



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

January, 2006 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, January 10, 2005 Discussions and Planning for the new year!

December Meeting Highlights:

Our December Holiday Party and Auction attracted a good crowd and there were many items auctioned to the highest bidders. We welcomed several new faces to the meeting and hope that they enjoyed the comeraderie of the evening.

In addition to the auction items, many of the attendees brought tasty morsels to share. There was a very nice assortment of goodies to please just about any palate.

For those of you who didn't attend, here are some pictures of what you missed...



January Meeting:

Our January meeting will be devoted to discussions and planning for the rest of the coming year. We would encourage all members to attend in order to have their ideas considered. We are looking to strengthen our membership and we believe that one way to do that is to make sure that our programs are what our membership wants them to be.

For example, some members have indicated that they would like to see more classroom type of discussions with hands-on opportunities to learn about wiring, styling, pruning, etc. We need you to let us know what you're looking for so that we can include programs of this type into our schedule. After all, if you're not satisfied with the programs, you're not going to be willing to devote an evening.

So come with your ideas and make a difference. It's your club. Let's make it all it can be. There's no reason why Great Swamp can't be the premier Bonsai Society in the Northeast. With your help, we *can* make it happen.

Presidential Corner



Mark Schmuck

Happy New Year everybody!

The new year brings with it a little time to sit back and assess some of our upcoming projects: Redesign the bonsai area of the garden; Get rid of some of those trees that you take care of every year, but really, if you think about it, do they really have potential for being a specimen bonsai?; Vow to fertilize in a more timely manner; Pinch, Pinch, Pinch. That busy time of the year will be here before you know it!

I urge everyone to come to the Jan. meeting loaded with ideas, questions, and suggestions; Beginner and experienced alike, I need your help and ideas so that we all have an enjoyable club experience.

See you at the meeting.

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:

- 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>
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January Plant Care Tips:

Not much going on at this time of the year. All of our plants have gone into their dormant period. Except perhaps, for those of us with tropicals, we're not doing any styling, pruning or wiring at this point

Outdoor trees should not need watering, but may need to be protected from excessive rain. A blanket of snow will do no harm to hardy trees in the open, but if a quick thaw occurs, it could be like having a week's worth of rain in a day. So if you have a large blanket of snow and expect a thaw, it's wise to remove most of the snow before the temperature warms up.

Check for pests during your weekly water check. Conifers can be destroyed by aphids or spider mites in a matter of a couple of weeks. Also, allow your lower trunks to get some air during any mild spells to prevent them being over moist. (move the mulch around and leave the trees exposed during a warm day)

Look over your tools, pots and other supplies. A good cleaning might be required. Review your styling notes, and photos. Plan for the up-coming spring while the time is available. You could also prepare your soil supply for repotting and order in any supplies that you find to be in short supply.

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