



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, October 14th**

Guest Artist: David Easterbrook

October 2014 Newsletter

Last month's meeting: Show and Tell

Several club members brought in bonsai, to recount their experiences over the summer, their design decisions, successes and failures. It turned out to be an excellent topic for our September meeting, and we hope to do it again next year.



Left: Fred Aufschläger offers design suggestions for Ray Lancaster's shimpaku juniper.



Right: An historic umbrella-plant bonsai, formerly owned by late club member David Yedwab, was reinvigorated under the care of Fred Aufschläger, and found a new owner at the September meeting.



Left: Club president Diego Pablos discusses design ideas for a narrow-leaf ficus.



Right: Fred's massive whitecedar (arbor-vitae), which he's been developing for several years with the assistance of club veteran Peter Michienzi.

October meeting/p.m. workshop: Guest Artist David Easterbrook!

David is a popular favorite with GSBS, known for his sensitive and dynamic artistry, as well as for his lively rapport and good-humored teaching style. We will have an **afternoon paid workshop** (our usual classroom, 1-5 pm), **\$50.00 per participant**, and David is bringing down six **Japanese Maples** that he's had in training for 10-11 years—some cork-bark, and some smooth-bark but with smaller leaves. Both varieties are available for \$150.00 per tree. If you've seen David's work you know that's a good price for a four-hour hands-on workshop with a tree that has had years of prep work.

Following the workshop, participants will go out for dinner and return for the free **evening presentation**, from 7-10 pm at our usual meeting room. If you can't make the workshop, be sure to come for the evening meeting. Workshop trees will be on display.

If you are interested in the afternoon workshop, please contact Fred or Diego immediately so that we can get you the details as they develop.



David Easterbrook at a special club meeting in October 2013, working on a collected Eastern Red Cedar (left), and the result of his efforts (right).

Club Soil Mix: We Still Have Bags of Akadama for sale!

Fred still has Akadama soil, in two granule sizes—2.5 mm (small grade) and 5.0 mm (medium grade). Bags are 18 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price.

Bonsai Magazines for Sale

Fred also has received an extensive collection of various bonsai magazines, in continuous series spanning from around 1990 to 2008. He will bring some of it to Tuesday's meeting, and if there's something in particular you are looking for, please inquire.

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, and 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. It has been a somewhat dry autumn thus far, with warnings of a hard winter, so preparing them for winter is as crucial this year as ever.

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, 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 late October or November.

Winter protection: *Do we need to remind you of last year's harsh winter?* By November you will need to have figured out how and where you will stash your hardy outdoor trees. Thanksgiving 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, 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 plan to shed or cold-frame your trees, since these enclosures can remain surprisingly warm, causing trees to pop new buds or refuse to harden off. *Beware of rodents*, who will happily invade your storage area and dine with gusto on the twigs and bark of your dormant bonsai, often with lethal results. Moth balls and rat bait are reported to keep them at bay. Exercise caution with rat bait to ensure protection from non-target animals. [JM]

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

Calendar of Events for 2014–2015 (topics subject to change)

October 14th: **Guest Presenter David Easterbrook. Afternoon workshop (1-5 pm, see page 2) and evening presentation** (both in our usual classroom).

November 18th (THIRD Tuesday): **Topic to be determined.**

December 9th: **Club Holiday Party, Bonsai Auction, Open House.**

January 13th: **Initial Styling of stock Shimpaku Junipers.** Club trees, hands-on workshop. Workshop trees available for purchase if desired.

February 10th: (tentative topic) **Pruning & Styling Fruiting Trees.** Apples, crabapples, etc. Lecture-demo by club member John Michalski. Bring in your own trees for assistance and/or ideas.

March 10th: **Wiring Workshop.** Bring your tree(s) from home to get some hands-on practice and instruction.

April 14th: **Root-pruning and Repotting workshop.** Bring in your own trees for assistance and practice.

April (Tuesday after MABS): **Guest presenter from MABS.**

May 12th: **Topic to be determined.**

June 7th (Sunday): **Annual Club Open House.**

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty! (at the meetings, not at the picnic)

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Club Dues: **Dues are due at the September meeting.** 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).

GSBS Contact Information:

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c/o Diego E Pablos
289 Mount hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

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:
