



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

March, 2006 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 14, 2006
Tree selection for Mid-Atlantic Symposium.

February Meeting Highlights:

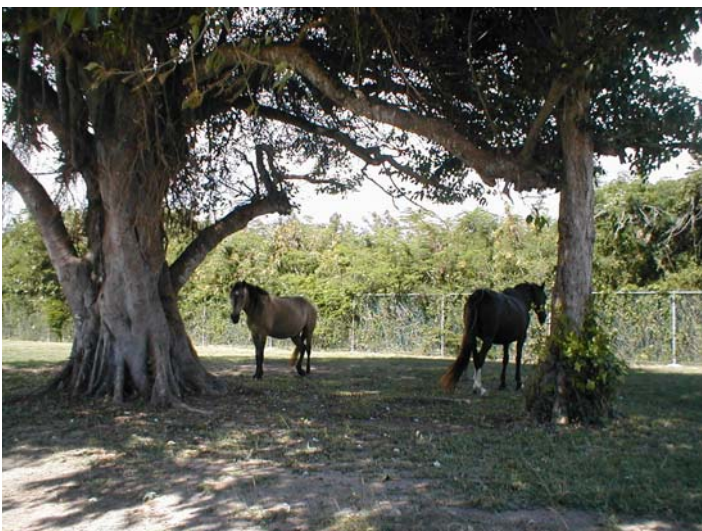
Thanks to all members who made the Feb. meeting. The weather, and Valentines Day kept a few members away, I'm sure. Our Vice President, Michael Markoff, with the able assistance of long time member Juan Calderone, unravelled the mysteries of wiring and guy wiring to the membership. Michael even provided a little something to take home for the holiday. Thanks for the carnations, Mike! Since there were no photos taken at the meeting, due to your newsletter editor being out of town, Mark thought it fitting to inject a few pictures that he took on sunny Vieques Island in Puerto Rico, where he was marooned for 4 days longer than expected. Darn snow...



Wouldn't this look great in a pot?



Nebari? Where?



Some of the "locals"...



Care for a dip?

March Meeting:

Come one, come all...

Our March meeting will focus primarily on the selection of member's trees to represent Great Swamp Bonsai Society at the Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival being held once again at the Ramada Inn on Route 10 in East Hanover, NJ. This year's festivities take place during the weekend of April 21 through April 23 (Friday evening through Sunday afternoon). Registration forms will be available at the meeting.

Our continuing education series will focus on Choosing a tree to develop into Bonsai. There will also be a discussion of collecting in the wild presented by former president John Michalski

Presidential Corner



Hi everybody!

I Want to remind everyone that this is the meeting that we vote on the trees we are sending to the Midlantic Exhibit.. Lot's of you out there have very nice trees, please bring one in for consideration, you never know?

An added thought -- Francois Jeker, one of the bonsai artists at Midlantic, will be presenting an award of his called "the Francois Jeker Deadwood Award" ---- That's all the detail I know about it right now , so you might want to choose your tree accordingly.

Mark Schmuck

Forms for the Midlantic Spring Festival, Fri. Sat. Sun. April 21, 22, 23 will be available at the meeting. Please think about attending, it's right in our backyard, East Hanover..

The March meeting will open with a short talk geared toward our beginners, on How and Where to pick a tree to develop into bonsai. Member John Michalski will then present the evenings topic: Trees Collected from the Wild.-----

April 11 Tuesday eve. will be our repotting workshop. Please bring a tree you might need some help with. We will also pick the (teams) for our May 9 meeting --- *The Might of the SIX Junipers* ---. That's about all. Please try to bring a tree to every meeting, We all like to see what other members are working on and developing.

See you at the meeting..

Mark

Another Note About Dues:

The time of the "free ride" is running out.

To those of you who have chosen to not pay your dues, we urge you to do so soon. We hope that the new format is more to everyone's liking. Everyone had the opportunity to attend the last meeting and voice their concerns and opinions on the future direction of the club.

If there's a reason why you haven't attended a meeting recently, let us know. It's always possible to send in your dues to Fred directly. His address is on the last page of the newsletter and he's love to hear from you.

Dues pays for our guest lecturers, demo trees, club supplies and many other things. Without it, we will not be able to provide the quality of service that members have enjoyed in the past. So please, help your club by renewing your membership at one of the next few meetings and keep the newsletter coming..

Upcoming Event Calendar:

- March 14** Members who wish to have trees considered for the exhibit at the Midlantic Festival in April should bring them to the meeting. John Michalski will give a presentation on wild collected trees.
Beginner's corner: Deciding on a style
- April 11** Repotting workshop, Beginner's corner: Choosing branches
Teams will be selected for the May 9 **NIGHT OF THE SIX JUNIPERS** Meeting.
- April 21-23** **MIDLANTIC BONSAI FESTIVAL** at the Ramada in East Hanover.
Sign-up forms are available at meetings.
- April 25** 4th Tuesday. Italy's Marco Invernizzi. Lecture demo with tree to be raffled at close of meeting.
- May 9** -- **NIGHT OF THE SIX JUNIPERS** -- Six Teams, Six Junipers, watch out!
Trees to be auctioned at the conclusion.
- June 3** **ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE** - Haggarty Auditorium 9am-4pm open to the public 10 am- 3pm.
All members are urged to bring a tree or two for display to the public.
Jim Gillespie will be on hand to vend your bonsai needs.
- June 13** Open at this time
- June 15-18** **AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY** Learning Seminars at Saratoga Springs, NY
For more info go to the ABS website at <http://www.absbonsai.org>
- July 11** Open at this time.
- August** Picnic???

--- And, coming up ---

November 14 David Easterbrook Curator of Bonsai Montreal Botanical Gardens

March Plant Care Tips:

I don't know about you, but I'm beginning to tire of the roller coaster temperatures that we've suffered over the past several weeks. I'm sure our trees are wondering what's going on, too. Hope you've got them well protected...

Ok, let's see now... March is the time to get serious about re-potting. Any healthy deciduous material should be attended to at the beginning of the month. If there is no sign of bud or root movement, you can hold off for a bit. Keep deciduous trees away from harsh winds and hard frosts to protect them from damage. Of course, if you have a greenhouse, poly-house, or really good cold-frame, any such damage would be minimized. Deciduous trees can be kept in "in the dark", since they have no need for light until bud-break. Once this happens, you must put them outside. Junipers and spruces can begin to be repotted at the end of the month.

With any luck at all, our trees are beginning to show signs of life now. Branch or root pruning done at this time will heal over quite quickly. Keep a record of which trees are repotted to help keep track of when they will need repotting again. As a general rule, repot trees under 5 years old annually, depending on their condition. Trees between 5 and 20 years should be repotted every other year. Trees in the over 20 year category generally require repotting every third year. And, for those that are lucky enough to own trees that are over 100 years old, repotting can be planned for every 4 or 5 years. Pruning of deciduous trees should wait until budding activity has begun. (You're making sure that the branches are alive)

By the end of the month you should be able to remove protected, cold-hardy trees from shelter and leave them exposed to the elements. Evergreens can be fertilized with mild liquids at 2-week intervals. Spray with Benomyl for fungus control and with Malathion to kill those overwintering insects such as greenfly, blackfly, scale and mealybugs. Choose mid-morning of a fine, warm day for spraying so that the fungicide or insecticide has chance to dry.

Wiring and shaping of trees can be carried out this month as well. However, don't wire re-potted material for at least 3 or 4 weeks to avoid strain on the new emerging roots.

The end of this month and into next month are great times for collecting material from the wild. They have the best chance of survival, providing you get a decent sized root ball with plenty of fibrous roots.

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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