

# BSGNY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2019

The October meeting will be a **Ceramics Workshop** at Island Pottery at 315A Willis Avenue in Mineola on Saturday, October 12 at 2 PM. The second event is the **Atlantic Nursery Buying Trip** at 9:30 AM on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The third event is the **Long Island Chrysanthemum Show** on October 25 – 27, at Starkie Bros, Main Street, Farmingdale. We are again at that time of year when we make the proposed slate for the Officers and Board Members for 2020. Please think about taking on or continuing in your position for next year. Mary Ward has volunteered as chair-person of the Nominating Committee. Please let Mary know if you'd like to assist, or more importantly, to serve as an officer or a Board member. Elections will be held in December at the Holiday Meeting. Future events are listed on Page 3

## October Meetings

Atlantic Nursery Buying Trip  
Iseli Miniatures.

9:30 AM October 12th  
RSVP to John. Bring cash.

**Atlantic Nursery**  
691 Deer Park Rd  
Dix Hills, NY 11746

## Ceramics Workshop

2:00 PM- 4:00 PM  
October 12, 2019

Island Pottery  
315A Willis Avenue, Mineola

**Directions: Check out Google Maps**

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## WELCOME

Membership dues for the 2019 year are due. Please make your payment in check or cash to our Membership Secretary Mary Ward.

## 2019 BSGNY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	JOHN CAPOBIANCO
VICE PRESIDENT	CHRIS ARBONO
TREASURER	PAUL FOGELBERG
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MARY WARD
RECORDING SECRETARY	JOE LESNICK
DIRECTOR	FRANK KONDRICH
DIRECTOR	CLAIRE LANE
DIRECTOR	MARY WARD
PROGRAM CHAIR	CHRIS ARBONO
WEB MASTER	
NEWSLETTER	FRANK KONDRICH and JOE LESNICK



Like the article reprints in this and the previous newsletter? BSGNY had printed a "Bonsai Bulletin" for almost 30 years. They have been scanned on to a DVD disc. The DVD disk is now here. The price will be \$29.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. The DVD will also be available for sale at our meetings for (\$29.95).

Please mail this form to:  
BSGNY, PO BOX 115, Baldwin, New York 11510.

➤ *Make out your check to "Bonsai Society of Greater NY"* ◀

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for an Annual Membership at:  
 \$17 Student    \$40 Regular    \$45 Joint (2 people at the same address)

Or sign up at the next meeting. [www.bsgny.org](http://www.bsgny.org)

## Upcoming events and announcements:

John has been notified that Atlantic Nursery received their shipment of the Iseli Miniatures (mostly evergreens) John is offering a buying trip on the morning of October 12th. Atlantic Nursery is located at 691 Deer Park Rd in Dix Hills, NY 11746. It closes at noon on Saturdays. We'll meet there at 9:30 a.m. Please send John a RSVP ([jcapobianco@yahoo.com](mailto:jcapobianco@yahoo.com)) if you plan to go. Please sent the RSVP no later than Sunday, October 6. It is a wholesale location so we can't shop there without John. Bring cash as they don't accept checks or credit cards. We'll have access to the entire property, so if there are any landscape plants you need, this is a great opportunity for you to get something at wholesale pricing.

October 25 – 27, Long Island Chrysanthemum Show at Starkie Bros, Main Street, Farmingdale

The November meeting will be a bring you own tree to up pot into grow bags that can be purchased at the meeting. Bring soil with you or purchase from club but we must know how much you will need by Oct 12 so we can make arrangements.

The bags were used by John for the tomato plants he had this year. They are 7-gallon capacity. The purpose is to provide a large space for the roots to grow freely to thicken the trunk on a tree. This is similar to allowing your tree to grow in the ground. The bags are made of a breathable fabric that may be left outside. No root pruning is necessary nor should it be done. This is just up potting.

We are again at that time of year when we make the proposed slate for the board for 2020. Please think about taking on or continuing in your position for next year. Mary Ward has volunteered as chair-person of the Nominating Committee. Please let Mary know if you'd like to assist, or more importantly, to serve as an officer or a Board member. Elections will be held in December at the Holiday Meeting.

Our December Holiday Meeting, BSGNY Auction and Annual Meeting to elect next years officers and Board will be held on December 8, from noon to 3pm at D.J. Chinese Buffet, 1100 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, 11539. The cost is \$20

Increase your knowledge and utilize our extensive library. Look on the website under newsletter/library to see what books are available and email Mary Ward at [mward412@aol.com](mailto:mward412@aol.com) and I'll bring it the next meeting.

### Sometimes Things Just Happen

Thunderstorms occur all the time in the summer. . . “full of sound and fury,” but mostly harmless. (Pick your childhood euphemism: angels are bowling, etc.) However, sometimes the sound and fury takes on a whole new dimension. Such was the case at the end of June and seven weeks later in August.

The speed and severity of the storm that rolled through Northport, Commack, Hauppauge, and Bay Shore on June 30 was not forecast. With very strong winds, it was more like a mini tornado. It took down hundreds of trees in these towns, including a 50' poplar that demolished my shed and did some damage to the back of my house and deck. ( See photo #1. ) All my small bonsais are under that tree: elms, serissas, a cotoneaster, bougainvillea, and my hinoki cypress! It took off some branches and cracked serissa and elm trunks, and there are some noticeable bald spots on some of the mums. But miraculously I only lost one tree.

