



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 13th**
7:00-10:00 pm

May 2014 Newsletter

Mid Atlantic (MABS) Spring Festival – April 25–27, 2014

This year's Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Spring Festival, held at the **Ramada Inn on Route 10 West in East Hanover, NJ**, was a great experience. Guest artists/presenters were **Suthin Sukosolvisit, Corin Tomlinson, and Takashi Iura**. Each was excellent and exciting in his own way. Corin Tomlinson, in particular, was the focus of much popular acclaim, and his informative and entertaining presentations were all the more poignant in light of the very recent passing of his father, the well-regarded bonsai artist Harry Tomlinson, who passed away only eight days before the festival. The display of club member trees was top notch, the plant material offered to the presenters was very good, and the vendor area was densely populated with quality vendors equipped with a wide variety of trees, pots, stands, tools, soil mixes, etc. Those in attendance were in broad agreement that this was a very good festival that represented the goals of the MABS member clubs in a strongly positive light. Club member **Peter Michienzi won the raffle** for a demo tree **created by Master Iura** (see photo on last page.) If you missed MABS this year, make plans to catch it in 2015.

April Meeting: Guest artist Suthin Sukosolvisit

Fresh from his appearances at this year's MABS Spring Festival, the GSBS was delighted to host a hands-on workshop and presentation by **Suthin Sukosolvisit** (check out his Stoughton, Massachusetts studio at suthinbonsaistudio.com). Six club members brought trees to work on under Suthin's expert guidance, and at least 20 members were present for the evening presentation in which Suthin completed an initial design on a **yew** (*Taxus*) purchased at MABS. The tree was raffled at the conclusion of the demonstration, with the lucky winner being founding club member **Brian O'Byrne**. (See photos on following page.) We look forward to having Suthin back again in future.



April Meeting: Guest artist Suthin Sukosolvisit



May Meeting: Air-Layering workshop, Preparing for our June Open House, and Fertilizer cake mix!

On Tuesday, May 13th, we'll have pre-mixed ingredients for **bonsai fertilizer cakes** (you add the wet stuff and finish the job at home), which will be available at cost (to be determined). We will also provide printed instructions for the completion of the task. This is the recipe used for **Michael Persiano's Superfeeding formula**, which has been published in various bonsai magazines over the years.

We will also offer some tips and advice for preparing your trees for our **Annual Open House** to be held **Sunday, June 1st, from 10-4** (club members please arrive by 9:00 am to help set up). We encourage all members to consider showing one or more trees, with all levels of experience from novice to expert. Look to your inbox for more details as the date approaches.

The **main event** of the May meeting will be a hands-on workshop in **air-layering**, a technique used to create new bonsai from the upper limbs of existing trees, or to produce a better root system on the trunk of an existing bonsai. If you have a tree that you think might be suitable candidate, bring it along, and if we think the operation can be performed, we will help you to get it done.

Plant Care Tips for May

Our weird weather pattern continues unabated. Will we ever experience a “normal” spring again? Who knows?

By May most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering should now routinely be done once a day (less for certain trees as needed). Cuttings of evergreens may still be taken. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts can damage the young leaves. [DY]

You can still repot or dig trees in May if you're careful. Begin your feeding, pinching, pruning schedules in earnest. It's growing season, folks! Oddly, in some ways this is easier than the worrying months of winter, and less anxiety-producing than the dog days of summer. [JM]

Calendar of Events for 2013–2014

May 13th (Second Tuesday): Air-Layering Demo-Workshop. Bring your own, or work with ours. Find out how to get interesting bonsai material from the tops of stock plants, or get better rootage from that bonsai that needs a bit of help. Fertilizer Cake-Making. We will provide the ingredients to make large batches of bonsai fertilizer cakes, which you can bring home in ziploc bags, to spread out on baking sheets and dry at home. Prep for June Open House. We will go over some considerations for preparing your trees for the show, solicit help in setting up, and encouraging each and every one of you to bring a tree or two to show the public. All levels of experience are welcome.

June (First Sunday): GSBS Open House. Lectures, demos, raffles, vendors, dozens of trees on display. A great outing for the club, and a great opportunity for newcomers to see what we're all about.

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Visit our webpage at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai/>

Club Dues: If you haven't yet paid your dues, it's only \$40 for an individual member or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club treasurer **Fred Aufschlager** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

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 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.

Efrain also tells us he has a new shipment of lava rock for bonsai mix, and new mica pots available as long as supplies last.

GSBS Contact Information:

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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:

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 Fred Aufschläger
17 Lakeview Drive,
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

New Renewal

Individual (\$40.00) Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:



Club member Peter Michienzi, standing beside bonsai master **Takashi Iura**, along with the tree created during Master Iura's demonstration, which was won by Peter in the post-demonstration raffle.