



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, JANUARY 14th**
6:30– 9:30 PM

Post-Holiday Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction

January 2020 Newsletter

January Meeting: TUESDAY, January 14th – Post–Holiday Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction

As we do every January, please feel free to bring along **food, snacks, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages**, to make the meeting festive. (If someone has a portable CD player, we can even have some music—contact me at huonia@aol.com if you can assist.)

This is also our **Annual Club Bonsai and Other Stuff Auction**, so please bring any trees, books, magazines, DVDs, tools, pots, accent plants, or anything bonsai-related (including artwork) that you wish to be rid of—this is a great opportunity for newbies to pick up materials at low prices, **so bring cash or your checkbook!** A portion of the proceeds (or all of it, at the donor's discretion) goes to the club, which helps us finance guest artists and club supplies like soil and wire for workshops.



(Senior Club Members: let's have a good comb through our stockpiles to really make this year's offerings a fun lot! And pray for no snowstorm on meeting night!)

Plant Care Tips for January

We have often discussed how weather patterns have become increasingly unpredictable compared to decades gone by. With that in mind, perhaps the most important element of your winter care for outdoor/hardy bonsai is to protect them from abrupt fluctuations in temperature. A few species, such as Japanese Black Pine and Trident Maple, cannot survive having their roots in the deep freeze, especially if the weather wobbles 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.

Watering, when needed, should be limited to keeping the soil slightly moist. Remember, leafless trees need less water, but don't allow the soil to dry out completely! This holds true throughout the winter months.

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]

Winter is an excellent time for heavy pruning, new design and carving, needle plucking on pines (2-3 year 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]

How About That Ice Storm, eh?

Here are a few photos of the Michalski collection following our late-December ice storm. (In case you're wondering: the greatest threat to your bonsai collection was the risk that branches became overburdened and broke—but what could any of us do, if our trees are kept outdoors? A typical tent or hoop-house may well have collapsed during that event, crushing everything inside in the process. Hope your trees fared well!)



Dues are Always Welcome!

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you haven't 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.

Save and Bring In Your Discarded Copper 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.



Keep those Topic Suggestions Coming!

A reminder to feel free to send your ideas and topic suggestions to any of the Board Members listed at the back of this newsletter. GSBS is always looking for new and interesting topics that will appeal to the various educational needs of our diverse membership. The club exists for you, so don't be shy with your recommendations.

We especially welcome volunteers who wish to plan and lead presentations and workshops, so that the club may benefit from the wide array of experience contained within our membership.

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

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Calendar of Events for 2020

We still have several open slots in our 2020 calendar. Please email any of our club officers with suggestions—we want to plan meetings that will benefit you and cater to your interests!

January 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***"After-the-Holidays Holiday Party" and Club Bonsai Auction.***

**** No meeting in February***

March 10th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined. We will also be selecting our 3 trees to represent GSBS at this year's MABS Spring Festival. Details as we get closer.***

April 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM) ***Soils and Repotting Workshop.***

April 17th-19th **Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival**, Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey PA. For details go to www.midatlanticbonsai.org.

April 21st (Tuesday) ***Daytime (paid) workshop with guest artist SUTHIN SUKOSOLVISIT, fresh from MABS, evening presentation with same. Details as we get them!***

May 12th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

May 31st (**SUNDAY**, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM). ***ANNUAL BONSAI OPEN HOUSE.***

**** No meeting in June***

July 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

August: Annual Club Picnic. Date and location to be determined.

GSBS Contact Information:

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Past President: Diego E Pablos
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Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@verizon.net

Treasurer: Rick Myers spruce80@verizon.net
80 Kenvil Ave
Succasunna N J
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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:
