



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, February 18th**

THIRD Tuesday: 7:00-10:00 pm

February 2014 Newsletter

January Meeting: *Night of the Junipers*

A good turnout, as club members paired off to design and style a series of creeping Junipers ("Blue Rug" or something quite like it), with good and varied results. Some photos of the event are provided below, with results on the following page. We had a great time and it was a wonderful opportunity for newcomer bonsai enthusiasts to work alongside others with a bit more experience.



February Meeting: **Forest Plantings**

This month's meeting will be focused on arranging, root-pruning, and repotting two large **forest plantings**, both owned by club member Fred Aufschlager and last styled and planted at a club meeting a few years ago. Fred's two forests are of **Korean Hornbeam** and **Zelkova**. Other club members have offered to bring in plants and pots or slabs to create other forest plantings as well. This is another great opportunity for newcomers to get some hands-on experience, so bring your tools and plan to get a workout.

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

Friends, family, and first-timers always welcome!

Photos: Night of the Junipers



The original plant material is shown at center.



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 February – Snow is GOOD!

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). Towards 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 grafted now. [DY]

Crazy weather this winter! Continue 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. (Hopefully we've survived the worst of it.) 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]

Calendar of Events for 2013–2014

February 18th (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 11th (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 29th: Guest Speaker Suthin Sukosolvisit, fresh from his appearance at MABS 2014.

May 13th (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 or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos bonsai4ever@aol.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: Fred Aufschläger fdauf@msn.com
Phone: 908.766.1359
17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

Great Swamp Bonsai Society

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:

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 Fred Aufschläger
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:
