



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

December, 2005 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, December 13, 2005
The Annual Holiday Party at the Arboretum

November Meeting Highlights:

The November meeting featured a terrific presentation by Andy Walsh. Andy came prepared with his computer, projector and Power-Point presentation. We were treated to a fine lecture and interactive discussion regarding the wintering of trees. Much of the discussions involved the preparation for winter from the tree's perspective.

There's more to the process than one might assume. Nourishment and water certainly play a part but we learned that the tree prepares for winter primarily based on the changing proportion of daylight and night. That is the trigger that starts the tree's winter cycle.

Once the tree has lost its leaves and the hormonal changes have taken place, it's time for tree to "harden off". This process insures that the tree will survive the cold of the winter. If the temperature drops too fast, the tree can be damaged. If it doesn't drop enough, the tree will not harden sufficiently to prevent damage when the temperature does drop.

Spring growth seems to be determined by temperature rise, since there are no leaves available to communicate information about increasing sunlight. Just so much to remember. It's a miracle that the trees survive year after year...

Several people brought trees for display. Here are some of them...



December Meeting:



Holiday Party

The meeting will feature our annual holiday party and an auction. Be sure to bring something of a food nature to share with other members. And if you have any bonsai-related items lying around at home collecting dust that you no longer have a burning desire to keep, please bring them along for the auction. The more, the merrier. Items that can be auctioned include books, tools, pots, supplies, etc. Even trees, if you have any to part with.

A Note for the Season:

Those of you who have the time and can make it between now and the first week in January might enjoy a trip to Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. It's about a 2 1/2 hour drive from the Morristown area and it's well worth the trip. While their bonsai collection is not very extensive, the indoor seasonal displays and the outdoor light shows are outstanding. Definitely worth the trip! Directions can be found on their web-site <http://www.longwoodgardens.org>. Admission is \$15.00 per adult.

Presidential Corner



Mark Schmuck

Hi Everybody! Well it's about time to get those trees protected, if you haven't already done so. It was a pleasure doing it this year in mild weather, compared to some Thanksgiving weeks I can remember.

Just a reminder, look around for some bonsai related items for the auction, and plan on buying an item or two. Our annual auction is a good fund raiser for our treasury. It's nice to have the funds available if and when we get a chance to host a visiting expert. Demo trees must be purchased, transportation and lodging must also be supplied.

Also if you haven't paid your dues yet, now is a good time. Yet another reminder; please try to bring a tree to each meeting, all the members enjoy seeing what everyone else is working on.

CHRISTMAS PARTY !!!!!!! Bring a little something to munch on. (Cheese + crackers, Pepperoni, cookies, etc.) The club will supply the soft drinks. So, I'll see you there,
Mark

A Note About Dues:

Some of you are not yet paid up for this year. You know who you are. It was not too long ago that we had an active membership of 40+. It is sad that our current membership is only in the 20s.

To those of you who have chosen to not pay your dues, we would ask you to either do so, or at the very least, let us know why you have chosen to drop your membership over the last few years. If it is something that your club has done or not done that turned you away, we'd like to hear from you so that we may correct the situation.

Those of you who are former and/or casual members will have until February to decide what you want to do. After that, we will discontinue distribution of the newsletter to you.

Dues pays for our guest lecturers, demo trees, club supplies and many other things. Without it, we will not be able to provide the quality of service that members enjoy. So please, help your club by renewing your membership at one of the next few meetings and keep the newsletter coming..

Upcoming Event Calender:

- December 13** Annual Holiday Party and Auction.
- January 10** Roundtable discussion with all club members,
New members' Question & Answer session.
- February 14** VP. Michael Markoff will host the meeting.
Topic: Guy Wires (alternatives to branch wiring)
- March 14** Repotting Workshop, and pick trees to represent GSBS at MABS in April
- April 21-23** MIDLANTIC BONSAI FESTIVAL at the Ramada in East Hanover.
Sign-up forms are available at meetings.
- April 25** FOURTH TUES. Lecture-Demo by Marco Invernizzi from Italy
- May 9** -- *NIGHT OF THE SIX JUNIPERS* -- details as they develop...
- June 3** Saturday. ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE 10:00 to 3:00 in the auditorium.
Jim Gillespie will be on hand to vend your bonsai needs.
- June 15-18** AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY Learning Seminars at Saratoga Springs, NY
For more info go to the ABS website at <http://www.absbonsai.org>
-

December Plant Care Tips:

The leaves of Autumn have now fallen and the fine twigs of deciduous specimens are nicely revealed. Conifers will sparkle with frost in the early mornings. You can appreciate the time you spent in the growing season caring for your trees. Your good work is evident.

Hardy species can be dug and potted into large containers or growing beds. Large, fully hardy deciduous bonsai can be repotted now, but only if roots can be protected from hard frost for the entire winter ahead.

Only rough pruning of raw material should be attempted now. Even well sealed wounds may die back around the edges if winter is severe enough. And the Farmer's Almanac is predicting a cold, snowy one.

Resist the temptation to begin any wiring. It will likely encourage die-back and lead to disappointment.

Water only when necessary, but check your trees regularly. Wind can dry out our plants as much as summer sun. Our trees are susceptible to over-watering, especially during rainy periods.

Be vigilant about removing debris that can harbor pests. Dead annual moss should be cleaned away. Check for scale, galls, etc and treat accordingly. Inspect conifers for signs of spider mite. Spray trees with fungicides and/or insecticides on dry, sunny days. Take hardwood cuttings and plant hard-shelled seeds.

Lacking a greenhouse, a wooden frame covered with clear plastic sheeting is an acceptable substitute. Keep your tender-hardy trees within this coldframe for protection from severe weather conditions.

Contact Information:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--|
| President: | Mark Schmuck | - Contact Mark at lofty235@optonline.net
or by Phone: 973.625.4632. |
| VP: | Michael Markoff | - Contact Mike at MJSmart@aol.com
or by Phone: 973.895.6207 |
| Treasurer: | Fred Aufschläger | - Contact Fred by phone at 908.766.1359
or 17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924. |
| Secretary: | Ken Olander | - Contact Ken at bowhunter444@verizon.net .
or by phone at 932.202.0677 |
| Newsletter: | Dan Boehmke | - Contact Dan at danno1@optonline.net
or by phone at 973.627.1318 |