



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, December 17th (3rd Tuesday!)**

7:00-10:00 pm

December 2013 Newsletter

November Meeting

Last month's meeting was a wonderful slide presentation on **bonsai pot craft** by nationally-recognized bonsai potter **Ron Lang** (see photos, next page). Ron showed us the steps involved in creating unique and masterful bonsai pots, which involves a great deal more than most of us ever imagined. He followed this with a brief slide presentation of various trees, to show how subtle differences in the pot can alter the mood or power of the tree. It was a great meeting and we all came away with a heightened appreciation for what goes into making a fine pot.

December Meeting – **Club Holiday Party, Open House,** and **Bonsai Auction**

Please bring your favorite holiday snacks, music, munchies, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, non-alcoholic beverages (Beth is taking care of the coffee), **AND** any bonsai trees, accent plants, pots, tools, books, magazines, DVDs, or other suitable material that you wish to **auction off** (a portion of the proceeds goes to support the club), (**AND** your checkbook! You just never know when you'll find that special something!) This is a good opportunity for newbies to pick up material at a bargain price.

As always, you are welcome to bring any bonsai from home for questions, comments, or to show off! **Friends, family, and first-timers welcome!**

Pots for Sale

Club Vice-President Bill Kasakov is helping Fred (who tends to act as our default repository for unclaimed freight) by selling some bonsai pots that were bequeathed to GSBS. He will gladly bring them to the next meeting so that you may avoid the cost of USPS delivery. You can find them by searching for his user ID: GINNYBILL on eBay, or follow the attached links: http://www.ebay.com/itm/Lot-of-3-Glazed-Ceramic-Bonsai-Pots-/151158293316?pt=Planters_Pots&hash=item2331bc8344 and http://www.ebay.com/itm/Lot-of-9-Glazed-Ceramic-Bonsai-Pots-/151158315967?pt=Planters_Pots&hash=item2331bcdbbf.

Thanks, Bill!

Club Dues: If you haven't yet paid your dues, it's only \$40 for an individual member or \$50 for a family membership, and helps to support our activities. Please see or contact club treasurer **Fred Aufschlager** (contact information and **membership form** on last page).

Plant Care Tips for December

Start putting Trident and Japanese Maples in the cool greenhouse for winter protection. If you do not have one, a wooden frame covered with plastic sheeting is a good substitute. Continue to spray the trees with an insecticide and fungicide on dry sunny days. [DY]

By now your deciduous bonsai have shed all but a few of their leaves or needles, and we are now looking straight into the gaping maw of the cold season. Your trees need a well-deserved rest, but you needn't go dormant yourselves! It's a great time of year to assess the design of your deciduous trees and wire your evergreen trees, to plan your repotting schedule, mix or purchase bonsai soil, clean up and sharpen your tools, read some good books and periodicals, and travel the countryside looking for suitable material from the field.

Any non-hardy trees should be inside by now, of course. No more fertilizer for your hardy (outdoor) trees, and you should be able to reduce your watering schedule soon. Remember, leafless trees need less water, but don't allow the soil to dry out completely! This holds true throughout the winter months. Your hardy trees are usually placed into winter protection by early December, so by the Holidays you definitely need to have them stored safely for the season.

Remember, winter protection is chiefly concerned with: a) preventing the soil from repeatedly freezing and thawing; b) preventing wind from dehydrating the upper portion of the plant; and c) preventing the soil from drying out completely. You may also have to concern yourself with rodents that sometimes feed on the bark or roots of dormant trees (long-time club members know that I lost about 20 trees to voles a few years back). If you store your trees in a shed or other enclosure, don't do it too early or you may encourage new growth if we get continued warm weather. Wiring may be performed on most conifers during the winter months, but deciduous trees are often too brittle to survive branch-bending, so postpone wiring on leafy trees until spring. [JM]

Ron Lang visits GSBS



Ron Lang (left, with club member Fred Aufschlager, right); a few of Ron's pottery creations to each side.

Calendar of Events for 2013–2014

December 17 (THIRD Tuesday): Holiday Party, Club Auction, and Open House. Bring snacks, beverages, desserts, and anything bonsai-related that needs a new home—and your checkbook!

January (Second Tuesday): “Night of the Somethings” – A competition, of sorts, with several similar unstyled trees (they were going to be Mugho Pines at one time, but we are still seeking good material) presented to teams of two, each of whom has to create a sketch of their proposed result, and three hours to make it happen! (We had lots of fun with a similar exercise a few years ago with “Night of the Junipers.”)

February (THIRD Tuesday): Forest Planting: Root Pruning and Repotting. Several years ago, we worked in two teams to design and pot up two separate large forest plantings, one of Korean Hornbeam, and the other of Zelkova. It’s now time to revisit both forest plantings, which is a great opportunity for novices to get their hands dirty and get some experience.

March (Second Tuesday): Repotting Demo-Workshop: Bring your own, or work with ours. We will also **vote for the 3 trees to represent GSBS at this year’s MABS Spring Festival**.

April 29: Guest Speaker Suthin Sukosolvisit, fresh from his appearance at MABS 2014.

May (Second Tuesday): Air-Layering Demo-Workshop. Bring your own, or work with ours. Find out how to get interesting bonsai material from the tops of stock plants, or get better rootage from that bonsai that needs a bit of help. Fertilizer Cake-Making. We will provide the ingredients to make large batches of bonsai fertilizer cakes, which you can bring home in ziploc bags, to spread out on baking sheets and dry at home.

June (First Sunday): GSBS Open House. Lectures, demos, raffles, vendors, dozens of trees on display. A great outing for the club, and a great opportunity for newcomers to see what we’re all about.

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

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

Standing Offer for members of GSBS

Efrain Torres, owner and proprietor of **Manhattan Bonsai** in NYC, now offers **FREE shipping** on all orders from members of the Great Swamp Bonsai Society! Specifically, you can order online or by phone, and he will deliver your merchandise to the following meeting of GSBS. This represents a considerable savings when it comes to ordering soil, pots, or trees, where shipping costs can be prohibitive. To take advantage of the offer, order online, select "Ground" for shipping, and put "GSBS member" in the comment field. (This is for **club members only**, please!) Visit Efrain's website at manhattanbonsai.com or phone him at (914) 793-1093.

Contact Information:

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Club Information

Location:

The Frelinghuysen Arboretum
353 East Hanover Ave,
Morristown, NJ 07962

Date:

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

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 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:
