



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

January, 2007 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 9

Featuring: Ken Olander lecture:

Pinus Thunbergiana - Care & Feeding

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM GREAT SWAMP!

May the coming year be healthy and prosperous.

December Meeting Highlights:

Thanks to all who attended our Holiday Party in December. The silent auction helped the club's coffers and I think all who attended had a good time. There was plenty of food to go around thanks to the generous contributions of the attendees. Some photos from the meeting are shown below.



January Meeting:

Let's have a good turnout this month. The meeting should be very interesting and informative. Sign up forms for 2007 MidAtlantic Spring Festival will be available.

January's meeting will feature our own Ken Olander who will provide insight into the care and feeding of *Pinus Thunbergiana* (Japanese Black Pine). In addition to his duties as our club secretary, Ken is also the Vice President of Deep Cut Bonsai Society (South-Central Jersey) and an accomplished Master Gardener. Anyone who is familiar with Ken will certainly acknowledge his expertise with pines. We have all seen many of his trees at meetings and at our shows.



Bad Weather Notification:

In the event of a meeting cancellation due to inclement weather, we will attempt to alert the membership by E-mail before 5:00 pm on the day of the meeting. If you're in doubt, you may contact one of the club officers. (see next page)

Presidential Corner:



Mark Schmuck

Hi Everybody!

First, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

Who knew most of our trees could have stayed on benches this long into the winter?

As President, it's my job to make each meeting as informative and as interesting as I can. Besides the meeting program, one of the important ingredients is a good turnout by the club members themselves. Try to make it a point this year to attend as many meetings as possible. Many of you travel a long distance to get here, and I appreciate that. In fact most of the members who live quite a distance away have a better attendance record than those of us who live close. Meetings are always made more enjoyable by having a good turnout, with members bringing in trees to display. Let's make this year better than ever.

Our January meeting kicks off with Ken Olander (Vice-Pres. of Deep Cut Bonsai Society and our own club's Secretary). TOPIC: The Care and Feeding of *Pinus Thunbergiana* (japanese black pine) Ken's lectures are always informative, and, being a Master Gardener, Ken is able to answer all your questions on the care and growing of trees. See you at the meeting!

Mark

Upcoming Event Calendar:

- February 13** BONSAI by JURY. Watch as you and fellow club members discuss and design a tree, turning it into a presentable tree which will be raffled at the end of the meeting. This should be a lot of fun!
- March 13** Members are asked to bring in trees to be considered for the April exhibit at the MidAtlantic Spring Festival. We will vote for 3 trees to represent Great Swamp. Make sure you'll have un-frozen access to your tree(s) in anticipation of the meeting.
- April 10** Annual Repotting Meeting.
- April 20-22** MidAtlanticSpringFestival: Ramada Inn, Rte 10 West, East Hanover N.J.
Speakers: Robert Steven from Jakarta, Indonesia.
Guy Guidry from Louisiana, USA
Ted Matson from California, USA
- Correction from last newsletter: Robert Steven will not be available after Midatlantic. Instead, Ted Matson will be our guest on **Tuesday April 24**. Ted has a big interest in Shohin Bonsai, having founded the California Shohin Society.
- May 8** Afternoon workshop followed by lecture demo at the meeting by Horst Krekler from Germany.

Don't forget to visit our web pages at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai>. Steve Guyette has posted lots of good information there for all to see...

January Plant Care Tips.

A rather unusual season so far, what with the warm weather and all. Hopefully, all trees are doing well.

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.

Tips taken from *Growing & Displaying Bonsai* by Colin Lewis and Neil Sutherland
and from *Bonsai, the Art of Growing and Keeping Miniature Trees* by Peter Chan

A Note about Dues and Membership:

Your dues help your club to function during the year and pay for special events and guest lecturers. The club can not continue to exist without your attendance and financial as well as moral support. We ask that you come prepared to "ante up" at the September meeting, or as soon thereafter as you can. Our annual dues continue to be a very reasonable \$30.00 for individual membership and \$40.00 for family.

Please do your part to help the Great Swamp Bonsai Society continue to be successful. We also encourage you to tell a friend about the club and suggest that he or she attend our meetings to see what we're all about.

Its' up to you...

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: 973.895.6287
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