



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

June, 2006 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 13  
Homemade Fertilizer Pellets.

## May Highlights (And a look back to the end of April):

After the regular April meeting, which was highlighted in the last newsletter, we looked forward to the Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies Symposium and to a special meeting on April 25 with Marco Invernizzi, one of the head-liners at MABS. So before we begin with a summary of the May meeting (a.k.a. "The Night of the Six Junipers"), let us take a look back into April and review the MABS symposium and the Marco Invernizzi gathering.

We were especially honored at MABS with our own Peter Michienzi winning the BCI President's Award and for Ken Olander receiving the coveted Dead-Wood Award presented by Francois Jeker. Even though Ken was appearing for Deep Cut, his other club, we feel that he still represents Great Swamp. Best in Show honors went to another Jersey boy, George LeBolt for one of his fabulous Brazilian Raintrees (top row, center).

The meeting this year was very well attended, with many more people than expected attending both the exhibit and the vendor areas. We ran out of programs quite early on Saturday... Here are a few shots taken at MABS. Note Pete and Ken's award winners at Lower Left and Lower Right, respectively. There were some great trees in evidence...



## More MABS pictures:

Here are some scenes from the demonstrations. Everyone was quite pleased with the work of these fine presenters: Paulene Muth, Marco Invernizzi, Francois Jeker, and Shinji Suzuki.



## May 25 with Marco Invernizzi:

Marco gave us a fine demonstration with a juniper of his choice. Given a selection of several trees on which to work, Marco picked what appeared initially to be everyone's last choice. However, he was certainly up to the task and presented a fine demonstration as well as providing everyone with a step by step overview of each phase of the transformation of the chosen tree. He stressed wiring techniques which I have tried to summarize following the pictures...



### Marco's Basic Wiring Tips...

1. Wire size = 1/3 of branch diameter.
2. Wire at 45° - 50° angle with the branch
3. Maintain equal spacing between spirals.
4. Tighten the spiral for very stressed bends.
5. Change wire size as branch size changes.
6. Join 2 branches with 1 piece of wire:  
(Same size branches, not too far nor too close together)
7. The end of the wire is always bent up and back.
8. Keep the branch at a 45° angle to your body.
9. Place left hand on the branch and right hand on the  
END of the wire. (vice-versa if left handed)
10. Wire from under keeping the branch steady.
11. Don't over-wire small branches.
12. Don't under-wire large branches.
13. Wire should be at the apex (top) of a branch being bent.
14. Branch junctions are the weakest spot.  
Always support them...
15. Pre-bend wires to fit easily into and on the tree.
16. Wire from thickest to thinnest, both branches and wire.
17. Twist branches toward the light as you apply the wire.
18. Sometimes, it's not possible to anchor to another branch.
19. Wire must come from the opposite side of the direction  
that the branch will be bent.
20. Leave no gaps between the wire and the branch.

Hopefully, your newsletter editor has not missed any of the important points of wiring given by Marco. If I've missed anything, please let me know and I can print an update in the next newsletter. I did not attempt to duplicate the drawings that were on the white-board.

## The Night of the Six Junipers.

Well, gang, it really happened. Six not very attractive garden junipers: Six teams to attack them and Six trees auctioned at the end. This was a great opportunity for all in attendance to either watch, suggest, style, or participate in what ever manner you desired. And the results far exceeded our initial expectations.

Here are the trees before any work was begun. (well, most were not yet started...)



Here we have some shots taken during the meeting. Lots of work in progress...



And the final results... Not too shabby.



We'll have to do this again.

## Presidential Corner



**Mark Schmuck**

Hi Again, Everybody!

I hope everyone is enjoying this extra long spring we're having courtesy of this cool weather.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our "Night of the Junipers" I think it's safe to say that we all had a good time.

A couple of reminders; Don't forget SATURDAY JUNE 3 9:00am OPEN HOUSE I'd like to see each and every club member bring a tree to display. Jim Gillespie will be setting up shop, for all your bonsai needs, tools, books, etc. We'll be letting the public in at 10:00 so try to get there closer to 9:00 so that we have time to set up.

Second reminder Tue. June 13, regular meeting, we expect to have some fun making our own batch of fertilizer cakes, so bring a cookie sheet with you to take some home. Some of the harder to find ingredients we could use -- liquid seaweed--muriate of potash--gypsum--dolomitic lime---superthrive---liquid chelated iron--cottonseed meal-- - we'll start mixing this stuff outside the classroom for various reasons.

See you at the meeting!

Mark

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## George LeBolt's New England Tour (September, '06)

George is sponsoring a bus tour (55 passenger touring bus, limited to ~45) on September 16 and 17. The cost (\$145/person) includes transportation, admission fees, 3 lect/demos, hotel (double occupancy), breakfast and dinner on Sunday. Special discounts at 3 Bonsai nurseries. \$25 will hold a reservation.

Saturday: Leave Closter, NJ (Municipal parking lot) @ 7:30 AM. (bring a lunch)  
Stop1: Tour of Todd Hanson's private collection & Japanese garden plus lecture/demo.  
Stop2: Tour of Bonsai West Nursery plus lecture/demo. Special discounts offered.  
Stop3: Dinner @ Chinese Buffet (price not include) special price \$11.95.  
Stop4: Hotel (cost included) Continental Breakfast included on Sunday AM.

Sunday: Stop1: Tour of New England Bonsai Nursery plus lecture/demo (probably by Kenji Miata)  
Stop2: Light Lunch (quick stop, cost not included)  
Stop3: Tour Royal Bonsai Gardens. Suthin will be away, but enjoy special discounts.  
Stop4: Complete dinner (cost included) in Manchester CT,  
Arrive in Closter @ approx 9:30 PM.

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### Reservation Form

Total cost for the tour of \$145\* includes all items mentioned above:

Please add \$40 and check here if you require a single room. \_\_\_\_\_

A deposit of \$25 per person (payable to Bergen Bonsai Society) is required at registration.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ deposits @ \$25ea Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail reservation form (and a check) to:

Bergen Bonsai Society, c/o George LeBolt, 404 Homans Ave, Closter, NJ 07624

\* \$135 for Bergen Bonsai Members plus \$10 for non-members

## Upcoming Event Calendar:

- 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**      Fertilizer cakes will be made at this meeting. Bring an old baking sheet if you so desire...
- 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>
- June 25**      We're looking at a possible Mini Garden tour on Sunday, 6/25 (weather permitting) The plan is to start at Mark Schmuck's, continue to Dan Boehmke's, and end at Mike Markoffs.  
Directions will be provided at no cost to those who wish to indulge.
- July 11**      Open at this time.
- August**      Picnic???

--- And, coming up ---

- September 16-17**    George LeBolt's New England Bonsai Tour (See previous page for details)
- November 14**      David Easterbrook Curator of Bonsai Montreal Botanical Gardens
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## June Plant Care Tips:

Flowering should be over now and new foliage is maturing. Now begins the summer routine...

Chinese junipers are the only trees that you should consider for repotting at this time, provided they are shielded from drying wind and full sun. If a tree appears to have outgrown its pot you may safely place it into a larger pot providing it's roots have not been damaged.

Begin your daily watering routine and mist the foliage at the same time, keeping in mind, however, that water left on the leaves in full sun can burn the leaves. Early morning or evening would be the best time for this activity.

Continue trimming your trees. Some will tend to slow their growth toward the end of the month in anticipation of another spurt later in the season. Later growth will appear at the tips of the earlier shoots unless they are trimmed back.

Keep pinching your conifers as they grow. Deciduous trees that have hardened off can be leaf pruned at this time...

Pine and spruce can be pruned now. Start with the smaller branches and proceed to the larger ones as we near the end of the month. Pruning of deciduous trees is ok, but they may tend to throw new shoots around the pruning site.

Keep checking for insects and disease and keep the weeds out of your pots. Weed roots rob your tree of nutrients. If you have trees that do not show any signs of growth by the end of the month, it may be time to sound "TAPS" for them. If this is the case, inspect them closely both above and below ground to find out what caused their demise. This knowledge may help prevent similar losses in the future. Air layers can be successfully started now.

Wire, wire, wire away on any trees that seem to need it. Check earlier wires to see that they have not begun to dig into the branches. You will recognize the symptoms and can remove the old wire in favor of new.

Your feeding schedule can begin in earnest with a well balanced fertilizer. Alternate feedings of bone meal, blood meal or a seaweed/fish combination with a higher phosphorus fertilizer. This will provide extra needed nourishment for your trees.

Consider soft wood cuttings of Chinese elm, zelkova, Japanese and trident maples. They should "root up" in 3 to 4 weeks if conditions are favorable. These cuttings will likely be ready for individual potting by the end of next month (July)

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](mailto:lofty235@optonline.net)  
or by Phone: 973.625.4632.
- VP:** Michael Markoff - Contact Mike at [MJSmart@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:bowhunter444@verizon.net)  
or by phone at 932.202.0677
- Newsletter:** Dan Boehmke - Contact Dan at [danno1@optonline.net](mailto:danno1@optonline.net)  
or by phone at 973.627.1318
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Great Swamp Bonsai Society  
c/o Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
53 East Hanover Avenue  
Morristown, NJ 07962

