



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Guest Speaker John Thompson

- Workshop with John Thompson 1-5 pm!

April 2012 Newsletter

## March Highlights

Our March meeting was split between selecting the **three trees** to represent our club at this year's **MABS Spring Festival** (see below), and a demonstration of wood carving by **Michael Markoff** (see President's Corner). Trees for MABS were selected by "penny vote" in which each member present had three pennies to place before their favorite trees. Club member **Peter Michienzi** was unable to present his tree due to a vehicular problem, but was allowed a special dispensation in light of the high standard to which he holds his bonsai. The other two trees were designed by club members **Michael Markoff** (below left) and **Fred Aufschlager** (right), with runner-up going to **Dan Boehmke** (below right), who we note is moving to upstate New York, to the great loss of the GSBS. All the best, Dan, we will miss you! And keep in touch!



## MABS Spring Festival, April 20-22

This year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival will once again be held at the **Holiday Inn at Harrisburg-Hershey PA** (604 Station Road, Grantville, PA 17028). Full registration and admission to all lecture-demos is **\$160.00**. This is a great deal that includes Saturday lunch and demos by guest artists **John Thompson, Isao Omachi, and Chase Rosade**. You can also choose different demos and different days at lower cost. Each bonsai creation will be raffled after the artist is done with their presentation.

There will be vendors with all sorts of bonsai-related materials for sale. It's a great place to acquire tools, pots, books, plants, and other useful supplies—there is a modest \$10.00 entry fee for those wishing only to see the display and vendor areas. There will also be a MABS member clubs' exhibit and the second annual Invitational Professional Artist Display. This year will also feature the MABS regional runoff for the ABS-supported Joshua Roth New Talent Competition, which will take place on Friday, 8 am–5 pm.

**FIRST TIMERS to MABS can pre-register and get the full weekend for HALF-PRICE.** Don't forget, our club gets a portion of the receipts when you register for the lecture-demos, so it all comes back to help the good ol' GSBS!

# Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossom Festival, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Members of the GSBS will, for the second year, be presenting bonsai lecture-demos at the festival all day Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Newark's Branch Brook Park. So far we have commitments from John Michalski, Juan Calderon, Kerry Heck, and one or two others to help set up and break down. The festival features traditional Japanese dance, flower arranging, and food and craft vendors, and is a great event. We had a wonderful time last year, so if you're not attending MABS that Sunday, please come out and support the club! We set up around 8:00 am and break down between 4:00 and 5:00 pm.

## This Month at GSBS

Please note **we are NOT meeting on our usual "second Tuesday" but instead on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**. Our March meeting will be a **special guest presentation by MABS Guest Artist John (JT) Thompson** of San Jose, CA. JT has contributed monthly care columns to several Bay Area bonsai clubs and has authored articles for ABS and other publications. He emphasizes transplanting, wound healing, grafting and effective wiring in the process of developing bonsai. He is best known for his driving passion for oak bonsai, Sierra junipers, boxwoods, pines and other collected trees.

We will be hosting an **afternoon BYO workshop with John Thompson** to be held at the Arboretum from 1-5 pm on April 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by dinner at a nearby establishment and our evening presentation from 7-10 pm. The fee for the afternoon workshop is \$50.00 per participant (not including dinner). Contact club president Diego Pablos at [bonsai4ever@aol.com](mailto:bonsai4ever@aol.com) to let him know you're interested.

## 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 tremendous 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.

**Novices always welcome! Come and plan to get your hands dirty!**

### Contact Information:

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### Club Information

#### Location:

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

#### When:

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.**

# Plant Care Tips for April

In case you have been living in a cave and haven't heard, we have had the mildest winter in living memory. We used to say "April showers bring May flowers," but I have the feeling we're going to retire that little gem for the foreseeable future. (My suggested revision is "Everything blooms in March," which doesn't rhyme but it gets the job done.) Your trees are now in leaf, so they should all be out of winter storage, and you should be watering, repotting, and feeding as you would at the start of any regular growing season. Let's just hope we don't get any hard frost—most of our outdoor bonsai have already reached the Point of No Return.

Keep a record of which trees are repotted to help keep track of when they will need repotting again. As a general rule, repot trees under 5 years old annually, depending on their condition. Trees between 5-20 years should be repotted every other year, and trees over 20 years every third year. Older trees can be repotted every 4 or 5 years. Pruning deciduous trees should wait until budding has begun (which this year is NOW). Evergreens can be fertilized with mild liquids at 2-week intervals. Spray for insect pests as appropriate—they will have had an easy time of it this winter, so be especially watchful. Wiring and shaping can be carried out, however don't wire repotted material for at least 3 or 4 weeks to avoid strain on new emerging roots.

Make time to get yourself to **MABS** in Harrisburg the weekend of April 20-22! It's a wonderful opportunity to see fantastic bonsai, world-famous artists at work, and shop for plants, pots, tools, instructional materials, and wire for the rest of the season. And time to reconnect with old friends from across the continent.

If you're planning on buying your tree a new pot at MABS, consider brining the tree to the show so you can put it alongside the pot you're thinking of buying. (I sometimes ball-and-burlap the tree so I can plunk it into the pot for a better look.)

Tips supplemented with material 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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It is also time for you **field-collectors** to get digging! As always, obtain permission from the appropriate land-holder, but as the buds begin to swell it's time to collect the deciduous species—apple, maple, honeysuckle, etc. This year's extraordinary winter and early spring has got your bonsai in leaf, so their field-grown cousins aren't far behind. It's time, folks.

## Calendar of Events:

- April 24      **Guest presentation** by **John Thompson**, fresh from MABS. With afternoon workshop to be held at our usual classroom from 1-5 (cost \$50.00 per person), followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Evening presentation by JT in the usual classroom from 7-10 pm.
- May 8         Topic to be determined, but we also make time to help you prepare your bonsai for the GSBS Open House on Sunday June 3 (see below).
- June 3        Sunday – **GSBS Open House**. All club members encouraged to bring trees to display to the general public. Admission free, open to public 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Club members arrive by 9:00 to set up.
- July & August – Club picnic and informal BBQ, hosted at club members' homes on a weekend. Dates and times to be determined.

## If you haven't yet paid your Dues...

Our dues-cycle usually begins in September, so please be forthcoming with your dues. Your club uses these funds to provide for guest lecturers, transportation, etc. 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 Aufschlager (contact information below).

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**Diego Pablos**

## President's Corner

Hello Everyone,

At our March meeting, Michael Markoff made some great carving on a collected Eastern Red Cedar. for which we will have some picture on the web page. We also selected the three trees that will represent us at this years MABS; owned by club members Fred, Pete and Michael.

Last MABS board meeting we were told that there were spaces available for all of the workshops, and that there was only space for the critiques with Chase Rosade and John Thompson. If you want to get more information on the Festival please contact: <http://midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com/Contacts.html>.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24, at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, with an afternoon Bring Your Own Tree workshop with Guest Speaker John Thompson. The cost for this is \$50.00 per participant, for a minimum of 5 participants. With a two-hour dinner break, if you would like to accompany us, it is a pay-your own dinner, location to be determined, followed by an evening Demo/Lecture from 7-10 pm – the tree being worked on belongs to Steve Stelz.

Regards,



## Great Swamp Bonsai Society

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