



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

*April, 2006 Newsletter*

*Next Meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, April 14, 2006  
Tree selection for Mid-Atlantic Symposium.*

## March Meeting Highlights:

The March meeting went well and trees were selected by the “three-penny” method to represent Great Swamp at the Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Symposium later this month. Trees from Peter Michienzi, David Yedwab and Mike Markoff will show off our expertise this year.

John Michalski hosted a discussion on collecting trees for Bonsai. It’s amazing how many opportunities we have to add to our collections at reasonable to no cost. Look for bulldozers and “Soon to be erected on this site” signs. Most construction sites will allow you to wander about and take trees that they either already sacrificed or those that are about to be whacked.

The “back lot” at your favorite nursery is another place to look. Trees and/or shrubbery found there is generally leftover material that nobody wanted last year. If it shows any signs of life, it’s a good possibility that it can be nursed back to health and turned into a nice bonsai. Don’t be afraid to experiment with this low-cost material. We’ve all hastened a tree’s demise at one or more times and it’s certainly better to lose an inexpensive tree than one costing a hundred dollars or more...

Tree pictures were taken at the meeting, but due to technical difficulties beyond our immediate control, they are not available in time for this newsletter.

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## In Memorium:

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of a long-time member of Great Swamp Bonsai Society.

Bart Thomas passed away on Friday, March 31.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday April 8.

Church of the Holy Innocents  
681 Prospect Ave  
West Orange, NJ  
973 731 0259

Reception to follow at home:

121 Stryker Court  
Bridgewater, NJ  
908 722 8635



The news was forwarded by David Yedwab.

Bart will be remembered for both his skill with bonsai and for his sense of humor. He will be missed.

## April Meeting(s):

Our primary April meeting will be devoted to our annual re-potting workshop. Bring one or more trees to be repotted. Experienced members will be available to assist you with the task. Even if you don't have any material to work with, you can learn by watching others.

The Mid-Atlantic Symposium occurs this month on the 21-23 and while you may have missed out on the pre-April 1st discounts for early birds, sign-up sheets are still available at the meeting

Following the Symposium, one of the presenters, Marc Invernizzi from Italy will attend a special meeting on Tuesday, the 25th.

We look forward to seeing you all at one or more of the above gatherings..

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## Presidential Corner



Hi Again, Everybody!

April is upon us and there's a lot going on! For anybody that gardens or practices bonsai in the northeast, this has got to be the busiest month. Every thing happens or needs to be taken care of mostly within a three week period all depending on the weather.

Club-wise there's also alot happening! Tues. April 11 at our regular meeting we'll hold our annual repotting workshop, If you need some help with one of your trees, or just want to watch and learn, now is the time. Fred will also have some pots available.

**Mark Schmuck**

The six junipers, of "the night of the junipers" fame, will be on display for the team leaders to look over. The trees will also be chosen, so that you can get a heads up on what you'll be dealing with at our May meeting.

Don't forget the Midlantic Festival April 21-22-23 at the East Hanover Ramada on Route 10. Applications are available at the meeting or online

There will be a special club meeting Tuesday, April 25, featuring a lecture-demo by Marc Invernizzi from Italy 7:00- 10:00pm See you there!

Mark

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## A FINAL Note About Dues:

The time of the "free ride" is over.

To those of you who have chosen to not pay your dues, we urge you to do so soon. We hope that the new format is more to everyone's liking. Everyone had the opportunity to attend the January meeting and voice their concerns and opinions on the future direction of the club.

If there's a reason why you haven't attended a meeting recently, let us know. It's always possible to send in your dues to Fred directly. His address is on the last page of the newsletter and he's love to hear from you.

Dues pays for our guest lecturers, demo trees, club supplies and many other things. Without it, we will not be able to provide the quality of service that members have enjoyed in the past. So please, help your club by renewing your membership at one of the next few meetings and keep the newsletter coming..

After April, the newsletter will only be sent to members in good standing, with complementary copies going to prospective members and other interested parties for a finite period.

## Upcoming Event Calendar:

- April 11** Repotting workshop, Beginner's corner: Choosing branches  
Teams will be selected for the May 9 **NIGHT OF THE SIX JUNIPERS** Meeting.
- April 21-23** **MIDLANTIC BONSAI FESTIVAL** at the Ramada in East Hanover.  
Sign-up forms are available at meetings.
- April 25** 4th Tuesday. Italy's Marco Invernizzi. Lecture demo with tree to be raffled at close of meeting.
- May 9** -- **NIGHT OF THE SIX JUNIPERS** -- Six Teams, Six Junipers, watch out!  
Trees to be auctioned at the conclusion.
- June 3** **ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE** - Haggarty Auditorium 9am-4pm open to the public 10 am- 3pm.  
All members are urged to bring a tree or two for display to the public.  
Jim Gillespie will be on hand to vend your bonsai needs.
- June 13** Open at this time
- June 15-18** **AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY** Learning Seminars at Saratoga Springs, NY  
For more info go to the ABS website at <http://www.absbonsai.org>
- July 11** Open at this time.
- August** Picnic???
- And, coming up ---
- November 14** David Easterbrook Curator of Bonsai Montreal Botanical Gardens

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## March Plant Care Tips:

Will Old Man Winter ever give up the Ghost??? I'm beginning to have serious doubts...

Since the weather is generally still on the cool side, you can continue to do the tasks that you were doing in March. Repotting being chief among these, but discontinue this activity for deciduous trees by midmonth and for conifers by month-end unless a tree is severely root-bound. Pines can be repotted as late as the end of the month. After-care is the same as last month...

Start air-layering on conifers now. Deciduous trees that have not been repotted this year will require fertilizer from now until the end of summer. Fertilize every 2 weeks starting with a weak solution. Never fertilize a recently repotted tree for a few months, giving the tree time to re-establish itself. Use a high-nitrogen fertilizer during spring and early summer to promote leaf growth. Do not fertilize flowering species until several months after the flowers have fallen. (immediate application prevents fruit development)

A good time to take evergreen cuttings of last year's wood. When trimming Hinoki Cypress, Ezo Spruce and most Junipers, use thinnings with a hard-wood heel for cuttings.

Start grooming the trees you will want to display in summer. By the end of the month, all trees should be putting out new leaves and spring-flowering species should be starting to bloom. What a wondrous time of year. Pruning becomes easier since you can spot the dead branches and twigs by their lack of activity. Be sure to seal off all wounds. Pines and spruce should not be pruned, since they will "bleed" resin, disfiguring the bark.

Apply wire to spruce, juniper and pine but not deciduous trees. Don't wire too tightly since the branches will be swelling with new growth over the next month or so. Check small branches that you wired in March. They may be well set already.

Begin your watering routines now. During rainy times, shelter newly repotted trees but if dry, remember to water them.

Continue to check for insect attacks. Aphids are a particularly a problem since they tend to take on the color of the branches that they inhabit. Clean off any algae from trunks and branches. If trees have not shown any sign of growth, keep them in a shaded area and keep the soil just moist and feed with a weak phosphorousbased fertilizer.

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

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