



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Sunday, June 1st**
Bonsai Open House, 10 am - 4 pm

June 2014 Newsletter

June Meeting: Our Annual Bonsai Open House

Please bring a tree or two (or several !) to show at this year's **Bonsai 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. It's very good for the public to see trees at all levels of development—it helps novices (or prospective novices) to see what they might do with the skills they already possess, as well as the ideal that they hope to shoot for. You may also wish to **bring a tree to work on at the show** (at a table down among the display trees), which encourages visitors to ask questions and learn your techniques.

Club member **Jim Gillespie of Nature's Way Nursery** will be on hand selling tools, wire, soil, books, DVDs, and all manner of bonsai-related paraphernalia. We also expect to have some bonsai pots for sale. There will be lecture-demos, a few trees to be raffled, and a chance to get some new people interested in the club.

Here are some photos from previous years:



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

On Tuesday, May 13th, we sold (at cost) pre-mixed ingredients for **Michael Persiano's Superfeeding cake-mix formula**, which has been published in various bonsai magazines over the years. John Michalski made a 30 pound batch and it sold out. The recipe is provided on the last page of this newsletter.

The **main event** of the May meeting was a hands-on demonstration-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. Fred Aufschlager demonstrated the steps and techniques, assisted by Juan Calderon. A few members brought trees to try it out on, as shown below.



Plant Care Tips for June

It's getting late to dig or repot hardy trees, though it can still be done if you know what you're doing or have a smart friend. Your feeding, pinching, and pruning schedules should be in full swing by now. Pinch the terminal buds from deciduous trees, leaving only one pair of leaves, and most of your candle-pinching for evergreens will be winding down at this point. Everyone seems to have their own preferences for fertilizers and feeding schedules, so ask around or find a good book or online tutorial. Keep an eye peeled for insect pests and don't overdo it with the chemicals! Always read and follow manufacturers' directions, and be aware that plants in small containers are more easily stressed than plants growing in the ground. If you spray your trees with insecticides or fungicides, it's best to put them into the shade for the rest of the day. [JM]

Calendar of Events for 2013–2014

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.

July and August: Usually, our club takes the summer off, and our next official meeting will be the second Tuesday in September. However, check your email for details of our **Annual Potluck Club Picnic**, with date and location to be determined. **(If you'd like to host it this year, please contact Diego, Fred, or John at the emails found on the last page.)**

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty! (at the meetings, not at the picnic)

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

Club Dues: Dues are due at the September meeting. 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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Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff bill.kasakoff@gmail.com

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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

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

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

Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:

Send to:

GSBS c/o Fred Aufshläger
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:

Michael Persiano's Superfeeding “Fertilizer Cake” formula

- 3 parts cottonseed meal (acidic)
- 2 parts garden lime (alkaline)
- 1 part blood meal (nitrogen and iron)
- 1 part bone meal (phosphorus)
- 1 part dry Roots 2 Formula
- Mixing solution of full-strength Peters 20-20-20 and water, added until the mixture holds together but not soggy.

For every five pounds of dry ingredients:

- 1.5 oz. (44 ml) of Super Thrive
- 5 oz. (148 ml) of fish emulsion
- 1/4 tablespoon (3.7 ml) of Sevin

[John Michalski: I did without the Roots 2 Formula and the Super Thrive, because I couldn't find the former and don't have any faith in the latter. It worked out fine.]

Wear rubber gloves to protect yourself from the Sevin, and the smell.

Mix all ingredients into a thick paste the consistency of cookie dough, then spread out onto a large flat surface that can be placed into full sun (possibly on waxed paper or aluminum foil, I haven't tried this yet), but covered or removed at night or in case of rain. The mixture should be spread out into a sheet about 1/4 inch thick, and scored so that you can break the dried batter into 1 1/2 or 2 inch blocks, something like cut brownies. Once spread and scored, leave in full sun until baked completely dry through. Then break into small blocks and, if fully dry, store in a dry location until ready to use.

Since 2009 I have been placing 1-inch chunks of the dried cakes evenly spaced around my trees (4 or 5 for a larger pot, 1 or 2 for a smaller pot) as soon as bud growth is evident in the Spring. Depending on conditions I do a second round whenever the first set of chunks has entirely dissolved away. In 2010 this occurred by July 1st. Cease applying cakes in early August to avoid late bud break.

