



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, September 8th**

Time: 7-10 pm

September 2015 Newsletter

September Meeting: **Show-n-Tell/Bring-Your-Own Workshop**

We will kick off our 2015-2016 schedule with a “show and tell” session, where we encourage you to bring a tree or two from your garden, to explain what you’ve done with it, and how it’s coming along.

In particular, we encourage our more experienced members to bring a tree to show and tell how they solved a problem(s) in developing that tree as bonsai—and our less experienced members to bring a tree that has a problem(s) that needs to be solved by advice from the gathered membership. This was a rewarding and successful topic last September, so please plan on participating.

We also encourage you to bring along any tree for which you’d like assistance, advice, or hands-on-development. Beginners always welcome!

This year’s schedule of topics—Please Let Us Know what you want!

The GSBS board will be meeting this week to put together **the 2015-2016 calendar of meeting topics**. Since our last notice, we have not been flooded with suggestions. As always, we appeal to you, the members, to **let us know what you’d like to do!** Please don’t be shy—particularly you newcomers out there—our club exists for the education and benefit of its members, and we want to put together a program that will help you develop your skills and appreciation of the art of bonsai. **Please contact any of the addresses on page 6** with your ideas, suggestions, and preferences.

Dues Coming Due

Don’t forget that **annual dues** are expected at the **September** meeting. They remain at \$40 for individual, \$50 family membership, and help support club activities such as hosting touring experts. See last page for details.

Recap: August Meeting: Annual Club Picnic

On Saturday, August 15th we had our annual club picnic at the home of **Fred and Doris Aufschläger**, ably assisted by their daughter, Lisl Maloney from Watervliet, NY. About twenty club members, family and friends were in attendance, and we enjoyed good food, great company, some nice hot weather (delightfully ameliorated by the immense Sycamore tree shading the Aufschläger home), and fun, with a bonsai auction and an “everybody wins” raffle. If you missed it this year, please plan to attend next time!



We Still Have Bags of Akadama for sale!

Fred still has Akadama soil, in two granule sizes—2.5 mm (small grade) and 5.0 mm (medium grade). Bags are 14 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price.

Remember to save your copper wire clippings!

Following the November 2014 meeting, club member Kerry Heck brought in our collected copper wire clippings to turn in for scrap. All together it was 23 pounds of copper and a pound of brass wire screen, which brought the club **\$55.00** – more than the price of an annual membership. If we all contribute in the coming year, I’m sure it could be a lot more, so please save the pieces and bring them to the meetings.

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. For most of us, this very dry summer has been a stress on our plants, so preparing them for winter is more crucial this year than usual (Will we ever have a “usual” summer again, I wonder?).

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]

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

The Begging Continues—Publicity for our Annual Open House 2016

The Great Swamp Bonsai Society **needs a volunteer** to shoulder the responsibility of **publicizing our annual Open House**. (Your humble newsletter editor has taken on this role for several years, but as a school teacher June turns out to be a rather hectic month for tackling outside interests.)

The tasks are relatively simple but need to be managed in a timely manner. And, they all come in at the same time, in May. These include:

- **visiting the online websites** for the area news outlets (**NJ.com, Starledger.com, Dailyrecord.com, etc.**) and supplying the necessary details by filling in all the fields.
- There are also **online websites** for entering show information for **NJTV**.
- We also, we have found, need to **double-check the Morris County Parks publications** to make sure they have the correct info.
- Finally, this person should take responsibility for **putting up our banners** (we plan on having two new ones manufactured this year) out in front of the Arboretum's main entrance on Hanover Avenue, a few weeks before the event (this would be done by the Arboretum's personnel, but someone needs to check in and offer assistance if necessary—this year our banner was simply tied to the wooden fencing, in such a manner that passing motorists would be unlikely to read it; what we need is to have the banners staked out on the grass perpendicularly to the road, one banner facing each way.
- Some years, we have been able **to get an article in the Morristown Daily Record and/or the Newark Star Ledger**, with photos. This can be a great help, but only if the papers are contacted well in advance so that the article comes out the week before the show (we have had them go to press the Friday afterwards, and that doesn't boost attendance at all!)

It may look like a lot, but in fact most of it is accomplished in an hour or two at your computer, sending the same text to every website.

If interested (or, at least, willing), please contact John at huonia@aol.com.

Calendar of Events for 2015–2016

You will note our calendar is still wide open. Look for updates in future newsletters.

September 8th: Regular meeting at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 7-10 pm. **Bring Your Own Workshop/Show and Tell.**

October 13th: Regular meeting at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 7-10 pm. Topic to be determined.

November 10th: Regular meeting at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 7-10 pm. Topic to be determined.

December 8th: **Holiday Party and Club Bonsai Auction.**

January-February: ***NO REGULAR MEETINGS.***

March-April-May: Regular meeting at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, second Tuesday of the month, 7-10 pm. Topics to be determined.

June: First Sunday in June, **Annual Club Bonsai Open House**, open to public 10am-4 pm. Club members arrive by 9:00 am to help set up.

Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, 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 considerable 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 or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

***Novices and non-members always welcome!
Come and plan to get your hands dirty!***

Club Dues: **Dues are due at the September meeting.** It's only \$40 for an individual membership, or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club treasurer **Fred Aufschläger** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

GSBS Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com
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289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff bill.kasakoff@gmail.com

Treasurer: Fred Aufschläger fdauf@msn.com
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17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski 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:

Usually the 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 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:
