dormant now as well. But now you know what needs to be done in spring.

Get ready for spring as well. Have all your potting supplies, and pottery avail. Potting season is not as long as we would like so make sure your ready. Not a bad idea to have your cleaning supplies and Lime Sulfur ready as well to keep your trees looking tip top.



MESSAGE FROM THE LIBS PRESIDENT



Thank you to all LIBS members that continue to support our society. This is my 11th term as President. We have seen many changes and challenges over the years. Our membership dwindled due to Covid in 2020 but has continually grown every year to nearly a hundred committed members.

The Board of Directors has three new Directors and increased the board to nine in all. We hope to craft new programs that accommodate the insurgence of beginning members. We hope to plan more workshops and programs that will cultivate the fundamental skills of bonsai. Thanks to our membership we are financially solid.

The Board of Directors and myself look forward to create a 2025 program that empowers each of you to raise the level of your skills.



Hal Johnson, L.I.B.S. President



BONSAI ONLINE

BONSAI ONLINE RESOURCES

Eastern Leaf – short and easy to understand how to teachings
Herons Bonsai – Peter Chan, easy and concise instructions
Eisei –en Bonsai, Bjorn Bjornholm - many videos, vlogs and on-line courses. His early videos “Bonsai – The Art of Japan” is one of the ‘best for instruction.’
Mirai- Ryan Neil – lengthy videos, be prepared to spend at least an hour. Also has interactive instructions with membership <https://bonsaimirai.com/blog/mirai-wild-crater-lake>
Bonsai Empire – instructional videos, demos, and interviews.
Crataegus.com – Michael Hagedon, educational blog Suggested Suppliers and Educational SITES
America Bonsai Tool & Supply Co. – www.americanbonsai.com ,LIBS club members receive a 10% discount with the code LIBS10
Stone Lantern - stonelantern.com – big blog - anything and everything, always specials going on, reasonable wire prices
Easternleaf.com - wire, tools, etc.
Bonsaitonight.com – Educational site with bonsai products.
Suthinbonsaistudio.com – Expertise in Tropicals, Maples, Junipers and Shohin Bonsai Style
UnderTheTinyTree.com – Holistic Bonsai, Long Island based nursery

[Read More on our website](#)



LONG ISLAND RESOURCES

Long Island Bonsai Supply

539 Deer Park Avenue, Dix Hills, NY 11746.

Ph: (516) 521-6940

Chris Hayes, Proprietor. Chris@EasternEffects.com

Besides Bonsai the business is paired with the Koi Market Aquatic Nursery. Entrance for both is on the north service road of the LIE (I495) just West of exit 51.

Dan Skabeikis has Bonsai plants and pots for sale by appointment only. He is located in Paconic near Southold on the North Fork. Ph: (631) 445-7683

Under the Tiny Tree Nursery - See website

Member Benefit:

PURCHASING BONSAI SOIL



Being a member of the LIBS gives you the opportunity to purchase genuine high-quality Bonsai growing media for a fraction of retail prices. The bags of soil can be paid for and picked up at regular meetings.



AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY
LEARNING SEMINARS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
9TH US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

SEMINARS • WORKSHOPS • PRIVATE DEMOS
NORTH AMERICAN POTTERY COMPETITION
NEW TALENT COMPETITION

FEATURED ARTISTS

Bjorn Bjorholm Suthin Sukosolvisit
Hugo Zamora Luna Todd Schlafer
Boon Manakittivipart Sergio Cuan
Jonas Dupulch Mark Arpag
Young Choo Ed Trout
Shannon Salyer John Kirby
John Romano Angelica Ramirez

SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, 2025

DOUBLE TREE
1111 Johnson Road
Roseland, New York 11423

Registration for ABS Learning Seminars
separate from the US National Bonsai Exhibition

More information coming soon
Visit americanbonsai.org
or scan here



NEXT MEETING:

February 22, 2025
SATURDAY AT 12:00pm - 3:00PM

SPECIAL SWAP MEET FOR MEMBERS

[Read More on our website](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR PRIMARY DISPLAY EVENT FOR THE YEAR!!!
LIBS ARBOR DAY EXHIBIT is at Planting Fields
Arboretum, in the Haybarn on Saturday (April 26th
and 27th). 10 AM to 4PM. Set up on Friday or earlier
(TBD). We will need volunteers to bring trees and/or
sign up observers for time slots to keep an eye on
the exhibit. Admittance and parking for Volunteers
will be waived.

**2025 CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL AT STONY
BROOK UNIVERSITY:**
The date has been set for this year's "Sakura
Matsuri" the annual Cherry Blossom Festival held at
the Japan Center at Stony Brook University is
Saturday April 26, 2025. **LIBS display minimal if
present.** For more information see the Wang
Center's website: www.thewangcenter.org

