



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, September 9th**

September 2014 Newsletter

Annual Club Picnic (Sunday, August 10th)

The GSBS picnic on August 10th was a great success. Some 25-or-so members, family and friends came to the stone patio at the home of **Fred and Doris Aufschlager** on a fine, sunny August afternoon. With club member **Beth Worley** expertly handling the grilling duties, an abundance of franks, burgers and wings disappeared in short order. Members brought all manner of good food and drink to go with the grilled fare, accompanied by Beth's 36 ears of corn boiling in the kitchen. Fred and Doris' daughter, **Lisi**, came down from Albany, NY to help keep things moving in the kitchen and clean up afterward.

Picnic activities included a tour of Fred's bonsai garden, *tsukubai*, and pre-bonsai holding area; looking over the two sales tables loaded with recently donated items such as pots, books, starter plants, and copper wire; viewing Doris' considerable artworks inside and outside the house; and getting acquainted with one another and friends and families.

The highlight was the free raffle, which started out with a table full of Doris and Fred's smaller ceramics, small bonsai tools, accent plants, bonsai books and photo albums from Japan, aluminum wire, and various other smaller objects of interest.

Bill Kasakoff, our able auctioneer, graciously volunteered to read off about 80 raffle numbers, which enabled winners, who had preselected four different color raffle tickets, to select, one after the other, in four selection rounds, whatever they liked until the table was empty. Everyone was a winner several times over. We thank everyone for their participation and support. If you missed it this year, please plan to attend next time!

This month's meeting: Show and Tell

As summer winds down, we've all had a growing season to start new bonsai and develop the ones we've had for a while. **Please bring in a tree or two**, to explain to the rest of us where it's been and where it's going—what you've done with it, and what you might have planned for it. There will have been some surprises—great successes and perhaps some disappointments, with lessons learned.

As always, feel free to bring along trees for comments, advice, and suggestions, too. Beginners, feel welcome to bring your bonsai too—nothing beats seeing your tree in the flesh (“in the bark”?) so that you can get ideas for possible future styling and development.

Club Soil Mix: We Still Have Bags of Akadama for sale!

Fred still has a large supply of Akadama soil, in two granule sizes—2.5 mm (small grade) and 5.0 mm (medium grade). Bags are 18 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price.

Bonsai Magazines for Sale

Fred also has received an extensive collection of various bonsai magazines, in continuous series spanning from around 1990 to 2008. He will bring some of it to Tuesday's meeting, and if there's something in particular you are looking for, please inquire.

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. **(Don't allow yourself to forget the surprising, and persistent, cold of last winter!)** 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. (We have lately read that late August-early September is the appropriate time for wiring spruce, but have not acquired first-hand experience following this advice.)

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]

Calendar of Events for 2014–2015 (topics subject to change)

September 9th: Show and Tell. Please bring in your successes from the summer. We'd love to see one or more trees that you've worked on, grown out, restyled, wired, or are just plain proud of. Every tree has a story, and we'd like to hear yours. **Please also feel free to bring in any tree that you wish to get help with, etc.**

Also: DUES ARE DUE (see page 4).

October 14th: Guest Presenter. (We hope to have David Easterbrook, a club favorite, but the details have yet to be worked out.)

November 18th (THIRD Tuesday): Topic to be determined.

December 9th: Club Holiday Party, Bonsai Auction, Open House.

January 13th: Initial Styling of stock Shimpaku Junipers. Club trees, hands-on workshop. Workshop trees available for purchase if desired.

February 10th: (tentative topic) **Pruning & Styling Fruiting Trees.** Apples, crabapples, etc. Lecture-demo by club member John Michalski. Bring in your own trees for assistance and/or ideas.

March 10th: Wiring Workshop. Bring your tree(s) from home to get some hands-on practice and instruction.

April 14th: Root-pruning and Repotting workshop. Bring in your own trees for assistance and practice.

April (Tuesday after MABS): Guest presenter from MABS.

May 12th: Topic to be determined.

June 7th (Sunday): Annual Club Open House.

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty! (at the meetings, not at the picnic)

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

Club Dues: Dues are due at the September meeting. 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).

GSBS Contact Information:

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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

c/o Diego E Pablos
289 Mount hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration: Send to:

GSBS c/o Fred Aufshläger ___ New ___ Renewal
17 Lakeview Drive,
Bernardsville, NJ 07924 ___ Individual (\$40.00) ___ Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:
