



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **TUESDAY, January 8th**

Club Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction

January 2019 Newsletter

Next meeting January 8th:

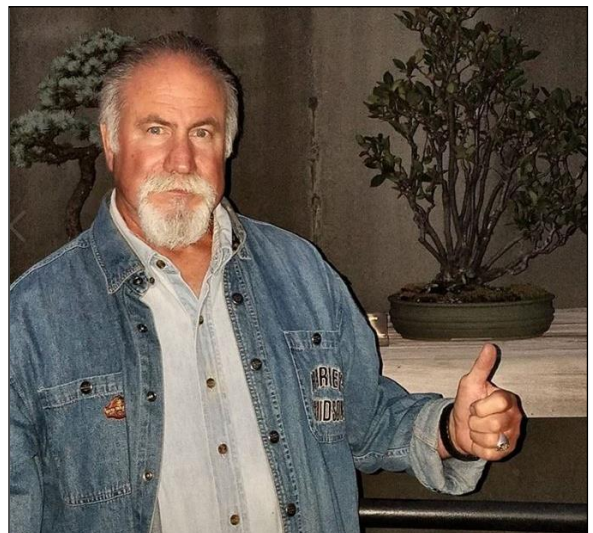
CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY AND BONSAI AUCTION

Happy New Year! Our meeting schedule resumes on the second Tuesday of January with our annual **Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction**. **Details on page 3.**

In Memorium: Dale Cochoy

The bonsai world has lost a good friend and one of its outstanding potters with the passing of Dale Cochoy of Hartville, Ohio, shortly after Christmas. Dale had been fighting cancer for some time, and had only recently fired his last batch of pots before selling his kilns and other equipment. Many of you will be familiar with his businesses, **Wild Things Bonsai Studio**, and **Yakimono no Kokoro Bonsai Pottery**.

I did not know Dale apart from his appearances as a vendor at the annual MABS Spring Festival, at which he sold a world-class array of wood-carving tools and his own excellent and distinctive bonsai pots.



Among the posts I found online were the following, from people who knew Dale far better than I did:

“I knew Dale for almost 25 years. Have more than my fair share of his pots. He was a great guy—a bit grumbly at shows—but a character. That character will be sorely missed.”

“Dale was a good friend and one of the first voices I remember from years ago when I first got into bonsai. Ornerly as they come but a good soul for sure. He’ll be missed.”

Dale is survived by his wife Nancy and sons. A condensed autobiography, written in 2007, can be found at <https://www.bonsainut.com/threads/wild-things-bonsai-studio.986/>.

Dale’s pottery was invariably signed with the Japanese kanji for “Yakimono no Kokoro” which means “Soul of Fired Things,” along with the date and Dale’s stylized initials. Below are some photos of just a few of the Cochoy pots I have in my own collection.



Club Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction – Tuesday, January 8th

Please have a look through your bonsai collections, accent plants, pots, tools, stands, books, magazines, DVDs, display materials—really, anything that you feel might attract the purchasing attentions of bonsai enthusiasts.

That tree that you've worked on—or not—that you just don't know what to do with? It may be just the thing another member of the club is looking for. Our standard arrangement is to split the proceeds with 15% going to the club, but you are welcome to donate more, or all, of the proceeds from your auction items to the club as you wish. If you have something for which you would like to set a minimum bid, please feel free to do so. But do bring your checkbook or some cash!

As for the **food and drinks**, we welcome any and all contributions in the area of holiday treats, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, fruit or veggies, dips and chips, and non-alcoholic beverages. We will supply cups, plates, napkins, and cutlery, but if there's something special you need for your contribution, please bring it along.

Please also feel free to bring any bonsai that you wish to show, or for questions and comments, even if it's not for the auction.

Bonsai Tip from your Editor: Are those *Pie Plates*?

Well, I finally bit the bullet and hired the professionals to install my new deer fence, eight feet high and completely surrounding my quarter-acre property. The only way a deer could get inside would be if it walked within five feet of my house, across the concrete patio, and up a narrow flight of stone steps. (You're getting ahead of me on this one, aren't you?)

OF COURSE a deer found its way into the yard, and couldn't find his way back out. In its panic, the beast repeatedly slammed its full weight against the fence, doing predictable bendy damage, and finally tangling its small antlers in the wire mesh! I was



actually phoning the police to contact animal control, when the creature dislodged itself and, once I opened a clear path, found its way out of my yard.

