



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, Jan 22nd**

**Noon - 4:00 PM – Guest Artist Chase Rosade!**

January 2022 Newsletter

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## GSBS Planning New Indoor Meeting Place – Your Input Requested

Since our former meeting rooms at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum remain unavailable without any projected re-opening date, the GSBS is arranging for meeting space at the **Morris County Library on Hanover Avenue**, (which is directly across the street from the entrance to the Arboretum). **We hereby ask YOU: do you prefer evening meetings (7-9 PM) on a weeknight, or Saturday afternoon (noon-4 PM)? Email John Michalski at [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com) to share your two cents.**

**January Meeting – Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** (inclement weather dates 01/23 or 01/29, depending on conditions)

Our first meeting of 2022 will be held at the **Rosade Bonsai Studio** in **New Hope, Pennsylvania**, from noon to 4:00 PM. Leading the session will be internationally-renown bonsai artist and instructor **Chase Rosade**, who will demonstrate various **wood carving techniques** on a field-grown juniper which will be raffled off at the conclusion of the demo.

Chase will provide the coffee, but feel free to bring along any other treats or beverages of your choice, as well as a tree or two for advice, ideas, or just to show off. **Carpooling is being arranged for club members who would prefer not to drive themselves.** Email John Michalski at [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com) if interested in carpooling, or feel free to contact other club members directly if you have someone who lives nearby.



## Dues to be Reinstated in time for January Meeting

The GSBS is reintroducing club dues, at \$40.00 for individual, \$50.00 for family membership, per year—which was our rate before we suspended dues in 2020. You can pay by cash or check, in person to club treasurer **Rick Myers**, or by mail at his address at the back of this newsletter.

## Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society (MABS) Spring Festival – April 8–10<sup>th</sup>

This year's MABS Spring Festival is being held at the Hampton Inn, Route 10, Parsippany NJ, so please check out their information at [www.midatlanticbonsai.org](http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org) and sign up to join in the fun! Please list your **club affiliation as Great Swamp Bonsai Society**, since member clubs share in the profits based on member attendance.

## A mild, rainy start to 2022

We've been here before, friends—more and more over the past few years, it seems. A mild, rainy November, December, and now the beginning of January. This weather is, in fact, ideal for most of your hardy outdoor bonsai, so let it rain!

*HOWEVER:* stay alert to weather forecasts and be sure to keep your trees in protected conditions, as those cold snaps are surely on their way—who knows when and how quickly?

If you have outdoor bonsai in glazed containers, you still have time to remove them to something else (if you do it cautiously), because glazed pottery tends to crack and spall—that is, shed their outer, glazed surfaces in flakes and chips.



## Plant Care Tips for January

Not for the first time in recent years, we are experiencing an unusually mild winter so far. But that cold snap can arrive at any time, so you should always be ready to move your trees someplace where they will be protected from low temperatures and desiccation. A few species, such as Japanese Black Pine and Trident Maple, cannot survive having their roots in the deep freeze, especially if the weather fluctuates between very cold and unseasonably warm. An unheated shed or garage that does not get below 35 degrees Fahrenheit would be ideal, but remain watchful for 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]

## 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.

## 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](mailto:huonia@aol.com). Thanks!

## Repeat: GSBS Sales Table – “Virtual” Sales Table

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!

## Keep those Topic Suggestions Coming!

A reminder to feel free to send your ideas and topic suggestions to any of the Board Members listed on the last page 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 2021-2022

A return date to our original meeting room at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum is still uncertain. Please keep venue and topic ideas coming—we are cheerfully open to any and all suggestions!

All meetings held on Saturdays, noon to 4:00 PM, with “rain date” the following Sunday. **WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES.**

**January 22nd: Deadwood design/carving** at the [Rosade Bonsai Studio in New Hope, PA](#). Details on page 1 of this newsletter.

**February 26th:** Presentation by guest artist **Sergio Cuan**, demonstrating his technique of **thread-grafting on Maples**. To be hosted at the home of Peter and Genevieve Michienzi in River Edge, NJ. Details to come.

**March:** Selection of club trees to represent GSBS at this year’s Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies’ Spring Festival. Date and location to be determined, but likely to be the [Morris County Library on Hanover Avenue](#), directly across the street from the entrance to the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Meeting will include an instructional topic to be determined.

**April 8-10<sup>th</sup>: Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Spring Festival!** To be held at the [Hampton Inn, Route 10, Parsippany NJ](#). For information go to [www.midatlanticbonsai.org](http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org). Sign up now!

**April meeting:** Guest artist from MABS, artist, date, and location to be determined.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>: Guest artist Will Baddeley**, from the UK. Time and location to be determined. For information on the artist, look him up under Bonsai Empire.

**June:** topics and location to be determined. Stay tuned!

## GSBS Contact Information:

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80 Kenvil Ave  
Succasunna N J  
07876

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

## Club Information

**Location:** (If/when we return to "normal.")

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)      \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$50)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

If Family Membership, please list other members:

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