



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **TUESDAY, March 12th – 6:30 – 9:30 PM**

Creating Deadwood (Jin & Shari)

March 2019 Newsletter

Next meeting Tuesday, March 12th: Creating and maintaining Deadwood (Jin & Shari) + Selecting Our Club Trees for MABS!

Our March meeting will be partly devoted to **voting for the three trees to represent our club at this year's MABS**. Please bring any bonsai you wish to submit to the March meeting. We usually vote for three trees with a fourth as a “backup”—some years, there is space to show all four. If there are more than three contenders, each attendee is provided with three pennies to be placed before the trees of their choice—the three trees with the most pennies will represent our club at the show.

Details of this year's MABS Spring Festival can be found on **page 6**. Below and on the following pages are some photos of the display trees from 2018, some of the lecture/presentations, and the vendor area.

Our March meeting will also offer a demonstration/hands-on workshop on **wood-carving** to create artistic deadwood on bonsai. See **page 7** for details.

Marc Noelanders Workshop: Tuesday, April 16th, noon to 4 PM

We have **four spaces** available for the hands-on workshop. Please contact **Diego Pablos** if interested. For details see calendar on **page 10**.





Club member Peter Michienzi's magnificent Eastern Red Cedar.







Sign Up for MABS Spring Festival 2019!

This year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival is being held the weekend of **April 12-14**, at the **Holiday Inn in Harrisburg/Hershey/Grantville**, PA 17028 (**Exit 80 on I-81**). Headliners will be: TAIGA URUSHIBATA representing Japan, MARC NOELANDERS representing Europe, and JENNIFER PRICE representing the USA.

If you've never attended a MABS festival, it's a great opportunity to see world-class artists working on top-notch bonsai material, as well as a chance to see dozens of bonsai representing clubs from up and down the northeast, plus a large VENDOR area where you can browse and buy every sort of bonsai-related material, including trees, pots, accent plants, tools, wire, soil, books, magazines, and Asian-inspired artwork.

If you aren't in a position to pay for the full experience (including the lecture/demonstrations), a modest entry fee will allow you access to the display trees and the vendor rooms, which are well worth the trip all by themselves. If you're new to bonsai, the vendors are a great resource in helping you understand the various tools, soils, plants, etc.

The registration forms, in both digital and PDF format are available at: <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org/registration.htm>. Online registration ends April 5.

Remember to **state your club affiliation on the registration form**—we get a portion of the profits, based on club member attendance!



March Meeting: Creating Deadwood (Jin & Shari)

Our March meeting (**Tuesday March 12th, 6:30-9:30 PM**) will be focused on designing, creating, and maintaining decorative deadwood—known in the bonsai world as *jin* (dead branches) and *shari* (exposed deadwood along the trunk).

We will have some tools, both hand tools and power tools, on hand to demonstrate basic techniques in creating or enhancing deadwood to create a sense of great age in a bonsai. We encourage you to bring along any bonsai on which you would like to try your hand—or just to bring along for ideas and suggestions.

If you expect to work on a tree, or just stand nearby, we suggest you dress for yardwork—once the power tools are going, there can be a lot of sawdust flying around! We will have several pairs of safety glasses on hand.

We will try to have a few pieces of truly dead wood available, for those who don't wish to risk their newfound skills on a valued live tree.

We also encourage any attendees who wish to bring examples of bonsai with existing jin or shari, to show and tell.



Reminder: The “Bonsai Show” signs need homes

Please continue to brainstorm where you might place some of our “Bonsai Show” signs in the weeks leading up to our club **Open House on Sunday, June 2nd**.

The date will be here before you know it, so please get thinking about this so that we can make the best use of the signs we have. Thanks!

Plant Care Tips for March

March is the perfect time to repot, and to branch- and root-prune. Trees less than 5 years old may be repotted annually (or less, depending on the growth of the tree), 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 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.

Calendar of Events for 2018-2019

March 12th: Wood-carving Workshop. Bring your own material and tools, if you have them. We will have some dead material on hand to practice with, as well as living. **Tree Selection for MABS.** We will also be voting on the three trees to represent our club at this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival. Please bring your candidates for consideration!

April 12-14: Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival.
For details, go to <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org/>.

April 16th: Guest artist Marc Noelanders, fresh from MABS. Bring-your-own-tree workshop from **12-4 pm** (\$50 per participant).
Presentation/demo 6:30-9:30 free to the public.

May 14th: Phoenix/Approach Graft Workshop/Repotting Workshop.
Learn how to graft live "whips" onto dramatic deadwood, to create stunning bonsai material. (Repotting Workshop may be moved to March depending on local conditions (that is, temperature!)—stay tuned.)

June 2nd (first Sunday): Annual GSBS Bonsai Open House. Stay tuned for details.

Dues are Always Welcome!

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you have not yet paid up, please bring cash or check to **club treasurer Rick Myers**, 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.

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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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

Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:

Send to:

GSBS c/o Rick Myers **New** **Renewal**
80 Kenvil Avenue
Succasunna, NJ 07876. **Individual (\$40.00)** **Family (\$50.00)**

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

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

If Family Membership, please list other members:
