



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

June, 2009 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown
Open House June 6. Come One, Come All, bring trees
Everyone is welcome to display their wares

May Highlights:

Our May meeting featured our own Fred Aufschläger and a grand discussion of Air Layering. Fred was not able to bring material on which to demonstrate his technique, but John Michalski and David Yedwab came to the rescue. Everyone had an opportunity to observe the demonstration at close hand. John had a somewhat gnarly honeysuckle and David operated on a pine. The pictures below are but a brief look at the work that was done. I, for one, was encouraged to take Xacto knife in hand and attempt the techniques for myself on a red maple (*Acer Palmatum*) that suffers from some severe reverse taper as it emerges from the soil.

We also had a short discussion about preparations for displaying trees at the June show. Some of the members brought trees to demonstrate ways to best show off your trees.

Below are some scenes from the May meeting.



Presidential Corner:

Hello again everyone,



We've had such a wonderful and busy winter and spring in bonsai, with club outings, park digs, MABS, and guest speakers. If you missed our May meeting featuring club member **Fred Aufschlager** on the topic of air layering, you're letting the good stuff get away from you! Fred explained the horticulture and the craft behind air layers, and demonstrated the techniques on a bush honeysuckle and a zuishu Japanese five-needle pine. Those whose trees were used for the demos will reap the rewards in a couple months' time.

Our next **BIG EVENT** is our **Annual Bonsai Open House** (which takes the place of our regular meeting for June), to be held in the upstairs hall of the Haggerty Education Center (the same building in which we have our meetings) on **Saturday June 6th**, between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. **ALL CLUB MEMBERS** are encouraged to bring one or a few trees to display to the public. We will have a large display of club trees, and present several **lecture/demos** with the demo trees raffled to the public. Club members should arrive by 9:00 am on the show day, to help set up. We will supply tables, risers, and table runners. Please make sure to bring along a suitable stand, base, rock slab, board, bamboo mat, etc. to set beneath your tree(s) for an outstanding presentation, as well as suitable accent plants. If you don't have such items, email a club member and perhaps we can help you put something together. Also useful are those trifold cardboard presentation boards (you can find them in office supply stores) that stand about 3 foot high and cost between \$7-15 depending on quality – and they come in both black and white, depending on what sort of backdrop you prefer. (These aren't mandatory, but they come in useful if you need to display your tree in front of, for example, the auditorium's fire extinguisher.)

And I've so far neglected to mention that **Sho Fu En Bonsai** (our own James Gillespie proprietor) of Danielsville, PA will be on hand selling tools, books, videos, wire, soil, and all manner of things related to bonsai, so come prepared to shop.

Please note that the club has **several bags of bonsai soil mix** and **akadama** available at good prices (I believe the soil is \$22.00 a bag and the akadama is \$30.00 a bag), so please contact Fred at fdauf@msn.com if interested.

Also coming up is our annual **club picnic**, to be held in August, date to be announced.

Hope to see you all at the Open House!

MABS Symposium and Tree Display:

I'm still preparing the pictures from MABS to place on the web-site. I hope to have it completed, soon...

Open House:

Don't forget June 6, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, open to the public from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Arboretum in the upstairs hall.

Jim Gillespie will be on hand to provide us with the opportunity to choose (and purchase) from his usual array of tools, books, fertilizer & etc.

We look forward to a good turnout. Don't be shy. All levels of trees are welcome. A combination of Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Trees make the display more "approachable" for the first-time guests. It also shows that they need not be experts to enjoy Bonsai and/or join us at Great Swamp.

Upcoming Event Calendar:

June 6 **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 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

Annual Club Picnic.

The venue is changing again this year to the home of Michael and May Markoff in Randolph, NJ.

No definite date has been set but expect the festivities to be held in early August. Plan on either the first or second weekend thereof... Details will follow as soon as they are known.

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 its 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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