



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, October 8th**
7:00-10:00 pm

October 2013 Newsletter

This Month's Meeting

This month we'll be displaying a few of the trees worked on during our **Advanced Workshop** with **Hirojoshi Yamaji** (see photos below) which, despite the announcement in last month's newsletter (we thought we would have to cancel due to lack of sign-ups, but we didn't), was held at Fred Aufschlager's home on Saturday, September 28th. It was a beautiful day, and a great workshop, and everyone present learned a lot. If you missed this one, consider joining us next time—it's really worth it.

This meeting will also be an open workshop. **Bring a tree, or work on one of ours!** As always, you are welcome to bring any bonsai from home for questions, comments, or to show off!

We are still working on hosting **David Easterbrook** for a special presentation later this month, location to be determined. Stay tuned.



Diego and Juan steady a large Pitch Pine as Mr. Yamaji bends a heavy branch using a piece of iron rebar. Phil and Peter look on in amazement.



Mr. Yamaji transforms Bill Kasakov's Shimpaku juniper beyond all recognition, with astounding results.

Calendar of Events for 2013–2014

October 8 (Tuesday): Show and tell with trees from Yamaji workshop, as well as open workshop with whatever material you wish to bring. We are still working out the details for hosting **guest artist David Easterbrook** later in the month.

November 12 (Tuesday): We are working to host a presentation by respected potter **Ron Lang** on the topic of finding the right pot for the right tree. Failing this we will host a workshop on Basic Bonsai Design. Hands-on practice with an advanced-quality juniper. Great opportunity for beginners to learn styling basics such as choosing the front, selecting primary branches, creating artistic deadwood, and wiring principle branches.

December 17 (THIRD Tuesday): Holiday Party, Club Auction, and Open House. Bring snacks, beverages, desserts, and anything bonsai-related that needs a new home—and your checkbook!

January (Second Tuesday): “Night of the Mugho Pines” – A competition, of sorts, with several similar Mugho Pines presented to teams of two, each of whom has to create a sketch of their proposed result, and three hours to make it happen! (We had lots of fun with a similar exercise a few years ago with “Night of the Junipers.”)

February (THIRD Tuesday): Forest Planting: Root Pruning and Repotting. Several years ago, we worked in two teams to design and pot up two separate large forest plantings, one of Korean Hornbeam, and the other of Zelkova. It’s now time to revisit both forest plantings, which is a great opportunity for novices to get their hands dirty and get some experience.

March (Second Tuesday): Repotting Demo-Workshop: Bring your own, or work with ours. We will also **vote for the 3 trees to represent GSBS at this year’s MABS Spring Festival**.

April 29: Guest Speaker Suthin Sukosolvisit, fresh from his appearance at MABS 2014.

May (Second Tuesday): Air-Layering Demo-Workshop. Bring your own, or work with ours. Find out how to get interesting bonsai material from the tops of stock plants, or get better rootage from that bonsai that needs a bit of help. Fertilizer Cake-Making. We will provide the ingredients to make large batches of bonsai fertilizer cakes, which you can bring home in ziploc bags, to spread out on baking sheets and dry at home.

June (First Sunday): GSBS Open House. Lectures, demos, raffles, vendors, dozens of trees on display. A great outing for the club, and a great opportunity for newcomers to see what we’re all about.

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Club Dues: If you haven't yet paid your dues, it's 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 and **membership form** on last page).

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

Plant Care Tips for October

Tree growth is now drawing to a close, with leaves displaying a final array of color before winter. Watering can definitely be minimized at this time. Heavy branch pruning can be done on pines, but overwinter them in a cool greenhouse. Do not continue to fertilize—begin again in March. [DY]

It is hardening-off time for your trees, and by now you should have created a safe place to keep them for the cold months ahead. Certain types of trees are repotted or trained at this time of year—see the comments that follow.

Feeding: As reported in last month's newsletter, many authors suggest a single Autumn 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. 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.

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, spring may still be best. 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 late October or November.

Winter protection: By November you will need to have figured out how and where you will stash your hardy outdoor trees. Thanksgiving is commonly considered 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, and cover the plant with an upturned bushel basket. 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. Beware of continuing—or surprise—warm weather, if you store your trees in a cold-frame or shed, since these enclosures can remain surprisingly warm, causing trees to pop new buds or refuse to harden off. [JM]

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.

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Great Swamp Bonsai Society

c/o Diego E Pablos
289 Mount hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway twp.
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Club Information

Location:

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

Date:

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 Aufschläger
17 Lakeview Drive,
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

New Renewal

Individual (\$40.00) Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:
