



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

September, 2007 Newsletter

Next regular Meeting on September 18 (Third Tuesday)  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ

## July and August Highlights:

We had several Great Swamp events this summer. The first was our July meeting at the Arboretum preceded by a workshop, the second was our Annual Picnic at John Michalski's house in Morristown, and the third was our August meeting.

The July meeting featured a tropical demonstration and lecture by George LeBolt from Bergen Bonsai. George fashioned a *Ficus Nerifolia* that can be seen below in Before and After shots. The afternoon workshop was conducted by George in which he assisted members with styling of *Ficus* and also with collected Larch. (July pictures, below, courtesy of Diego Pablo)

The Annual Picnic was nicely attended. Food was plentiful and of sufficient variety to satisfy the most discriminating palates. (what did he just say???) There were salads, burgers, dogs, venison filet + sausage (courtesy of Ken Olander) and plenty to drink. Everyone in attendance had an enjoyable time. And we learned about raptors (hawks and birds of prey) from Robert Lin, who is very knowledgeable on the subject.

The August meeting centered on collecting non-native species in the wild. John Michalski presented a video of a recent "hunting" trip, wherein he collected Amur Maple, Bush Honeysuckle and Wild Apple.. He brought examples that were collected this spring that showed some promise as future bonsai.



Three of the Workshop Trees: 2 Ficus and a Larch

Demo Before

Demo After  
with illustrative sketch



Picnic Pix.

## Presidential Corner:



*Mark Schmuck*

Hi Everybody,

I hope everyone had a great summer! Looking forward to seeing everybody at our reorganization meeting (note the 3rd. Tue. ) At the meeting we'll be accepting your nominations for Club Officers. We'll also have a guest speaker, Julian Adams from Adam's Bonsai down in Virginia, Julian will give a Powerpoint lecture on Pines. He will also be bringing some "Zuicho" white pine cuttings for sale, along with some other goodies. Tuesday afternoon Julian will hold a bring your own trees workshop at our meeting room starting at 1 o'clock The fee is 50\$ and there are still a few spots open. Give me a call 973-625-4632 or e-mail me [lofty235@optonline.net](mailto:lofty235@optonline.net) to reserve a spot.

This being my last President's Message, I'd like to thank all the Club members who helped me tremendously over the past three years. The members who took a turn at hosting a meeting, and shared their knowledge with the rest of us. The members who always volunteer to do what needs to be done. The guys who come early and stay late making sure the room is clean for the next day. The members who bring their trees, so that we can all see and learn from them.

And lastly, my officers: Michael Markoff -VicePres. For his great ideas, and for taking over when I needed him. Ken Olander-- Secretary: One of those guys who shows up early to set up and stays late to clean up! Fred Aufschläger -Treasurer extraordinaire! Great job with the finances, the raffles, the pots, the magazines, Hosting many a guest speaker in his home. Dan Boehmke-- The Newsletter Wheww ! Great Job! our newsletter was up there with the best of them. Thank's for making my job a little easier.

Mark

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## Upcoming Event Calendar:

### 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. Club elections will be held at this meeting.

Please take note: This meeting will be on the Third Tuesday.

### October 9

Tentative Topic: WINTER CARE

### November 13

CLUB AUCTION. Please begin grooming your auction material for maximum saleability. Plan to bring trees, tools, pots, books nursery material, etc. Plan to sell and plan to BUY! Important fundraiser for GSBS. Clear out winter storage space by getting rid of those nice plants that you don't need any more.

### December 11

HOLIDAY PARTY.

### January, February & March.

Possible topics include: Pest Control. Soils, Field Collecting, Fertilizer Cake Making. See Mark, John or Fred if you have other topic ideas,

### April

MABS in New Paltz. A guest speaker will be invited to our meeting the following Tuesday.

### May

Topic - Accent plants and show display. led by Michael Markoff

### June

First Saturday - Club Open House at the Arboretum.

## 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

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## Other topics of interest:

Several topics have been discussed for future consideration. Among those are:

- 1) Weekend beginner's workshops
- 2) A bus trip to Brooklyn Botanical Gardens
- 3) Caravan to Allshapes nursery with stop-over at Rosade Bonsai and lunch in New Hope, PA.
- 4) Preparation, cultivation and design of another Club Tree for future fundraising.
- 5) A new club brochure and improved access to our web pages on the arboretum website.

If any of these ideas seem like something with which you would like to be involved, please don't be shy. We encourage your input on these and any other ideas which might be helpful to our club and/or would help in our fundraising efforts. You should also feel free to donate trees, stones, books, tools, pots, etc that can be raffled (not auctioned) for fundraising. See Mark, John or Fred with your ideas.

We also encourage you to suggest ideas for meeting topics and if you feel able to host a meeting, please speak up. We can help you to work out a "lesson plan" to get you started.

## Contact Information:

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