



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

*Next meeting: **April 12th***

*Time: **7:00-9:30 pm***

April 2016 Newsletter

April Bonsai Happenings:

Three big events:

(1) April 12th Club Meeting: **Repotting Workshop**; BRING YOUR OWN TREES – **Club soil, wire, and (some) plastic bonsai pots will be available.**

(2) April 15-17th: **MABS in Connecticut** (see page 5);

(3) MONDAY, April 18th: **SPECIAL GUEST Bjorn Bjorholm**—afternoon WORKSHOP and EVENING LECTURE/DEMO.

March Meeting: Selection of Club Trees for MABS; Replanting a Pitch Pine on a Slab

The trees to represent GSBS at this year's MABS were submitted without contest by Peter Michienzi, Rich Meyers, and Mark Schmuck. Two additional trees were offered by Pete Michienzi and Mark Schmuck, which also be going to the show. Thanks to all—these are wonderful trees!



(above) Rich Meyers' Rocky Mountain Juniper; (right) Peter Michienzi's Eastern Red Cedar.





(left) Mark Schmuck's American Larch.

Also at the March meeting, club member Peter Michienzi assisted Mark Schmuck in replanting a collected Pitch Pine on a stoneware slab.



(left) The tree in its original planting. Mark wanted to slightly alter the planting angle, and the tree was due for repotting in any case.

(right) The moss is removed and the root ball carefully combed out to separate excess rootage.





(left) The stoneware slab, artfully crafted to mimic natural stone, with numerous holes for wiring the root hall to the slab



(right) The "muck" is mixed from wet clay, and placed around the perimeter of the slab to form a "dam" to hold the soil in place.



(above) The tree replanted,
and the moss being applied
to disguise the muck “dam.”

This tree will also be going
to the MABS show in CT !

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! Register online at www.MidAtlanticBonsai.org . If you're a Facebook member please; visit, like, share and Invite your Friends to our 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 Raffled 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 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! [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.

April 12th: *Repotting workshop!* Bring your bonsai for assistance or lessons in potting or repotting. We will have club soil, wire, and a few plastic bonsai pots available.

April 18th: **MONDAY** – Guest artist **Bjorn Bjorholm, 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

Great Swamp Bonsai Society

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:
