



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, October 9th, 7-10 pm**

September/October 2012 Newsletter

Farewell, Michael Markoff

Don't worry, folks, **he's fine!** But stalwart GSBS member Michael Markoff will be moving to North Carolina in the near future, and we take this space to wish him well. Michael has been an active club member for over a decade, and his growth as a bonsai artist has been an inspiration to us all. In just a few years he went from novice to popular presenter of bonsai talks and demos to libraries and other public venues around northern New Jersey. We count on him to keep us posted on his progress, and in return he can count on us to keep him on our pesky mailing list.



Left: Our September meeting. From left to right: Hank Goss, Bill Kasakoff, Ray Waksmundzki, Michael Markoff, Peter Michienzi (seated), Mark Schmuck, Juan Calderon, Brian O'Byrne, Marilyn Scherzer, Fred Aufschlager, Diego Pablos. Photographer: Mark Sanders. **Right:** One of Michael's wonderful *Juniper procumbens*.

Dues are due

Our dues-cycle usually begins in **September**, so please be forthcoming with your dues (new faces are quite welcome to wait until such time as they decide to join officially). Your club uses these funds to provide for guest lecturers, transportation, etc. so please... Dues are 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 on last page).

Club Election Time

We now have vacancies in the positions of club **Vice-President** and club **Secretary**. Any interested persons should please contact club President **Diego Pablos** ASAP (contact information on last page).



Diego Pablos

President's Corner

Hello Everyone,

Please mark your calendars for the 2013 **MABS Spring Festival**, to be held Fri-Sun **April 19-21, 2013**; at the Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn, in Grantville, PA. There have been some changes made in the venue, the most important one is that the **artist workshops will be on Friday afternoon**, instead of Sunday. The Joshua Roth Regional competition, for bonsai artists with less than 10 years' experience, will be on Friday from 8-5 pm, if quorum is met (3 min. participants)—the final competition will be held that summer in

Saratoga, NY, and the winner will get some financial sponsorship from MABS. If you qualify, and are interested in participating, contact me or any member of the board.

Our **October meeting** will be a **beginners' workshop**. We would like to encourage all beginners to bring a tree or two for hands-on advice, consultation, design, or maintenance. More experienced growers are encouraged to bring trees and tools as well. Hope to see you all there!

As we start our fiscal year, we are trying to create a program that will satisfy all our members' interests. Toward this end, if you have a topic or subject you would like to see in the coming months, starting in September, please send me all your topic ideas to be taken into consideration, and if you are interested in leading one or more of the meetings please let us know so that we can help you create an informative and illustrated lecture for all level members. **New members, don't be shy—we're here to help you grow in your bonsai interests too, so let us know what you'd like to see!**

Regards,

<p style="text-align: center;">MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES 30TH ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL APRIL 19-21, 2013</p>	<p>Featuring: Kunio Kobayashi- Japan Peter Warren- UK Ryan Neil- USA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">HARRISBURG/HERSHEY HOLIDAY INN GRANTVILLE, PA</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friday Workshops ● Professional & Members' Exhibits ● Keido Demonstration by Master Kobayashi
<p style="text-align: center;">Contact: Brian O'Byrne ● 234 Sagamore Road Millburn, NJ 07041 ● 973-379-3386 Email: bkobyne@yahoo.com www.midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com</p>	

Plant Care Tips for September and October

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.

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! If you go this route, be sure to protect your trees from winter **rodent damage**. [JM]

Watering continues to be the most important task during the Autumn. 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]

Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, now 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 tremendous 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.

Calendar of Events:

Sunday, October 7th – **Boonton Historical Society** opens a 3-month display commemorating our late club member **Greentree** – a celebration of her career as a gardener, landscape architect, artist, and civic activist. Opening is from 1-4 pm.

Next regular meeting Tuesday, October 9th. Topic to be determined (see President’s Corner).

Novices always welcome! Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Contact Information:

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Club Information

Location:

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum
353 East Hanover Ave,
Morristown, NJ 07962

When:

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.**

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c/o Diego E Pablos
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