



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

September, 2006 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, September 12

Featuring: Martin Schmalenberg

July Meeting Highlights:

Our July meeting featured an “open” workshop where members brought trees for display, critique, styling assistance and just to work on. Assistance with trees was offered by Pete Michienzi and other senior members of the Society. All in all, everyone enjoyed this hands-on session and many trees left in much different condition than when they arrived.

Critiques of most trees were offered and discussions ensued about how to best improve styling, capitalize on a tree's strong points and minimize effects of their weaknesses.

Here are a few of the trees that were displayed and some random shots taken during the meeting.



August Picnic:

Our annual August picnic was held at John Michalski's home in Morristown this year and we had a very nice turnout. There was plenty of food available and good comeraderie was found in abundance. John proved to be a well organized and gracious host, having prepared much food in advance of our arrival. Everyone brought a little something to round out the occasion. The weather cooperated much better than it has in previous years so that we were able to enjoy the entire afternoon without the threat of rain to dampen our spirits.

We were delighted to see John's collections of various artifacts and artwork as well as his home and bonsai collection. Thank you, John for such a great day.

Presidential Corner:



Mark Schmuck

Hi Everybody !

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer, I think we can all agree that weather wise it was just about perfect!

This meeting starts our new year, and with it comes our Election of Officers, a chance to cast your vote for any prospects who may come forth on their own, or who are submitted by another member. Have some thoughts in mind.

The September. meeting will be hosted by Marty Schmalenberg, who will, along with a slide presentation, talk about training and developing a "bonsai eye". All members are urged to bring a problematic tree or two, to help round out the program.

Remember: Dues are due starting this month.

See you at the meeting

Mark

Upcoming Event Calendar:

- 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 newsletter for details)
--- And, coming up ---
- October 10** Club Auction -- also-- Presentation by John Michalski on Overwintering Your Bonsai - Lecture and video. All members are urged to bring their unwanted bonsai related items for auction.
- November 14** David Easterbrook. Afternoon workshop, 12:30-5:30 bring your own tree. The club will have trees available also. Evening lecture-demo at the meeting 7:00- 10:00pm. Mr. Easterbrook is the curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden Bonsai Collection, maintains an extensive collection of his own, and travels to promote bonsai knowledge.
- Decembar 12** Annual Holiday Party
- Future Reference** Midlantic Bonsai Societies Festival APRIL 20-21-22
Guest Artists: Robert Steven - from Jakarta, Indonesia
Guy Guidry - from Louisiana, U.S.A.
Ted Madsen - from California, U.S.A.

September Plant Care Tips.

The weather should be starting to cool down a bit, giving our precious trees a break from the past summer's sweltering heat. Those trees that survived (and we hope that means ALL of your trees) certainly deserve the cooler weather that's coming.

Growth slows to a standstill. Roots and buds will harden as seeds are dispersed and inner leaves begin to fall. The first hints of Autumn color will start to show due to warm days and cool nights. It's time to start to relax.

Prune only Pines now if you must. Deciduous trees may still be fooled into growth, but any new buds will be gone after the first frost.

No need to trim things now other than the Junipers. They will continue on into the beginning of next month. But remember, newly pinched shoots will turn brown.

It's not advisable to do any heavy wiring now because without new growth, branches will not set and any damage to the bark and structure of the branches may let in frost during the winter and cause additional damage..

Your trees are beginning to require less water now so you may slow down the watering. Remember though, trees can still dry out quickly on those abnormally hot, sunny days. So beware of that.

Feed with nitrogen-free fertilizer all month. Add some additional bone meal to pines, whose root systems will remain active throughout the winter. They will appreciate the extra boost come spring.

This will be the last opportunity to be creative with Jin and Shari while the sap is still flowing. Later on, you'll find the bark much more difficult to loosen and remove and wounds will not begin to heal until spring. While most pests are slowing down, be alert to certain active ones on conifers. (Persist3nt buggers, aren't they...).

Remove leaf litter and other debris from both the trees and soil surface to prevent any diseases from taking hold of your trees. Collected seeds may be sown outdoors. Moss planted now will continue to grow during warm spells and will be well-established for spring. Try to limit your moss planting to the areas around roots. Too much of a good thing will tend to harbor pests and prevent you from doing a good inspection of the "grounds".

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 Note about Dues and Membership:

Your dues help your club to function during the year and pay for special events and guest lecturers. The club can not continue to exist without your attendance and financial as well as moral support. We ask that you come prepared to "ante up" at the September meeting, or as soon thereafter as you can. Our annual dues continue to be a very reasonable \$30.00 for individual membership and \$40.00 for family.

Please do your part to help the Great Swamp Bonsai Society continue to be successful. We also encourage you to tell a friend about the club and suggest that he or she attend our meetings to see what we're all about. Referrals are the best way of attracting new members and thereby helping Great Swamp to grow. In this way, we can become the premier Bonsai Society in the Northeast.

Its' up to you...

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Be sure to visit our website at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai>

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