



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Saturday, August 15th**

Time: Noon—whenever

Annual Club Picnic

Bring food & a giveaway

August 2015 Newsletter

Recap: July Meeting: Informal Meetup, Saturday July 18th

We got our wires a bit crossed in preparation for July's informal meeting—your trusty editor posted it as a picnic, but not everybody was clear on that. Nonetheless, a small but appreciative group assembled at the home of club member **Kerry and Jill Heck** in Pequannock NJ. There was a lot of good food and people had a nice time of it. Thanks again, Kerry and Jill!

August Meeting: Annual Club Picnic—Saturday, August 15th

This month we will have the “official” club picnic at the home of trusty club treasurer **Fred Aufschläger** and his trusty wife **Doris** (also Aufschläger), starting at **noon** and running until whenever we all get tired. Please **RSVP ASAP** to Fred at fdauf@msn.com, to let them know you're coming, and a food/beverage/dessert item/goodie that you can bring to the party. Fred tells me they have a charcoal grill and a smoker which can double as a grill, if someone wants to bring stuff to grill. Ears of corn can be boiled inside or outside on a hotplate.

Fred also tells me that, as part of the picnic, we will have an **auction of bonsai-related stuff** people want to get rid of, so check your potting bench and growing area for something that needs a new home. There will also be an **“everybody wins” raffle** of small donated items which are **not necessarily bonsai-related**. (This was a big hit last year, so please do bring something in.)

Fred's home address and phone number can be found on the last page of this newsletter. **Please come and enjoy the fun! First-timers, family & friends welcome!**

Dues Coming Due

Don't forget that **annual dues** are expected at the **September** meeting. They remain at \$40 for individual, \$50 family membership, and help support club activities such as hosting touring experts. See last page for details.

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

Repeat: Request for Help—Publicity for our Annual Open House 2016

The Great Swamp Bonsai Society **needs a volunteer** to shoulder the responsibility of **publicizing our annual Open House**. (Your humble newsletter editor has taken on this role for several years, but as a school teacher June turns out to be a rather hectic month for tackling outside interests.)

The tasks are relatively simple but need to be managed in a timely manner. And, they all come in at the same time, in May. These include:

- **visiting the online websites** for the area news outlets (**NJ.com, Starledger.com, Dailyrecord.com, etc.**) and supplying the necessary details by filling in all the fields.
- There are also **online websites** for entering show information for **NJTV**.
- We also, we have found, need to **double-check the Morris County Parks publications** to make sure they have the correct info.
- Finally, this person should take responsibility for **putting up our banners** (we plan on having two new ones manufactured this year) out in front of the Arboretum's main entrance on Hanover Avenue, a few weeks before the event (this would be done by the Arboretum's personnel, but someone needs to check in and offer assistance if necessary—this year our banner was simply tied to the wooden fencing, in such a manner that passing motorists would be unlikely to read it; what we need is to have the banners staked out on the grass perpendicularly to the road, one banner facing each way.
- Some years, we have been able **to get an article in the Morristown Daily Record and/or the Newark Star Ledger**, with photos. This can be a great help, but only if the papers are contacted well in advance so that the article comes out the week before the show (we have had them go to press the Friday afterwards, and that doesn't boost attendance at all!)

It may look like a lot, but in fact most of it is accomplished in an hour or two at your computer, sending the same text to every website.

If interested (or, at least, willing), please contact John at huonia@aol.com.

OLD NEWS: Club meetings in July and August!

In response to club member input, we have decided that January and February have not been great months for bonsai meetings—too many of the members' trees are frozen to the ground or buried in snow, and the tropicals don't like coming out into the cold. Therefore, this year we have scheduled and held meetings in July and August (**at club members' homes—next summer we will have our usual classrooms**). However, come September, we will return to our usual meeting place at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, the second Tuesday of the month, September through December. Then, we will skip January and February, and resume meetings in March.

Plant Care Tips for August

You don't need telling that the summer has gone from cool and mild to hot and rather dry. Your landscape plants may be wilting as I send off this newsletter. Watering your trees well, and keeping them from overheating, is essential at this time of year. Several of us have noted that some of our more northern species, such as American Larch, tend to die off not from drought, but from having their roots cooked by the persistent heat. Move trees to additional shade during heat waves if you have concerns.

Since August can be a very hot and dry month, it is imperative that trees be watered every day, maybe twice daily. Not much else can be done except to feed regularly. From August on, trees will need less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus to harden the wood and induce budding. Continue to pot up air layerings that put out roots. Branches start to thicken during August, and wire which begins to bite into the branches should be loosened or removed. [DY]

August is pretty much about keeping your trees sufficiently watered against the heat, and beginning to harden them up for the coming fall. This is about the time that most people start backing off their feeding, pinching, and pruning schedules. Don't fertilize too aggressively, or else you risk the trees pushing too much new growth that will not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather comes in. [JM]

We Still Have Bags of Akadama for sale!

Fred still has Akadama soil, in two granule sizes—2.5 mm (small grade) and 5.0 mm (medium grade). Bags are 18 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price.

Remember to save your copper wire clippings!

Following the November 2014 meeting, club member Kerry Heck brought in our collected copper wire clippings to turn in for scrap. All together it was 23 pounds of copper and a pound of brass wire screen, which brought the club **\$55.00** – more than the price of an annual membership. If we all contribute in the coming year, I'm sure it could be a lot more, so please save the pieces and bring them to the meetings.

We are cleaning up our mailing list

Our email list has grown exponentially over the past few years, and we need to clean house. Last month, we sent out an APB requesting a response from any **non-members** who wish to continue receiving our newsletter. We have dropped the names of those who did not respond, so if you know someone who wants back in, have them drop us a line at huonia@aol.com and we'll gladly oblige.

This year's schedule of topics—Please Let Us Know what you want!

The GSBS board will be meeting in August to put together **the 2015-2016 calendar of meeting topics**. As always, we appeal to you, the members, to **let us know what you'd like to do!** Please don't be shy—particularly you newcomers out there—our club exists for the education and benefit of its members, and we want to put together a program that will help you develop your skills and appreciation of the art of bonsai. **Please contact any of the addresses on page 6** with your ideas, suggestions, and preferences.

Calendar of Events for 2014–2015

August 15th (Saturday): **Annual Club Picnic, noon to whenever**, at the home of Fred and Doris Aufschläger.

September 8th (Tuesday): Regular meeting at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 7-10 pm. Topics to be determined.

Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, 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.

***Novices and non-members always welcome!
Come and plan to get your hands dirty!***

Club Dues: **Dues are due at the September meeting.** It's only \$40 for an individual membership, or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club treasurer **Fred Aufschläger** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

GSBS Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com
Phone: 973.224.8139
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

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

Treasurer: Fred Aufschläger fdauf@msn.com
Phone: 908.766.1359
17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

Great Swamp Bonsai Society

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

Club Information

Location:

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum
353 East Hanover Ave,
Morristown, NJ 07962

Date:

Usually the 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 Membership Registration:

Send to:

GSBS c/o Fred Aufshläger New Renewal
17 Lakeview Drive,
Bernardsville, NJ 07924 Individual (\$40.00) Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:
