



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

May, 2007 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 8, 2007

*at Frelinhuisen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown
Roy Nagatoshi - Grafting Shimpaku to San Jose*

April Highlights:

The regular April meeting featured our annual repotting workshop and was well attended. Several members brought trees to display and some brought trees to be repotted. A good experience was had for all in attendance. We also discussed Great Swamp's responsibilities for the MidAtlantic Symposium.

Speaking of the MidAtlantic Symposium, it was held on April 20-22 at the Ramada Inn on Route 10 West in East Hanover, NJ. If you were not able to attend the lecture / demo presentations at the festival, you certainly missed some fine demonstrations and lectures by some of the premier Bonsai artists around today. In addition to those who attended the symposium, several members were seen in attendance in the Vendor area. There was a good supply of tools, trees, pots, and various other supplies to suit 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.

This year's presenters were Ted Matson (CA), Robert Steven (Jakarta, Indonesia) and Guy Guidry (LA). All presenters gave outstanding demonstrations and lectures. We learned many things about Bonsai that may not have been "intuitively obvious to the most casual observer." Listening to these presenters was a varied and worthwhile experience. Of special interest was Guy Guidry's discussion of bonsai soil, Ted Matson's explanations of Shohin and the meaning of size. Not to be overlooked was Robert Steven's ideas about "thinking outside the box." Unfortunately, space does not allow for a complete breakdown of these topics in the newsletter. It is truly a case of "you had to be there..."

On Tuesday following the MidAtlantic Symposium, we were treated to a fine lecture demo by Ted Matson, who created a fine Shohin from a considerably larger Juniper. We had a rousing turnout for this special meeting. Hopefully, this is the start of a trend...

Here are some of the pictures taken at the April repotting workshop.



MidAtlantic Photo Highlights:



And, once again, our own Bill Muldowney scarfed up another raffle tree. Let's hear it for Bill...

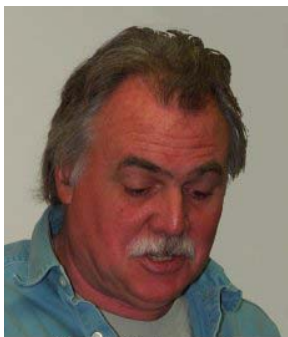
April 25th with Ted Matson:

The special meeting with Ted Matson was a rousing success. Ted worked a juniper into the fine Shohin shown below, all the while explaining his procedures, methods and reasons in a clear and concise manner, holding everyone's attention and fielding questions as he went along. A most informative guest.



A fine shohin-to-be was raffled and won by Mark Schmuck. (was that a fix???)

Presidential Corner:



Mark Schmuck

Hi Everybody,

Almost all of our Club membership turned out for our special club meeting with Ted Matson. What a treat! What a good teacher Ted is. The demo tree, a nice fat trunked San Jose Juniper, exquisitely whittled down to (shohin) size by the master. See photo,

A few good opportunities coming up, Roy Nagatoshi, Bill Valavanis, George LeBolt. Please make the effort to attend any or all of these events, Your participation helps offset the costs of these programs.

Some members have all ready signed up for Roy's Workshop on Tuesday afternoon and there is still room available, Call me at (973)-625-4632 or lofty235@optonline.net

See you at the meeting,

Mark

Upcoming Event Calendar:

- May 8** Afternoon workshop (12:30-4:30) and Lecture Demo with Roy Nagatoshi. For the evening session, Roy will demonstrate his grafting technique placing Shimpaku Juniper onto San Jose stock. Anyone with a suitable tree is welcome to bring it. Also anyone who can bring a grafting knife, grafting tape, tree sealant, and tubing, please help out. Shimpaku (a slow grower) really takes off when grafted onto San Jose type junipers, and Roy is the man when it comes to that skill. Roy is supplying the Shimpaku material for the grafts. Also, there are still some openings for the afternoon Workshop. Call Mark (973) 625 4632.
- June 2** **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. Let's have a good turnout. ** Jim Gillespie of Sho Fu En Bonsai, Danielsville, PA. will be on hand to vend your bonsai needs.
- June 17** Sunday lecture by Bill Valavanis hosted at Stillwater Studio by Marty Schmalenberg. The topic will be the Genesis of Classic Bonsai. Bill has been working in bonsai for over 30 years and maintains his Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester, NY. He publishes "International Bonsai" magazine. Additional details, travel options and directions will follow in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Event Calendar Continued:

July 10 Afternoon tropical workshop (12:30-4:00) with George LeBolt, Pres., Bergen Bonsai Society. The workshop will feature both tropicals and 3 collected American Larch. A good opportunity for newer members to get a good start with collected material. Sign up at our next meeting. George's lecture/demo topic at the regular meeting will feature a tropical styling.

August 5 Sunday picnic at John Michalski's in Morristown. More details to follow in upcoming newsletters.

September - Coming in September: Lecture / Demo by Julian Adams of Adams Bonsai

May Plant Care Tips:

Pines are beginning to show their candles. Spruce and Larch buds are opening up and deciduous material comes into full leaf. 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 more Nitrogen now, while others require a balanced diet.

Don't feed anything that has not "leafed out", but spray mist 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

Contact Information:

- President:** Mark Schmuck - Contact Mark at lofty235@optonline.net
or by Phone: 973.625.4632.
- VP:** Michael Markoff - Contact Mike at MJSmart@aol.com
or by Phone: 973.895.6287
- Treasurer:** Fred Aufschläger - Contact Fred by phone at 908.766.1359
or 17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924.
- Secretary:** Ken Olander - Contact Ken at bowhunter444@verizon.net.
or by phone at 732.202.0677
- Newsletter:** Dan Boehmke - Contact Dan at danno@earthling.net
or by phone at 973.627.1318
-

Great Swamp Bonsai Society
c/o Mark Schmuck
235 East Main Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866

