



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

October, 2007 Newsletter

Next regular Meeting on October 9
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ

Congratulations:
John



Good Luck:
Mark



September Highlights:

Now that Autumn has officially arrived, it's time to get down to business. Our September meeting began with election of officers for the coming term. We are pleased to announce that **John Michalski** has been elected president for the second time. John held the position before Mark, who has stepped down to become the President of the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies; MABS. All other officers will be remaining the same: Vice President: Michael Markoff - Treasurer: Fred Aufschläger and Secretary: Ken Olander. Our congratulations and a rousing Great Swamp round of applause to all.

Our second order of business at the September meeting was a Power Point presentation and very informative lecture on *Pinus Silvestris* (Scots Pine); ably given by Julian Adams of Adams Bonsai, Lynchburg, Virginia. Julian stressed the need to understand the annual cycle of this fine species in order to bring out its best features as bonsai. Topics such as when to fertilize and with what to fertilize, how to water and when to withhold for optimum needle reduction were also covered.

Many of us who attend the MABS Festival in April each year will certainly recall Julian as the premier supplier of annealed copper wire for our craft, as well as tools, trees, accent plants, etc. Julian brought with him several rooted cuttings of *Pinus parviflora* 'Zuisho', a Japanese 5-needle white pine which were offered for sale at reasonable cost.

Prior to the meeting, Julian conducted a "BYOT" workshop during which many aspects of design and horticulture were discussed. Several members trees benefitted from Julian's expertise.

Both the workshop and the meeting were quite well attended.

Presidential Corner:



John Michalski

First of all I want to extend the club's thanks to Mark Schmuck for expertly handling the duties of club president over the past three years (one year longer than he signed up for!). Mark is now the president of MABS (Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society, the regional association), and he needs to focus on one organization at a time! We have great confidence in him and wish him tremendous success. Don't worry, he'll still be a fixture at our meetings.

As we head toward 2008, GSBS is entering a period where our membership is growing slowly but steadily, thanks in large part to the internet. In spite of our media-shyness, people are finding us, and we're seeing a few new faces at every meeting. If you're one of those new faces, WELCOME! We have lots of good things planned for the year ahead, we hope you find our club a welcoming environment, and we invite you to ask questions and make suggestions, so that the Great Swamp Bonsai Society can continue to meet your needs and encourage your support, input, and development.

One of the most important elements in our success, I believe, will be YOUR input. If you have any experience with clubs where the president runs the whole show, you know that it gets old pretty fast. As a classroom teacher, I am perfectly comfortable leading lectures and demos, but I expect most of you would prefer some variety instead of having me up front every month. For 2008, GSBS will have to make do with a limited budget -- a temporary condition, I hope -- and therefore we will be doing most of this year's program "in house." I am hoping that many of you will be willing to lend your expertise by developing and leading one of our lectures or demos over the next twelve months. We have many members with great knowledge and skill, and if you are uncomfortable with the idea of standing before the club and teaching, I have plenty of experience developing

lessons and will be happy to meet with you to organize your thoughts and create a presentation. One of the best ways to hone your skills is to teach others, and stepping up to the plate with a lesson is a great way to grow as a bonsai artist.

Furthermore, we are interested in developing more outings and external events, such as bus trips to the National Bonsai Collection in Washington D.C. and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. We would also like to arrange a group outing to the bonsai nurseries in Ringoes and New Hope. To do this, we require volunteers to take the organizational responsibilities for one of these outings. We're all volunteers in this club, folks, and I can't do it all myself, so please consider stepping up and becoming an organizer for an event. The more involvement from our membership, the more things we can do! If you leave it all up to your officers, things tend to run dry -- there's only so much that a person can manage at one time, as I'm sure you all know. But if we each take on a small piece, we will become the busiest club in MABS! So contact one of the folks listed in this newsletter if you are willing to give it a shot.

Here are some places where GSBS needs a capable volunteer:

- Someone to help update our **club webpage** at the Arboretum website. Steve Guyette has been doing this for years, but he's been working with very little input. One person dedicated to keeping the page "fresh" would help him considerably.
- We'd like to create a large, attractive, easily-legible **sign for our June Open House**. I envision a six-foot tall "sandwich board" painted brightly on both sides, that can be set up outside the Arboretum a few weeks in advance of the show. If you have talents in this area, please contact us.
- We have never mastered the art of **newspaper publicity** for our June Open House. Our club desperately needs a volunteer who will dedicate their efforts to contacting the right people in a timely manner and supply them copy and photos, and then pester them to make sure we get into the paper at the suitable moment. We already have the copy, the photos, and the contacts at two major papers. All you need to do is be the point person that makes sure they get it into press.

