



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

December 2009 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown

General Meeting: January 12, 2010

A short intro to Grafting and Bonsai "Puzzlers"...

## December Highlights

December featured our annual

# Holiday Party

While your editor was not in attendance due to family related preparations for the Holidays, I understand that several members and guests had a fine time celebrating the occasion. No photos of the festivities are available for this issue of the newsletter so we'll just proceed...

But before I forget, Happy New Year to all...

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## Presidential Corner:



**Diego Pablos**

Happy New Year,

Our December meeting featured our Annual Club Auction and Holiday Party. About twenty were in attendance, including several visitors. If you missed it, you were also missed, so plan on making the next one!

Our January meeting will be held Tuesday January 12th and will feature two topics. A Bonsai Design Puzzler, in which several hard to design trees will be placed so that individual groups of three will draft their ideas on how the tree should be designed. Each group will have 20 minutes to draw their ideas before they present it to the other members, and an explanation on their design. Second we will have a short lecture on grafting for those of us that haven't had the experience. We'll give a short demo on a medium size cut branch, since we are too early to do any grafting on a live tree.

February has a prospective topic Progress of collected trees, featuring our own John Michalski and Juan Calderon.

March will feature Rock Planting Demonstration by Fred Aufschlager, with copious assistance from interested novices. Get ready to get your hands dirty and learn how to make a bonsai display of trees growing on stone.

If you have a topic you would like to see, please let us know so we can evaluate it in order to create a full presentation.

Regards,  
Diego Pablos  
President, Great Swamp Bonsai Society

## Upcoming Calendar:

- January 12:** Intro to Grafting and a Design Puzzlers where members are encouraged to offer their suggestions for a few “difficult” Bonsai.
- February:** Progress of collected trees with John Michalski and Juan Calderon.
- March:** Rock Planting demonstration, led by our own Fred Aufschlager, with copious assistance from interested novices. Get your hands dirty and learn how to make a bonsai display of trees growing on stones.
- April:** We will host one of the presenters from the Mid Atlantic Bonsai Society’s Spring Festival held in upstate New York. Don’t forget the Joshua Roth competition mentioned in November newsletter.
- May:** Beginner Workshop. We will supply small plant material and pots, and help beginners (or anyone else) design and pot a boxwood or shimpaku bonsai.
- June:** Annual Open House. First Saturday of June, open to the public between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.
- July & August:** To be announced...
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## January Plant Care Tips:

So far, so good. Hopefully, all trees are doing well in spite of the unseasonably cold weather we’ve been having so far this winter...

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

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## A Final Reminder about Annual DUES:

Those of you who are delinquent (and you know who you are...) are encouraged to contact Fred and get back to being a member in good standing. Your club relies on your full participation in order to bring the programs that we all enjoy. We’re still \$30 per individual member and \$40 per family. Thank you...

## Contact Information:

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