



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, February 10th**
Shimpaku Juniper Workshop/Demo

February 2015 Newsletter

Last month's meeting: **Holiday Party, Club Auction, Open House!**

Our January meeting was a sort of "rain date" for the December meeting we canceled due to a threat of severe weather. About 25 members, friends, spouses and significant others came to eat goodies, have some laughs, and participate in the annual club bonsai auction, led this year by "auctioneer" Bill Kasakoff. Most all the items found buyers and it was a nice evening.

This month's meeting: **Workshop/Demo with Shimpaku Junipers**

Fred Aufschläger has been growing a number of rooted Shimpaku cuttings for several years, constantly grooming them for bonsai styling. He informs us that the plants are 7 to 12 years old; 8-10" tall; 3/8" - 3/4" trunk diameters at the base and range from \$20 to \$40. So far he has not heard from anyone who wishes to act as a paying participant, so if you're interested in working on a tree that will be yours to keep, please contact Fred ASAP at fdauf@verizon.net, so that we can select enough plants for everyone to work on. These are very good plants and are priced below market value. Otherwise, club member Philip Shimko will lead a Shimpaku lecture/demo in which he and Fred will design and style one or more trees before the membership.

MABS Registration information and schedule of events!

This year's **Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival** will be held **April 17-19th at the Fairbridge Inn** (formerly the Ramada Inn) on Route 10 West in **East Hanover, New Jersey**. Visit the MABS website at <http://midatlanticbonsai.org/registration.htm> for registration forms and all the details.

Are you all paid up?

Our Treasurer asks that those of you who owe the GSBS payments for the purchase of tools, magazines, books, trees, workshops or **dues**, please make an effort to "clear the books" by bringing with you some extra checks or cash to the next meeting. Thanks!

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). 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]

We are certainly getting enough snow to keep your outdoor bonsai blanketed, but it's also been quite cold, so your less hardy trees (for example Japanese Black Pines, Trident Maples) really need a bit of extra protection or their roots (which are relatively succulent) can burst from deep-freezing. Keep your outdoor trees protected from wind, since any mild spells can allow your pots to dry out if the snow ever melts away. If you store your trees in a shed or other enclosure, beware of unseasonably warm weather—your trees may begin sprouting! 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]

Club Soil Mix: We Still Have Bags of Akadama for sale!

Fred still has Akadama soil, in two granule sizes—2.5 mm (small grade) and 5.0 mm (medium grade). Bags are 18 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price. Fred also has 3 bags of **bonsai soil from Saratoga** seller, about 20 lbs., \$25 each, and **pumice** at \$3/lb.

Bonsai Magazines for Sale

Fred also has received an extensive collection of various bonsai magazines, in continuous series spanning from around 1990 to 2008. He will bring some of it to Tuesday's meeting, and if there's something in particular you are looking for, please inquire.

Remember to save your copper wire clippings!

Following the November 2014 meeting, club member Kerry Heck brought in our collected copper wire clippings to turn in for scrap. All together it was 23 pounds of copper and a pound of brass wire screen, which brought the club **\$55.00** – more than the price of an annual membership. If we all contribute in the coming year, I'm sure it could be a lot more, so please save the pieces and bring them to the meetings.

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

Calendar of Events for 2014–2015 (topics subject to change)

February 10th: Initial Styling of stock Shimpaku Junipers. Club trees, hands-on workshop. Workshop trees available for purchase if desired.

March 10th: Wiring Workshop. Bring your tree(s) from home to get some hands-on practice and instruction.

April 14th: Root-pruning and Repotting workshop. Bring in your own trees for assistance and practice.

April 21st (Tuesday after MABS): Guest presenter from MABS -- Budi Salistyo, from Indonesia.

May 12th: Topic to be determined.

June 7th (Sunday): Annual Club Open House and Bonsai Show.

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

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

Club Dues: Dues are due at the September meeting. If you still haven't paid, 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 treasurer **Fred Aufschläger** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

GSBS Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos bonsai4ever@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 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:
