



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: Saturday, March 27th

Noon - 4:00 PM - Repotting Workshop!

March 2021 Newsletter

Yay! (Is it too early to say 'yay'?) Yay!

Hello, friends! Another “better late than never” newsletter from your trusty editor. But this time, I’m making **no excuses** for the lateness of the thing—I’m just going to pretend I got it to you on time!

As I write this (Thursday, 3/11) we are finally experiencing a burst of warm and sunny weather that promises to thaw everything out and let things start growing again. (As a matter of fact, once the snow melted from my back yard, I discovered that the level area just past my patio was covered in a sort of greenish stuff. I had to look it up—it turns out to be something called “grass.”)

But **take heed, newbies** (and even you “oldbies” out there). There is still time for **one more burst of serious cold** to blow its way back into your yard, and many are the years when, after all the shrubs and daffodils have begun expanding their buds, we get a series of below-freezing nights that kills off any new growth and sets everything back a little. So, don’t be in too much of a hurry to get all your bonsai out of winter quarters and into the open. Late freezes can definitely do some serious damage if your bonsai are not well protected.

Anyway, enjoy the warmth and sun while we’ve got it. Spring cannot be too far off.



March Meeting! Saturday, March 27th, from noon to 4:00 PM

We will resume Saturday afternoon meetings to be held at club member homes. Watch your email and facebook for updates as they develop.

The March meeting will be hosted by Rick and Leslie Myers at their home in Succasunna, NJ. The topic will be a long-awaited **Repotting Workshop**, so bring trees, pots, tools, and soil (if you have it), and we will be available to help you navigate all the intricacies of repotting bonsai to enhance aesthetic appeal and promote health and vigor in the tree.

More about Meetings

The **pandemic** continues to keep indoor 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**.

This is the best season for collecting wild-grown trees

For those of you who (legally) collect wild-grown trees for bonsai material, the season is just about to get going. I find that the weeks surrounding the Easter/Passover holidays make a good starting point, and with proper technique and aftercare you can usually collect at least until the end of May, depending on the species and local conditions.

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. 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, if 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]

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.

March: Saturday, 3/27, noon-4:00 PM. Repotting Workshop. See page 2 for details.

**April 16-18th: 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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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:

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.**