



' SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

March 2010 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown

General Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Tree selection for MABS.

February Highlights

Our February meeting was cancelled due to weather. Therefore, there are no pictures or summary to present.

On a sad note, MABS and the North-Eastern Bonsai community lost one of its premier practitioners on 2/27/2010. George LeBolt succumbed to cancer at Newport News, VA. George was 81 and will be missed. The following was provided by Bergen Bonsai member Bob Pruski:

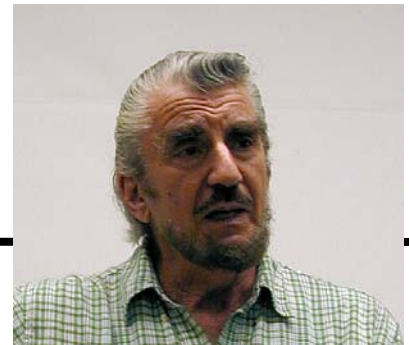
George and his wife, Judy, had recently moved to The Arbors in Port Warwick. He was a resident of Closter, N.J., since 1960, and before retiring, was a co-owner of Simpson Electric Corporation, Engineers and Contractors in New York City. He served for 10 years on the Executive Board and as President of the New York City Subcontractors Trade Association. He was honored by the Association as 'Contractor of the Year.'

George was best known as a passionate devotee of the art of Bonsai. He taught and lectured on Bonsai and was a Past-President of the Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society and current President of the Bergen Bonsai Society for 16 years. His Bonsai trees won many awards and have been donated for permanent display to the Montreal Botanical Gardens in Montreal, Canada.

George is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Judy LeBolt; his sister, Gloria Martin of Los Angeles, Calif.; daughter, Dr. Sherri L. Becker of Yorktown, Va.; his son, Dr. Scot LeBolt of Herndon, Va.; and four grandchildren.

In memory of George, donations may be made to the George LeBolt Bonsai Collection at the Montreal Botanical Gardens in Montreal, Canada; or to the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula in Newport News, Va. The address for the Montreal Botanical Garden is:

*The George LeBolt Bonsai Collection
Montreal Botanical Garden
4101 Sherbrooke East
Montreal, QC H1X 2B2 Canada*



President's Corner:



Diego Pablos

Hello everyone,

Just a reminder that our March (Tuesday the 9th) meeting is our Pre-MABS meeting. And we would like to have a good attendance to select our 3 club members trees to represent us at MABS. I'm sending this as a call to all members to bring your selected trees to be voted upon by all members in attendance. We will do our usual "penny vote" of the 3 trees to represent GSBS and a runner up.

Mid Atlantic Bonsai Spring Festival Line up features an international cast of bonsai Masters; Michele Andolfo From Italy, Charles Ceronio from South Africa, and Michel Phaneuf from Canada. We expect to have Charles Ceronio as a guest speaker at our April meeting, most likely on Wednesday after MABS. Awaiting confirmation from Mark Schmuck, and the MABS Board. Will keep you up to date as soon as confirmation is received.

Regards,
Diego Pablos

Upcoming Calendar:

- March:** Rock Planting demonstration, led by our own Fred Aufschlager, with copious assistance from interested novices. Get your hands dirty and learn how to make a bonsai display of trees growing on stones. Selection of 3 trees to represent GSBS at MABS in April
- April:** We will host one of the presenters from the Mid Atlantic Bonsai Society's Spring Festival held in upstate New York. Don't forget the Joshua Roth competition mentioned in November newsletter.
- May:** Beginner Workshop. We will supply small plant material and pots, and help beginners (or anyone else) design and pot a boxwood or shimpaku bonsai.
- June:** Annual Open House. First Saturday of June, open to the public between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.
- July & August:** To be announced...
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March Plant Care Tips:

Well, this winter has certainly seen its share of snow. Hope you've got your trees 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

Another Reminder about Annual DUES:

Those of you who are delinquent (and you know who you are...) are encouraged to contact Fred and get back to being a member in good standing. Your club relies on your full participation in order to bring the programs that we all enjoy. We're still \$30 per individual member and \$40 per family. Thank you...

Contact Information:

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| President: | Diego Pabos | - Contact Diego at bonsai4ever@aol.com
or by Phone: 973-224-8139
or 289 Mount Hope Ave. Apt. K-12
Dover, NJ 07801 |
| VP: | Michael Markoff | - Contact Mike at MJSmart@aol.com
or by Phone: 973.895.6287 |
| Treasurer: | Fred Aufschläger | - Contact Fred @ fdauf@msn.com
or 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 732.202.0677 |
| Newsletter: | Dan Boehmke | - Contact Dan at danno@earthling.net
or by phone at 973.627.1318 |
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Great Swamp Bonsai Society
c/o Diego Pablos
289 Mount Hope Ave.
Apart. K-12; Rockaway Twp.,
Dover, NJ 07801

