



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8th

Time: 6:30-9:30 pm

March 2016 Newsletter

This month: tree selection for this year's MABS Spring Festival

If you have a tree that you would like to submit to represent GSBS at this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Spring Festival, please bring it to this month's meeting. If there are more than four candidates, we will have a "penny vote" in which each club member will be given three pennies, to be placed before their three favorite contenders—the top four contenders will represent our club at the festival.

Also at this month's meeting, club members Peter Michienzi and Mark Schmuck will demonstrate the repositioning of a collected Pitch Pine on a stone slab.

We are still looking for someone to host guest MABS artist Bjorn Bjornholm on the Monday following the MABS weekend, as well as his transportation to his next destination on Tuesday. Please contact Mark at lofty235@optonline.net if you can assist.

This year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Spring Festival

The MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival is right around the corner. The Festival takes place in Cromwell CT this year! The early-bird registration closed on March 1, but there may still be room in some of the workshops and critiques, so register ASAP if you hope to join them. Register online at www.MidAtlanticBonsai.org. If you're a Facebook member please; visit, like, share and Invite your Friends to the Facebook Page: <https://facebook.com/midatlanticbonsai/>

The Festival Features:

- A Bonsai Exhibition of the Best Bonsai specimens the 12 member clubs can present.
- A very well stocked vendor room selling Bonsai and all the supplies needed. An updated list of our Vendors and links to their web sites is available on our web site. May I suggest a little online shopping or pre-orders to be picked up at the festival.
www.MidAtlanticBonsai.org
- Three world Renown Bonsai Masters Leading workshops and on stage Bonsai Lectures and Demonstrations on hand selected Pre-Bonsai Trees many of which will be Ruffled off at the Completion of the artist styling session.
- Silent Auctions of donated Bonsai Items, during the lecture Demonstrations.

- Four Artist led teaching critiques of the Member Clubs Bonsai Exhibit.
- A Fun-Filled Saturday Night Awards Banquet and Auction and so much more.....

This year's world-renown MABS guest artists will be:

Kunio Kobayashi returns to MABS to share more of his remarkable bonsai skills. **Hideko Metaxas** will also return to translate for him. Kobayashi-san has been gathering awards in Japan and the world since the mid-eighties. His many awards have been garnered at Sakufuten (13 awards), Kokufuten (16 prize winners), Kojuten, and he has won the International Art and Culture Award twice. He is highly regarded as a teacher and demonstrator and has traveled widely in the world, To quote Kobayashi-San: Through Bonsai I have been taught many things, they display the beauty of nature in all four seasons and the majesty, grace and power of trees surviving in the harshest of conditions; something which helps me in my life. I have been doing Bonsai for 30 years and love it so much that I have created a museum to display Bonsai. It is my wish to spread the beauty of Bonsai worldwide, to do so I try hard to teach the art to my apprentices from Japan and from the rest of the world. (Quote copyright; Kunio Kobayashi's website) http://www.kunio-kobayashi.com/english/kunio_kobayashi.html

Walter Pall was born in Austria in 1944 and now lives near Munich, Germany. He has been developing his bonsai talents since 1980. Today, Walter is one of the most popular bonsai artists and has performed on numerous international stages. His visits have taken him to most of the European countries as well as South Africa, Australia, Canada, the United States, Israel, Argentina, and Brazil. Walter has received dozens of national and international awards for his bonsai including the prestigious Crespi Cup Award of Italy for his well-known Rocky Mountain Juniper. He is respected for his work with both conifers and deciduous trees. As he has grown as a bonsai artist, Walter has moved away from traditional bonsai styling to his own concepts of design. <http://walter-pall.de>

Bjorn Bjorholm is the owner of Bjorvala Bonsai Studio in Knoxville Tennessee and former apprentice of contemporary Japanese bonsai master Keiichi Fujikawa. Bjorn spent nearly six years working at Mr. Fujikawa's nursery, Kouka-en (located in Ikeda City just north of Osaka). In 2015, he became a certified bonsai professional by the Japanese Bonsai Association, having completed his formal apprenticeship. Bjorn's experiences working with Fujikawa-san have necessarily shaped his approach to bonsai and furthered his never ceasing desire to improve the quality of western bonsai art. <http://www.bjorvalabonsaistudio.com>

Jim Doyle will be our guest critique master. Jim is well known at MABS. His special way of looking at bonsai and forming a interactive bond with his audience will make his way of looking at our display a true learning adventure. <http://www.natureswaybonsai.com>

Frank Mihalic is well known as one of our vendors, a second generation bonsai master and as an outstanding bonsai jewelry designer and manufacturer. He will conduct a bonsai jewelry making workshop on Friday afternoon of the festival. Frank has taught this workshop all over the world. See examples of the product on our website. <http://frankscustomjewelry.com>

In-house business: Are your Dues paid up?

If you haven't yet paid up, please bring cash or check to club president **Diego Pablos** at the next meeting, or mail it to Diego at the address on the last page of this newsletter. Annual membership remains at \$40 for individual, \$50 family membership, and helps support club activities such as hosting touring experts. See last page for details.

We Still Have Bags of Akadama for sale!

The club still has Akadama soil, in two granule sizes—2.5 mm (small grade) and 5.0 mm (medium grade). Bags are 14 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price.

Remember to save your copper wire clippings!

We collect discarded copper bonsai wire, to be sold as scrap, so please remember to save your clippings and bring them to the meetings. Most years we have enough to equal one or two paid memberships, so it all goes to support club supplies and activities.

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. [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]

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Calendar of Events for 2015–2016

You will note our calendar has several openings left. *Please forward any topic ideas*, and look for updates in future newsletters.

March 8th: Replanting a Pitch Pine on a stone slab. **We will also be selecting the 4 trees to represent our club at this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) annual Spring Festival.**

April 12th: Topic to be determined. – *Repotting workshop?*

April 18th: **MONDAY – Guest artist Bjorn Bjornholm, fresh from MABS. Afternoon paid workshop** (details to follow), followed by informal dinner at local restaurant and **evening lecture/demo (free to public).**

May 10th: Topic to be determined.

June 5th: First **Sunday** in June, **Annual Club Bonsai Open House**, open to public 10am-4 pm. Club members arrive by 9:00 am to help set up.

July 12th: Topic to be determined.

Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, 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 or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

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

Club Dues: **Dues are normally due at the September meeting.** It's only \$40 for an individual membership, or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club president **Diego Pablos** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

GSBS Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com
Phone: 973.224.8139
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff bill.kasakoff@gmail.com

Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@optonline.net

Treasurer: Rich Meyers spruce80@verizon.net

Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

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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:

Usually the 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 Diego Pablos
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp.
Dover, NJ 07801**

New

Renewal

Individual (\$40.00) **Family (\$50.00)**

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:
