



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

January, 2009 Newsletter

Next regular Meeting on January 13  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ

## December Highlights:

Our December meeting featured our holiday party and Annual Auction. Many members were in attendance and everyone seemed to have a good time. Lots of good food and camaraderie were the order of the day. The auction went well with all but a few of the offered items finding new homes. Some pictures of the festivities appear below..



## Presidential Corner & Upcoming Event Calendar:



**John Michalski**

Happy New Year!

Our December meeting featured our **Annual Club Auction** and **Holiday Party**. Twenty-six were in attendance, including several new members and a number of longer-standing members that we haven't seen for a while, and it was great to have you all there. If you missed it, we missed you too, so plan on making the next one!

Club member **Greentree** has graciously volunteered to organize (as I've promised myself for the past two years!), a Saturday or Sunday **club outing** to the **bonsai nurseries** in **Ringoos and New Hope**. We have some planning to do yet, but keep an eye peeled for breaking news, and we hope to see you all at the meetings!

Our **January meeting** will be held **Tuesday January 13th** and will feature three items. A presentation on **tool maintenance and sharpening** by **Juan Calderon** and **Fred Aufschläger**. There is an art and a science to this, so bring your tools for Juan and Fred's assessment and honing! Secondly, we will show our DVD of the **June 2008 Maine Collecting Trip** (about 20 minutes) featuring club members John, Juan, Kerry and Ed, collecting larches in the bogs and spruces on the mountain tops. While all this is going on, we will have a **club bonsai sale**, featuring anything you wanted to sell but didn't at the December auction. Bring your plants, pots, tools, books, etc. and we'll put 'em out for people to peruse (same 80/20 split with the club, please).

February (**MONDAY Feb. 23**) will feature **guest speaker** Sean Smith on the subject of bonsai stands and bonsai display. He encourages you to bring your trees for advice and mixing and matching with stands he will bring. Sean will also have stands for sale.

March is still open..

In April we will possibly host **David Easterbrook** following his presentation at MABS (this would be a return visit for David this season, but many of us would love to see him again!) and in May Fred will present a lecture-demo on grafting and air-layering. June is our annual Open House already!

---

## January Plant Care Tips:

So far, so good. Hopefully, all trees are doing well in spite of the very changeable weather we've been having.

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 and sharpening might be required (see above). 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. Growing in the winter and can be a continuing source of satisfaction in the coming months.

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

## Contact Information:

**President:** John Michalski - Contact John at Huonia@aol.com  
or by Phone: 973.829.0094

**VP:** Michael Markoff - Contact Mike at MJSmart@aol.com  
or by Phone: 973.895.6287

**Treasurer:** Fred Aufschläger - Contact Fred @ fdauf@msn.com  
or 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 732.202.0677

**Newsletter:** Dan Boehmke - Contact Dan at dann@earthling.net  
or by phone at 973.627.1318

---

---

Great Swamp Bonsai Society  
c/o John Michalski  
223 Mt Kembal Ave.  
Morristown, NJ 07962

