



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

Summer, 2007 Newsletter

Regular Meetings on July 10, August 7 - Picnic: August 5
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ

June Highlights:

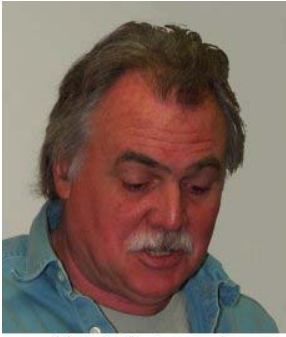
There were two Great Swamp events in June. The first was our annual show at the Arboretum and the second was a gathering at Stillwater Studio (Marty Schmallengerg's) for a wonderful lecture and slide show on the origins of Classical Bonsai by Bill Valavanis from International Bonsai in Rochester, NY. The pictures below are from our show on June 2nd. Unfortunately, your editor did not remember to bring the camera to Stillwater Studio, so there are no photos herein from that event. Some of the attendees did bring cameras but...

The show speaks for itself, but Bill's lecture was outstanding and merits a few words. Bill traced the origins of bonsai from its meager beginnings in Egypt, where Pharaohs kept herbal trees in pots for medicinal purposes, through the very early years in China and into Japan, where our art was perfected. It was interesting to see the evolution of bonsai presentation through the years of the Kokofu Ten show, where trees have evolved from being the "accent" to being the center of each display.

An excellent presentation, Bill...



Presidential Corner:



Mark Schmuck

HI Everybody!

I just got back from a tour of the new Midatlantic Festival location for next year. What a great place ! Lot's more room than the Ramada, much grander in looks , with everything very convenient to the lobby. One large room for the tree exhibit , more room in the vendor area, and the lobby is very spacious. The sleeping rooms are also a step up from the Ramada in size and comfort, and are still a bargain at 75.00\$ a nite.

The Hudson Valley Resort and Spa is off the New Palz exit on the NY Thruway. From this area, take Interstate 287 north to the NY Thruway north; a drive through New Palz and you're there (about 90 minutes). The mountainous scenery alone, not to mention all those stunted Pitch Pines on the outcroppings, make the trip worthwhile.

There are still a couple of openings for our Tuesday afternoon workshop with George LeBolt. Give me a call to reserve a tree. (973.625.4632) This is an excellent opportunity for some of our newer members to add a nice collected Larch to their collection. These trees have nice movement ,rough bark, and tiny foliage. Also there might still be a tropical (ficus) available first come basis. Wait till you see the Demo Tree!

See you at the meeting,

Mark

Picnic:

If last year is any indication, our Annual Picnic on August 5 at John Michalski's in Morristown should be a rousing success. Last year's picnic had a good turnout and everyone had a great time wandering about John's collection and enjoying the comederie and good food. Everyone brought something so we had a good variety of goodies on which to snack. Hope to see all the familiar faces again this year as well as the new ones.

Directions follow in a separate attachment.

Upcoming Event Calendar:

- July 10** Afternoon tropical workshop (12:30-4:00) with George LeBolt, Pres., Bergen Bonsai Society. The workshop will feature both tropicals and 3 collected American Larch. A good opportunity for newer members to get a good start with collected material. Sign up at our next meeting. George's lecture/demo topic at the regular meeting will feature a tropical styling.
- August 5** Picnic at John Michalski's in Morristown. Directions will follow.
- August 14** Meeting

--- And, coming up ---

- September 6-9** 2007 Bonsai Symposium at Rochester, NY, This year: Shohin Bonsai. Many talented artists will present lectures and workshops in Shohin Bonsai. Presented by Bill Valavanis. For more information and a registration form, go to <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/symposium>
- September 18** Julian Adams of Adams Bonsai in Virginia. There will be a BYOTree afternoon workshop, (12:30 to 4:00), followed by an evening lecture at the meeting. Please take note: This meeting will be on the Third Tuesday.

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.

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

A Message from the president of the National Bonsai Federation:

PLEASE JOIN THE NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION

And support the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the

U.S. National Arboretum - Washington DC.

Why?

Because it was the first bonsai Museum in the world

Because it is the best Museum of it's kind in the world.

Because it is an international destination for bonsai and Penjing lovers.

Because it is a unique National American Museum in the Capital of the USA

And: because it belongs to YOU!

Find out more and join at the website: <http://www.bonsai-nbf.org>



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