

Hal Johnson President  
Jim Genesee Vice President  
Joe Lesnick Treasurer  
Tony Calabrese Secretary  
Chris Hayes Chairperson of  
Programs

### Meeting Schedule

Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:25 PM

**Robert Mahler**

**Demo on Juniper**

Monday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:25 PM

**Mark Arpag Demo  
on Hinoki Cypress**

### Event Schedule

Sat/Sun, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

**LIBS Exhibit at the  
Humes Japanese Stroll Garden  
Dogwood Lane, Mill Neck ,NY  
11765**

**Sat, Aug 24<sup>th</sup> BBQ Auction  
2PM Eastern Long Island  
Under the Tiny Tree Bonsai  
Garden. RSVP required!**

To [Chris@easterneffects.com](mailto:Chris@easterneffects.com)

Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM

**Mark Arpag Workshop**

Greenhouse Classroom  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. BYO  
Tree, tools, wires, etc.

**For Updates visit:**

[www.longislandbonsai.org](http://www.longislandbonsai.org)

**Reminder to Pay your  
2024 Dues and be  
eligible to buy SOIL!**

If you are interested in attending a  
workshop, please email Chris at  
[libonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:libonsai@yahoo.com)

If you are a member and not  
receiving our emails, please email  
Hal at [libonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:libonsai@yahoo.com)

## June 2024 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.

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. Please email Jim Genesee at [libonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:libonsai@yahoo.com) if interested. There are two auctions annually with member donated trees, pots, and tools.

Please see meeting schedule in the side bar.

Planting Fields currently has no Covid restrictions. However masks are available.

LIBS recommends wearing a mask in the building to protect your fellow members and family back home.

**Members please see our website to place an order on soils. Do not pay on website.**

**Please pay when you pick up the soil at the beginning of a regular meeting.**

**2024 Long Island Bonsai Society Annual Membership Dues  
are NOW PAST DUE please see Joe Lesnick or send an email**

**to [libonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:libonsai@yahoo.com)**

Cash, check, Pay pal.

\$45.00 – single    \$65.00 – family    \$20.00 – 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 hand 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.

For more information, pictures and updates, please visit Long Island Bonsai Society on Facebook.



**Mike Andrew Humphrey** created a bonsai tree out of a **Shimpacu Juniper** donated by Jason. It has a nice trunk but not much tapering as you can see in the middle photo above. Mike did some foliage pinching and then wired the trunk. In the photos below, you can see that once the trunk was wired Mike then twisted the tree to a more majestic stature. Then some branches were removed to create negative spaces. Someone even said they went to the bathroom and came back to find the tree twice as tall!! The finished tree is pictured in the the two top corners. The right corner has Mike Humphrey and Richard who won the tree in the raffle held at the end of each meeting.

Mike answered questions as he worked, as do most of the artists who style at our meetings so if you have a question make sure to come to a meeting. Mike prefers copper wire and suggests that you hold the wire with your less dominate hand and then use your dominate hand to twist the wire around the trunk/branch at a 40 to 70 degree angle. The wire stays on until you see the tree starting to grow around it, then remove the old wire and rewire. You should not wire and repot in the same growing season. When you plan to wire, don't water the day before. You should pinch off berries and candles and not cut them off. Organic fertilizer is the best.







## **JUNE TOKONOMA**

A Mission Olive by Jason  
Make sure to notice the beautiful knot.  
Scroll from Jim's collection.

**SAVE THE 2024 DATES!!!!!!!!!!**

**Sat/Sun, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> (10AM-2PM) & 4<sup>th</sup> (1PM to 5PM)**

**LIBS Exhibit at Humes Japanese Stroll Garden**

**Please consider displaying your trees. They will overnight in the secured Tea House or display for either or both days.**

**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, starts at 2 PM**

**A BBQ and visit to "Under the Tiny Tree"**

**Bonsai Garden on Long Island!**

There is a \$20 suggested Entry Donation, Auction, & raffles. **RSVP required for the food.**

**RSVP to [chris@easterneffects.com](mailto:chris@easterneffects.com) for headcount.**



These Azaleas were for sale at our June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Along with many other trees, pots and books. Come early and see what you can go home with!!!

**NEW PROMOTION FOR FREE RAFFLE TICKETS**

If you bring a pot(s) or some bonsai related item(s) to a meeting you will receive a raffle ticket(s) for that night's tree. We need to build up our stock for the next auction. Please no tree donations until the auction. Thank you!!! (See Tom before demo)



**Should I fertilize my decandled pines in summer?** By Jonas Dupuich submitted by J Genesee

To determine if a decandled pine needs fertilizer in summer, I check to see how the summer buds look. If they're strong, I hold off on the fertilizer until later in the growing season (usually September or October). If the buds are modest or small, I consider whether or not the pine looks good in the fall.

If the length of the needles that grow over summer is usually appropriate for the tree, I'll wait until later in the season before fertilizing. If the needles are typically small, I'll start applying fertilizer.

