



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

February 2010 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown  
General Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
Grafting

## January Highlights

Not much in the way of words for the January meeting. We had our “puzzlers” session and a few trees where we broke into small groups and studied some trees that posed a design issue. Each group had a chance to review each tree and develop a styling scenario. After the review, the groups presented their ideas to the rest of the club for each of the trees. All in all it was a good exercise and I believe everyone in attendance was able to see the trees from several different perspectives.

Here are a few pictures from the meeting:



## Presidential Corner:



**Diego Pablos**

Hello everybody,

Our January meeting featured a short presentation by our very own John Michalski, showing us the damaged some of his collection endured by the Voles. We also had some interesting Design Puzzlers. Would like to thank all the members that participated, in the design and presentation, of each of their design ideas. Special thanks to Juan Calderon for demonstrating to our new members the proper way to create jins when power tools are not available.

Our February meeting will feature a Grafting demo\lecture. Lead by Club member Jim Gavigan. Who will discuss the preferred period, care and technique and process of grafting a scion into a rootstock, etc.

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.

**Note:** 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

## Upcoming Calendar:

- February:** Grafting Lecture Demo by Jim Gavigan.
- 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:

Again, so far, so good. Thankfully, we have seen at least a minor thaw out of the teens of early January. And we'll see if the Groundhog predictions hold up THIS year... Mixed bag: PA says 6 more weeks, Staten Island says early Spring. Time will tell...

Not much going on at this time of the year. All of our plants have gone into their dormant period. Except 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.

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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