



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

February, 2007 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 13

Featuring: Bonsai by Jury

A Group-effort Tree Design & Styling

## January Meeting Highlights:

Our thanks go out to Ken Olander for his terrific presentation on *pinus thunbergiana*, Japanese Black Pine. All aspects of the Japanese Black Pine care and feeding were presented at length. We discussed all phases of the annual cycles of this tree. Ken explained fertilization and soil requirements as well as needle plucking and candle trimming. The only members who did not benefit from the discussions were those who were not in attendance. Ken's example trees included 2 mature specimens that he is preparing for show as well as a very delightful *shobin* from his collection. Differences between Black, White and Red Pines were also presented, with emphasis on their differing care requirements. Here are a few pictures from the meeting.



In addition to the Black Pine presentation, Fred Aufschläger brought in several of his gorgeous pots for display and sale.

## February Meeting:

Let's have a good turnout this month. The meeting should be very interesting and informative. Sign up forms for 2007 MidAtlantic Spring Festival will be available.

February's meeting will feature the promised "Bonsai by Jury". At this meeting, all members will participate in the design and styling of a tree (most likely a Juniper) that will be raffled at the conclusion of the meeting. Bring your tools and thoughts to the meeting as everyone will be able to contribute. All ideas will be considered and no one will feel left out of the process. This promises to be a very fun meeting. The final product will be a tree that everyone in attendance can point to and say "I helped design that Bonsai.". Hope to see you all there.

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## Bad Weather Notification:

In the event of a meeting cancellation due to inclement weather, we will attempt to alert the membership by E-mail before 5:00 pm on the day of the meeting. If you're in doubt, you may contact one of the club officers. (see next page)

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## Presidential Corner:



**Mark Schmuck**

Hi Everybody!

It's February and maybe winter has finally arrived in the northeast, we'll see. Not much in the way of snow cover. I'll be watching my outdoor trees, and if we get a day or two with some thawing action, I'll be trying to get some water into those pots. Drying out is a big reason for trees not making it over the winter. Most years in the mid-atlantic area, there is plenty of snow and rain to do the job. This year is a little different.

Here's a good cure for cabin fever, come out to the Feb. meeting and help us design a juniper. the entire club will discuss, design, decide, decimate some branches, wire the remaining branches, and finally we'll raffle off the tree at the end of the meeting. See you there!

The March meeting will feature our V.P., Michael Markoff. Mike is traveling to Japan this month with Bill Valvanis and company where they will visit many gardens and bonsai nurseries topped off I believe with a visit to Kokufu 10, which is a very big exhibit in Japan. Michael will return with lots of stories and lots of pictures to share with us in March.

Mark

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## Upcoming Event Calendar:

**March 13** Members are asked to bring in trees to be considered for the April exhibit at the MidAtlantic Spring Festival. We will vote for 3 trees to represent Great Swamp. Make sure you'll have un-frozen access to your tree(s) in anticipation of the meeting.

**Also:** In addition to the tree selection, our Vice President, Michael Markoff, will be presenting a slide show of his Japanese trip with Bill Valavanis. In addition to visiting many bonsai gardens and nurseries, he will be attending the Kokufu 10 show, a vary big exhibit in Japan. His slide show should be very interesting and informative.

**April 10** Annual Repotting Meeting.

**April 20-22** MidAtlanticSpringFestival: Ramada Inn, Rte 10 West, East Hanover N.J.

**Speakers:** Robert Steven from Jakarta, Indonesia.  
Guy Guidry from Louisiana, USA  
Ted Matson from California, USA

**April 24** Ted Matson will be our guest on on this extra Tuesday. Ted has a big interest in Shohin Bonsai, having founded the California Shohin Society.

**May 8** Afternoon workshop followed by lecture demo at the meeting by Horst Krekler from Germany.

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Don't forget to visit our web pages at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai>. Steve Guyette has posted lots of good information there for all to see...

## February Plant Care Tips.

Punxsutawney Phil promises us an early spring this year. But we all know how reliable he is... Keep an eye on your trees. With this current lack of precipitation, they'll surely need water when the pots thaw.

Very hardy deciduous trees can be repotted toward the end of the month if root tips show white. Continue to protect trees from hard frost and don't feed until spring. You may also dig up raw material and pot into temporary containers. Even if you will wait until March for potting, raw material roots can be undercut.

You may wire deciduous trees this month while buds are still tight. As they swell, they become more fragile and are easily damaged. Don't wait too long, as you wouldn't want to see this year's new growth lying in the pot after you finish hours of wiring. Protect newly wired trees from frost until the buds burst.

Late February is ideal for heavy branch pruning as long as the remaining branches and shoots are healthy. Seal all wounds and protect from frost until growth has begun. Toward the end of the month, trim last year's growth back to vigorous new shoots.

Do NOT over-water your newly potted trees. Keep pots moist but not wet. As trees come out of dormancy, be aware that their watering needs will increase. However, since it is still quite cold, there is a chance that wet soil could freeze hard and damage newly developing root fibres.

Be careful with any feeding. New roots can be easily damaged by strong fertilizers. If your conifers did not get their bonemeal last fall, you may apply a light dose of fish emulsion, as this is quite mild.

Keep an eye out for aphids and spider mites. They can defoliate a conifer in a few weeks if unchecked. Commonly used pesticides that are listed for your species should do the trick. Remove algae from trunks and remove any Scale insects that you find.

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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 Note about Dues and Membership:

Your dues help your club to function during the year and pay for special events and guest lecturers. The club can not continue to exist without your attendance and financial as well as moral support. We ask that you come prepared to "ante up" at the September meeting, or as soon thereafter as you can. Our annual dues continue to be a very reasonable \$30.00 for individual membership and \$40.00 for family.

Please do your part to help the Great Swamp Bonsai Society continue to be successful. We also encourage you to tell a friend about the club and suggest that he or she attend our meetings to see what we're all about.

Its' up to you...

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## Contact Information:

<b>President:</b>	Mark Schmuck	- Contact Mark at <a href="mailto:lofty235@optonline.net">lofty235@optonline.net</a> or by Phone: 973.625.4632.
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Fred Aufschläger	- Contact Fred by phone at 908.766.1359 or 17 Lakeview Drive Bernardsville, NJ 07924.
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