



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: 7:00 pm Thursday, May 10, 2011

Preparing for the Open House Show

April, 2011 Newsletter

April Highlights

The Month of April was a very busy one for our club, starting with the much-anticipated workshop, lecture/demo by renowned bonsai artist Kathy Shaner. Followed by the 28th MidAtlantic Bonsai Festival, in Harrisburg, PA; and an outstanding lecture/demo and tree exhibit by our very own club members: John Michalski, Juan Calderon and Kerry Heck at this years Cherry Blossom Festival in Newark, NJ. And last but not least lecture/demo by our club vice-president Michael Markoff at the Randolph Public Library. Great Job guys, keep up the excellent work!!!!

Our meeting was held at Fred Aufschläger's residence, and featured guest bonsai artist Kathy Shaner. We started with an afternoon workshop, where we all received individual instruction, after we explained what we where trying to do in our trees. She also showed us her method of doing grafts to the trees we are working. Kathy also suggested a few items that we might be interested in acquiring to better take care of our trees, and tools.

Bloomfest 2011 Highlights

On Sunday April 17th, Juan Calderon, Kerry Heck, and John Michalski represented the GSBS at the Cherry Blossom Festival ("Bloomfest") at Newark's Branch Brook Park. The festival, timed to coincide with the blooming of Branch Brook's thousands of cherry trees, is a large outdoor event featuring Japanese cultural performances, food and art vendors, and demonstration tents where traditional dance, music, and flower arranging were presented. The three members of GSBS brought and displayed about ten trees from their own collections, and John & Juan performed two lecture-demos in the same style that is done at our own Open House in June. Literally hundreds of people visited the exhibit during the 5-hour event, asked questions, photographed the trees, and packed the space for the demonstrations. We put out a sign-up sheet and received nearly 50 new email addresses, and all the club fliers Diego printed for us were gone in the first hour or so. If we had brought 300 of them, they would have all been taken. We have already requested to be put on the list for next year, so if you're not planning to be at MABS that Sunday, please plan to come and help us out -- with six club members we could really rock and roll!

Officers

Diego E Pablos President
Michael Markoff Vice-President
Fred Aufshläger Treasurer

Directors

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

The
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Plant Care Tips for April

Ready, set, GO! April is still a decent month for root pruning, and for digging trees from yard or field. Begin your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules in earnest. Of course, be mindful of potential cold snaps, and be ready to protect vulnerable plants. This is the time we've all been waiting for!

Plant Care Tips for May

By May most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering should now routinely be done once a day. Cuttings of evergreens may still be taken. Air layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts can damage the young leaves. Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules should be in full swing by now. May is not too late for repotting or field collecting, but this requires increasingly careful after-care as the season progresses. Trees repotted or collected in May should be protected from strong sun and wind until strong growth is observed, and leafy trees may suffer from transplant shock, so roots should be left intact as much as possible. Careful use of insecticides and fungicides becomes increasingly useful at this time of year. Always read and follow manufacturer's directions, but keep in mind that trees in containers may do better with slightly diluted formulations. Watch wired branches carefully to avoid unsightly spiral scars from bark growing over the wires, deciduous trees in particular can expand very quickly in May and June.

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

Upcoming Events:

- May 10 Coordination for June Open House Show at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, from 7-10 pm
- June 5 **Annual Bonsai Open House,** to be held at the Haggerty Education Center, from 10-3 pm, great trees on display, with several lecture/demos, with demo tree raffled to the public.
- July No meeting scheduled.
- Aug 7 **Annual Club Picnic,** to be held at the Markoff's Residence, starting at 12:00 pm (noon) bring you bathing suits. Details will soon follow.

September and onward..... Information about upcoming meetings and events will appear in future newsletters and on our webpage.... Stay tuned....

Open House:

Don't forget Sunday, June 5, 2011 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, open to the public 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Arboretum in the upstairs hall.

Jim Gillespie will be on hand to provide us with the opportunity to choose and purchase from his array of tools, books fertilizers, etc...

We look forward to a great turnout. Don't be shy; all levels of trees are welcome. A combination of Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced trees makes the display more "approachable to the first time guests. It also shows that they don't need to be experts to enjoy Bonsai and/or join us at the Great Swamp.

Photos from Our April Workshop and Meeting:



Diego Pablos

Presidents Corner

Hello everyone,

On our April meeting, we had the great privilege of having Renown Bonsai Artist Kathy Shaner for an afternoon workshop and an evening lecture/demo. During the workshop she gave all participants individual instruction, after listening to what each person explained to her was the problem they were facing with their material. Also, she showed us a method of planting our trees in round pots, and it can also be used in square shaped pots, using split pieces of chopsticks in the bottom of the pot, in order to push the anchor wires to the outside edges, so

that the roots won't get damaged. She also showed us her preferred method of grafting, which in my opinion looks simple enough to do that I will be trying graft this year on some of my material.

Thank you for your continuous support, hope to see you next month at the meeting.

Just a reminder, if you need help with your trees, do not hesitate to bring them and your questions, all club members would be glad in assisting you.

Regards

Dues are due...

It's that time of year again, so please be forthcoming with your dues. Your club is not able to provide guest lecturers, etc without your monetary support, 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.

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Other topics of interest:

Several topics are still open for future consideration. Among those are:

1) Weekend beginner's workshops

2) Preparation, cultivation and design of a Club Tree for future fundraising.

If any of these ideas seem like something with which you would like to be involved, please don't be shy. We encourage your input on these and any other ideas, which might be helpful to our club and/or would help in our fundraising efforts. You should also feel free to donate trees, stones, books, tools, pots, etc that can be raffled (not auctioned) for fundraising. See Diego or Fred with your ideas.

We also encourage you to suggest ideas for meeting topics and if you feel able to host a meeting, please speak up. We can help you to work out a "lesson plan" to get you started.



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