



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

April, 2007 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, April 10, 2007
Repotting/Transplanting Workshop

March Meeting Highlights:

The March meeting went well and trees were again selected by the “three-penny” method to represent Great Swamp at the Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Symposium later this month. We have a fine representation for MidAtlantic this year. We had a good turnout for this meeting.

Michael Markoff gave a slide show and presentation of his trip to Japan in February with Bill Valavanis and several other bonsai enthusiasts. He showed the collections of several bonsai gardens that were visited on the trip and a few shots of the Kokufu Ten show (where photos are prohibited). Way to go Michael! The presentation was very well organized and we all saw some of the finest bonsai available in Japan (and perhaps the world) today.

In addition to his fine presentation, Michael brought green tea, tangerines and shortbread crackers for our delight. He noted that during the trip, most of the hosts of bonsai gardens he visited served this or a similar “snack” to the members of the tour. It was a very nice addition to his presentation. Thank you, Michael.

Below are some pictures from the meeting.



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 20-22 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, Ted Matson from California will attend a special meeting on Tuesday, the 24th.

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

Presidential Corner



Mark Schmuck

Hi everybody !

One word to describe this month, BUSY !! Trees need to be watched closely, weather needs to be watched closely, timing is everything.

April is a busy month for the club also; The regular meeting on Tuesday night, April 10, will cover transplanting.

The Midlantic Festival follows on Fri. Sat. Sun. April 20,21,&22

A second meeting nite on Tuesday, April 24 will feature Ted Matson fresh from MidAtlantic. Ted resides in Pasedena, California, and has trained with many of the experts, (Ben Suzuki, Shigeru Nagatoshi, Roy Nagatoshi, Melba Tucker, Warren Hill, and John Naka)

Tuesday, May 8, brings us Roy Nagatoshi from California stepping in for Horst Krekler who is recovering from surgery and cannot yet travel. Roy will host an afternoon workshop amd follow with a lecture-demo at nite.

Volunteers are needed to help in the exhibit area at MidAtlantic for both the Friday afternoon setup and the Sunday takedown at noon.

See you at the meeting,

Mark

Upcoming Event Calendar:

April 10 Repotting / transplanting workshop.

April 20-22 **MID-ATLANTIC BONSAI SYMPOSIUM** at the Ramada in East Hanover.
Featured artists: Robert Steven (Indonesia), Guy Guidrey (Louisiana), Ted Matsen (California)
Sign-up forms are still available at meetings.

April 24 4th Tuesday: Ted Matsen from California. (last seen at the MidAtlantic Symposium)

May 8 Roy Nagatoshi. Lecture demo with tree to be raffled at close of meeting.
There will also be a workshop during the day at the arboretum from 12:00 to approx 5:30 pm.

April Plant Care Tips:

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 phosphorous-based 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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Don't forget to visit our website: <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai>