



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, October 13th**

**Time: 7-10 pm**

**October 2015 Newsletter**

## October Meeting: Wiring with Junipers

We will have several junipers on hand to demonstrate a variety of wiring techniques, as well as design problems & solutions common to junipers. Hands-on practice for all interested. Attendees are encouraged to bring a tree or two from home, to work on with the assistance of more experienced club members. Club wire will be available for those without, but bring your own tools (and wire if you have it), if you intend to work on a tree from home. **As always, feel free to bring a tree for comments, assistance, or to demonstrate a challenge that you have tried to address.**

## Recap: September Meeting: Show-n-Tell/Bring-Your-Own Workshop

We kicked off our 2015-2016 schedule with a “show and tell” session, where various club members brought a tree to demonstrate the various design problems they’ve encountered, and what they’ve achieved over the past growing season.



## Dues are Due

If you haven't yet paid up, please bring cash or check to club treasurer [Fred Aufschläger](#) at the [October](#) meeting. Annual membership remains at \$40 for individual, \$50 family membership, and helps support club activities such as hosting touring experts. See last page for details.

## 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 14 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price.

## Remember to save your copper wire clippings!

We collect discarded copper bonsai wire, to be sold as scrap, so please remember to save your clippings and bring them to the meetings. Most years we have enough to equal one or two paid memberships, so it all goes to support club supplies and activities.

## 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. The late summer-early fall was unusually dry in the northeast, until just recently, and this has put stress on our plants, so preparing them for winter is as crucial 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, and the irregularities brought on by shifting weather patterns, 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:** 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 late bursts of 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. [JM]

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

*Novices and non-members always welcome!*

*Come and plan to get your hands dirty!*

## Position Still Open: Publicity for our Annual Open House 2016

The Great Swamp Bonsai Society **needs a volunteer** to shoulder the responsibility of **publicizing our annual Open House**.

The tasks are relatively simple but need to be managed in a timely manner. And, they all come in at the same time, in May. These include:

- **visiting the online websites** for the area news outlets (**NJ.com, Starledger.com, Dailyrecord.com, etc.**) and supplying the necessary details by filling in all the fields.
- There are also **online websites** for entering show information for **NJTV**.
- We also, we have found, need to **double-check the Morris County Parks publications** to make sure they have the correct info.
- Finally, this person should take responsibility for **putting up our banners** (we plan on having two new ones manufactured this year) out in front of the Arboretum's main entrance on Hanover Avenue, a few weeks before the event (this would be done by the Arboretum's personnel, but someone needs to check in and offer assistance if necessary—this year our banner was simply tied to the wooden fencing, in such a manner that passing motorists would be unlikely to read it; what we need is to have the banners staked out on the grass perpendicularly to the road, one banner facing each way.
- Some years, we have been able **to get an article in the Morristown Daily Record and/or the Newark Star Ledger**, with photos. This can be a great help, but only if the papers are contacted well in advance so that the article comes out the week before the show (we have had them go to press the Friday afterwards, and that doesn't boost attendance at all!)

It may look like a lot, but in fact most of it is accomplished in an hour or two at your computer, sending the same text to every website.

**If interested (or, at least, willing), please contact John at [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com).**

## Calendar of Events for 2015–2016

You will note our calendar has several openings left. ***Please forward any topic ideas***, and look for updates in future newsletters.

**October 13<sup>th</sup>:** **Wiring Junipers. Demo and workshop.** Bring your own evergreen(s) for hands-on training or assistance.

**November 10<sup>th</sup>:** **Winter Storage.** Learn a variety of ways to protect your hardy bonsai during the cold winter months. Bring any trees for questions/comments/assistance/to show off!

**December 8<sup>th</sup>:** **Holiday Party and Club Bonsai Auction.**

**January-February:** ***NO REGULAR MEETINGS.***

**March:** Topic to be determined.

**April 12<sup>th</sup>:** Topic to be determined.

**April 18<sup>th</sup>:** **MONDAY – Guest artist Bjorn Bjornholm, fresh from MABS. Afternoon paid workshop** (details to follow), followed by informal dinner at local restaurant and **evening lecture/demo (free to public).**

**May 10<sup>th</sup>:** Topic to be determined.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>:** First **Sunday** in June, **Annual Club Bonsai Open House**, open to public 10am-4 pm. Club members arrive by 9:00 am to help set up.

**July 12<sup>th</sup>:** Topic to be determined.

## Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, 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 considerable 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](http://manhattanbonsai.com) or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

**Club Dues:** **Dues are due at the September meeting.** It's only \$40 for an individual membership, or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club treasurer **Fred Aufschläger** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

## GSBS Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos [neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com](mailto:neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com)  
Phone: 973.224.8139  
289 Mount Hope Ave.  
K-12, Rockaway Twp.  
Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff [bill.kasakoff@gmail.com](mailto:bill.kasakoff@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Fred Aufschläger [fdauf@msn.com](mailto:fdauf@msn.com)  
Phone: 908.766.1359  
17 Lakeview Drive  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com)

## Great Swamp Bonsai Society

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:**

Usually the 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 Aufshläger                     New     Renewal  
17 Lakeview Drive,  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924                     Individual (\$40.00)     Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If Family Membership, please list other members:

\_\_\_\_\_