



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **MARCH**

Time: 7-9:30 pm

January 2016 Newsletter

December Meeting: Club Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction

Those of you who attended our December meeting know that there was a certain amount of confusion about whether or not we had booked our room. Well, we *had* booked our usual meeting room for December 8th, but the Arboretum had another commitment for that night and moved our meeting to December 22nd. Our club organizers hadn't noticed the switch (which was, in fact, made known to us in a Parks communication), and there was a bit of turmoil as club members arrived with a variety of holiday goodies and items for the bonsai auction.

Fortunately, the Morris County Library (just across the street) had a meeting room available, and we moved our meeting to the Library. We thank the Library, and apologize to our membership for the inconvenience and the resulting kerfuffle.





Please Get Your Dues In

If you haven't yet paid up, please bring cash or check to club president **Diego Pablos** at the next meeting, or mail it to Diego at the address on the last page of this newsletter. Annual membership remains at \$40 for individual, \$50 family membership, and helps support club activities such as hosting touring experts. See last page for details.

We Still Have Bags of Akadama for sale!

The club still has Akadama soil, in two granule sizes—2.5 mm (small grade) and 5.0 mm (medium grade). Bags are 14 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price.

Remember to save your copper wire clippings!

We collect discarded copper bonsai wire, to be sold as scrap, so please remember to save your clippings and bring them to the meetings. Most years we have enough to equal one or two paid memberships, so it all goes to support club supplies and activities.

Plant Care Tips for January

We have, of course, had an unusually mild winter so far. But that cold snap at the beginning of January should stand as a reminder that you should always be ready to move your trees someplace where they will be protected from low temperatures and desiccation. A few species, such as Japanese Black Pine and Trident Maple, cannot survive having their roots in the deep freeze, especially if the weather continues to wobble back and forth between very cold and unseasonably warm. A heated shed or garage that does not get below 35 degrees Fahrenheit would be ideal, but be watchful of warm spells—a few days in the 50s could have your bonsai breaking bud, only to have them freeze in the next (inevitable) cold snap!

Warm or cold, winter is a good time to assess the design of your deciduous trees and wire your evergreen trees, to plan your repotting schedule, mix or purchase bonsai soil, clean up and sharpen your tools, read some good books and periodicals, and travel the countryside looking for suitable material from the field.

Watering, when needed, should be limited to keeping the soil slightly moist. Remember, leafless trees need less water, but don't allow the soil to dry out completely! This holds true throughout the winter months.

Remember, winter protection is chiefly concerned with: (a) preventing the soil from repeatedly freezing and thawing; (b) preventing wind from dehydrating the upper portion of the plant; and (c) preventing the soil from drying out completely. You may also have to concern yourself with rodents that sometimes feed on the bark of dormant trees. Wiring may be performed on most conifers during the winter months, but deciduous trees are often too brittle to survive branch-bending, so postpone wiring on leafy trees until spring. [JM]

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]

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Calendar of Events for 2015–2016

You will note our calendar has several openings left. ***Please forward any topic ideas***, and look for updates in future newsletters.

January-February: *NO REGULAR MEETINGS.*

March: Topic to be determined.

April 12th: Topic to be determined. – *Repotting workshop?*

April 18th: **MONDAY** – **Guest artist Bjorn Bjornholm, fresh from MABS.**
Afternoon paid workshop (details to follow), followed by informal dinner at local restaurant and **evening lecture/demo (free to public).**

May 10th: Topic to be determined.

June 5th: First **Sunday** in June, **Annual Club Bonsai Open House**, open to public 10am-4 pm. Club members arrive by 9:00 am to help set up.

July 12th: Topic to be determined.

Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, 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 or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

Club Dues: **Dues are due at the September meeting.** It's only \$40 for an individual membership, or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club president **Diego Pablos** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

GSBS Contact Information:

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

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff bill.kasakoff@gmail.com

Treasurer: position open; please send all club dues to club president Diego Pablos at the address above.

Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

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

Club Information

Location:

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

Date:

Usually the 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 Membership Registration:

Send to:

**GSBS c/o Diego Pablos
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp.
Dover, NJ 07801**

_____ **New** _____ **Renewal**
_____ **Individual (\$40.00)** _____ **Family (\$50.00)**

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:

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