



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

October, 2009 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown

General Meeting: October 13, 2009

Styling and caring for Pines with Juan Calderon

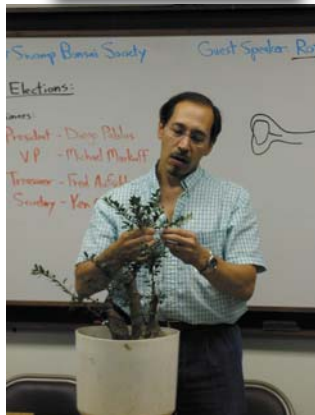
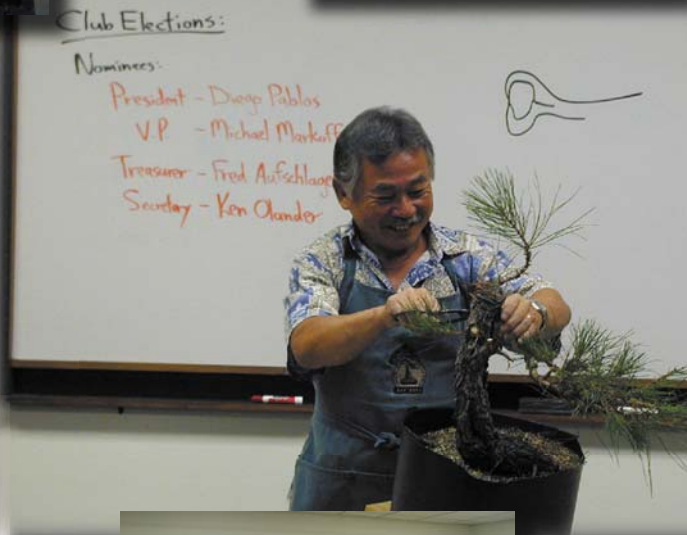
September Highlights

The September meeting featured our annual elections and a lecture demo by distinguished bonsai artist **Roy Nagatoshi** from California. Mr. Nagatoshi has been with us on several occasions in the past and it's always a pleasure to have him at our meetings.

Congratulations to our new officers: President: **Deigo Pablos**; Vice-President: **Michael Markoff**; Treasurer: **Fred Aufschläger** and Secretary: **Ken Olander**.

In addition to his find lecture-demonstration and talk at the meeting, Mr. Nagatoshi also conducted a "BYO" workshop in the afternoon. All in attendance profited from Roy's expertise and guidance in styling and developing the trees they brought to the workshop.

Below are some pictures of the activities that accompanied the meeting.



Presidential Corner:



Diego Pablos

Hello everybody,

The September meeting lead by distinguished bonsai artist Roy Nagatoshi was a very rewarding and instructive workshop, and evening demo/lecture. Where we learned the correct ways of pruning and maintaining our junipers. It's one of those "should have been there" things. Thanks to all who participated, hope to see more participants in future activities.

If you are new to us, we appreciate your visit, please let us know what you'd like to see and learn. And we hope you join us again.

Our upcoming October meeting will feature Juan Calderon on a demonstration of the care and maintenance of Pine Bonsai, this will include some wiring and needle plucking. Please bring your own plant material for Juan's comments and assistance.

See you all at the next meeting.

Diego

Upcoming Calendar:

October 13:

Juan Calderon will lead a demonstration on the care and maintenance of Pine bonsai, including wiring and needle-plucking. Autumn is the optimal month for these tasks, so bring your pine bonsai for Juan's comments and assistance.

November:

In response to the needs of our growing membership, we are planning a detailed presentation on bonsai winter care. Whether you have one tree or dozens of them, we can help you protect your bonsai from the ravages of the cold months, be they in a cold frame, planted in the yard, or protected on the porch or patio.

December:

Holiday Party and Club Auction. Bring something to nosh on, along with your unwanted tools, books, magazines, pots, trees, display items, or anything else bonsai-related to be included in our auction. And don't forget your checkbook in case you see something that you can't resist.

January & February are still open.

March:

Rock Planting demonstration, led by our own Fred Aufschlager, with copious assistance from interested novices. Get your hands dirty and learn how to make a bonsai display of trees growing on stones.

April:

We will host one of the presenters from the Mid Atlantic Bonsai Society's Spring Festival held in upstate New York.

Upcoming Calendar, continued:

May:
Beginner Workshop. We will supply small plant material and pots, and help beginners (or anyone else) design and pot a boxwood or shimpaku bonsai.

June:
Annual Open House. First Saturday of June, open to the public between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

That's it for the time being. Thank you for allowing me to preside over our club for the past two years. It has been a pleasure, and I hope to see you all throughout the coming lecture season!

September Plant Care Tips:

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 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

One Final Note:

DUES ARE DUE. \$30.00 per individual, \$40.00 per family. See Fred at the meeting.

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Great Swamp Bonsai Society
c/o Diego Pablos

