



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: 7:00 pm Thursday, April 14, 2011

Afternoon workshop and Lecture / Demo by Guest

Speaker Kathy Shaner

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March. 2011 Newsletter

February Highlights

Our February meeting featured a open discussion of alternate materials to use as a substitute to Turface, lead by Fred Aufschläger. Fred brought various examples of some aggregates he's been testing on his own trees, including sieved stone dust, which is available in just about any quarry that sells gravel, sand, etc...

Unfortunately, there were little to no pictures taken of any of materials at hand.

March Highlights

On our March meeting featured an instructive Lecture/demo on Grafting and some of the uses we might have for the art of Bonsai, lead by club member Jim Gavigan. He showed us the proper method of creating an approach graft, which is the one used to create phoenix grafts. He has had great success with this method of creating grafts. Also explained how to force your stock/scion graft to produce it's own set of roots and be independent of the stock root system, this one I will be experimenting on a "Japanese Maple" I acquired last year, photos will be taken for a future piece.

Club vice-president Michael Markoff and myself visited Jim Gavigan's place to take a closer look at his material, and we were impressed with it.

Officers

Diego E Pablos President
Michael Markoff Vice-President
Fred Aufschläger Treasurer

Directors

Dan Boehmke, Mark Schmuck,
John Michalski, Brian O'Byrne, Peter
Michienzi, Juan Calderon

The
Great
Swamp
Bonsai
Society

Plant Care Tips for March

March is the perfect time to repot, and to branch-and root-prune. Trees less than 5 years old should be repotted annually, trees between 5 and 20 years old may be repotted every other year, and trees over 20 should be repotted every 3 years. By the end of March, depending on weather conditions, trees can be gradually brought out of winter shelter.

Evergreens may be fertilized now and, in general, you may spray for fungus and insects on a warm day. March is really the last month deciduous trees can be lifted from the ground, as buds have not yet broken. Evergreens can be lifted until the end of April. March and April are also good months to dig trees from the wild, keeping as much fibrous root attached as possible. Keep your trees cool. Don't be in a hurry to encourage early growth, as it can still get cold. March is a *great* month for repotting, and for digging planted trees and collecting field grown ones.

Upcoming Events:

- April 14 Guest Speaker Kathy Shaner, at the [Fred Aufschläger residence](#), from 7-10 pm, Workshop from 1-5 pm same location.
- April 15 MABS regional runoff for A.B.S- supported Joshua Roth New Talent Competition, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, been held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey hotel in PA
- April 15-17 MABS 2011 Spring Festival Starting around 6:30 pm with complimentary snacks and beverages for all registrants, opening lecture/demonstration, starts at 8:00 pm.
- May 10 Coordination for June Open House Show at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, from 7-10 pm
- June 5 **Annual Bonsai Open House**, to be held at the Haggerty Education Center, from 10-3 pm, great trees on display, with several lecture/demos, with demo tree raffled to the public.

Our MABS 2011 Trees:



Trident Maple by: Steve Stelz



Mugo Pine by: Michael Markoff



Azalea: Jim Gavigan

Other photos from our March Meeting:



MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2011 Spring Festival

The 28th annual MABS Spring Festival will begin on Friday, April 15, and will continue through Sunday, April 17, new location; the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey hotel in PA. Renowned Professional bonsai artists will present lecture/demonstrations, workshops, and critiques of bonsai. Opening the event will be guest artist Kathy Shaner, starting at 8:00 pm, with a lecture/demo. Each bonsai creation will be raffled after the artist is done with their presentation. There will be vendors with all sorts of bonsai related materials for sale, it's a great place to acquire tools, pots, books, plants, and other useful supplies, there is a modest \$10.00 fee. There will be a MABS member clubs' Exhibit and the first "INVITATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ARTIST BONSAI DISPLAY", at MABS.

This year will also feature the MABS regional runoff for A.B.S- supported Joshua Roth New Talent Competition. It will take place on Friday, 8 am-5 pm. Registrants are welcome to observe these emerging artists working on their contest entries.

Featured artist:

Yasuo Mitsuya – from Japan

Kathy Shaner – from California

Steve Tolley – from England

Presidents Corner



Diego Pablos

Hello everyone,

On our March meeting, Jim Gavigan showed the different methods used to create grafts, and it's uses on bonsai material. This is a part of growing bonsai many of us don't even take into account, and is one that would be very useful with some species, a good example will be grafting Shimpaku juniper to a mature Rocky Mountain Juniper, or a California Juniper. This is called a Phoenix graft or an approach graft depending on how it is made.

I won't say that all bonsai artist do this to their bonsai, but some of the great bonsai artist do so to better the outcome of the material they are working in.

In my experience in the art, I never thought of using any material that had been grafted on, but seen the benefits and the outcome of some of this grafts, it kind of makes some sense in the use of this methods.

Thank you for your continuous support, hope to see you next month at the meeting.

Just a reminder, if you need help with your trees, do not hesitate to bring them and your questions, all club members would be glad in assisting you.

Kind Regards

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