



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: To Be Determined

February 2021 Newsletter

## Snow, snow, and more snow!

Hello, friends! Another “better late than never” newsletter from your trusty editor. There is, frankly, not much to report in club news, as the pandemic situation continues to interfere with indoor meetings. If you haven’t already done so, once again I recommend you check out our **GSBS Facebook Page**, which has been a lifeline for club members who have questions, comments, ideas, announcements, websites and videos to check out, and photos to share.

In the meantime, keep an eye on your hardy outdoor bonsai (if you can see them!), to dust off some of that snow from the branches, check for breakage and rodent depredations, and take advantage of the season for wiring and styling conifers, cleaning and sharpening your tools, ordering bonsai soil and wire, and getting ready for the warming days of early spring, which will be the optimal time for transplanting, field collecting, and repotting. (I realize that was a lot of subordinate clauses to jam into one sentence, sorry!)



My new storage pen (left) in November, and (right) on Valentine’s Day.

## Meetings?

The **pandemic** continues to keep club meetings at bay for the time being, though we remain optimistic that, with improved access to vaccination, 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](mailto:huonia@aol.com). Thanks!

## Plant Care Tips for February

Now is a good time to begin putting together your bonsai compost. A suggested combination would be 1/3 peat, 1/3 garden compost, 1/3 sand or grit, and a slow-release fertilizer (about a handful per 5 gallons).

Towards the end of the month, if there are any brief mild spells, it is time to repot and wire those deciduous trees. It is also possible to lift trees from the ground and do some undercutting. Leave evergreens until later. Branch pruning of deciduous and evergreen trees can be done (except Japanese maples and pines). Any major redesign and reshaping of trees can be done now. Pines and evergreens can be grafted now. [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!

## Save 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 in suspended animation. But keep those suggestions coming—we will be back on track sooner or later!

### **WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES.**

**February: *NO MEETING***

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

**April 16-18<sup>th</sup>: 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](mailto:spruce80@verizon.net)  
80 Kenvil Ave  
Succasunna N J  
07876

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

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