



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Topic: *Grooming and Display for June Open House*
Bring Your Own Tree open workshop

May 2012 Newsletter

April Highlights (We've already had the April showers and May flowers back in March – what's next?)

Our April meeting featured **guest speaker John (JT) Thompson**, fresh from his engagement at this year's **MABS Spring Festival**. JT enjoys working with **oak bonsai**, and though I didn't anticipate any oakie offerings from our membership, club member Steve Stelz provided a stunning **sawtooth oak**, which JT employed for a very informative presentation and demonstration. There was a good turnout – it was nice to see everyone!



JT explains branch placement as Kerry Heck looks on.



The finished product – for now.

In other news, the **Branch Brook Park Bloomfest** scheduled for April 22 was cancelled due to inclement weather. In the mean time, Cablevision has contacted us for a television feature on the GSBS and what we do, to be taped on June 12th – should be fun!

This Month at GSBS

We're back to our usual **second Tuesday of the month**, and this time we'll be looking at helping you **groom and display your bonsai** for our upcoming **June Open House** (see calendar). Also, bring any and all bonsai for an **open workshop** for styling, repotting, or questions-and-answers.

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 or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

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

Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos bonsai4ever@aol.com
Phone: 973.224.8139
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Michael Markoff MJSmart@aol.com
Phone: 973.895.6287

Treasurer: Fred Aufschläger fdauf@msn.com
Phone: 908.766.1359
17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

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 May (a “typical” May, so don’t quote me on this)

Pines are extending their candles. Spruce and Larch buds are opening up and deciduous material has mostly come 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. (If you use some version of fertilizer cakes, these should be applied to all bonsai by now.) 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 a 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 trees using thumb and forefinger. Late spring frost can damage tender new leaves on deciduous trees, especially red maples. If frost is predicted, place your susceptible material in a protected place, such as a greenhouse or in an unheated 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 trees to 2 or 3 buds, and rub off any buds growing where they shouldn’t be. Insects are becoming 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 okay to do them now, but watch carefully so as not to damage any new foliage.


The field collecting season will soon be drawing to a close, so if you choose to collect any deciduous trees that are already in leaf, treat them with extra care and keep them out of strong sun or wind until you are certain they have pulled through. Fertilize after new growth has started to harden off.

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

Calendar of Events:

April 24 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).



Diego Pablos

President's Corner

Hello Everyone,

We had a great time at this year's MABS Spring Festival. The trees are getting better and better every year at the members' exhibit. If you missed it, make plans for next year's, which commemorates the 30th Anniversary of MABS—Headlining this will be Kunio Kobayashi, from Japan. Congratulations to Michael Markoff, who won one of Omachi's demo trees—a very nice white pine.

For all who missed it, we had the great pleasure of having an afternoon workshop with John Thompson, from California, followed by an evening lecture-demo on a collected Sawtooth Oak, owned by club member Steve Stelz. It was a very instructive evening!

Our next meeting will be held at our regular day and time. The topic will be Preparation for the June Open House Show, so bring a tree and any other items to set up your tree exhibit for the show, to get hints, ideas and direction on how best to exhibit your tree(s).

Regards,



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c/o Diego E Pablos
289 Mount hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

