



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, MARCH 10th**
6:30– 9:30 PM

Selection of MABS Trees

March 2020 Newsletter

March Meeting: Selection of MABS Trees, and Presentation by club members Pete Michienzi and Juan Calderon, on Finding the Design in a Wild-Collected Juniper

At this month's meeting, we will be selecting the 3 trees that will represent GSBS at this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Hershey/Harrisburg PA, April 17-19.

(go to www.midatlanticbonsai.org for details on the festival).

We will also be given a presentation by advanced club members **Juan Calderon and Peter Michienzi** on **Finding the Design in Wild-Collected Bonsai material (Yamadori** in Japanese bonsai lingo).

Pete and Juan have been collecting wild trees together for going on 30 years, and have a wealth of experience with both the techniques involved in safely retrieving wild-grown material (that is, removing trees from their natural growing conditions with the greatest chance for survival in captivity), and getting the most out of the various design possibilities offered by trees that were not previously groomed with bonsai in mind.

For this presentation Pete and Juan will be working on a wild-collected **Juniper** (*Juniperus virginiana*, also known as **Eastern Red Cedar**) that has been maintained in culture for several years and which poses some interesting design restrictions—or, should we say, opportunities. (This presentation was originally scheduled for November 2019, but was unavoidably postponed—the tree in question has since been considerably worked on, but Juan and Pete will bring it along to demonstrate its progress, and will also work on one of our “club trees” as time permits.)

It should be a great demo from two of our most experienced club members, and if you are interested in the bonsai potential of wild-grown native trees, **don't miss it!**

Should You Go the MABS Spring Festival? (April 17–19)

The answer is a resounding YES! Even if you are new to bonsai—I would say, *especially* if you are new to bonsai, the **Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival** is a wonderful opportunity to watch internationally-renown bonsai artists demonstrate their skill with high-quality plant material brought in especially for their expert attention. The trees they work on are raffled at the end of each demonstration, so—who knows?—you might even bring home a masterpiece designed by one of the world's premium bonsai masters.

If you're not prepared for all that (the lecture-demos require a separate fee), then consider paying the general admission at the door (I believe it's \$20.00 but they *never* seem to post this online!) to see all the display trees (bonsai representing a dozen clubs from all over the northeast) and visit the vendor area (a large convention room filled with vendors selling everything from pots, soil, wire, tools, books, magazines, accent plants, untrained nursery material, instructional DVDs, object d'art, and—oh yes—bonsai in every state of development, in a wide range of prices). Go to www.midatlanticbonsai.org for details on the festival.

Hope to see you there!



Paid Afternoon Workshop with Guest Artist Suthin Sukosolvisit

On Tuesday, April 21st, from noon to 4:30, we will be hosting a paid, hands-on workshop with guest artist **Suthin**, fresh from his appearance at this year's MABS Spring Festival (go to www.midatlanticbonsai.org for details on the festival). This workshop will take place in our usual meeting room at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

The workshop fee is \$75.00 per participant, and you bring your own material to work on. We are sharing this event with Deep Cut Bonsai Society, and **we may have space for one more participant** from our club, so **please contact John Michalski** (at huonia@aol.com) **ASAP if you wish to attend**. We also allow additional "silent participants" to attend for \$10.00 per person (you don't bring a tree to work on, but you get to observe the others at work with the master). Photography is generally allowed.

At 4:30 the entire group will break for dinner (usually at Arthur's Steakhouse in Morris Plains, for which we split the check), and return to our meeting room for an evening demo/presentation at 7:00 PM by Suthin, which is free and open to the public.



Plant Care Tips for March

I hardly need point out that this has been a very peculiar winter in New Jersey. So far, a fairly gentle one for your bonsai collection, but keep attuned to weather forecasts—the last few years have seen snow storms and surprise low temperatures in March, so take nothing for granted.

During a typical year, March is the perfect time to repot, and to branch- and root-prune. Trees less than 5 years old may be repotted annually, 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]

New for 2020: GSBS Sales Table!

The idea has been floated (and I endorse it), that we have a regular “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. I think it's 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!

Dues are Always Welcome!

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you haven't 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.

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.

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.

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

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Calendar of Events for 2020

We still have several open slots in our 2020 calendar. Please email any of our club officers with suggestions—we want to plan meetings that will benefit you and cater to your interests!

March 10th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Finding the Design in Wild-Collected Juniper. We will also be selecting our 3 trees to represent GSBS at this year's MABS Spring Festival.***

April 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM) ***Soils and Repotting Workshop.***

April 17th-19th **Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival**, Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey PA. For details go to www.midatlanticbonsai.org.

April 21st (Tuesday) ***Daytime (paid) workshop with guest artist SUTHIN SUKOSOLVISIT, fresh from MABS, evening presentation with same. See page 2 of this newsletter for details.***

May 12th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

May 31st (**SUNDAY**, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM). ***ANNUAL BONSAI OPEN HOUSE.***

**** No meeting in June***

July 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

August: *Annual Club Picnic. Date and location to be determined.*

GSBS Contact Information:

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Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@verizon.net

Treasurer: Rick Myers spruce80@verizon.net
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Newsletter: John Michalski 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

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:
