



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

*Next meeting: **Tuesday, November 14th***

*Topic: **PINES***

November 2017 Newsletter

This month's meeting (Tuesday, November 14th): Styling, Pruning, Wiring, and maintenance of PINES

Pines have been a favored bonsai subject for generations, yet many enthusiasts still lack confidence with the details—when to prune, when to wire, soil types, feeding schedule, to needle-pluck or not to needle-pluck? We dedicate our November meeting to show-and-tell, and hands-on demonstrations with pines of all types: Japanese Black, Japanese White, Red Pine, Pitch Pine, Mugo Pine, or any other species or cultivar you are currently working with.

Please bring in your own pine bonsai for questions, comments, assistance, or to share with the rest of the club. Your experience and hands-on guidance are always welcome!



Last month's meeting: Guest artist David Easterbrook

In October we once again hosted club favorite David Easterbrook, retired curator of bonsai at the Montreal Botanical Garden (see http://www.superflybonsai.com/David_Easterbrook.html and <http://bonsaiswfl.org/sites/default/files/ALittleAboutDavidEasterbrook.pdf>), with an **afternoon paid workshop** and an evening lecture/demo, where David designed a large Hinoki Cypress. The end result was raffled off and won by club member Bob Klein. David is always a great pleasure—informative, friendly, humorous, and his work is stunning. If you missed him this time be sure to join us for his next visit.



Afternoon workshops are a great way to get a personal, one-on-one experience with an experienced artist. With only a few participants, the instructor is able to devote considerable time and effort to each and every student. Photo by Diego Pablos.



More workshop photos.





Left, the original Hinoki Cypress. Clockwise, removing the top of the tree to create a stronger trunk diameter/height ratio.





Next, David develops the new top of the tree into a lifeless “jin” by peeling away the bark and sculpting the heartwood into a naturally-tapered apex.





Branches not necessary to the design of the tree are removed, and the remaining branches are wired for initial placement.







The finished initial design. The caretaker of the tree will leave the wires in place for a year or two, with the expectation of repotting this coming spring to slightly reduce the root ball and introduce some well-draining potting mix.

Have You Paid Your Dues?

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you have not yet paid up, please bring cash or check to **club treasurer Rick Meyers**, or mail it to his address on the last page of this newsletter. Annual membership remains at \$40 for individual, \$50 family membership, and helps support club activities such as hosting touring experts. See last page for details.

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. Tropical bonsai 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]

Feeding: You should no longer be feeding your bonsai by the 1st of November.

Repotting and Training: Japanese texts recommend autumn repotting for most evergreens, but they also cite early spring for each of these—considering the difference in climate, I'd stick with early spring. Cherry and flowering quince are repotted by the Japanese in October. Many needled evergreens are most successfully wire-trained during the autumn months, but most sources say wait until late October or November.

Winter protection: By November you will need to have figured out how and where you will stash your hardy outdoor trees. 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 late bursts of 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. [JM]

Save and Bring In Your Discarded Bonsai Wire

Please remember to save and bring in those wire clippings. About once a year we bring them to a scrap metal dealer and swap them for cash. It's usually about enough to equal one or two paid memberships, so it really does help keep the GSBS afloat.

Meeting Dates for 2017–2018

NOTE: We are still planning our calendar – suggestions welcome!

November 14, 2017: ***Styling, Pruning, & Wiring Pines***

December, 2017: ***NO MEETING***

January, 2018: ***Winter Holiday Party & Annual Bonsai Auction***

February, 2018: ***NO MEETING***

March, 2018: ***Topic To Be Determined***

April, 2018: ***Guest artist from this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival***

May, 2018: ***Topic To Be Determined***

June, 2018: ***1st Sunday of the month – Annual Club Bonsai Open House!***

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

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

GSBS Contact Information:

President: Diego E Pablos
neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com
Phone: 973.224.8139
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff bill.kasakoff@gmail.com

Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@verizon.net

Treasurer: Rich Meyers spruce80@verizon.net
80 Kenvil Ave
Succasunna N J
07876

Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

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: 6:30 – 9:30 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

c/o Diego E Pablos
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:

Send to:

GSBS c/o Diego Pablos _____ **New** _____ **Renewal**
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp. _____ **Individual (\$40.00)** _____ **Family (\$50.00)**
Dover, NJ 07801

Name(s): _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** (_____)

If Family Membership, please list other members:

