



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

Summer, 2006 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 11

Open Workshop - Bring trees

## June Meeting Highlights:

The June meeting was a big success, although the attendance was low. Our Club Secretary Ken Olander took the stage, and using a combination of his own and Michael Persiano's fertilizer cake recipe, showed everyone in attendance how it was done. All the while fielding questions from the audience that ran the gamut from Azaleas to Zinc phosphate. Ken graciously allowed the other members to take a stab at it, and we all went home with enough fertilizer cakes to last the season. Thank You Ken!

## June Show:

Here are just a few small shots taken at the June show.



## Topic: Growing Trees From Seed

Anyone who has ever grown a plant from seed, remembers the satisfaction that comes from watching the germination and growth, as the plant reaches for the sun. The purest way to grow a bonsai is from seed. Every step from the rootage to the placement of each branch, can be monitored; ideally forming the "perfect" bonsai.

Although this method takes time, there are a few shortcuts used to speed up the process.

1. Growing seeds in the ground for a few years.
2. Choosing strong, fast growing cultivars.

Seedlings grown this way are also ideal for forest plantings. That being said, one of our members, David Seaton, has offered to obtain a few varieties of suitable seeds from a supplier. Dave has broken it down in a chart based on 10 people purchasing seeds.

|                  |                        |                       |                    |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| TRIDENT MAPLE:   | Seeds per oz. = 27800  | Price per oz. \$7.90  | 174 seeds = \$0.68 |
| RED JAP. MAPLE:  | Seeds per oz. = 15200  | Price per oz. \$14.25 | 95 seeds = \$2.11  |
| GREEN JAP. MAPLE | Seeds per oz. = 29500  | Price per oz. \$17.95 | 184 seeds = \$1.80 |
| KOREAN HORNBEAM: | Seeds per oz. = 49600  | Price per oz. \$8.90  | 310 seeds = \$0.43 |
| CHINESE ELM:     | Seeds per oz. = 128000 | Price per oz. \$6.65  | 800 seeds = \$0.67 |

So, for a cost of \$6.53 with tax, each of 10 people would receive all these seeds. A bargain! Looks like the start of a fun project coming on.

Additional information will be available at the July meeting.

## Presidential Corner



**Mark Schmuck**

Hi Again, Everybody!

I want to thank all the members who made it out to the bonsai garden tour, it was great fun for both the members whose gardens were being visited, and for the visitors. It was a slightly soggy day, but I was amazed by the distance people traveled to attend.

We'll try to arrange this again from time to time. Most diehard garden visitors don't care about the weather, and come out, rain or shine.

Your input is welcome on the subject.

Maybe Saturdays are better for most people instead of Sunday.

See you at the next 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) Continntal 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:

- July 11** Open Workshop. Bring in a tree to....  
A. Share with the club your future ideas and designs for that tree.  
B. Get advice from other members.  
C. Get evaluations from other members.  
The more trees the better the meeting. I think Abraham Lincoln said that.
- August 13** Sunday. 11:00 AM to ????. Picnic at John Michalski's in Morristown, directions to be announced. John will supply meat, rolls and some soft drinks. Call John at 973.829.0094 to coordinate what to bring.

### --- And, coming up ---

- September 12** Marty Schmalenberg will open our next season with a lecture.  
Organizational meeting with "changing of the guard".  
(Electioneering within 50' of the polls is acceptable...)
- September 16-17** George LeBolt's New England Bonsai Tour (See previous page for details)
- October 10** Topic to be announced...
- November 14** David Easterbrook Curator of Bonsai at the Montreal Botanical Gardens

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## July/August Plant Care Tips:

### *For July:*

Water, Water, Water. Just don't over-do it. We're into the hot part of the year now and your plants will be getting quite thirsty as the days heat up. With all the rain we've had, just don't let them get too saturated, if it keeps up.

Vigorous growth has slowed but a second surge can be expected. Be sure to keep your watering can handy as pots heat up and dry out quickly.

Wounds tend to heal quickly in the warm weather. It's a good time to prune your pines, but beware of over-pruning deciduous material at this time. It's difficult to see structure through the leaves and you may be making a mistake. Shari can be created now.

Your Junipers are really active and so should you be with pinching back. You can leaf-prune deciduous material up to mid July. Wiring can be done with abandon., especially conifers.

Continue feeding as in June. Give High Potassium to flowering species.

### *For August:*

Water, water, water, just like July. Maybe, more-so if weather is typical.

Older foliage will begin to look tired, but many trees are still growing. Next year's leaf and flower are already beginning to set.

As with July, wounds will heal quickly but generally best by mid month. Heavy pruning may result in new growth that won't necessarily harden in time for winter. Keep up your Jin and Shari creations.

Trimming should slow considerably except for Junipers which will continue their growth. Stop leaf pruning of deciduous this month.

Wiring of deciduous = Not now, but conifers = Yes, especially Junipers.

Reduce your nitrogen feeding this month, and eliminate it altogether by month's end.

Remove Weeds and "random" shoots. Maintain vigilant pest control. Remove old needles from pine shoots that are ready to wire. Stop air-layering by the end of the first week of the month. Too late for defoliation or heavy pruning now since new growth won't harden off by winter.

See you in September...

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:

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