



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, April 17th**

**Guest Artist Tony Tickle**

**April 2018 Newsletter**

## Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival - April 13-15 — **THIS WEEKEND !**

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>. **Be sure to sign up under Great Swamp Bonsai Society!**



## This month's meeting—Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> —Guest Artist Tony Tickle, fresh from MABS

This month we welcome **guest artist Tony Tickle**, fresh from his appearance at this year's MABS Spring Festival.

Tony has been working with Bonsai since 1983, specializing in native European trees, in particular; Hawthorn, Yew and Pine. He was on the Board of Directors for Bonsai Clubs International from 2003-2005 and is a member of the Association of British Bonsai Artists. Tony is an event organizer and was director for Bukex North, perhaps the largest one-day national UK Bonsai event. He demonstrates at major conferences throughout the UK and Europe, is widely published and has had Bonsai selected for four Gingko awards, nominated for a Noelanders award in 2009, World Conferences and many European events. Read more at [bonsaiempire.com](http://bonsaiempire.com).



We will host a **paid workshop on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** (\$50.00 per participant, \$10.00 per silent observer), from **noon to 4:00 p.m.** in our usual meeting room in the Frelinghuysen Arboretum's Haggerty Education Center. This is a **“bring your own”** workshop, so **bring your own trees to work on** (maximum 3 trees per participant) and **your own tools**. GSBS will supply the wire if you need any.

**Please contact Diego Pablos at [neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com](mailto:neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com)** if you wish to attend.

Following the paid workshop, those who wish may join us for dinner at a local eatery (participants split the check, or pay individually as you prefer), and then we return to the classroom for **our regular meeting, featuring a presentation by Tony, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., free to all comers.**

## March meeting: Selection of MABS trees and presentation on Collecting Bonsai from the Wild

Our March meeting allowed attendees to vote for the 4 trees that will represent GSBS at this year's MABS Spring Festival. As it turned out, there were only four submissions this year—all worthy candidates—and we therefore dispensed with the voting process, as everyone present agreed that the trees submitted will represent our club very well indeed. In addition, we later discovered there was room for an additional submission, and Fred offered an additional tree which we gladly accepted.

The club members so honored are Peter Michienzi (Eastern Red Cedar), Rick Meyers (Scots Pine), Fred Aufschläger (Japanese White Pine and Hinoki Cypress) and Bill Muldowney (Nishiki Quince).

The remainder of the meeting involved a presentation on **Collecting Bonsai from the Wild** by club member **John Michalski**, who spoke and answered questions about legality, suitable species, the best time of year, and the proper tools and techniques for collecting raw material from the wild and establishing it safely into a growing container. (Photo below shows repeatedly-cutback Eastern Red Cedars growing along railroad tracks—be *careful* out there!)



## Club Collecting Trip scheduled for Saturday, April 21st

You asked for it, and you got it! Several members have inquired, over the years, if we might arrange a **group collecting trip** for bonsai from the wild. That day has finally arrived.

On **Saturday, April 21st**, any interested persons will meet in **Hope, NJ**, where a local landowner (and club member) has given permission to collect on his property, which is abandoned pastureland that he hopes to return to cultivation. A scouting trip conducted by club officers Diego Pablos, Rick Meyers, and Mark Schmuck visited the property and identified plenty of **hornbeam, Russian olive, spicebush, thick grape vines**, and more, of various sizes and single or multiple trunks (see photo below). We are encouraged to take anything we want, with the exception of Sugar Maples, which the owner wishes to leave undisturbed.

If you are interested in attending, contact club president **Diego Pablos** at [neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com](mailto:neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com) or 973-224-8139, to get instructions and directions.

We will be meeting at the farm from 9am to around 1pm or so. **Plan on bringing your own tools for collecting**—hand saw for trunk and branches, a separate one for roots, loppers, shovel, or a hand pick, some burlap or thick plastic to protect the root balls.

It should be a fun outing and very educational for anyone who hasn't done this before. Contact Diego and give it a try!



## Larch trees for sale, if there are any left

**Alert club member Kerry Heck** writes to inform us that **Glenwild**, a nursery in Bloomingdale NJ, recently had a few good size **larch** available for \$60.00 each. Don't know if any are left, but you might have a look. Photos below.



## Street Bonsai in Italy

**Alert club member Mark Sanders** writes from a visit to Italy, that “everything is trimmed as a bonsai here (see photo, below). These olive trees are in front of the marina. I think they may be the thickest trunks in a pot I have ever seen.”

Thanks for the photo , Mark!



## Plant Care Tips for April

I remember, when I was a little boy, we had these things called “seasons,” and there were four of them—we called them Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. And each season had its own weather. Spring started in late March and that’s when it started getting warmer in a sort of predictable way. No more snow, no more freezes, no more ice. Plants started to burst into growth, and you knew the cold was gone for another year.

I know, it sounds crazy, but that’s the way it was back then. You younger people will just have to take my word for it.

Okay, enough sarcasm for now. Normally, as we all know, April is considered a good month for repotting, root-pruning, and for digging trees from yard or field. As the weather finally starts warming and buds begin bursting, it’s time to begin your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules in earnest. Of course, be mindful of potential cold snaps, and be ready to protect vulnerable plants. It’s “ready, set, go” time! [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.

## 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.

## Meeting Dates for 2017–2018

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

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 12 noon-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:

President: Diego E Pablos  
[neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com](mailto:neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com)  
Phone: 973.224.8139  
289 Mount Hope Ave.  
K-12, Rockaway Twp.  
Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff [bill.kasakoff@gmail.com](mailto:bill.kasakoff@gmail.com)

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

Treasurer: Rich Meyers [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 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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