



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

December, 2006 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 12

Featuring: Holiday Party and
Silent Auction

November Meeting Highlights:

Our November meeting featured a lecture-demo by David Easterbrook, Curator of the Bonsai collection at Montreal Botanical Gardens in Canada. Here is David with the demonstration tree before work began:



Work progressed along with questions and answers as David styled the tree. Suggestions from the audience were discussed at length. Here is the result of the styling.



At the end of the evening, the tree was raffled and was won by Mark Schmuck. A fine addition to his collection.

A workshop with David preceded the meeting. Those in attendance were able to take advantage of David's expertise in styling as well as gaining information about a most important aspect of maintaining bonsai: Keeping the tree healthy and meeting its horticultural needs.

Here are a few before/during/after pictures from the workshop.



December Meeting:

The December meeting will feature our annual Party and Auction. Please try to bring a food item (finger food is preferable)

to share with other members. In the past we've enjoyed cheese and crackers, pepperoni, olives, cookies and cakes. Anything that you can pick up without utensils is appropriate. Beverages are also welcome, but, per Park regulations: NO ALCOHOL please.

This year, the auction will be a silent one, so bring items to be auctioned. We will also be discussing the concept of "Bonsai by Jury" as mentioned in the last newsletter.

Come one, come all and enjoy an evening of holiday merriment.

Presidential Corner:



Mark Schmuck

Hi Everybody,

Just a note to ask everyone to try and bring an auction item or two for our grand silent auction in Dec. The club auction in October was a little disappointing, so let's try and make up the difference this month. We'll eat, party, talk trees, and bid on an item or three; The auction will close promptly at 9:15.

Signup forms for MABS (MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies) Spring Festival 24th Annual, will be available; Keep in mind that your attendance helps the club money wise; We receive points according to how many club members attend, and what they sign up for. The more points, the more money is distributed back to the club treasury, from MABS.

See you at the meeting

Mark....

Upcoming Event Calendar:

- March 13** Pick three trees to represent Great Swamp at Mid-Atlantic.
- April 10** Repotting workshop. Bring trees & plan to get a little dirty.
- April 20,21,22** Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Festival APRIL 20-21-22
Ramada Inn, Route 10 West, East Hanover, NJ
Guest Artists: Robert Steven - from Jakarta, Indonesia
Guy Guidry - from Louisiana, U.S.A.
Ted Matson - from California, U.S.A.
- April 25** (Special Meeting on Wednesday) Robert Steven will do a lecture demo at the arboretum.
- May 8** Afternoon workshop followed by lecture demo at the meeting by Horst Krekler from Germany.
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Don't forget to visit our web pages at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai>. Steve Guyette has poseted lots of good information there for all to see...

December Plant Care Tips.

The leaves of Autumn have now fallen and the fine twigs of deciduous specimens are nicely revealed. Conifers will sparkle with frost in the early mornings. You can appreciate the time you spent in the growing season caring for your trees. Your good work is evident.

Hardy species can be dug and potted into large containers or growing beds. Large, fully hardy deciduous bonsai can be repotted now, but only if roots can be protected from hard frost for the entire winter ahead.

Only rough pruning of raw material should be attempted now. Even well sealed wounds may die back around the edges if winter is severe enough. And the Farmer's Almanac is predicting a cold, snowy one.

Resist the temptation to begin any wiring. It will likely encourage die-back and lead to disappointment.

Water only when necessary, but check your trees regularly. Wind can dry out our plants as much as summer sun. Our trees are susceptible to over-watering, especially during rainy periods.

Be vigilant about removing debris that can harbor pests. Dead annual moss should be cleaned away. Check for scale, galls, etc and treat accordingly. Inspect conifers for signs of spider mite. Spray trees with fungicides and/or insecticides on dry, sunny days. Take hardwood cuttings and plant hard-shelled seeds.

Lacking a greenhouse, a wooden frame covered with clear plastic sheeting is an acceptable substitute. Keep your tender-hardy trees within this coldframe for protection from severe weather conditions.

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

A Note about Dues and Membership:

Your dues help your club to function during the year and pay for special events and guest lecturers. The club can not continue to exist without your attendance and financial as well as moral support. We ask that you come prepared to "ante up" at the September meeting, or as soon thereafter as you can. Our annual dues continue to be a very reasonable \$30.00 for individual membership and \$40.00 for family.

Please do your part to help the Great Swamp Bonsai Society continue to be successful. We also encourage you to tell a friend about the club and suggest that he or she attend our meetings to see what we're all about.

Its' up to you...

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