



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

May, 2006 Newsletter

*Next Regular Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 9
The Night of the Six Junipers is here!!*

Special Meeting on April 25 at 6:00

April Meeting Highlights:

The April repotting workshop was well attended. Several members brought trees to display and some brought trees to be repotted. John Michalski, Juan Calderone, David Yedwab and Mark Schmuck demonstrated some different techniques for repotting on a few different trees. A good experience was had for all in attendance.

Our responsibilities for the MidAtlantic Symposium were discussed.

The trees our "Night of the Six Junipers" May meeting were on display so that there would be no surprises when the May meeting starts.

Don't forget the MidAtlantic Symposium on April 21-23 at the Ramada Inn on Route 10 West in East Hanover, NJ. If you are not able to attend the entire festival, please try to stop by to see the trees on display and to take advantage of having a large variety of vendors on hand to satisfy your every Bonsai need. It is the one time of year when we are able to have so many suppliers in our area at the same time. You're sure to find something of interest.

Here are some of the trees that were on display at the April meeting.



May Meeting:

This will be our “Night of the Six Junipers” meeting. There will be Six teams selected to be working on the Six Junipers that have been lovingly cared for by Fred Aufschläger over the past winter. Everyone in attendance will be sure to have a hand in the styling of one or more of the trees.

We’re hoping that this will be a great time for all. Experienced members can offer their expertise and our newer members will certainly gain some insight into how to proceed with styling. (At least for one of these special junipers.

Please plan to attend as this will surely be an evening to remember.

Presidential Corner



Mark Schmuck

Hi Again, Everybody!

The April repotting workshop was well attended, some members brought trees to display, others trees to repot. Everybody learned a little bit from the experience, I know I did. Also on the agenda, the junipers for the May meeting were chosen and examined.

For those interested in learning grafting, the Arboretum is sponsoring a bus trip to Hildebrant Nursery in Oldwick N.J. on Tuesday, June 20. Raindate: June 27. The bus leaves the Arboretum at 900 am. Time spent at the nursery will be 10 am -12:30 pm We are members, so it’s \$25 per person. Call 973.326.6703 to reserve a seat.

Coming up this weekend is the Midlantic Festival Fri. Sat & Sun, at the Hanover Ramada Inn - Rt #10, E. Hanover if you’re not planning on going for all three days, just stop in for a few hours. Vendors, Trees, Tools Mags.

ATTENTION!!!!!! EXTRA MEETING IN APRIL!!!! ONE TIME ONLY EARLY START TIME 6:00pm at the arboretum. Marco Invernizzi from Italy will be the headliner. We’re starting an hour earlier to give Marco some extra time to prepare the tree. I know some can’t make it that early, that’s ok. Whenever you can arrive will be fine, just try to make it. The extra time will make for a better final tree ,which will be raffled at the conclusionof the demo. That’s April 25 folks!

MAY 9 second Tuesday, regular time 7:00pm - meeting starts 7:30 NIGHT OF THE SIX JUNIPERS When the meeting starts all members can pick a team or pick a tree, help with some suggestions, move to different trees, just basically use this as a design learning experience.

See you at the meeting,

Mark

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 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

May Plant Care Tips:

Your pines are now beginning to show their "candles". Spruce and Larch buds are opening up nicely and deciduous material comes into full leaf. Spring, as it were, has sprung...

Repotting chores should be over by the 10th. The exception would be Chinese Junipers which can be repotted through early summer. Only repot other species if they show signs of distress, such as root rot.

Established trees can be fed at regular intervals. A granular organic-based fertilizer such as blood meal, Bonemeal, or fish/seaweed products should be given once per month. Late developing varieties can be given a bit more Nitrogen now, while others require a balanced diet. Don't feed anything that has not "leafed out", but spray mist them daily.

Watering becomes a primary concern as trees develop. Trees should be watered at least once/day and possibly twice as required. Hot dry spells will dictate a more rigorous regime. Early evening or early morning seem best, unless, of course it has been raining heavily..

Evergreen cuttings can be taken, but seeds sown now have a minimum chance of survival. Air-layering of deciduous material can be started and continued through July. Air-layering of conifers may continue.

Pinch back long shoots of deciduous using thumb and fore-finger. Late spring frost can damage tender new leaves on deciduous, especially Red maples. If frost is predicted, place your susceptible material in a protected place, such as a greenhouse or in an un-headed garage or shed for protection.

Trees in training can be pruned now but deciduous display material should already be completed. It's too soon to prune pine and spruce, However, dead branches should be removed. Pinch expanding pine candles as they grow. Start with the small ones and finish with the larger a week later. Spruce and Juniper may be ready for their first pinchings. Trim back new growth on deciduous to 2 or 3 buds, and rub off any buds growing where they shouldn't be.

Insects are getting active so inspect regularly and treat at the first sign of attack. Do not use systemic insecticides or fungicides on Chinese Elm. Place sun-sensitive species in light shade. Weeding now will save lots of time later. Be especially diligent about liverwort and pearlwort. Their long roots can clog drainage holes.

Conifers can be wired now but take care not to damage new growth. Deciduous branches can be lightly wired if branches need "teasing" into place. If large branches were not already wired, it's ok to do them now, but watch carefully so as not to damage any new foliage.

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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