



April 2022 Newsletter

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.

We meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30PM 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(s) which is (are) usually raffled off at the end of the meeting. Volunteers are needed to present a Tokonoma at each meeting. Please email Jim at Jgenesee@optonline.net if interested.

Please see meeting schedule in the side bar.

We also hold auctions of member donated trees, pots and equipment.

Please watch for details!!!!

Members please see our website to purchase soil supplies.

Planting Fields has revised its Covid restrictions. No reservations are needed and only unvaccinated attendees are required to wear a mask in the building.

2022 Long Island Bonsai Society Annual Membership Dues are now past due please see Joe Lesnick or send an email

to libonsai@yahoo.com

Cash, check, Pay pal.

\$45.00 – single \$65.00 – family \$10.00 – student \$60.00 – support
Your membership will have you entertained and educated by world class bonsai artists (15 in over 21 months pre pandemic). You can participate in hands-on workshops led by bonsai artists and our expert members (6 workshops in two years pre pandemic). You have access to Planting Fields on the nights of our meetings. Free monthly loan of Bonsai reference materials!!! Please see Mary for more details and access to our library at our next meeting.

Hal Johnson
President

Jim Genesee
Vice President

Joe Lesnick
Treasurer

Tony Calabrese
Secretary

Chris Hayes
Chairperson of Programs

Meeting schedule

Planting Fields has revised its Covid restrictions. No reservations are needed and only unvaccinated attendees are required to wear a mask in the building.

May 2nd-Will Baddeley
Conifer Demo with Carving

June 13th-Amigos
Club Members style similar trees

July 11th-TBA

August 8th-
Marty Schmalenburg

Events schedule

Please watch for more details

April 23(Saturday)
Tom O'Connor Workshop
South Lounge

April 30 (Saturday)
Planting Fields Arbor Day
10AM - 4PM
\$25 per car parking fee
LIBS exhibit in Haybarn

June 4 (Saturday)
Bob Mahler Workshop
South Lounge

If you are interested in attending a workshop, please email Chris at

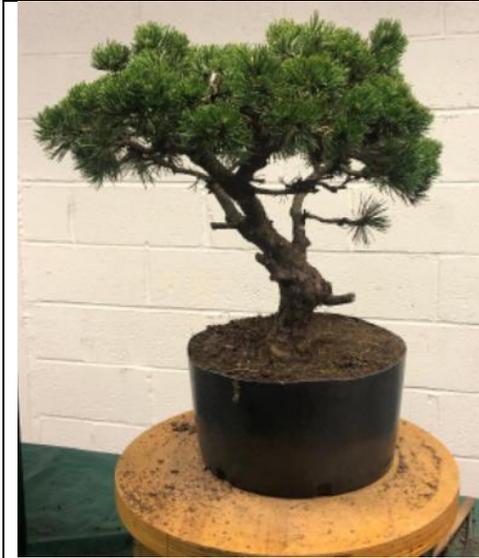
Chris@easterneffects.com

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 30, 2022

ARBOR DAY

LIBS will be holding a showcase of members' trees the Saturday April 30, 2022 in the Hay Barn at Planting Fields. The Planting Fields is holding its Arbor Day Festival Saturday, April 30, 10 – 4PM, with a \$25 parking fee per car. "LIBS volunteers no fee"

We received a limited supply of Japanese soils and members took advantage of discounted pricing at the March and April meetings. Further info is available on club's website.



Mauro Stemberger styled a Mugo pine tree at our April 11, 2022 meeting. As you can see from the photos, he is a very animated speaker. The club supplied nursery stock is shown at the far left and final tree at right. Mauro usually collects Mugos in the mountains of Italy in December and January, when the trees are pushing most of their energy to their trunks and not their tops and roots. He gave us details on his collection procedures. Chris Hayes and Patrick Marsh helped Mauro with bending a branch in the lower right hand corner picture. Member Chris Bender won the tree in the raffle. Please plan to attend the next meeting with a friend and join the fun!!! Please visit Mauro's Facebook page at Dreambonsai.



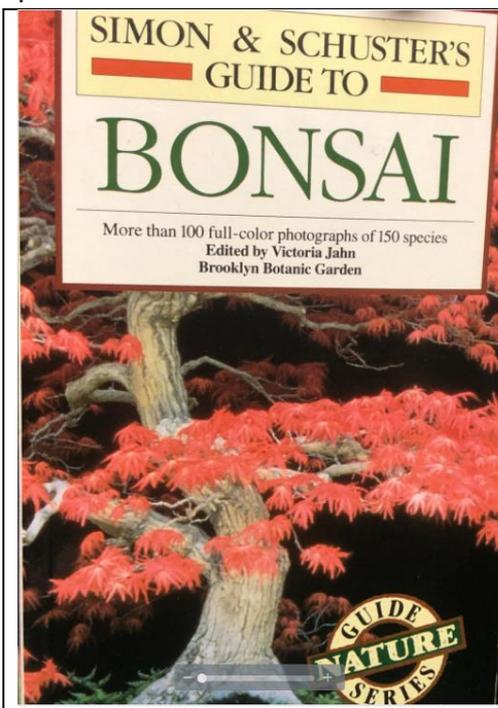
If you have any information about Bonsai that you feel should be included in our next newsletter, please email it to Beth at springhauser@yahoo.com.



Some of the trees and pots for sale at the April meeting.
Come and get some new trees for your collection!!!

LIBS Library

Please see Mary about our Library.



