



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

September, 2008 Newsletter

Next Regular Meeting: 7 PM, Tuesday, September 9, 2008  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ

## July and August Highlights:

Great Swamp had two events during our “off” months this summer. The first was the Maine collecting trip in late June and the second was our Annual Picnic, hosted this year by yours truly in Rockaway, giving John a well deserved break.

The collecting trip was “hosted” by John Michalski and Juan Calderon; “attended” by Kerry Heck and Ed Ullrich. From the pictures below, you can see that the attendees had a great time. They brought home some very nice specimens from which Great (Swamp) Bonsai shall be developed for display at future meetings/open houses. Look for Kerry’s and Ed’s writeups in our next newsletter. (Space prevents inclusion here...)

The picnic was well attended and there was plenty of comederie and food to go arround.

Major photo credits for this issue go to Ed Ullrich for his documentation of the Maine trip. Being on the grill this year didn’t leave much time for the camera, so we only present a few picnic shots.



Come on, Ed, get serious... You’re here for Trees,  
not fish and chocolate moose (mousse???)...



Really rugged terrain...



Some Picnic Pix.

## Presidential Corner:



First I'd like to extend our thanks to Dan and Pat Boehmke for hosting our club picnic on August 17th. They did a great job and their home and property were a wonderful place for the event. If you missed it this year, don't pass up your next chance to see Dan and Pat's water garden. Or Dan's BBQ babyback ribs! The weather was spectacular and everyone who turned up (about 25 of us, near as I could tell) had a great time.

With Autumn peeping at us from the horizon, there is so much exciting activity coming up for our little club.

First of all, make sure to get your dues to Fred by mail or at the September meeting. We've booked several great guest speakers for you for the 2008-2009 season, so please help us pay the bills.

The September meeting will focus on wiring Junipers, and introducing Study Groups. Fred, Juan, and Pete will bring trees to demonstrate advanced wiring skills, and Dan will bring in a Shimpaku to solicit your ideas and opinions. Fred and I will lead a discussion about Study Groups and help you get started in forming a Study Group of your own.

October will be a very busy month for GSBS. We have not one but TWO bonsai displays in the upstairs hall, a full-room display for Sunday October 19th, and the perimeter of the hall for Sunday October 26th. So please start getting your good stuff in shipshape for those dates. Also on 19th, I will be leading a beginner's workshop in the downstairs classroom, and I can use some help for this. Please put your name on the volunteer lists at the September meeting.

Please note the October meeting is on Monday the 27th, and will feature guest speaker David Easterbrook. If you would like to participate in a bring-your-own workshop that afternoon, please contact me at [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com) ASAP.

November's meeting will be on Tuesday the 18th, and will feature guest speaker Martin Schmalenberg, who will do a presentation on Literati. Please bring your literati-friendly bonsai for Marty's advice and opinions.

The December meeting will feature our Holiday Party and Club Auction. Please get your best stuff in shape for the auction, and look for supplementary emails from me for details.

January will feature guest speaker Sean Smith on the subject of bonsai stands and bonsai display. February and March are still open but in April we will host one of the presenters from MABS and in May Fred will present a lecture-demo on grafting and air-layering. June is our annual Open House already!

What a year we have! So keep an eye peeled for breaking news, and we hope to see you all at the meetings!

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## Upcoming Event Calendar:

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|----------------------------|---|
| <b>September 9</b>         | Wiring Junipers with Fred Aufschläger, Juan Calderon and Pete Michienzi.  |
| <b>October 19 &amp; 26</b> | The Arboretum's "Focus on Japan" (See above). We are committed to having 10 to 12 club trees on display around the perimeter of the upstairs hall.  |
| <b>October 27</b>          | <b>(Fourth Monday)</b> Guest Speaker: David Easterbrook and afternoon workshop. See John to sign up.  |
| <b>November 18</b>         | <b>(Third Tuesday)</b> Guest Speaker: our own Martin Schmalenberg. Topic = Literati. Bring your literati and "pre-literati" for comment and opinion. (tools too, if you plan to work on what you bring..) |
| <b>December 9</b>          | HOLIDAY PARTY and Club Auction.   |
| <b>January</b>             | Guest speaker: Sean Smith. Topic: Bonsai Stands and Displaying Bonsai   |
| <b>Feb. Mar. Apr.</b>      | Open at present.  |
| <b>May</b>                 | Preparing for MABS and guest lecturer.  |

## 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. **With the dearth of rain in August, keep an eye on trees so as not to let them dry out...**

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 are still open for future consideration. Among those are:

- 1) Weekend beginner's workshops
- 2) Caravan to Allshapes nursery with stop-over at Rosade Bonsai and lunch in New Hope, PA.
- 3) Preparation, cultivation and design of another Club Tree for future fundraising.
- 4) 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 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.

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**And finally, let us not forget that DUES are once again due. See Fred.**

## Contact Information:

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