



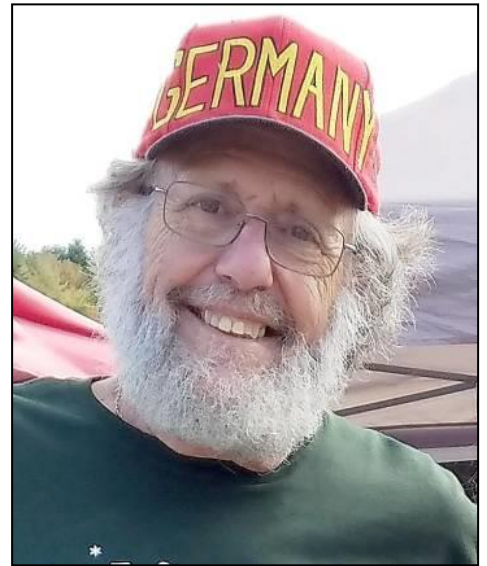
Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: To Be Determined

January 2021 Newsletter

In Memoriam: Jay Gettinger

It is with great sadness that we relay the news of the passing of former club member **Jay Gettinger**, who had moved with his wife to Vermont several years ago, and has succumbed to brain cancer. Jay was an outgoing and friendly person, who traveled to our meetings from Warwick, just across the state line in New York State. He stayed in touch with me over the years through our club newsletter, and once or twice a year would send an email in response to something I had written. Club member **Fred Aufschläger** recalls that Jay had started making his own bonsai pots, and whenever he brought samples to our meetings they were quickly scarfed up on account of their excellent quality and aesthetic appeal.



Here is the email I received from a member of his most recent bonsai club in Vermont:

Here in Vermont we recently lost one of our longstanding Green Mountain Bonsai Society members: Jay Gettinger, to brain cancer. He was a wonderful guy, a long standing welcoming and sharing member of our club, and will be sorely missed – we are trying to pull together a tribute history of sorts to share in our Newsletter. Jay became part of GMBS long before I joined [pre 1994], but I do recall him reminiscing about belonging to NJ clubs before he and his wife Jeannie moved to Vermont. I wondered if just possibly, any current members of your clubs had any recollection of Jay in the time he may have spent with your groups, and if so might be willing to share their recollection.

Thank you very much for your time – I realize it's been many years and this may be a long shot. May all your people and trees be safe and well.

Best regards – Kristin Leavitt, Green Mountain Bonsai Society, Vermont

If you have any reminiscences to share, you can send them to Kristin at Kristin.Leavitt@uvm.edu.

Not Much Club News To Report!

As you might guess, the **pandemic** continues to keep club meetings at bay for the time being, though like many people we remain optimistic about the prospects for widespread vaccination in the weeks and months ahead. Hopefully things will get to a point where public venues, such as our regular meeting place at the **Frelinghuysen Arboretum**, will again feel secure in opening their spaces to groups such as our own.

In the meantime, you can keep abreast of **club member activity** at our **Facebook Page** (and please **contribute!**), and we continue to encourage you to send home video clips for installation on our club **YouTube Channel**.

Repeat: No Dues for 2020–2021 Season!

As we will not, any time soon, be meeting at the Arboretum, and as our club treasury is already ample to meet our meager needs, dues will be suspended until further notice. If you have already paid your dues for the coming season, you may request a refund, or have them applied to next year, at your discretion.

Repeat: GSBS Facebook Page / GSBS YouTube Channel

A reminder that our club **Facebook Page** is a wonderful venue for anyone in the group to post photos, ask questions, or chime in with ideas and opinions about other people's work and accomplishments. To contribute to the discussion, all you have to do is go to the page and request to join the group—once your request has been accepted, you will be able to post photos, videos, and comments.

We have also established a Great Swamp Bonsai Society **YouTube Channel**, which at the moment features only a few amateur video clips by yours truly (John Michalski), expounding or demonstrating simple maintenance techniques for different species used in bonsai. If you have something you'd like to upload, get in touch with me at huonia@aol.com. Thanks!

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, and abrupt changes 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 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.

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 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]

GSBS Sales Table – “Virtual” Sales Table

Whenever we eventually return to something like a normal schedule, we will continue with our recent addition of a “sales table” for any bonsai-related articles that club members wish to offer for sale at our regular meetings. You simply bring your wares and post the prices with them.

In the meantime, feel free to post announcements on our club **Facebook Page** if you have something to sell, or something you are seeking. **(Non-commercial sales only, please. This is not intended as advertising space for full-time professionals.)** This is a good way for members to move along those items they no longer wish to keep, while offering same to other people who might cherish them! So please feel free!

GSBS Swap Meet

Please feel free to bring any bonsai-related items that you wish to sell or swap to any of our meetings. We will give you a moment to announce what you have so that those present can approach you as they wish.

Save and Bring In Your Discarded Copper Bonsai Wire

Please remember to save and (eventually) 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.

Calendar of Events for 2020-2021

Obviously, our calendar is currently a work in progress. But keep those suggestions coming—we will be back on track sooner or later!

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES.

January: *NO MEETING PLANNED*

February: *NO MEETING*

March: Repotting Workshop. Date and venue to be determined.

**April 16-18th: Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Spring Festival
CANCELLED**

April: Date, venue, and topic to be determined.

May/June: Date, venue, and topic to be determined.

GSBS Contact Information:

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Treasurer: Rick Myers spruce80@verizon.net
80 Kenvil Ave
Succasunna N J
07876

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

DUES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:

Send to:

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

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

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

If Family Membership, please list other members:
