



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

June, 2008 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown
Open House June 7. Come One, Come All, bring trees.

May Highlights:

For those who may have missed the May meeting, you missed a wonderful opportunity to learn about Bonsai pots and matching the pot to the tree. Jim Barrett from California gave a fine lecture that was considerably different from what our usual guest speakers provide. The talk was most informative. Also discussed were methods of displaying Bonsai. Mark Markoff brought in some nice examples for our viewing pleasure.

In case you may have missed it, please visit our web site, www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai to view photos from MABS in April and from both the BBG (Brooklyn Botanic Gardens) trip and the collecting outing with our Morris County Parks Commission. All attendees of "The Dig" acquired good wild honeysuckle specimens. I finally got the information together.

Below are some scenes from the May meeting.



Presidential Corner:

Hello again everyone,



The May meeting, led by distinguished bonsai elder Jim Barrett, focused on deciduous bonsai, and particularly with matching different species of trees with the right pot -- colors, glazes, textures, and designs. Jim taught us all a lot about how different bonsai pots are actually created, which impacts their monetary value, their aesthetic interest, and their durability in cold-weather latitudes. It was a great presentation and really something different for a change!

We are currently planning meetings for September through May, so **please send in your ideas** for meeting topics, guest speakers, and events, so that we can take your interests into account. If you have an area of expertise that you'd be willing to share with the club, we'd love to have you lead (or organize) one of the meetings!

Our June meeting takes the form of our annual **Open House**, which will be held **Saturday June 7th** in the upstairs hall of the Haggerty Education Center (our usual building), between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Club members are urged to arrive by 9:00 am to help set up. If your dues are paid you can display any number of trees, though most people find that 3 or 4 trees is the most they can transport and display effectively. We will be giving talks and demonstrations, and club member **Jim Gillespie** will be on hand with his large selection of **books, tools, and other bonsai-related items** for sale at a club discount, so bring your checkbooks!

NO TUESDAY MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST. This year, we will go back to our past practice of "taking the summer off," but keep an eye on your email for updates on our **club picnic**, which will be hosted by **Dan Boehmke** in August, and other events that may pop up throughout the summer. Otherwise, see you in September!

Have I used enough exclamation points? I guess so!

Picnic:

We are in the planning stages here and the initialy, it looks like August 10 is the date for the Picnic. Call Dan at 973.627.1318 if that is not a good date. If last year is any indication, our Annual Picnic at Dan's this year should once again be a good time to chat about Bonsai, enjoy some good food, and the camaraderie that we always enjoy.

Last year's picnic had a good turnout and everyone had a great time wandering about John's collection. We're hopeful that this year will bring a repeat, and while Dan's collection is not as extensive as may be seen in others' gardens, the backyard in Rockaway is comfortable and there's enough room for a good number of members.

We look forward to veryone bringing something to "nosh" so we'll have a good variety of goodies on which to snack. Dogs & Burgers will be provided as well as soft drinks. Let Dan know what you're planning to bring so there can be some coordination of effort in the food department. We don't need 12 bags of chips and no salads...

Hope to see all the familiar faces again this year as well as the new ones.

Directions and further details will folow in the next newsletter.

Fred,

I think I finally got it right... Let me know if anything is still not kosher.

Upcoming Event Calendar:

- June 7** **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.
- ***** **Members who attended the May meeting should please bring their name tags to the show.**
Our open house will take the place of a formal meeting in June.
Jim Gillespie will once again be on hand to vend your bonsai needs.

NOTE:

We will NOT be holding any regular Tuesday evening meetings during July or August.

- August 10** Annual Club Picnic.
The venue is changing this year to give John a break. Dan Boehmke will host the gala event in Rockaway, NJ. The address is 452 West Main Street and is located at the corner of Elycroft Ave. For those unfamiliar with the area, West Main Street is also Morris County Route 513. Look for our Summer Newsletter in which a Map will appear.

September and onward... Information about upcoming meetings and events will appear in future newsletters. Stay tuned...

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

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