



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Creating Bonsai with Dwarf Alberta Spruce

January 2012 Newsletter

December Highlights

The December meeting was our annual holiday party and club auction. New member Bill K. acted as auctioneer, and everything was sold (to each other, naturally!). The club earned some funds for future projects and guest speakers, we all enjoyed some nice food and good company, and everybody had a good time—if you weren't there, plan on making it next year!

This Month at GSBS

Our January meeting will be devoted to **Dwarf Alberta Spruce** (*Picea glauca conica*). This is a good species for bonsai, but often neglected by serious growers. John Michalski will bring in a tree he has worked on for nearly 20 years (started from one of those little “holiday trees” people buy at home centers and put outside the front door with little white lights strung on). Please consider buying one yourself for the meeting—they are often reduced in price following the Christmas holiday. Look for one with a single, relatively heavy trunk, and trees with a narrower overall “spread” are preferable, if you can find one. John will present several images of his tree taken over many years, and help you design and start the preliminary pruning to get yours off to a good start.



In the absence of strong member participation (that is, if people don't bring in trees to work on), this is a relatively short presentation, so please feel free to bring your own trees of any description, for opinions, discussion, or brainstorming.

Officers

Diego E Pablos President
Michael Markoff Vice-President
Fred Aufschläger Treasurer

Directors

Dan Boehmke, Mark Schmuck, John Michalski, Brian O'Byrne, Peter Michienzi, Juan Calderon

The
Great
Swamp
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Plant Care Tips for January

Not much going on at this time of year. All of our outdoor plants have gone into their dormant period. Except for those of us with tropicals, we're not doing much 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 ahead of the thaw.

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. Watch for woolly adelgid on hemlocks. Check regularly for rodent damage—some critters greatly appreciate the protected environment of a cold frame! Allow your lower trunks to get some air during any mild spells to prevent them being over-moist (Move the mulch around and leave trees exposed on a warm day).

Look over your tools, pots and other supplies. A good cleaning and sharpening might be in order. Review your styling notes and photos. Plan for the upcoming spring while the time is available. You can also prepare your soil supply for repotting and order any supplies that you find 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

Calendar of Events:

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| Jan 10 | Dwarf Alberta Spruce, presentation by club member John Michalski. |
| Feb 14 | Forest Group Planting using Eastern Redcedar, led by club member Fred Aufschlager. |
| Mar 13 | Club tree selection for MABS (Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival), and Air-Layering demonstration/workshop. |
| April | Guest presentation by one of the speakers at MABS. Date to be determined. |
| May 8 | Topic to be determined, but we also make time to help you prepare your bonsai for the GSBS Open House on Sunday June 3 (see below). |
| June 3 | Sunday – GSBS Open House. All club members encouraged to bring trees to display to the general public. Admission free, open to public 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Club members arrive by 9:00 to set up. |



Diego Pablos

President's Corner

Happy New Year!

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

The January meeting will be held Tuesday the 10th and will feature Bonsai Basics; Creating Bonsai from Dwarf Alberta Spruce.

February meeting will be held Tuesday the 14th (Valentine's Day!) and will feature a Group Planting Workshop of Eastern Red Cedars—note we will not be using Trident Maples as originally planned—the stock plants are not yet strong enough.

The March meeting will be held Tuesday March 13th and will feature MABS Spring Festival Trees selection, followed by an Air Layering Workshop.

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,

If you haven't yet paid your Dues...

Our dues-cycle usually begins in September, so please be forthcoming with your dues. Your club uses these funds to provide for guest lecturers, transportation, etc. so please... Dues are only \$40 for an individual member or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact Fred Aufschlager (contact information below).

Contact Information:

Diego E Pablos bonsai4ever@aol.com
Phone: 973.224.8139
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

Michael Markoff MJSmart@aol.com
Phone: 973.895.6287

Fred Aufschläger fdauf@msn.com
Phone: 908.766.1359
17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

Club Information

Location:

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum
353 East Hanover Ave,
Morristown, NJ 07962

When:

Second Tuesday of each Month,
(check our website for Special Dates
and locations)

Time:

7:00 – 10:00 pm

Remember to check our website
(<http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai/index.htm>) for
special events, dates, updates
and latest information.

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c/o Diego E Pablos
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