



# GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

November, 2006 Newsletter

*Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 14*

*Featuring: Lecture Demonstration by*

*David Easterbrook, Montreal Botanical Gardens*

## October Meeting Highlights:

There were two features at our October meeting: A video presentation on over-wintering your trees and our annual club auction. We had expected John Michalski to present a short lecture in addition to his video. Unfortunately, he was not able to attend the meeting in person. However, his on-screen presentation carried the topic.

In the video, John showed his preparations for wintering trees at his home in Morristown, NJ. He explained various methods that can be used to protect trees from the drying effects of winter as well as the cyclical freezing and thawing that accompanies winter in Northern NJ.

Following his personal presentation, he brought his camera to Skytop Nursery in Port Murray, NJ where Doug Siedenbergh showed how he protects his nursery stock and bonsai from the effects of winter. In addition to Skytop, John went to Ringoes, NJ to visit with David Hall at Allshapes Nursery and to Chase Rosade's Studio outside New Hope, PA. Both David and Chase explained their preparations and some of the particular attention required for certain bonsai species.

All in all, the presentation was very informative. The main theme of over-wintering is to protect your trees from the effects of freezing/thawing and from the drying effects of the wind. For the enthusiast on a tight budget, trees can be placed directly on the ground under your benches. Mulch them in with leaves and/or conifer needles to help maintain even temperatures. Adding a vertical element to block the wind can be done using a few pieces of inexpensive plywood, creating a sort of shed out of your benches. Check periodically to make sure the pots do not dry out during those warm, dry spells.

For the more elaborate setup, hoop houses can be constructed from electrical conduit tubing and a moderate gauge plastic covering. The ends are comprised of a framed plywood structure with or without a hinged door, allowing access to the trees inside. The covering could also be made from Tyvek, commonly used as a vapor barrier in home construction.

The topic of over-wintering was primarily concerned with our "hardy" species. Tropicals will require a more proactive environment such as an indoor location or a greenhouse in order to survive the winter and are a subject for future discussions.

The club auction went well, with all items finding new homes. The selection was good and prices were quite reasonable. Everyone who participated went home with something for their effort. Items included trees, books, pots and some tools.



Some of the Auction Items



Member Items On Display

## November Meeting:

In the afternoon, prior to our November meeting, David Easterbrook, curator of the Bonsai Collection at the Montreal Botanical Gardens, will be presenting a workshop at the Arboretum from 12:30 to 5:30. The cost will be the usual \$50 per participant. This is a BYOT event, but Mark and Fred will have some material available for purchase, so bring a tree or two and learn something of great interest from this accomplished artist.

There are a few open slots for the workshop so please attend if you can.

The November meeting itself will feature a lecture demonstration by David Easterbrook. In addition to his duties at the Montreal Botanical Gardens, David maintains an extensive private collection and yet still finds time to travel across the US and Canada as well as internationally to promote the knowledge and appreciation of our great hobby. And, the demonstration tree will be raffled at the close of the meeting.

Mid-Atlantic sheets should be available at the meeting. We hope to see you all there.

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## Presidential Corner:



**Mark Schmuck**

Mark

Hi Everybody,

It's that time of the year again; time to start thinking about getting all those trees ready for their winter slumber. Thanksgiving weekend seems to be a good rule of thumb here in zone 6, but keeping an eye on a week long weather forecast is the smart way to go. Take into consideration your own comfort while performing this yearly task.

Let's see a good turnout next meeting for David Easterbrook. Attendance has been a little low lately. It's so much nicer to look around to a full house. Lots of trees to inspect, and lots of members to answer questions.

See you at the meeting!

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## Upcoming Event Calendar:

### December 12

Annual Holiday Party. Members may bring something to munch (finger food). Cheese & crackers, pepperoni, chips & dip, etc. Drinks provided by the club. For those who missed our October auction, items may be brought in for a Silent Auction during the party. The concept of "Bonsai by Jury" will be detailed...

### March 13

Pick three trees to represent Great Swamp at Mid-Atlantic.

### April 10

Repotting workshop. Bring trees & plan to get a little dirty.

### April 20,21,22

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Festival APRIL 20-21-22  
Ramada Inn, Route 10 West, East Hanover, NJ  
Guest Artists: Robert Steven - from Jakarta, Indonesia  
Guy Guidry - from Louisiana, U.S.A.  
Ted Matson - from California, U.S.A.

### April 25

(Special Meeting on Wednesday) Robert Steven will do a lecture demo at the arboretum.

### May 8

Afternoon workshop followed by lecture demo at the meeting by Horst Krekler from Germany.

## November Plant Care Tips.

If they have not already done so, your deciduous trees will shed their leaves and become the winter silhouettes that are their trademark. Evergreens continue to grow, albeit very slowly. You should by now have your over-winter spots prepared and perhaps begun to bring your trees to the protected areas.

It is important to protect roots of recently potted or re-potted trees from the effects of harsh winter weather. Only rough pruning of raw material should be considered at this time, leaving short stubs that can be trimmed to shape in the spring. Wiring should not be attempted now.

Keep the soil uniformly moist if Mother Nature does not provide this for you. Do not over-water. Trees do not like their feet wet for prolonged periods. Provide some protection from heavy rains.

Trees requiring winter protection should be in their designated locations by mid to end of the month., They should be cleaned and sprayed with a non-systemic fungicide in case you didn't get to this last month. You might have luck with hardwood cuttings taken now.

Clean up your display area now that the trees are put away and spray with fungicide and pesticide in preparation for next spring. This gives the material time to work and be dissipated before the trees return.

Follow the recommendations of the over-wintering presentation and you should successfully see your trees through the winter, be it harsh or mild.

This can also be a time to continue practicing our hobby with your tropical material. These guys don't stop growing in the winter and can be a continuing source of satisfaction in the coming months.

Finally, make up your holiday gift list of tools, pots, books, etc and distribute it widely...

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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

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## A Note about Dues and Membership:

Your dues help your club to function during the year and pay for special events and guest lecturers. The club can not continue to exist without your attendance and financial as well as moral support. We ask that you come prepared to "ante up" at the September meeting, or as soon thereafter as you can. Our annual dues continue to be a very reasonable \$30.00 for individual membership and \$40.00 for family.

Please do your part to help the Great Swamp Bonsai Society continue to be successful. We also encourage you to tell a friend about the club and suggest that he or she attend our meetings to see what we're all about. Referrals are the best way of attracting new members and thereby helping Great Swamp to grow. In this way, we can become the premier Bonsai Society in the Northeast.

Its' up to you...

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Be sure to visit our website at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai>

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