

Last month's meeting: Guest Artist David Easterbrook

In October we hosted David Easterbrook, formerly of the Montreal Botanic Garden, for an afternoon workshop and evening lecture-demonstration. As always, David was informative and entertaining, and the workshop participants gained important insights along with several hours of hands-on experience from working beside a master.



Left: Guest artist David Easterbrook discusses design ideas for a Japanese Maple. Right: Fred's cascading Juniper (in one of his own hand-crafted Aufschläger pots), which received design and refinement at the hands-on workshop.



Left: One of John Michalski's collected railroad Junipers before the workshop, and (right) after.

November Meeting: Essential Tools of Bonsai, Winter Care and Protection, and Initial Design Decisions

This will be **a great meeting for beginners and undergrads** (though we hope our upper-classmen will also come to share their experience and know-how). We have **three topics** that will help bring you up to speed with a variety of bonsai essentials.

Essential Tools of Bonsai: We will display and demonstrate the design, purpose, and proper use of a number of tools that you will probably be acquiring on your way to developing your skills in bonsai design, styling, and plant care. We will also provide some sources from which you can purchase these specialty items.

Winter Care and Protection: Whether you have one bonsai or a hundred, we will explain the goals and timetable of winter care, and provide several alternatives for the care and protection of your trees over the winter months.

Initial Design Decisions: We will bring in several pre-bonsai (trees that have not yet been styled), and explain the design decisions that go into choosing the front, selecting the primary branches, and how to deal with a variety of problems presented by “real world” bonsai material.

Achievements from our membership

We congratulate former GSBS club member **Michael Markoff**, who has taken **Best in Show** at this year's **North Carolina State Fair** with his spectacular and quite deserving cascade Juniper. A great job on a wonderful tree, Michael.



*Best in Show at the 2014 North Carolina State Fair: Michael Markoff's stunning cascade, using *Juniper procumbens nana*.*

Club Soil Mix: 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 18 liters, about 22 lbs. Cost per bag is \$40.00, which is a good price. Fred also has 4 bags of **lava rock** - 40 lbs., \$12 each, and 3 bags of **bonsai soil from Saratoga** seller, about 20 lbs., \$25 each, and **pumice** at \$3/lb.

Bonsai Magazines for Sale

Fred also has received an extensive collection of various bonsai magazines, in continuous series spanning from around 1990 to 2008. He will bring some of it to Tuesday's meeting, and if there's something in particular you are looking for, please inquire.

Plant Care Tips for November

During November deciduous and evergreen trees can remain out until about the last week of the month. Prepare trees for their winter setting, whether it be a cold frame or whatever type of winter protection you may have. Prior to setting them in their winter quarters, check for insects and spray and remove all dead leaves and branches. Thinking ahead, write down and plan what you need to do for spring and choose which trees you will work on first. Tropicals should already be indoors and you can continue to water, feed, repot and prune them all through the winter. If they are in a heated dry atmosphere, mist frequently. [DY]

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 continuing—or surprise—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. **Beware of rodents**, who will happily invade your storage area and dine with gusto on the twigs and bark of your dormant bonsai, often with lethal results. Moth balls and rat bait are reported to keep them at bay. Exercise caution with rat bait to ensure protection from non-target animals. [JM]

Start Thinking about our December Meeting: Holiday Party & Bonsai Auction!

Take a look around your bonsai collection, shed, tool box, and book shelves, for any bonsai-related items you no longer need, for inclusion in this year's **Club Bonsai Auction**. A portion of the proceeds go to support the club, to pay for guest artists and club supplies like wire and soil.

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

Calendar of Events for 2014–2015 (topics subject to change)

November 18th (THIRD Tuesday): Essential Tools of Bonsai, Winter Care and Protection, and Initial Design Decisions.

December 9th: Club Holiday Party, Bonsai Auction, Open House.

January 13th: Initial Styling of stock Shimpaku Junipers. Club trees, hands-on workshop. Workshop trees available for purchase if desired.

February 10th: (tentative topic) **Pruning & Styling of Fruiting Trees.** Apples, crabapples, etc. Lecture-demo by club member John Michalski. Bring in your own trees for assistance and/or ideas.

March 10th: Wiring Workshop. Bring your tree(s) from home to get some hands-on practice and instruction.

April 14th: Root-pruning and Repotting workshop. Bring in your own trees for assistance and practice.

April (Tuesday after MABS): Guest presenter from MABS.

May 12th: Topic to be determined.

June 7th (Sunday): Annual Club Open House.

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

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

Club Dues: Dues are due at the September meeting. If you still haven't paid, 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:

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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 Aufschläger
17 Lakeview Drive,
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

New Renewal

Individual (\$40.00) Family (\$50.00)

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:
