



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

*Next meeting: Tuesday, March 13th*

*Tree selection for MABS, Collecting Bonsai*

**March 2018 Newsletter**

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## **This month's meeting—Tree Selection for MABS 2018, and a Primer on Field Collecting**

Each year we use part of our March meeting to select the four trees to represent GSBS at the Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival. If you have a tree that you wish to offer for consideration, please bring it to Tuesday's meeting. Attendees will demonstrate their preferences by "penny vote"—each member will receive 4 pennies, to place before his or her favorite trees, and the top four contenders will represent our club at the upcoming Spring Festival (see below).

Along with choosing our trees for MABS, John Michalski will lead a presentation on the art of collecting bonsai from the wild. Several members have expressed an interest in a group collecting trip, and we are working on arrangements for such an outing. Stay tuned.

## **Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival – April 13–15**

Once again the Festival will be held at the **Radisson Cromwell, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416**. Guests include DAISAKU NOMOTO, TONY TICKLE, TYLER SHERROD, and MATT REEL. The workshops are probably all filled by now, but the lecture/demos, with their accompanying raffles, are still available. If you can't spring for the presentations, consider coming to see the display trees and the extensive **vendor room**, featuring dealers from across the country purveying a wide assortment of **trees, pots, stands, tools, wire, soil, books, magazines, DVDs and art pieces** from around the world. Registration forms and detailed information can be found at: <http://midatlanticbonsai.org>.

## January meeting: Holiday Party and Club Auction

Our usual mid-winter party and auction was moved from December to January this year, to avoid the busy pre-holiday season and bring some fun into an otherwise quiet time in the bonsai calendar.



## Keep Your Outdoor Bonsai Protected!

Please remember to keep your outdoor bonsai protected against back-and-forth thawing and freezing in the weeks ahead. The weather patterns are shifting, and we can no longer count on the slow, steady shift in temperatures that once passed through the months of February, March, and April. It's better to have your trees in a shaded location, even if it means their pots stay frozen during short mild spells, rather than allowing them to warm up into the 50s and 60s only to drop back into the 20s and 30s from day to day. This can be a hazardous time of year for your bonsai collection, so stay vigilant.



## Have You Paid Your Dues?

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you have not yet paid up, please bring cash or check to **club treasurer Rick Meyers**, 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. See last page for details.

## Plant Care Tips for March

March is the perfect time to repot, and to branch- and (once your trees have thawed) root-prune. Trees less than 5 years old may be repotted annually (less often if removal from the pot reveals ample room for growth since last repotting), 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 usually 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 Bonsai Wire

Please remember to save and bring in those wire clippings. 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.

## Meeting Dates for 2017–2018

***NOTE: We are still planning our calendar – suggestions welcome!***

March 13, 2018: ***Collecting Bonsai from the Wild – Tree selection for Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival***

April 13-15, 2018: ***MABS Spring Festival (see page 1)***

April 17, 2018: ***Guest artist TONY TICKLE from this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival. Paid workshop from 1-4 p.m., followed by casual dinner (we split the check) and meeting FREE to ALL from 6:30-9:30 p.m.***

May 15, 2018: ***Topic To Be Determined***

June 3, 2018: ***1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – Annual Club Bonsai Open House!***

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

***Novices and non-members always welcome!***

***Come and plan to get your hands dirty!***

## GSBS Contact Information:

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Secretary: Mark Schmuck [lofty235@verizon.net](mailto:lofty235@verizon.net)

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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 Diego E Pablos  
289 Mount Hope Ave.  
K-12, Rockaway twp.  
Dover, NJ 07801

### **Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:**

#### **Send to:**

**GSBS c/o Diego Pablos**                       **New**                       **Renewal**  
**289 Mount Hope Ave.**  
**K-12, Rockaway Twp.**     **Individual (\$40.00)**     **Family (\$50.00)**  
**Dover, NJ 07801**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**If Family Membership, please list other members:**

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