In the weeks that followed the storm, we dealt with the insurance adjustor and lined up the tradesmen to make the necessary repairs. Seven weeks later the situation was well in hand. The trees recovered and were thriving. Then the night of August 22nd turned into something that was like a Disney rendition of a sudden thunderstorm. Remember in "Fantasia" when Greek mythological creatures are out frolicking in the countryside to the tune of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony. Then, up in the clouds the god, Zeus gets bored and decides to let fly with some lightning bolts just to torment the mortals below.

As this storm closed in, the darkness outside lit up every few seconds. Then we saw a burst of light through the dining room window and there was a loud explosion in our backyard. My wife and I looked wide-eyed at each other. Was that a lightning strike? Neither of us had ever seen or heard one. What ensued was electronic mayhem. Circuits were fried; appliances and the AC were out; and circuit-breakers had tripped. But from what I could see through the pouring rain, my bonsais were safe.

The next morning revealed a different story and prompted one of those "Holy S\*\*t" moments. My favorite cascading Scott's pine was lying almost completely bare-rooted on a low mulberry slab. Its container and a portion of the two foot high stump it was sitting upon were blow into numerous pieces large and small. Some scattered 20' away. ( Photo #2) But the tree was mostly intact. I performed an emergency repotting with whatever soil I had and a gallon of SuperThrive and crossed my fingers. Ten days later, with a batch of its favorite sandy peat mix, some wilt proof spray, and more SuperThrive, I did another emergency repot.

So here we are at the end of September and the pine, minus some small branches and bark, is out of the ICU and on a new oak stump. ( Photo #3)

The story I had imagined for this cascading pine was a tree that clung to life hanging over a cliff. Now I can add that this lone tree was put in this precarious position as a result of a lightning strike, and it has survived.



Following are photos from the September 22 Arts in the Park Fair in Farmingdale







John Capobianco demonstrates a forest planting on a slab with mums

## FALL PINE CARE

Needle plucking is a very useful tool for pine maintenance. It allows air and light to penetrate the outer foliage to increase the health and vigour of inner shoots and branches. It also helps to spread energy throughout the tree in the same way that bud selection and candle pinching do.

Combined with pruning of the current years growth on a Pine bonsai, needle-plucking is also the best way of prompting backbudding as well as controlling the height and width of a pine bonsai.

Timing is important; it should be carried out after the new growth of the current growing-season has extended, from mid-July (late-Summer) until Autumn. As we had a late start to summer this year, and a delayed fall, now is the time to pluck.

Both old and new needles are plucked according to their position on the tree. The principal behind needle plucking is that the more foliage or needles a branch has, the more vigorous it is; by reducing the amount of needles on a vigorous area of the tree (such as the apex) in comparison to the number of needles a weak area has, vigour is distributed more evenly.

As a basic rule leave less needle-pairs on the upper shoots and more on the weaker, lower and inner shoots. Often no needles are plucked from inner shoots to preserve their vigour. The actual numbers of needles that are removed will depend on the needs and strength of the tree. With a very vigorous tree it may be possible to leave as little as 4 pairs of needles on the upper branches, 6 or 7 pairs on the mid-level branches and 8-12 on the lower branches. Base your starting number on the lowest, weakest shoots since you can only decrease strength with this technique and not increase it. Do not remove so many needles that the overall vigour of the tree or branch is lost.

## WINTER CARE

Tropical and subtropical bonsai need to be indoors through winter, where they feel at home in normal temperatures and can even grow year-round at 68°F or above. Outdoor bonsai however need outdoor temperatures in winter in order to rest up.

Temperate climate woody plants need consistent temperatures below 50°F for 4-6 weeks. Ideally, this means an unheated garage or room of the house, where they get cool temperatures without the harsh winds or strong sun. Keep your tree in the zone between 30°F and 50°F during this time. Above 50°F for several days could bring your tree out of her deep-sleep. Out-of-dormancy growth will stress out and eventually kill your plant. All of our outdoor bonsai are reliably hardy down to 25°F, but below that, root damage can occur. Roots have a natural anti-freeze they develop by storing up sugars in the weeks leading up to winter, but in very cold weather, even they could start to freeze. If air temps are expected to fall below 25°F for several days, add extra protection to the planter by putting it in a cardboard box with newspaper stuffed around the sides and top. Or, bring the tree to a more protected location (that still stays below 50°F).

**LIGHT and WATER:** Deciduous trees, like maples and elms, lose their leaves, so they don't need light (or that much water). Needled evergreens need very little light when the temperatures are below 32°F, as again, they're basically just taking it easy until spring. The slender waxy needles also help reduce moisture loss to a minimum. Bonsai need less water when they are dormant, but the pot should never be bone dry. If your tree is not getting snowmelt or rainwater, water every 3-4 weeks.

Protecting your Bonsai trees in winter. Trees in most parts of the world are subjected to temperatures of 15 °F and below in winter. Usually their roots are far too deep underground to freeze, and therefore these trees have no trouble coping with freezing temperatures at all. But with Bonsai, which are planted in shallow containers, the roots need additional protection in winter.

Keeping your trees in a greenhouse or cold frame during the winter is recommended. When such shelter is not available, you can place styrofoam covers around the pots to protect the roots, or plant your Bonsai including pot in your garden, covered with soil until the first branching.

When dormant, be careful not to expose your trees to an extended period of high temperatures as this might bring them out of dormancy. Once a tree starts to grow it is very vulnerable to freezing temperatures, buds easily die - which significantly impacts the health of your Bonsai. To keep trees dormant throughout the winter, open up greenhouses when these warm up during sunny winter days.

During the spring you can place your trees outside again, but be alert to protect new growth against late frosts.