



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

September, 2009 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown

General Meeting: September 15, 2009 - 3rd Tuesday

With Workshop at 1:PM with Roy Nagatoshi

Summer Highlights:

Please accept my apology for not having provided everyone with a newsletter or picnic notice over the summer. My schedule did not leave much time for such pursuits this year. Neither was I able to attend the annual picnic, held this year at the Markoff's. I understand that it was quite a hit for all in attendance.

I've provided a few pictures below from our June show at the arboretum. The central position goes to this year's People's Choice Award winner, Mark Schmuck's *Potentilla* (Cinquoil). This year's turnout was way beyond our expectations thanks in part to some pre-show publicity provided by the Daily Record and by having our sign posted for the week before the show. Thanks to all members who participated and to all others who took the time to attend. Kudos to all!



Presidential Corner:



Hello again everyone,

Welcome to the Great Swamp Bonsai Society's 2009-2010 Season! I hope you all had a good summer – my garden certainly enjoyed the rain and the cool, as did most of my bonsai collection – a couple of the junipers are looking a little wobbly, though. At least we were in no danger of water restrictions!

I'd like to thank May and Michael Markoff for hosting this year's club picnic at their home in Randolph NJ. The weather was perfect (that didn't happen often this year, did it?) and the pool was delightful. Around of dozen of us turned up for great food, wonderful company, and beautiful bonsai in Michael's collection. If you missed this one, please plan on joining us next time.

We will be hosting a special guest at our September meeting (see below), but we will also hold a very short "business meeting" to elect our club officers. This year's candidates are Diego Pablos, president; Michael Markoff, vice president; Fred Aufschlager, Treasurer; and Ken Olander, secretary. If you are interested in throwing your hat into the ring, please contact John at huonia@aol.com immediately, so we can put your name into consideration. Dan Boehmke will be continuing in his role as editor of our club newsletter (for which we are, as always, very grateful).

We've been working hard to put together an informative and entertaining schedule of events for the coming months, and here's what we have so far:

Upcoming Calendar:

Tuesday, September 15th – *NOTE: this is the THIRD Tuesday of the month* –

Guest artist Roy Nagatoshi, who will work with, and comment on, trees brought in by our club members. Mr. Nagatoshi is the President of the California Bonsai Society, and has taught and presented lectures throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and South Africa. We will also be hosting an afternoon "bring your own" workshop with Mr. Nagatoshi between 1:00 and 5:00 pm in our usual meeting room – the cost of the workshop is \$50.00 per participant, and you may bring several trees to work on if you wish.

October:

Juan Calderon will lead a demonstration of care and maintenance of Pine bonsai, including wiring and needle-plucking. Autumn is the optimal month for these tasks, so bring your pine bonsai for Juan's comments and assistance.

November:

In response to the needs of our growing membership, we are planning a detailed presentation on bonsai winter care. Whether you have one tree or dozens of them, we can help you protect your bonsai from the ravages of the cold months, be they in a cold frame, planted in the yard, or protected on the porch or patio.

December:

Holiday Party and Club Auction. Bring something to nosh on, along with your unwanted tools, books, magazines, pots, trees, display items, or anything else bonsai-related to be included in our auction. And don't forget your checkbook in case you see something that you can't resist.

January & February are still open.

March:

Rock Planting demonstration, led by our own Fred Aufschlager, with copious assistance from interested novices. Get your hands dirty and learn how to make a bonsai display of trees growing on stones.

April:

We will host one of the presenters from the Mid Atlantic Bonsai Society's Spring Festival held in upstate New York.

Upcoming Calendar, continued:

May:

Beginner Workshop. We will supply small plant material and pots, and help beginners (or anyone else) design and pot a boxwood or shimpaku bonsai.

June:

Annual Open House. First Saturday of June, open to the public between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

That's it for the time being. Thank you for allowing me to preside over our club for the past two years. It has been a pleasure, and I hope to see you all throughout the coming lecture season!

Kind regards,
John Michalski

September Plant Care Tips:

The weather has been really great for our trees this summer, giving our precious trees a break from the usual sweltering heat of the summer. All of our trees should have really enjoyed the unusually cool weather. Let's hope that the fall and winter don't serve up unseasonably cold periods to make up for the nice summer.

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

One Final Note:

DUES ARE DUE. \$30.00 per individual, \$40.00 per family. See Fred at the meeting.

Contact Information:

- President:** John Michalski - Contact John at Huonia@aol.com
or by Phone: 973.829.0094
- VP:** Michael Markoff - Contact Mike at MJSmart@aol.com
or by Phone: 973.895.6287
- Treasurer:** Fred Aufschläger - Contact Fred @ fdauf@msn.com
or by phone at 908.766.1359
or 17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924.
- Secretary:** Ken Olander - Contact Ken at bowhunter444@verizon.net.
or by phone at 732.202.0677
- Newsletter:** Dan Boehmke - Contact Dan at danno@earthling.net
or by phone at 973.627.1318
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Great Swamp Bonsai Society
c/o John Michalski
223 Mt. Kemble Ave
Morristown, NJ 07960

