



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: SATURDAY, March 26th

Noon - 3:00 PM – Morris County Library

February/March 2022 Newsletter

March Meeting: Saturday, 3/26, noon to 3:00 PM. TOPIC: Tree selection for MABS 2022! Also: Pruning to refine your design

Location: **Morris County Library meeting room**, Hanover Avenue, Morristown (directly across the street from our usual meeting place at the Arboretum).

We encourage anyone with a tree that they wish to submit to represent GSBS at this year's MABS Spring Festival, to bring it to the meeting, where (when we have more contenders than places) we make our club choice by "penny vote," in which each attendee gets three pennies to place before the trees of their choice. We usually select three winners and a fourth as a backup. Even if you don't have a tree to offer, please come and join the fun! It will be wonderful to see you!

For our lecture/demonstration, club president **John Michalski** will be bringing in some of his **Amur Maples** to demonstrate "The Art of Tough Love"—pruning out mature branches in order to refine your design. Even though there are times when you've spent years growing branches on your favorite bonsai, there are times when less is more, and times when removing branches is required to bring your tree to a higher artistic plane.

April Meeting: Monday, April 11th, featuring guest artist Bjorn BJORHOLM, straight from MABS.

Our April meeting will be hosted by the Deep Cut Bonsai Society, in Middletown NJ (about an hour's drive south of Morristown). Together we will be hosting internationally renowned bonsai artist **Bjorn BJORHOLM**, for a paid hands-on workshop from noon to 4:00 PM (all hands-on spaces are full, but there is still room for \$10.00 "silent observers" if you're interested), followed by dinner at the local Outback Steakhouse (please RSVP John at huonia@aol.com if you intend to join us for dinner), and back to the meeting room for a presentation/demo by Bjorn starting at 7:30 PM.

We are collecting DUES again!

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 8–10th

This year's MABS Spring Festival is being held at the Hilton, Route 10, Parsippany NJ (overnight rooms at the adjoining Hampton Inn), so please check out their information at 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.**

Plant Care Tips for March

March is the perfect time to repot, and to branch- and root-prune. Trees less than 5 years old should be repotted annually (or as needed), trees between 5 and 20 years old may be repotted every other year, and trees over 20 should be repotted every 3 years. By the end of March, depending on weather conditions, trees can be gradually brought out of winter shelter. Evergreens may be fertilized now and, in general, you may spray for fungus and insects on a warm day. March is really the last month deciduous trees can be lifted from the ground, as buds have not yet broken. Evergreens can be lifted until the end of April. March and April are also good months to dig trees from the wild, keeping as much fibrous root attached as possible. [DY]

Keep your trees cool. Don't be in a hurry to encourage early growth, as it can still get cold. March is a *great* month for repotting, and for digging planted trees and collecting field grown ones. [JM]

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. 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!

March 26th: Selection of club trees to represent GSBS at this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival. Location: 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 8-10th: **Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Spring Festival!** To be held at the Hilton, Route 10, Parsippany NJ. For information go to www.midatlanticbonsai.org. Sign up now!

April 11th (Monday): Guest artist **Bjorn Bjorholm** straight from MABS! **Location: Christ Episcopal Church, 90 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ, 07748.** Hands-on paid workshop (noon to 4:00 PM) is already filled, but there's still room for "silent observers" (\$10.00). Evening lecture/demo (7:30 til whenever we're done) free to public, with tree to be raffled at conclusion.

May 21st: **Guest artist Will Baddeley**, from the UK. Hosted at the home of club member Fred Aufschläger, time 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:

President: John Michalski

huonia@aol.com

Phone: 973-829-0094
223 Mt. Kemble Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960

Past President: Diego E Pablos

neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com

Phone: 973.224.8139

Vice President: Mark Sanders dealmakr@att.net

Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@optonline.net

Treasurer: Rick Myers spruce80@verizon.net

80 Kenvil Ave
Succasunna N J
07876

Newsletter: John Michalski 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:
