



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, January 14th**  
**7:00-10:00 pm**

**January 2014 Newsletter**

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## December Meeting – the few, the proud, the brave

As you might have guessed, the weather spooked off a few people, but an intrepid band of ten showed up for food, treats, company, and a little auctioneering. As usual, we managed to buy all of each other's stuff and the club made about \$300 from it. Thanks to everyone who added to the fun and merriment!

## GSBS Acknowledges Fred Aufschlager

Great Swamp Bonsai Society takes this space to thank Fred Aufschlager for all of his work, dedication, and good humor. Most of you know how far above and beyond the call of duty Fred and his wife Doris go throughout the year, hosting visiting bonsai masters, providing a space for special meetings, etc. As a token of our appreciation, we are treating Fred to a year's subscription to the bonsai publication of his choice.

## January Meeting: *Night of the Junipers* returns!

A year or two ago, we held a meeting in which 5 or 6 large junipers, all of a similar size and quality, were worked on simultaneously by teams of two, in which each team had to (a) produce a sketch of their projected "finished" bonsai, and (b) complete the initial design and styling stage before the end of the meeting. It was a great success, and a lot of fun, and **we're doing it again!**

Please bring your tools and plan to be a part of the fun. We will create teams of two, with each team including one beginner and one more experienced club member. We should have 5 or 6 trees, so there's room for 10 or 12 participants, and the rest of us can look on and confuse everyone with useless suggestions (optional). **Plan on taking before and after photos.**

***We've got a great calendar of hands-on events in the months ahead.***

***Friends, family, and first-timers always welcome!***

**Club Dues:** If you haven't yet paid your dues, it's only \$40 for an individual member or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club treasurer **Fred Aufschlager** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

## Plant Care Tips for January

Crazy weather this winter! Do what you can to protect your trees from these weird weather extremes—it's not easy on them. Snow cover is **good** for your hardy plants—it helps to insulate them from daily shifts in temperature, and keeps the soil evenly moist. If you have no other protection, put potted trees near fences or walls that may help to block strong winds, which otherwise can dry your trees out and kill them. Check regularly for rodent damage, especially if you keep your trees in a shelter such as a shed or cold-frame. Tough winters seem to draw them in to these slightly milder enclosures. [JM]

During the bleak winter months, the extreme cold temperatures can take its toll on all of your trees. The main task is to protect them from the very cold weather. Check the soil in the pots to make sure it has not dried out. If so, water the soil so it is just damp. Don't wait until spring to do all of your maintenance! Winter is an excellent time for heavy pruning, new design and carving, needle plucking on pines (2-3 yr old needles). Don't forget to take off old wire and add new wire. This is a good time to plan your repotting schedule for spring. Draw up a list of trees that need repotting and order your soil requirements and any pots you may need. Finally, watch out for mice girdling your trees. Use mothballs or a hungry cat to prevent problems! [DY]

## Calendar of Events for 2013–2014

**January (Second Tuesday):** “Night of the Junipers” – A competition, of sorts, with several similar unstyled trees presented to teams of two, each of whom has to create a sketch of their proposed result, and three hours to make it happen! (We had lots of fun with a similar exercise a few years ago, so please plan to come and be on a team—**a great opportunity for newcomers to work hands-on with someone more experienced.**)

**February (THIRD Tuesday):** Forest Planting: Root Pruning and Repotting. Several years ago, we worked in two teams to design and pot up two separate large forest plantings, one of Korean Hornbeam, and the other of Zelkova. It’s now time to revisit both forest plantings, which is a great opportunity for novices to get their hands dirty and get some experience.

**March (Second Tuesday):** Repotting Demo-Workshop: Bring your own, or work with ours. We will also **vote for the 3 trees to represent GSBS at this year’s MABS Spring Festival.**

**April 29: Guest Speaker Suthin Sukosolvisit,** fresh from his appearance at MABS 2014.

**May (Second Tuesday):** Air-Layering Demo-Workshop. Bring your own, or work with ours. Find out how to get interesting bonsai material from the tops of stock plants, or get better rootage from that bonsai that needs a bit of help. Fertilizer Cake-Making. We will provide the ingredients to make large batches of bonsai fertilizer cakes, which you can bring home in ziploc bags, to spread out on baking sheets and dry at home.

**June (First Sunday):** GSBS Open House. Lectures, demos, raffles, vendors, dozens of trees on display. A great outing for the club, and a great opportunity for newcomers to see what we’re all about.

***Novices and non-members always welcome!***

***Come and plan to get your hands dirty!***

Visit our webpage at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai/>

# Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, now offers **FREE shipping** on all orders from members of the Great Swamp Bonsai Society! Specifically, you can order online or by phone, and he will deliver your merchandise to the following meeting of GSBS. This represents a considerable savings when it comes to ordering soil, pots, or trees, where shipping costs can be prohibitive. To take advantage of the offer, order online, select "Ground" for shipping, and put "GSBS member" in the comment field. (This is for **club members only**, please!) Visit Efrain's website at [manhattanbonsai.com](http://manhattanbonsai.com) or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

## Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos [bonsai4ever@aol.com](mailto:bonsai4ever@aol.com)

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Vice President: Bill Kasakoff [bill.kasakoff@gmail.com](mailto:bill.kasakoff@gmail.com)

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17 Lakeview Drive  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com)

## Club Information

### Location:

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

### Date:

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.**

## Great Swamp Bonsai Society

c/o Diego E Pablos  
289 Mount hope Ave.  
K-12, Rockaway twp.  
Dover, NJ 07801

### Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:

Send to:

GSBS c/o Fred Aufshläger  
17 Lakeview Drive,  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

New  Renewal

Individual (\$40.00)  Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If Family Membership, please list other members:

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