



GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY

December 2009 Newsletter

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, E. Hanover Ave, Morristown
General Meeting: December 8, 2009
Annual Holiday Party and Auction

November Highlights

November is the time for the “winterization” of our trees. Therefore, our November meeting topic was just that. Various methods of preparing trees for the winter season were presented and discussed.

John Michalski explained his cold-frame setup, as did Mark Schmuck and Michael Markoff. These methods ranged from Mark’s effective, yet simple design, to a much more elaborate setup as demonstrated by Michael, who’s cold-frame features the addition of a “hoop-house” setup covering his entire collection of temperate trees. Dan showed his method of placing the trees beneath his display benches, mulching with pine needles and providing a wind-break.

The main purpose of any of these preparations is to insure that the trees are protected from the effects of a harsh winter. We primarily perform these actions to prevent desiccation or drying out of the foliage of our trees and to attempt to provide a more constant temperature to prevent the freeze-thaw cycle that can occur if trees are left totally unprotected.

It is important to monitor our trees regardless of the technique employed. Waiting for the first snow before placing a cover over the cold-frame allows for an insulating blanket which will also provide moisture to the soil as the snow melts. Otherwise, it is necessary to inspect the trees periodically, especially during times of warm weather to make sure the pots to not completely dry out...

John Michalski also presented highlights of a video that he created illustrating his method as well as interviews with Chase Rosade (Rosade Bonsai Studios), David Hall (All Shapes Nursery) and Doug Siedenberg (Hill Top Nursery). Each of these gentlemen explained their preparations for winterization of their trees. At the close of the meeting, John offered copies of his video to the members.

And don’t forget: The next meeting will feature our Annual



As usual, the meeting will feature our annual holiday party and auction. Be sure to bring something of a food nature to share with other members. Contact Diego at bonsai4ever@aol.com so he can coordinate. And if you have any bonsai-related items lying around at home collecting dust that you no longer have a burning desire to keep, please bring them along for the auction. The more, the merrier. Items that can be auctioned include books, tools, pots, supplies, etc. Even trees, if you have any to part with.

Presidential Corner:



Diego Pablos

Seasons Greetings,

The November meeting featured Winter Protection for your Bonsai, by our very own club members; Dan Boehmke, John Michalski, Mark Schmuck and Michael Markoff. From whom we heard the various methods they use; cold box above ground and sunken half way into it, Hoot houses, etc...John also brought some DVDs in which he interviews Chase Rosade, David & Diane Hall and Doug Siedenburg; where they showed us what has been working for them. I hope you all took great ideas from this meeting, I know I did.

Excellent job guys!

The December meeting will be held Tuesday December 8th and will feature our Holiday Festivities and Club Auction. If you're new to GSBS or have yet to attend your first meeting, please consider yourself welcome to join. Consider bringing a tree for discussion or advice. And bring your saleable pots, tools, books, videos, trees, etc. for the club auction. Don't forget your checkbook to bring something home! This is a great opportunity to pick things up at good prices.

Contact Diego at Bonsai4ever@aol.com if you intend to bring food or non-alcoholic refreshments.

January and February are still open; if you have a topic you would like us to discuss, don't hesitate to send it to us so we can make a presentation for one of this open month. In April we will be host one of the presenters from MABS and in May Fred will present a Rock Planting demonstration.

May we will be hosting a Beginners Workshop. We will supply small plant material and pots, and help beginners (or anyone else) design and pot a boxwood or Shimpaku bonsai.

June is our annual Open House; already! We hope to see you all at the meetings!

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.

Diego

Upcoming Calendar:

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. Don't forget the Joshua Roth competition mentioned in last month's newsletter.

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...

Some Ideas for January and February:

John Michalski has suggested the following topics for consideration for our January and February meetings:

1. Design Puzzlers.

A few members bring in interesting-but-difficult to design trees for the rest of us to consider. Get about 3 club members (solicit them in advance of the meeting) who will bring a sketch pad and come up with their own idea of what could be done. Say, the three members would be the owner of the tree, and two others (Mark, Michael Markoff, Fred, Pete, Juan, you know who would be good for this). They have 20 minutes of a half-hour at the start of the meeting to look the tree over and come up with a possible design for it. Then, each of them takes a few minutes to explain their ideas to the group using the white board.

If we had 3 or 4 trees, and three people per tree (different people for each one) we'd have a whole meeting with lots of stuff to discuss.

2. The Progress of Collected Trees.

I (John M.) could (along with other collectors if they offer to come along) bring in several collected trees to show what they look like at the end of the first season, second season, and further along. I have yews, maples, apples, honeysuckles, that could be used for this demo. Get Juan to bring in a couple of pitch pines and anyone else who has good stuff and that's a meeting.

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 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 once again 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.

A Reminder about Annual DUES:

Those of you who are delinquent (and you know who you are...) are encouraged to contact Fred and get back to being a member in good standing. Your club relies on your full participation in order to bring the programs that we all enjoy. We're still \$30 per individual member and \$40 per family. Thank you...

Contact Information:

- President:** Diego Pabos - Contact Diego at bonsai4ever@aol.com
or by Phone: 973
- VP:** Michael Markoff - Contact Mike at MJSmart@aol.com
or by Phone: 973.895.6287
- Treasurer:** Fred Aufschläger - Contact Fred @ fdauf@msn.com
or by phone at 908.766.1359
or 17 Lakeview Drive
Bernardsville, NJ 07924.
- Secretary:** Ken Olander - Contact Ken at bowhunter444@verizon.net.
or by phone at 732.202.0677
- Newsletter:** Dan Boehmke - Contact Dan at danno@earthling.net
or by phone at 973.627.1318
-

Great Swamp Bonsai Society
c/o Diego Pablos