So now I have a set of aluminum pie plates dangling from a string over the little concrete steps, with the hope of avoiding a repeat performance. Any takers?

Looking Back: November meeting – Bonsai First Steps

For our November meeting, club member **Fred Aufschläger** suggested, and led, an excellent presentation/workshop based on the first steps necessary in creating a bonsai from raw material—cleaning out the dead limbs, selecting the primary branches, eliminating unnecessary branches (and sometimes retaining them for use as deadwood, or *jin*), and all the general design considerations that go into choosing the style of the future bonsai and getting down to establishing the future of the tree.

It was a great meeting with lots of opportunities for newbies to get their hands dirty with a little help from our more experienced members. Thanks again, Fred!



Reminder: The “Bonsai Show” signs have arrived!

As noted in last month’s newsletter, our “Open House” signs have arrived (see photos), and now it’s time for you to figure out if there are places in your community that might be good spots for these signs, put into place about two weeks prior to the show (which is the first Sunday in June). (We also have wire stakes to hold them up.)

The image below shows the signs we will disperse among the membership—and we will add the precise calendar date with black magic marker (hoping to reuse them in future years).

As you consider your options, please keep in the mind (a) whether your community is a likely source of possible attendees; (b) how many signs you think you can reasonably use (we have ordered 50 in total); and (c) please contact your local municipal office to determine how to obtain permission to place signs at the sites you have chosen (make sure to emphasize this is a not-for-profit event, and free to the public).

Failing everything else, you could, of course, place a sign on your own, or a well-located friend’s, front yard. (Or a friend’s business front window, or a friendly garden center or public library, etc.).

We have a few months to figure it all out, but get started so that we can make the best use of the signs we have. Thanks!



Plant Care Tips for January

Surprise! Winter came early this year! And Surprise again—before Christmas the temperature went up into the 60s and back down to the 30s! By the time you read this, who knows what else will have happened?

During the bleak winter months, the main task is to protect your trees from fluctuations in temperature, and attempt to keep them evenly cold if at all possible. Check the soil in the pots occasionally, to make sure it has not dried out. If so, water the soil so it is just damp. Snowfall is a good thing—leave snow on the surface of the soil, or throw some on there if it didn't get there by itself. Any time the temperature rises above freezing (however briefly), your bonsai will get a slight watering.

A few species, such as Japanese Black Pine and Trident Maple, cannot survive having their roots in the deep freeze, especially if the weather continues to 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!

Warm or cold, winter is a good time 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.

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 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. [JM]

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]

Save and Bring In Your Discarded Bonsai Wire

Please remember to save and bring in those wire clippings. **It helps if you cut your wire into short (3-6 inch) lengths, as it packs more easily for transport and sale.** 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.

Dues are Always Welcome!

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you have not yet paid up, please bring cash or check to **club treasurer Rick Myers**, 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.

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

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!



My bonsai collection in March 2014—fifty trees nestled along the back fence.
(The projecting crown to the left is of a tree that is 5 feet tall.)

Calendar of Events for 2018-2019

January 8th: Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction.

Please scour your collection for trees, pots, tools, etc. to put up for auction—the more the merrier! (And bring your checkbook!)

February: NO MEETING

March 12th: Wood-carving Workshop. Bring your own material and tools, if you have them. We will have some dead material on hand to practice with, as well as living.

April 12-14: Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival. Stay tuned for details, or go to <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org/>.

April 16th: Guest artist Marc Noelanders, fresh from MABS. Bring-your-own-tree workshop from 1-4 pm (\$50 per participant). Presentation/demo 6:30-9:30 free to the public.

May 14th: Phoenix/Approach Graft Workshop/Repotting Workshop. Learn how to graft live “whips” onto dramatic deadwood, to create stunning bonsai material. (Repotting Workshop may be moved to March depending on local conditions (that is, temperature!)—stay tuned.)

June 2nd (first Sunday): Annual GSBS Bonsai Open House. Stay tuned for details.

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Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

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 John Michalski
223 Mount Kemble Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960

Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:

Send to:

GSBS c/o Rick Myers **New** **Renewal**
80 Kenvil Avenue
Succasunna, NJ 07876. **Individual (\$40.00)** **Family (\$50.00)**

Name(s): _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** (_____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:
