



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

March, 2007 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 13

Featuring: Michael Markoff
Impressions of Japan

February Meeting Highlights:

Well, as you know, the February meeting was called on account of inclement weather. Hopefully, we won't have a repeat of that for March.

This has been a rather unique winter with record high temps in January and probably the coldest February we've seen in many years. With luck our trees are surviving to thrive another year.

February Meeting:

Let's have a good turnout this month. We will have signup forms for MidAtlantic and we'll be choosing three trees to represent Great Swamp at the show. Please bring your trees for display. The more, the merrier. And everyone should turn out to select the best for our club's entries. Note that "Bonsai by Jury" is being held off until the summer.

Also, Michael Markoff will be explaining his recent trip to Japan. That should prove to be a very interesting presentation.

Presidential Corner:



Mark Schmuck

Hi Everybody!

Just a reminder to bring a tree to the meeting, this is when we vote to send three of our best trees to the Midatlantic Festival. All members get a chance to vote, so come on out.

I hope everyone found out about last meetings cancellation in plenty of time. If anyone had a problem, let me know at the meeting.

I'm looking forward to hearing, and seeing about Michael's trip to Japan.

See you at the meeting,

Mark

Upcoming Event Calendar:

April 10 Annual Repotting Meeting.

April 20-22 MidAtlanticSpringFestival: Ramada Inn, Rte 10 West, East Hanover N.J.

Speakers: Robert Steven from Jakarta, Indonesia.
Guy Guidry from Louisiana, USA
Ted Matson from California, USA

April 24 Ted Matson will be our guest on on this extra Tuesday. Ted has a big interest in Shohin Bonsai, having founded the California Shohin Society.

May 8 Afternoon workshop followed by lecture demo at the meeting by Horst Krekler from Germany. Horst's visit may be postponed due to his recent surgery. We will keep everyone informed as the time draws closer.

Bad Weather Notification:

In the event of a meeting cancellation due to inclement weather, we will attempt to alert the membership by E-mail before 5:00 pm on the day of the meeting. If you're in doubt, you may contact one of the club officers. (see next page)

Hopefully, we got to you all in time in February...

March Plant Care Tips:

I don't know about you, but I'm once again beginning to tire of the roller coaster temperatures that we've suffered over the past two months. 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

Contact Information:

President:	Mark Schmuck	- Contact Mark at lofty235@optonline.net or by Phone: 973.625.4632.
VP:	Michael Markoff	- Contact Mike at MJSmart@aol.com or by Phone: 973.895.6287
Treasurer:	Fred Aufschläger	- Contact Fred by phone at 908.766.1359 or 17 Lakeview Drive Bernardsville, NJ 07924.
Secretary:	Ken Olander	- Contact Ken at bowhunter444@verizon.net . or by phone at 932.202.0677
Newsletter:	Dan Boehmke	- Contact Dan at danno1@optonline.net or by phone at 973.627.1318

Don't forget to visit our Website at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai>.