



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

October, 2008 Newsletter

Next Regular Meeting: 7 PM, **Monday, October 27, 2008**
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ

September Highlights:

Our September meeting featured a presentation on wiring and styling of Juniper species. Several members brought in their trees for evaluation, design pointers and general review. The session was highlighted by Pete Michienzi, who gave excellent pointers to those members who did bring trees to the meeting. The turnout for the meeting was lighter than expected. Shown below are a few of the trees that members brought to the meeting. And while the meeting focused on Junipers, the astute observer will notice a non-Juniper among the pictures presented. We welcome a new member, Shannon Sommerville, who joined our club at his very first meeting!

John and Fred spoke about starting bonsai study groups, which have been bantered about for several months without any definite direction. These groups can be anywhere from one-on-one to larger gatherings wherein one or more members become mentors for the others present, discussing and demonstrating one or more topics that are of interest to and of a technical level appropriate for the group assembled..



Dues are due...

It's that time of year again, so please be forthcoming with your dues. Your club is not able to provide guest lecturers, etc without your monetary support, so please... Dues are still only \$30 for an individual member or \$40 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact Fred.

Presidential Corner:



Hello everyone, hope you're enjoying the rain and not being flooded by it!

Just a reminder that October's GSBS meeting will be held MONDAY OCTOBER 27th, instead of our usual "second Tuesday."

Our guest lecturer will be renown bonsai artist David Easterbrook, bonsai curator for the Montreal Botanic Garden. Mr. Easterbrook will be providing ideas and insights into "quality-but-puzzling" trees from our members. So if you have a tree that would be a compelling bonsai, if not for that one seemingly unsurpassable problem, consider bringing it in for David's comments and suggestions.

We have already received enough commitments to guarantee a \$40 fee for an afternoon "bring-your-own" workshop that afternoon, from noon until around 4:30, when participants will head out to a local pub for dinner before returning for that night's club meeting. If you are interested in joining us, we still have room for a few more. You'll bring one or more trees for David's insights, suggestions, and one-on-one hands-on assistance, and for the price it's a bargain.

I've been told that Mr. Easterbrook is a talented deadwood carver in addition to his other bonsai skills, so consider that when selecting trees to bring to the workshop, or meeting.

Contact me at huonia@aol.com ASAP if interested in the afternoon workshop.

That's all for now,
John

Upcoming Event Calendar:

- October 19 & 26** The Arboretum's "Focus on Japan" (See above). We are committed to having 10 to 15 club trees on display around the perimeter of the upstairs hall on both days.
- October 27** (**Fourth Monday**) Guest Speaker: David Easterbrook and afternoon workshop. See John to sign up. Workshop will start at 1:00 pm and run until dinner time. Attendees will join David for "attitude adjustment" and dinner at a location to be determined.
- November 18** (**Third Tuesday**) Guest Speaker: our own Martin Schmalenberg. Topic = Literati. Bring your literati and "pre-literati" for comment and opinion. (tools too, if you plan to work on what you bring..)
- December 9** HOLIDAY PARTY and Club Auction.
- January** Topic to be determined.
- February 23** Due to a scheduling conflict, that's a Monday, gang
- March** Sean Smith (tentatively) Topic: Bonsai Stands and Displaying Bonsai
- Apr.** Open at present.
- May** Preparing for MABS and guest lecturer.
- June** First Saturday - Club Open House at the Arboretum.

October plant care:

Once again, it is 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 adapted from *Growing & Displaying Bonsai* by Colin Lewis and Neil Sutherland
and from *Bonsai, the Art of Growing and Keeping Miniature Trees* by Peter Chan

Other topics of interest:

Several topics are still open for future consideration. Among those are:

- 1) Weekend beginner's workshops
- 2) Caravan to Allshapes nursery with stop-over at Rosade Bonsai and lunch in New Hope, PA.
- 3) Preparation, cultivation and design of another Club Tree for future fundraising.
- 4) A new club brochure and improved access to our web pages on the arboretum website.

If any of these ideas seem like something with which you would like to be involved, please don't be shy. We encourage your input on these and any other ideas which might be helpful to our club and/or would help in our fundraising efforts. You should also feel free to donate trees, stones, books, tools, pots, etc that can be raffled (not auctioned) for fundraising. See John or Fred with your ideas.

We also encourage you to suggest ideas for meeting topics and if you feel able to host a meeting, please speak up. We can help you to work out a "lesson plan" to get you started.

And finally, one last plug (for this issue): DUES are once again due. Please see Fred.

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