



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

November, 2009 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown

General Meeting: November 10, 2009

Preparing your trees for the winter season

October Highlights

The October meeting featured our own Juan Calderon, who demonstrated some techniques for maintaining and styling of Pines. Of primary interest was the needle pruning that is shown below. This allows the tree to concentrate on strengthening itself and allows light to penetrate deep within the tree in order to stimulate bud-back on those particular species of pines that will do so.

We also discussed some of the available options for changing the venue for a portion of our meetings throughout the coming year(s). These discussions will certainly continue over the course of the next few meetings.

Below are some pictures of the activities that accompanied the meeting as well as some fine examples of pine specimens brought in by members for design assistance and critique.



Presidential Corner:



Diego Pablos

Hello everybody,

The October meeting lead by Club Member Juan Calderon was a very instructive demo/lecture. Filled with great suggestions for the care and maintenance of your Pine Bonsai. Great Job Juan!

We also want to thank John Michalski for the video of the Japanese Stroll Garden.

Our upcoming November meeting will feature on a lecture about Winter Care.

See you all at the next meeting.

Diego

Upcoming Calendar:

November: 10

In response to the needs of our growing membership, we are planning a detailed presentation on bonsai winter care. Whether you have one tree or dozens of them, we can help you protect your bonsai from the ravages of the cold months, be they in a cold frame, planted in the yard, or protected on the porch or patio.

December:

Holiday Party and Club Auction. Bring something to nosh on, along with your unwanted tools, books, magazines, pots, trees, display items, or anything else bonsai-related to be included in our auction. And don't forget your checkbook in case you see something that you can't resist.

January & February are still open. Suggestions are welcomed.

March:

Rock Planting demonstration, led by our own Fred Aufschlager, with copious assistance from interested novices. Get your hands dirty and learn how to make a bonsai display of trees growing on stones.

April:

We will host one of the presenters from the Mid Atlantic Bonsai Society's Spring Festival held in upstate New York.

May:

Beginner Workshop. We will supply small plant material and pots, and help beginners (or anyone else) design and pot a boxwood or shimpaku bonsai.

June:

Annual Open House. First Saturday of June, open to the public between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

July & August: To be announced...

News and Notes from the American Bonsai Society:

Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition Supported by ABS at MABS

The New Talent Bonsai Competition that was featured at the 2002 American Bonsai Society Symposium, has become an annual event. The Joshua Roth Company of Albany, Oregon now sponsors the Competition. The 2010 Competition will take place at the "MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2010 Spring Festival", which will be held at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa, Kerhonkson, New York on April 16, 2010. The competition is aimed at discovering and promoting new talent in the art of bonsai and is the first of its kind to be held in North America. The concept is very simple. Phase one, judging of previous work, is used to select the contestants for the second phase. In the second phase, each participant will be given eight hours to create the very best bonsai they can produce from specially selected material. After the entrants have completed their work, four of the Festival headliners will judge the bonsai that have been created. All full registrants at the Festival will also have the opportunity to vote for their choice. The winner will be announced Saturday night at the banquet. The Grand Prize for the Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition is an exclusive course of study with an approved bonsai teacher and hotel accommodations if the teacher is not in the winner's home town. The winning artist will also be profiled in the Journal of the ABS under the title of "Best New Bonsai Talent of 2010." If you have someone in your club that has the talent and the drive to become one of North America's top new bonsai talents, please encourage him or her to enter the competition. Your club could be the "home club" of the best new bonsai talent of North America in 2010. If you feel very strongly that your club member has the talent to win the Competition, your club may even wish to sponsor his or her participation.

November Plant Care Tips:

It looks as if Autumn is here to stay. We've seen some spectacular colors in our surroundings over the past few weeks. I hope you've taken the time to enjoy them. And you should be getting ready to winterize in preparation for what may be a colder winter than we've seen for a few years. If you believe the Farmer's Almanac.

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

One Final Note:

DUES ARE DUE. \$30.00 per individual, \$40.00 per family. See Fred at the meeting.

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Great Swamp Bonsai Society
c/o Diego Pablos

