



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

November, 2008 Newsletter

Next Regular Meeting: 7 PM, Tuesday, **November 18**, 2008
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ

October Highlights:

Boy, was Great Swamp busy in October!!! We displayed trees in the auditorium on the 19th and again on the 26th for the arboretum's Focus on Japan festivities. We also hosted a children's workshop on the 19th. The workshop was well attended and the participants and their parents seemed to enjoy the experience. All of the kids went home with their first self-made bonsai tree. Many expressed a desire to return to Great Swamp for further instruction, etc.

The 27th started with a great "bring your own" workshop featuring our guest for the evening, **David Easterbrook** of the Montreal Botanic Gardens. He spent the afternoon critiquing our trees and providing both instruction and inspiration for us all.

Some pictures from the workshop and meeting are presented below:



Dues are due...

It's that time of year again, so please be forthcoming with your dues. Your club is not able to provide guest lecturers, etc without your monetary support, so please... Dues are still only \$30 for an individual member or \$40 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact Fred.

Presidential Corner:



Hello again everyone,

October was indeed a very busy month for GSBS. The two October displays in the upstairs hall of the Haggerty Center went off very nicely – we thank Fred, Marilyn, Dan, Juan, Ed, David Yedwab, Mark, Michael, and Bill Muldowney for bringing in trees to display and for helping with the beginner’s workshop we led in the downstairs classroom. The Parks people were very pleased and the patron response was also very upbeat. And lectures and musical performances that took center stage in the upstairs hall were well worth attending. If you missed it, you really ought to get to the next one, we had a great time!

We received the following kudos from Scott D’Agostino of the Park Commission:

Hi John,

Sorry that I have not written this note to you earlier (I have been playing catch-up all week!) but I wanted to thank you and all of the members of the Great Swamp Bonsai Society for your participation in our Focus on Japan Family Day event. I was very impressed with the enthusiasm that your members showed in not only putting together a great bonsai display but also in organizing the Bonsai workshop. It really was great to watch the interaction between the members of the GSBS and the children participating in the class. Hopefully you have helped to foster a new generation of Bonsai enthusiasts! I especially want to thank you for your efforts to make this all happen and for leading the bonsai workshop.

Please pass on our best regards to your members. We hope that there will be more opportunities to work with the GSBS at future programs/events.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott

The October 27th workshop and lecture/demo led by David Easterbrook was also a success. David is a talented artist and an engaging educator. At dinner he confided to me that Great Swamp Bonsai Society is one of the more active and vital clubs he’s seen on his journeys across North America – quite a fine compliment! I was frankly surprised – there are several larger clubs with more paid activities, but David informs me that our club stands out for its dynamic membership, that wants to learn a lot and get its hands dirty, so to speak.

NOTICE: If you have special material for this year’s December auction, please email or mail me a PHOTO ASAP so that we can get a catalogue online. The more outside clubs see what we have to offer, the more people will travel to be at the auction, and people will pay real money if they see something online that they want.

Upcoming Event Calendar:

November 18

Third Tuesday (the Park is closed on the 11th for Veteran’s Day!)

Guest Speaker: our own **Martin Schmalenberg**. Topic = Literati

Bring your literati and “pre-literati” for comment and opinion. (tools too, if you plan to work on what you bring..

December 9

HOLIDAY PARTY and Club Auction. Please get your best stuff in shape for the auction, and look for supplementary emails from me for details.

January 13

To be determined.

February 23

That’s a **Monday**, gang. Featuring **Sean Smith** on the subject of bonsai stands and bonsai display. He encourages you to bring your trees for advice and mixing and matching with stands he will bring. Sean will also have stands for sale.

March.

To be determined

April.

We will host one of the presenters from MABS

May.

Fred will host a lecture/demo on grafting and air layering.

June.

First Saturday - Club Open House at the Arboretum.

November plant care:

It looks as if Autumn is here to stay. We've had some ups and downs over the past few weeks, but the last several days have been rather ideal. I hope you're taking advantage of these "gifts" to wind down your season and begin getting ready for what may be a colder winter than we've seen for a few years. It never hurts to plan ahead...

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 adapted from *Growing & Displaying Bonsai* by Colin Lewis and Neil Sutherland
and from *Bonsai, the Art of Growing and Keeping Miniature Trees* by Peter Chan

Other topics of interest:

Several topics are still open for future consideration. Among those are:

- 1) Weekend beginner's workshops
- 2) Caravan to Allshapes nursery with stop-over at Rosade Bonsai and lunch in New Hope, PA.
- 3) Preparation, cultivation and design of another Club Tree for future fundraising.
- 4) A new club brochure and improved access to our web pages on the arboretum website.

If any of these ideas seem like something with which you would like to be involved, please don't be shy. We encourage your input on these and any other ideas which might be helpful to our club and/or would help in our fundraising efforts. You should also feel free to donate trees, stones, books, tools, pots, etc that can be raffled (not auctioned) for fundraising. See John or Fred with your ideas.

We also encourage you to suggest ideas for meeting topics and if you feel able to host a meeting, please speak up. We can help you to work out a "lesson plan" to get you started.

And finally, one last plug (for this issue): DUES are once again due. Please see Fred.

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