



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, February 14, 2012
Creating a Bonsai Forest with Eastern Red Cedar

February 2012 Newsletter

January Highlights

The January meeting featured club member John Michalski, who presented a slide-history of his **Dwarf Alberta Spruce**, followed by a hands-on workshop with club members working on Spruce they brought to the meeting. About 15 members were in attendance, including **new member** Matthew Schror, with his kids Max, Miles (pictured, right), and Megan. Welcome to the club, Matt!



This Month at GSBS

Our February meeting (yes, we know it falls on Valentine's Day—sorry about that!) will be devoted to **creating a forest planting** using **Eastern Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*). Club member Fred Aufschlager will bring the trees and appropriate container(s), for us to work on together. We'll break up into groups to develop alternative designs, and the favored design will be assembled during the meeting.

Novices always welcome! Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Officers

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

Directors

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

The
Great
Swamp
Bonsai
Society

Special 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 tremendous 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.

Plant Care Tips for February

Now is a good time to begin putting together your bonsai compost. A suggested combination would be 1/3 peat, 1/3 garden compost, 1/3 sand or grit, and a slow-release fertilizer (about a handful per 5 gallons).

Toward the end of the month, if there are any brief mild spells, it is time to repot and wire those deciduous trees. It is also possible to lift trees from the ground and do some undercutting. Leave evergreens until later. Branch pruning of deciduous and evergreen trees can be done (except Japanese Maples and pines). Any major redesign and reshaping of trees can be done now. Pines and evergreens can be grated now.

Continue to 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 wooly 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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| 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. |

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:

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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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