



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 11th**  
**7:00-10:00 pm**

**March 2014 Newsletter**

## March Meeting: Tree Selection for MABS / Repotting Workshop

This month's meeting will be focused on **selecting the 4 trees to represent GSBS at this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival**, so please bring along your finest bonsai to help show our stuff. Voting will be by "penny vote," where each member gets four pennies to place before the trees they like the best. A runner-up will also be selected in case circumstances prevent one of the trees from performing its duties at the festival. **Please consider entering a tree to represent our club – the broader the selection, the more choices we have, and the better to show what we are accomplishing at GSBS.**

We will also, depending on conditions, hold a workshop on **root pruning and repotting**, so bring your trees and tools, and plan to get a workout. Another great hands-on exercise for newcomers and experienced artists alike.

## Mid Atlantic (MABS) Spring Festival – April 25–27, 2014

Please plan on attending this year's Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Spring Festival, held this year at the **Ramada Inn on Route 10 West in East Hanover, NJ**. It's only minutes from our usual meeting place in Morristown, an easy drive from all major highways.

The fun starts Friday afternoon with three concurrent **hands-on workshops** (check for availability), with guest artists **Suthin Sukosolvisit, Corin Tomlinson, or Takashi Iura**. The vendor area opens between 4-6 pm, offering pots, tools, wire, soil, trees, accent plants, DVDs, and you name it. At 8:00 pm there will be a lecture/demo by **Suthin**. Saturday starts with the vendor area opening at 8:00 am and more lecture/demos by all three guests throughout the day. Professional **critiques** of the trees on display will be held at 5:30 and 6:45 pm. The **club members' exhibit** will be open all day as well. A **banquet and auction** starts at 8:00 pm.

**Fees apply** to all workshops, lecture/demos, and critiques, and availability is limited. Go to <http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/fescurr.htm> for details.

The vendor and display areas open again at 8:00 am Sunday, with final lecture/demos by all three artists going till noon, at which time everybody packs up and heads for home.

**General admission** to the **bonsai display** and **vendor areas** is **\$20.00** and well worth it. For all other activities you may register in person or online (I suggest online, and ASAP). **Please register as a member of the GSBS** – our club receives a portion of the cash surplus in proportion to our participation in the workshops and lectures.

## Last Month's Meeting: *Forest Planting Workshop*

Another good turnout, as club members focused on arranging, root-pruning, and repotting three large **forest plantings** (Korean Hornbeam and Zelkova, both owned by club member Fred Aufschlager, and Trident Maple, owned by club member Ismail Gurler). It was another great opportunity for newcomers to get some hands-on experience, and work with an unusual type of bonsai planting.



***We've got a great calendar of hands-on events in the months ahead.***

***Friends, family, and first-timers always welcome!***

**Club Dues:** If you haven't yet paid your dues, it's only \$40 for an individual member or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club treasurer **Fred Aufschlager** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

## Plant Care Tips for March

Have I been saying that snow is good? Well, we've had snow up to our eyeballs for most of the winter, and hopefully it has helped insulate your outdoor bonsai against the terrific cold. (I'm still waiting for it to melt enough so that I can see my trees! And praying that the rodents have not been nibbling at the bark under the cover of their snowy blanket.)

March is the perfect time to repot, and to branch- and root-prune. Trees less than 5 years old should be repotted annually [opinions differ widely on this--JM], 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 a good time to lift deciduous trees 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. [DY]

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. [JM]



My bonsai collection—fifty trees nestled along the back fence.  
(The projecting crown to the left is of a tree that is 5 feet tall.)

## Calendar of Events for 2013–2014

**March 11th (Second Tuesday):** Repotting Demo-Workshop: Bring your own, or work with ours. We will also **vote for the 3 trees to represent GSBS at this year's MABS Spring Festival.**

**April 29th: Guest Speaker Suthin Sukosolvisit**, fresh from his appearance at MABS 2014.

**May 13th (Second Tuesday):** Air-Layering Demo-Workshop. Bring your own, or work with ours. Find out how to get interesting bonsai material from the tops of stock plants, or get better rootage from that bonsai that needs a bit of help. Fertilizer Cake-Making. We will provide the ingredients to make large batches of bonsai fertilizer cakes, which you can bring home in ziploc bags, to spread out on baking sheets and dry at home.

**June (First Sunday):** GSBS Open House. Lectures, demos, raffles, vendors, dozens of trees on display. A great outing for the club, and a great opportunity for newcomers to see what we're all about.

***Novices and non-members always welcome!***

***Come and plan to get your hands dirty!***

Visit our webpage at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai/>

# Standing 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 considerable 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.

## Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos [bonsai4ever@aol.com](mailto:bonsai4ever@aol.com)  
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## Great Swamp Bonsai Society

c/o Diego E Pablos  
289 Mount hope Ave.  
K-12, Rockaway twp.  
Dover, NJ 07801

## Club Information

### Location:

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

### Date:

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.**

### Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:

Send to:

GSBS c/o Fred Aufshläger                     New     Renewal  
17 Lakeview Drive,  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924                     Individual (\$40.00)     Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If Family Membership, please list other members:

\_\_\_\_\_