



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, January 9th**

**HOLIDAY PARTY AND BONSAI AUCTION**

**January 2018 Newsletter**

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## This month's meeting—weather permitting!

### Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction

Please bring your favorite holiday treat, hors d'oeuvre, non-alcoholic beverage, etc. and some cash or your check book. Our annual bonsai auction usually features any trees, pots, tools, books, magazines, DVDs, etc. that you wish to donate, providing you some additional space and giving someone else a great chance to acquire that special something that their own collection is lacking. ***There is no back-up date if this meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather.*** Hope to see you all there!

### Brrrrrrrrrrrrrr !

Perhaps you've noticed **it has been rather cold** so far this January. Hopefully you have done what you can to protect your hardy outdoor bonsai from the elements, well in advance of this particular block of sub-zero weather. (This should have included some way to defend against strong winds and desiccation of the soil.)

The good news, if it can be called that, is that many bonsai can survive the current extreme temperatures, as long as they are not continually freezing and thawing. So, let's hope that the current cold spell leaves us with temperatures in the low 30's, rather than the mid 50's. (Taking into account the climate shift of the past several years, this may be too much to ask for.)

The primary issues, for those of you contemplating a change of strategy for what's left of the winter season, are to make sure the soil is not drying out—that means that snow, for example, is a GOOD thing to have blanketing the soil in your bonsai pots—and that your trees are out of the wind and, preferably, out of the sun. My bonsai collection has been packed closely together, on the ground, beside a six-foot privacy fence, which keeps the trees in shadow for most of the day and does a fairly good job of keeping the wind off them. Will it have been enough? Stay tuned!

## November meeting: Pines

In November we brought in our various pine bonsai for show-and-tell, and some hands-on experience with these most popular bonsai subjects.



Peter Michienzi examines a Japanese Black Pine.

Mark Schmuck discusses the growth characteristics of his Red Pines.





Fred Aufschläger explains his design changes on a Scots Pine.

Peter Michienzi gives design assistance to Mark Sanders on his Japanese 5-needle Pine.



## 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 January

During the bleak winter months, the extreme cold temperatures can take its toll on all of your trees. The main task is to protect them from the very cold weather. If temps climb above freezing, you can check the soil in the pots to make sure it has not dried out. (If they are snow-covered, you don't have to worry about this.) If needed, water the soil so it is just damp.

Don't wait until spring to do all of your maintenance! Winter is an excellent time for heavy pruning, new design and carving, needle plucking on pines (2-3 yr old needles). Don't forget to take off old wire and add new wire. This is a good time to plan your repotting schedule for spring. Draw up a list of trees that need repotting and order your soil requirements and any pots you may need. Finally, watch out for mice girdling your trees. Use mothballs or a hungry cat to prevent problems! [DY]

A few species, such as Japanese Black Pine and Trident Maple, cannot survive having their roots in the deep freeze, especially if the weather should wobble back and forth between very cold and unseasonably warm. An unheated shed or garage that does not get below 35 degrees Fahrenheit would be ideal, but be watchful of warm spells—a few days in the 50s could have your bonsai breaking bud, only to have them freeze in the next (inevitable) cold snap!

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]

## 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!***

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

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

March, 2018: ***Main topic To Be Determined – tree selection for Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival***

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

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

June, 2018: ***1<sup>st</sup> 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:

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## 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:**

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