



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, September 10th**  
**7:00-10:00 pm**

**September 2013 Newsletter**

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## This Month's Meeting

This month we'll be presenting seasonal bonsai practices, including **leaf and branch pruning on Beech and Wisteria**, and **wiring Spruce**. We will also present a lecture/demo/**hands-on practice session on basic wiring on Juniper**, so you newcomers should come prepared to help out and get your hands on a tree or two. **Bring your own or work on one of ours!**

As always, you are welcome to bring any bonsai from home for questions, comments, or to show off!

## Club Picnic

This year's club picnic was hosted Sunday, August 11, by **Hank and Elaine Gross** at their home in Layton, NJ. About a dozen members came out to enjoy food, fun, friendship, and a little bonsai too. Thanks again, Hank and Elaine!

## The Club Schedule for 2013–2014 (see next page)

In August, Fred Aufschlager, Bill Kasakoff, John Michalski, and Diego Pablos put their heads together to draw up our schedule of topics for the coming year. We always do our best to provide a program that you will find interesting, informative, and inspirational, but **we do need your help**. Please email us with your ideas for topics, demos, or guest speakers that you would like to see. The club exists for you, and can only benefit from increased participation from all of our membership.

## September Advanced Workshop cancelled

We have had to cancel the proposed workshop scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28th, with Japanese artist **Mr. Hirojoshi Yamaji**, due to lack of club interest. It is unfortunate that response has been so low that it was unreasonable for us to keep this commitment. Remember, we try to offer experiences for all levels of expertise, but they can only be provided if you let us know what you want, and if enough people respond to make it both worthwhile for the artist and economically viable for the club.

## Calendar of Events for 2013–2014

**September 10 (Tuesday):** Seasonal Bonsai Procedures: Beech, Wisteria, Juniper. Fundamentals of Wiring: Juniper. **Bring your own or work with ours!**

**October 8 (Tuesday):** We are still working out the details for hosting **guest artist David Easterbrook**. Stay tuned.

**November 12 (Tuesday):** Basic Bonsai Design. Hands-on practice with an advanced-quality juniper. Great opportunity for beginners to learn styling basics such as choosing the front, selecting primary branches, creating artistic deadwood, and wiring principle branches.

**December 17 (THIRD Tuesday):** Holiday Party, Club Auction, and Open House. Bring snacks, beverages, desserts, and anything bonsai-related that needs a new home—and your checkbook!

**January (Second Tuesday):** “Night of the Mugho Pines” – A competition, of sorts, with several similar Mugho Pines presented to teams of two, each of whom has to create a sketch of their proposed result, and three hours to make it happen! (We had lots of fun with a similar exercise a few years ago with “Night of the Junipers.”)

**February (THIRD Tuesday):** Forest Planting: Root Pruning and Repotting. Several years ago, we worked in two teams to design and pot up two separate large forest plantings, one of Korean Hornbeam, and the other of Zelkova. It’s now time to revisit both forest plantings, which is a great opportunity for novices to get their hands dirty and get some experience.

**March (Second Tuesday):** Repotting Demo-Workshop: Bring your own, or work with ours. We will also **vote for the 3 trees to represent GSBS at this year’s MABS Spring Festival**.

**April 29: Guest Speaker Suthin Sukosolvisit**, fresh from his appearance at MABS 2014.

**May (Second Tuesday):** Air-Layering Demo-Workshop. Bring your own, or work with ours. Find out how to get interesting bonsai material from the tops of stock plants, or get better rootage from that bonsai that needs a bit of help. Fertilizer Cake-Making. We will provide the ingredients to make large batches of bonsai fertilizer cakes, which you can bring home in ziploc bags, to spread out on baking sheets and dry at home.

**June (First Sunday):** GSBS Open House. Lectures, demos, raffles, vendors, dozens of trees on display. A great outing for the club, and a great opportunity for newcomers to see what we’re all about.

***Novices and non-members always welcome!***

***Come and plan to get your hands dirty!***

**Club Dues:** If you haven't yet paid your dues, it's only \$40 for an individual member or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club treasurer **Fred Aufschlager** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

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

## **Plant Care Tips for September**

It is about time to begin hardening-off your trees for the cold months ahead, and preparing a safe place to keep them. For the most part you should not attempt collecting, repotting, air-layering or drastic pruning at this time of year.

**Feeding:** Please note that fertilization must be handled with sensitivity, or else you risk pushing too much new growth that will not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather sets in. Following the needs of outdoor plantings, it can be said that deciduous trees may benefit from a low-nitrogen (that is, higher in potassium and phosphorous) feeding after the leaves have fallen but prior to November 1; this can promote bud formation and strengthen the trunk and root system for winter. Similarly, evergreens may be fed a low-nitrogen fertilizer, until the end of October. Most reference books refer to a single Autumn feeding.

**Repotting and Training:** Japanese texts recommend autumn repotting for most evergreens, but they also cite early spring for each of these—considering the difference in climate, I'd stick with early spring. Cherry and flowering quince are repotted by the Japanese in October. Many needled evergreens are most successfully wire-trained during the autumn months, but most sources say wait until October or November.

**Winter protection:** Start planning how and where you will store your trees for the winter. In a "normal" year—and when was the last time we had one of those?—most of our outdoor bonsai can stay virtually unprotected beyond Thanksgiving, but this holiday is commonly used as a start date for winter protection. If you have only a few trees, it may be possible to plant them directly into the ground, pot and all, but for larger collections it may prove useful to build some sort of cold-frame or organize some space in an unheated shed or some-such. You will not need these precautions for a few months yet, but it pays to plan ahead! [JM]

Watering continues to be the most important task during this month. Reduce feeding slightly at this point, and use low-nitrogen or nitrogen-free fertilizer. September is a good month to take hardwood cuttings. This is the last opportunity to pot up air layerings as they may not be able to root sufficiently to withstand the winter [if you wait longer]. Also remove wires from branches that have set properly and be aware of thickening branches and trunks on wired pines. [DY]

## Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, now 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 tremendous 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](http://manhattanbonsai.com) or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

### Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos [bonsai4ever@aol.com](mailto:bonsai4ever@aol.com)

Phone: 973.224.8139  
289 Mount Hope Ave.  
K-12, Rockaway Twp.  
Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff [bill.kasakoff@gmail.com](mailto:bill.kasakoff@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Fred Aufschläger [fdauf@msn.com](mailto:fdauf@msn.com)

Phone: 908.766.1359  
17 Lakeview Drive  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski [huonia@aol.com](mailto: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:

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 Aufschläger  
17 Lakeview Drive,  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

New  Renewal

Individual (\$40.00)  Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If Family Membership, please list other members:

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