



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

**HOLIDAY PARTY, CLUB AUCTION, OPEN HOUSE!**

**December 2014 Newsletter**

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## **This month's meeting: Holiday Party, Club Auction, Open House!**

Every December, our club hosts an informal **party** with food, drinks, music, and good company. Please bring along your favorite holiday treat, dessert, hors d'oeuvre, or (non-alcoholic) beverage. (email John at [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com) if you can bring cups, plates, utensils, etc.)

**Spouses, Significant Others, and First-timers Welcome!**

We will also be having our annual **Club Bonsai Auction**, so bring along your checkbook (or cash), as well as any **tools, books, DVDs, magazines, pots, trees**, or any other bonsai-related materials that you'd like to put up for auction. A portion of the proceeds goes to support the club.

## **Save your copper wire clippings!**

Following last month's meeting, club member Kerry Heck brought in our collected copper wire clippings to turn in for scrap. All together it was 23 pounds of copper and a pound of brass wire screen, which brought the club **\$55.00** – more than the price of an annual membership. If we all contribute in the coming year, I'm sure it could be a lot more, so please save the pieces and bring them to the meetings.

## **November meeting: Winter Care, Essential Tools, and Initial Bonsai Design**

November's meeting covered the essentials of winter care & maintenance of trees (by club member John Michalski), as well as the essential tools of bonsai and their proper care and maintenance (by club member Fred Aufschläger). A few of us stuck around to take a whack (literally!) at a few club junipers, to get a basic design into what were otherwise some difficult plants to get started with.

## 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 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 December

By now your deciduous bonsai have shed all but a few of their leaves or needles, and in spite of rather unsettled weather, we are 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. Strip any remaining leaves off your apples, maples, honeysuckles, etc. Dry leaves can be left on beeches. Don't forget to spray deer-repellent on trees kept outdoors! 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 roots or bark of dormant trees. 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. Apply insecticides/fungicides occasionally throughout the winter (perhaps every six weeks or so), if you get a sunny, mild day to do it. (Winter is the time when wooly adelgids become a problem on hemlocks, for example.) [JM]

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

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

**December 9<sup>th</sup>: Club Holiday Party, Bonsai Auction, Open House.**

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

**February 10<sup>th</sup>:** (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 10<sup>th</sup>: Wiring Workshop.** Bring your tree(s) from home to get some hands-on practice and instruction.

**April 14<sup>th</sup>: Root-pruning and Repotting workshop.** Bring in your own trees for assistance and practice.

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

**May 12<sup>th</sup>: Topic to be determined.**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> (Sunday): Annual Club Open House.**

*Novices and non-members always welcome!*

*Come and plan to get your hands dirty!*

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**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:

President: Diego E Pablos [bonsai4ever@aol.com](mailto:bonsai4ever@aol.com)  
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Vice President: Bill Kasakoff [bill.kasakoff@gmail.com](mailto:bill.kasakoff@gmail.com)

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17 Lakeview Drive  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Newsletter: John Michalski [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com)

## 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:

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