



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Tentative Topic: Wood carving (Jin & Shari)

March 2012 Newsletter

## February Highlights

The February meeting featured club member Fred Aufschlager, who presented a short introduction to **forest and grove planting**. Fred also brought along a series of **Eastern Red Cedar** for club members to arrange into forests/groves, and pot up, which we proceeded to do. The results were both educational and pleasing to the eye.



## MABS Spring Festival, April 20-22

This year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival will once again be held at the **Holiday Inn at Harrisburg-Hershey PA** (604 Station Road, Grantville, PA 17028). Full registration and admission to all lecture-demos is **\$150.00** up to April 1<sup>st</sup>, when the price goes up to **\$160.00**. This is a great deal that includes Saturday lunch and demos by guest artists **John Thompson, Isao Omachi, and Chase Rosade**. You can also choose different demos and different days at lower cost. **FIRST TIMERS can pre-register and get the full weekend for HALF-PRICE**. Don't forget, our club gets a portion of the receipts when you register for the lecture-demos, so it all comes back to help the good ol' GSBS!

If you're unable to attend the lecture-demos, a small entrance fee will get you into the vendor area (well worth it for all the pots, tools, trees, stands, DVDs, books, etc. you ever dreamt of) and the display room. **Either way, come to the show!**

## This Month at GSBS

Our March meeting will be devoted to (a) **selecting our club trees for MABS** (the Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' annual Spring Festival), and (b) to a demo-workshop in **creating jin & shari** (that is, artistic deadwood). We select three trees to represent our club at the festival, by "penny vote"—each club member gets three pennies to put before their favorite trees. **Bring your best trees to represent the club!** For the carving workshop, feel free to bring in any bonsai you feel might benefit from some carving, and be prepared to give it a try!

**Novices always welcome! Come and plan to get your hands dirty!**

### Officers

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

### Directors

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

The  
**G**reat  
Swamp  
**S**Bonsai  
Society

## Special Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, now offers **FREE shipping** on all orders from members of the Great Swamp Bonsai Society! Specifically, you can order online or by phone, and he will deliver your merchandise to the following meeting of GSBS. This represents a tremendous savings when it comes to ordering soil, pots, or trees, where shipping costs can be prohibitive. To take advantage of the offer, order online, select “Ground” for shipping, and put “GSBS member” in the comment field. (This is for **club members only**, please!) Visit Efrain’s website at [manhattanbonsai.com](http://manhattanbonsai.com) or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

## Plant Care Tips for March

If you haven’t yet noticed, we have had the mildest winter in living memory. Buds are starting to swell, and you need to check your trees-in-storage, to (attempt to) prevent them breaking bud too early. One good freeze could do a lot of damage at this point in our unseasonably early growing season.

Now’s the time to make sure you’ve got plenty of fresh soil for repotting. Get your containers set and ready to go—why not get all your vacant pots ready with a cleaning (if necessary), and all the drainage holes covered with plastic screening. If you’re hoping to get one of your trees into MABS, now is the time to separate it from your storage area and begin preening it for stardom. If you’re planning on buying your tree a new pot at MABS, consider brining the tree to the show so you can put it alongside the pot you’re thinking of buying. (I sometimes ball-and-burlap the tree so I can plunk it into the pot for a better look.)

March begins the time to repot and wire those deciduous trees. It is also possible to lift trees from the ground and do some undercutting. Evergreens can wait 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.

Continue to check for pests during your weekly water check. Conifers can be destroyed by aphids or spider mites in a matter of a couple of weeks. Watch for wooly adelgid on hemlocks. Check regularly for rodent damage—the critters are coming out and they are hungry!

Tips adapted 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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It is also time for you **field-collectors** to get ready for the collecting season! As always, obtain permission from the appropriate land-holder, but as the buds begin to swell it’s time to collect the deciduous species—apple, maple, honeysuckle, etc. This weird February has got the buds swelling on the potted bonsai, so their field-grown cousins won’t be far behind. As soon as the soil is reliably thawed out (did it even freeze this year?) you can consider digging trees as their buds green up.

Collected wild apple in second season of training. →



# Calendar of Events:

- Mar 13 Club **tree selection for MABS** (Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival), and **Wood Carving demonstration/workshop**.
- Please plan on bringing a wonderful tree or two as a candidate to represent our club at MABS!**
- April 24 **Guest presentation** by **John Thompson**, fresh from MABS. With afternoon workshop to be held at a location to be determined.
- May 8 Topic to be determined, but we also make time to help you prepare your bonsai for the GSBS Open House on Sunday June 3 (see below).
- June 3 Sunday – **GSBS Open House**. All club members encouraged to bring trees to display to the general public. Admission free, open to public 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Club members arrive by 9:00 to set up.
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## If you haven't yet paid your Dues...

Our dues-cycle usually begins in September, so please be forthcoming with your dues. Your club uses these funds to provide for guest lecturers, transportation, etc. so please... Dues are only \$40 for an individual member or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact Fred Aufschlager (contact information below).

## Contact Information:

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**Newsletter:** John Michalski [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com)

## Club Information

### Location:

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
353 East Hanover Ave,  
Morristown, NJ 07962

### When:

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.**



**Diego Pablos**

## President's Corner

Hello everyone,

Hope you are all enjoying this spring-like weather—don't be fooled by it, leave your trees protected until late March / early April, just in case the weather changes.

Just a reminder that our March (Tuesday the 13th) 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. Remember to place the tree (s) you are planning on bringing for selection in an unheated garage or breezeway in order to facilitate access in case it finally gets cold.

MABS will host this year the Joshua Roth new Talent regional competition. Apply by downloading the application from : <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai/>

The Mid-Atlantic Spring Festival 2012 line up will feature Isao Omachi from Japan, John Thompson from California, and Chase Rosade from PA. We will be hosting an afternoon "bring your own tree" workshop, from 1-5 pm, and an evening demo / lecture, from 7-10 pm, with John Thompson, on April 24th at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Some material will also be available for sale.

For all who missed our last meeting, Mark Schmuck has the registration forms for this year's MABS Festival. You can also download it from: <http://midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com/register.htm>.

Next meeting, besides selecting the trees that are going to represent us at this years festival, we will also talk about woodcarving. If you have any tree that you think you need or want to carve, be sure to bring it.

Note: If you have a topic you would like to see, please let us know so we can evaluate it in order to create a full presentation.

**Beginners Workshops**—we will be starting beginner classes and workshops in the upcoming months. If you are interested, send us an email so we can direct you to the closest hosting members.

Hope to see you all soon!

## Great Swamp Bonsai Society

c/o Diego E Pablos  
289 Mount hope Ave.  
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