Finally, a reminder that **beginner's workshops** are offered by request, at club members' homes, so please contact us with your ideas and needs, and we can arrange for special sessions to help you out.

Upcoming Event Calendar:

This is always a work-in-progress, so if you have a topic that you would like, please let us know! GSBS exists for you, and your interests and needs should be what drives our program. And if you have a topic that you would like to present, we are always happy to put you on the schedule.

October 9 **Bonsai Sale & Auction, and Club Business**

Bonsai Sale & Auction: Please scour your collection for trees, pots, tools, books, videos, or other bonsai-related items that need a new home! Give some thought to which items will be best offered at a set price, and which are more appropriate for auction. Your club president, for example, will be bring about 15 trees and rooted cuttings, which will be offered from \$1.00 up to a few items in the \$75.00-100.00 range. The Club gets 20% of the sale price (or any amount above that, gratefully accepted!), so also bring your cash or checkbook – we can't sell if no one buys, folks! Items will be set around the meeting room, to be perused throughout the evening.

Club Business: John will lead a presentation and group discussion on several areas of club business, including club outings, fund-raising ideas, beginners' workshops, and soliciting volunteers to take on various essential assignments.

November 13 Collection from the Wild: Larch, White Cedar, Spuce. JM will present video and lead discussion of techniques for collection and maintenance of native coniferous bonsai. A collected tree will be raffled. Winter care and protection of bonsai will also be addressed.

December 11 HOLIDAY PARTY. Club members bring food and soft refreshment (bonsai stuff to show off also welcome), and enjoy fellowship and laughs.

January, February, March Possible topics include: Pest Control, Soils, Fertilizer Cake Making. Other topic ideas welcome -- contact John, Mike, or Fred if you can present or just want to see something in particular.

April MABS in New Paltz. A guest speaker will be invited to our meeting, the following Tuesday.

May Topic: Accent Plants and Show Display, led by club member and VP Michael Markoff.

June First Saturday - Club OPEN HOUSE at the Arboretum.

October Plant Care Tips:

Now is the time to sit back and enjoy the changing seasons. Your deciduous material should begin to turn into those beautiful colors of Autumn. Gold, Yellow, Orange and Red should grace your display tables and benches this month. You've earned this respite from the tasks of summer.

Remove any wiring that appears to be digging into your branches. Do this carefully by snipping the wire with an appropriate cutting tool. Be careful not to damage the branches in the process. It's probably not a good idea to attempt re-wiring at this time. Especially if bending of branches would result. Better to wait until spring.

Water only when necessary this month. But be careful to determine the need. Pots can still dry out over the next few months during those occasional warm sunny days. Don't let the morning dew fool you. It can make it look as though the soil is moist. Run your finger into the pot to see if your first impression is good or not. You can also tell by how heavy the pot is...

Remain diligent about removal of debris from the surfaces of your pots. You need to maintain proper hygiene for your trees. Even though the weather is turning cooler, that leaf litter can still harbor disease that will be difficult to control in the next growing season if it gets a good start now.

Spray trees with an insecticide and fungicide to kill those over-wintering pests and fungus spores.

Keep an eye out for plants to dig up for next year's training. You can take hardwood cuttings and plant hard-shelled collected seeds outdoors. Begin to plan your winter protection....

No more fertilization until next year. If you haven't done so by now, it's probably too late. Resist the urge to feed things until next March.

October is a good time to prune heavy branches on pines, since the sap is no longer freely flowing. Pines that have been pruned in Autumn should be over-wintered in a cool greenhouse or unheated space, protected from the rigors of winter.

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

Dues are due once again:

And while we don't like to belabor the point, your club can't continue to function up to par without your support, both by your presence at meetings and by the timely payment of dues. Your club relies on you for your financial support to bring in lecturers and to provide material for workshops, demonstrations, etc. throughout the year.

Our annual dues continue to be \$30.00 for an individual and \$40.00 for a family. Please see Fred at your earliest convenience or send your dues to him at the following address:

Fred Aufschläger
17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Thank you for your continued support.

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 at fdauf@msn.com
or by phone at 908.766.1359
- Secretary:** Ken Olander - Contact Ken at bowhunter444@verizon.net.
or by phone at 732.202.0677
- Newsletter:** Dan Boehmke - Contact Dan at dann@earthling.net
or by phone at 973.627.1318
-

Great Swamp Bonsai Society
c/o John Michalski
223 Mt Kembal Ave.
Morristown, NJ 07962

