



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

November, 2007 Newsletter

Next regular Meeting on November 13
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ

October Highlights:

October's meeting was very well attended. Our stated agenda was for a sale and auction which turned out quite favorably for both the membership and the club. Almost all of the items put "on the block" were scarfed up by one or another of us. And while I can't say that bidding was aggressive, several of the items passed the 3 or 4 bid levels. Items that were up for grabs included several trees and a selection of books. In addition to our auction, we discussed several upcoming opportunities for the club to enrich our members. A few different outings were mentioned and members were asked to volunteer to spearhead several of these. Included were trips to Brooklyn Botanical Gardens; New Hope, PA; and possibly to the National Arboretum in DC.

Below are some photos from the meeting as well as a few that were taken at our September workshop and meeting by Ed Ullrich. If you recall, September featured a lecture by Julian Adams on *Pinus Silvestris*, Scots Pine.



September:



Presidential Corner:



John Michalski

Hello again everyone,

I've been trying to get my email lists straightened out, so that everyone on our list is getting all the little notices I've been sending out between newsletters. If you haven't been receiving these (mostly about the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Club T-shirts, and a planned collecting trip to Maine), then please let me (huonia@aol.com) or Dan (danno@earthling.net) know, so I can get everything neatened up.

This month our meeting topic is split between Winter Care (will we ever need it again?) and Collecting From the Wild, Part 2 - what I call "the other evergreens" -- larch, spruce, white cedar, and hemlock. I'll bring a wild collected larch to be raffled off, as well as several other collected trees for sale at various prices; all proceeds go to the club. As usual, I'll be presenting some home video to demonstrate wintering techniques and tree collecting, and we usually keep things loose enough so that everyone can ask and respond to questions and comments.

As always, feel free to bring your trees and other stuff to show off, or for opinions and advice. If you are interested in setting up a one-on-one beginner's workshop, contact me at huonia@aol.com or see me at the meeting. We'll arrange a date when you can bring your trees and work on things at a club member's home. And, if there's a topic you'd like us to address at one of our upcoming meetings, contact me and we'll get on it.

December's meeting will be our annual Holiday Party, so start thinking about food and non-alcoholic drinks you want to bring.

Attendance has really been picking up lately, so I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday November 13th! If you've missed us lately, we've missed you too, so see if you can make it!

Upcoming Event Calendar:

This is always a work-in-progress, so if you have a topic that you would like, please let us know! GSBS exists for you, and your interests and needs should be what drives our program. And if you have a topic that you would like to present, we are always happy to put you on the schedule.

November 13 Collection from the Wild: Larch, White Cedar, Spuce. JM will present video and lead discussion of techniques for collection and maintenance of native coniferous bonsai. A collected tree will be raffled. Winter care and protection of bonsai will also be addressed.

December 11 HOLIDAY PARTY. Club members bring food and soft refreshment (bonsai stuff to show off also welcome), and enjoy fellowship and laughs.

January, February, March Possible topics include: Pest Control, Soils, Fertilizer Cake Making. Other topic ideas welcome -- contact John, Mike, or Fred if you can present or just want to see something in particular.

April MABS in New Paltz. A guest speaker will be invited to our meeting, the following Tuesday.

May Topic: Accent Plants and Show Display, led by club member and VP Michael Markoff.

June First Saturday - Club OPEN HOUSE at the Arboretum.

November Plant Care Tips:

We're still wondering if Autumn is here to stay. The last few days seem to be showing some promise and the forecast for the weekend looks like things may finally be settling down to reasonably seasonable.

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...

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

Dues are due once again:

And while we don't like to belabor the point, your club can't continue to function up to par without your support, both by your presence at meetings and by the timely payment of dues. Your club relies on you for your financial support to bring in lecturers and to provide material for workshops, demonstrations, etc. throughout the year.

Our annual dues continue to be \$30.00 for an individual and \$40.00 for a family. Please see Fred at your earliest convenience or send your dues to him at the following address:

Fred Aufschläger
17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Thank you for your continued support.

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