I tend to keep fertilizer on weak trees that I've decandled or partially decandled, on trees that have been repotted, or on tiny trees that don't have the same reserves as larger trees

Unless a tree is overly vigorous, I'll plan to fertilize all of my pines for at least one or two months before the trees slow down for winter towards the end of the year.

Here are some examples.



The buds on this pine are small. The needles that develop over summer are consistently smaller than I'd like. I'll fertilize this tree over summer.



The buds on the next tree are large so I'll hold off on fertilizing until later in the season.



This tree is in early stages of development. Unsurprisingly, the new shoots are large and plentiful. If I'm trying to build vigor and I want a strong budding response, I'll fertilize through summer. If I have all of the buds I need and I simply want to increase branch density, I'll hold off on the fertilizer for a month or two (in this case, I'll hold off on the fertilizer).



The pine above is more developed and the new buds are small. Although the tree is also small, the summer needles tend to be shorter than I'd like. This year I'll fertilize through summer.

**Cutback at decandling time** by Jonas Dupuich

submitted by Jim Genesee

Decandling season is a good time to do cutback on black pines. Although we can't cut past green needles and expect buds to pop on old wood, we can cut anywhere else as long as there is healthy foliage on the branch. (See "[A cutback decandling technique](#)" for details.)

Here's an exposed root black pine I showed at last year's Expo before and after decandling. The tree is 19 years old from seed.

Simply decandling the tree would have reduced its size, but to keep the tree compact, I removed all long branches and cut back into the old needles wherever there were needles to cut back to.



Before decandling



After decandling and cutback - 10"



Before decandling



After decandling and cutback - 8.5"

A small pine in the garden needed the same treatment. About 10" tall before decandling, the tree is now 8.5". (Thanks to Adam Toth for the work!) This tree was part of the same batch as the above pine - they were both started from seed planted in 2004.

To keep the top of the trunk in check, a large portion of it was removed.

It'll take considerable root work to get this tree back down to shohin size (under 8") so I'll get started with the work next winter and see how far I can get.

# **THE BALANCE OF BONSAI**

**“Bonsai” is more than just a tree in a pot as the name simply indicates in Japanese. It is an art and science to create a living sculpture in miniature. The “Science” is learning the requirements for growth and development of the tree. The “Art” is related to making a believable smaller scale tree to represent an older full-size tree. The learning process with trees from seed, cuttings or young nursery stock is important before one goes out and buys a Bonsai already trained by someone else. The basic skills are important and not hard to practice. As you gain experience it promotes an understanding of balance. Stewardship of the tree’s health should be the priority.**

**Bonsai requires patience and diligence. As such it has a calming effect that can offset the stress of daily life. The culturing of these living sculptures trains the “Bonsai Caretaker” to a state of mind that can help with other aspects of your community life and the sense of balance goes beyond the garden.**

**Hal Johnson**

**President of LIBS**

**August 24, 2023**





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

MABA convention 2024      Columbus, Ohio USA      8.30-9.1 2024

**Sat/Sun, Aug 3 & 4, 2024      LIBS Exhibit at Humes Japanese Stroll Garden**

**Please consider displaying your best tree(s) and/or volunteering.      FREE parking and admission!!**

**Sat, Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 2 PM 2024      LIBS BBQ/Auction at “Tiny Tree Bonsai Garden” on Eastern LI.**

**\*\*\*RSVP to [Chris@easterneffects.com](mailto:Chris@easterneffects.com) ASAP for food headcount.\*\*\***

## **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, interviews and shows

**Crataegus.com** – Michael Hagedon, educational blog

### **Suggested Suppliers and Educational SITES**

**America Bonsai Tool & Supply Co.** – [www.americanbonsai.com](http://www.americanbonsai.com) , LIBS club members receive a 10% discount with the code LIBS10

**Stone Lantern** - [stonelantern.com](http://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

**suthinbonsaistudio.com** - Expertise in Tropicals, Maples, Junipers and Shohin Bonsai Style

## **LONG ISLAND RESOURCES**

**Long Island Bonsai Supply**, 539 Deer Park Avenue, Dix Hills, NY 11746. Ph: (516) 521-6940

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

**\*\* SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING ON **MONDAY JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2024!!!**\*\***  
**At the Greenhouse Classroom at Planting Fields Arboretum**  
**ROBERT MAHLER DEMONSTRATION**

On a sad note, Hal Mahoney, one of our Lifetime Members has recently passed. This is one of his trees on display at the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Seattle. It is a Hinoki Cypress in formal upright style. Hal was a wonderful educator whom inspired many people.



**Hal Mahoney and his “Metropolis” Penjing**

**We have started collecting for a Memorial donation in Honor of Hal to the Pacific Bonsai Museum . Please make checks payable to the Long Island Bonsai Society. Submit at July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will send proceeds as one donation to the Pacific Bonsai Museum. Please visit our Facebook page for more on Hal- A life well lived.**