Brimming with fascinating and practical details and illustrated with 150 beautiful color photographs, Simon & Schuster's Guide to Bonsai provides everything the plant enthusiast needs to know about this unique and intriguing art. An informative introduction gives such useful details as plant physiology, the history and philosophy of bonsai, choice of plants, and special tools and products to use in bonsai. The individual entries that follow describe over 125 species to cultivate and offer visual symbols that indicate whether full sun or shade, plentiful or little watering, and indoor or outdoor settings are best for a particular species. Simon & Schuster's Guide to Bonsai is a fascinating and authoritative reference to this exotic ancient art.



Tom's Saikei Workshop and The Arbor Day Exhibit pictures will be in the next issue. Above is a Black Pine at our 2019 exhibit.

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> A new original series from Mirai that follows artist and bonsai professional Ryan Neil as he journeys to the native landscapes of endangered, ancient and significant trees

Bonsai Empire – instructional videos, demos, interviews and shows

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

DallasBonsai.com – general supplies

Bonsaitonight.com – Educational site with bonsai products

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2021/10/01/short-interviews-at-the-7th-us-national-bonsai-exhibition/>

Upcoming Events. (Please check with individual websites for updates)

For LIBS updates, please check with website: www.longislandbonsai.org.

May 22-29, 2022 ABS (American Bonsai Society) Learning Seminar Rendezvous on the River Whispering Woods Conference Center, 7300 Hacks Cross Rd, Olive Branch, MS 38654 Please visit ABSBONSAI.ORG for more details, registration and hotel info.

November 12-13, 2022 The Pacific Bonsai Expo The Bridge Yard, Oakland, California

They are looking for exhibitors and volunteers. Deadline to send photos of trees is April 30, 2022. Please see the website for details.

www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com

BONSAI BASICS: SOIL AND FERTILIZATION TECHNIQUES

As the repotting season continues, you might be thinking about switching up your soil and fertilizer. But with so many brands and options available, how do you know which is the best for your bonsai?

National Bonsai Foundation Co-President Jack Sustic spoke with us about the myriad choices for the second installment of our Bonsai Basics blog series. Sustic said there isn't a panacea to rely upon – if you ask 10 people what their preferred mix is, you'll get different answers from each.

“Bonsai soil is no different than Grandma's biscuit recipe – all the grandmas have a different one and it is better than the other grandmas' recipes,” he said.

The type of soil you need first depends on the tree you're working on. Sustic said deciduous trees typically like soils that retain moisture well, while evergreens like pines and junipers prefer slightly drier mixtures. But don't be mistaken – using a drier mixture doesn't mean you should adjust the amount of water you're giving the tree because the soil types absorb water differently.

“If you put an evergreen in a mix that's extra dry and you don't water it that much, it could be dangerous for the tree,” Sustic said. “If we have a deciduous tree in a mix that retains water pretty well and we have a conifer in a mix that drains really well, I end up watering them the same.”

THE CHEMISTRY OF IT ALL

Soils are amalgamations of nutrients and materials like sand or bark. Some bonsai artists buy premixed soil formulas and others forge their own.

Sustic usually prefers to mix his own from local ingredients, first sifting the finer particles from a store-bought potting mix, then adding pine bark and a combination of filter sand and pumice in ratios dependent on the type of tree that needs soil. The more sand and pumice you add to a mix, the faster water will drain from the soil, Sustic said.

“The goal here is to have good drainage, and I don't want the real fine stuff in the potting mix to clog up the drainage holes,” he said. “Maybe I'll have one part sand in a deciduous mix, and I'll add two parts for the pine because it likes to be a little drier.”

But Sustic said someone new to bonsai who is only repotting once every two or three years would find buying a bag of soil the easiest method. Akadama, a type of [clay soil](#) from Japan, is the best performing premixed bonsai soil and will last years for people with small bonsai, like shohin.

When determining which soil will suit your bonsai best, Sustic's main piece of advice is simply to avoid any heavy mixes. Sifting out fine particles from premixed soil is a must to ensure that your soil drains well and keeps your bonsai healthy, he said.

“Sand doesn't hold nutrients very well at all,” Sustic said. “If you planted a tree in sand, you would have to fertilize it a lot because it doesn't hold the nutrients. Potting mix and pine bark hold a lot of nutrients.”

THE NITTY GRITTY OF FERTILIZATION

Fertilization techniques also range far and wide.

Sustic uses a combination of fertilizers, switching up his materials with the seasons. He tosses rapeseed fertilizer pellets on his evergreens in the winter. But he fertilizes with Miracid, a liquid that he mixes with water, once deciduous trees have budded out in the spring and summer to help make up for the high pH levels in his water.

Some people use organic fertilizers, like cakes or a fish emulsion, to prevent salt from building up in their soil, which can happen with commercial fertilizer and is dangerous for your trees.

“Salt can inhibit the tree's uptake of water, so the tree can't transpire as fast,” he said. “The most common sign of salt damage is burned leaf margins.”

But Sustic said incorporating the horticulture technique of fertigation, or mixing fertilizer into water and flushing the soil with each watering, eases his worries about salt build up. He added that commercial brand fertilizer, like Miracid or

Peters, immediately provides nutrition for bonsai, while organic mixes can take longer to produce an effect. Sustic often cuts the suggested measurement in half to avoid excessive fertilization and uncontrollable growth.

“If they say one tablespoon per gallon I use half a tablespoon per gallon,” he said. “I want them to be healthy but not growing too fast.”

from the National Bonsai Foundation blog April 2020
Genesee

submitted by Jim

The Friends of the National Bonsai Foundation is holding its annual plant sale April 30, 2022. Please check their website for details.