



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: Who can say?

May 2020 Newsletter

No Meetings in May; No Bonsai Open House on the 31st

As reported in a general email sent out earlier, the Frelinghuysen Arboretum has cancelled all events for the month of May 2020. We expected this outcome, and now it is a certainty.

What else is there to say? We hope that all of you are staying safe and staying well. We've all heard or received our share of bad news lately, but it seems clear to me that we the public are doing the best we know how, to improve the likelihood that we will get through this health crisis as well as possible. In the meantime, the time you spend in your gardens, on your patios, and with your little trees is both safe and therapeutic.

GSBS Facebook Page, and GSBS YouTube Channel!

At long last, we are getting back into Facebook and YouTube, with updated and hopefully improved websites that you will be able to access via "friend" request and/or subscription. The internet is a chaotic place, as I'm sure you know, and we will try to present relevant information about our club and its events, and allow you the chance to post your own photos and questions, without opening ourselves up to the myriad headaches that sometimes accompany public websites. We'll see how it goes!



The Fantastic Optimism of Bonsai

I would like to take a moment to reflect on something that occurred to me the other day as I was puttering around my garden—gardening in general, and bonsai in particular, are extraordinarily **optimistic** pursuits, aren't they?

What could be more optimistic, in these difficult times, than grooming a small tree with an eye to what it will look like a year from now, or five years from now? Each little snip and bend you put into your trees has, in your mind's eye, a distinct goal that is based not on what you did this very minute, but on how the plant will mature and grow into the work you've put into it, to create a pleasing, natural-looking result in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

I just thought you might appreciate what I hope is an uplifting thought as we continue to address our various concerns in the days ahead of us.



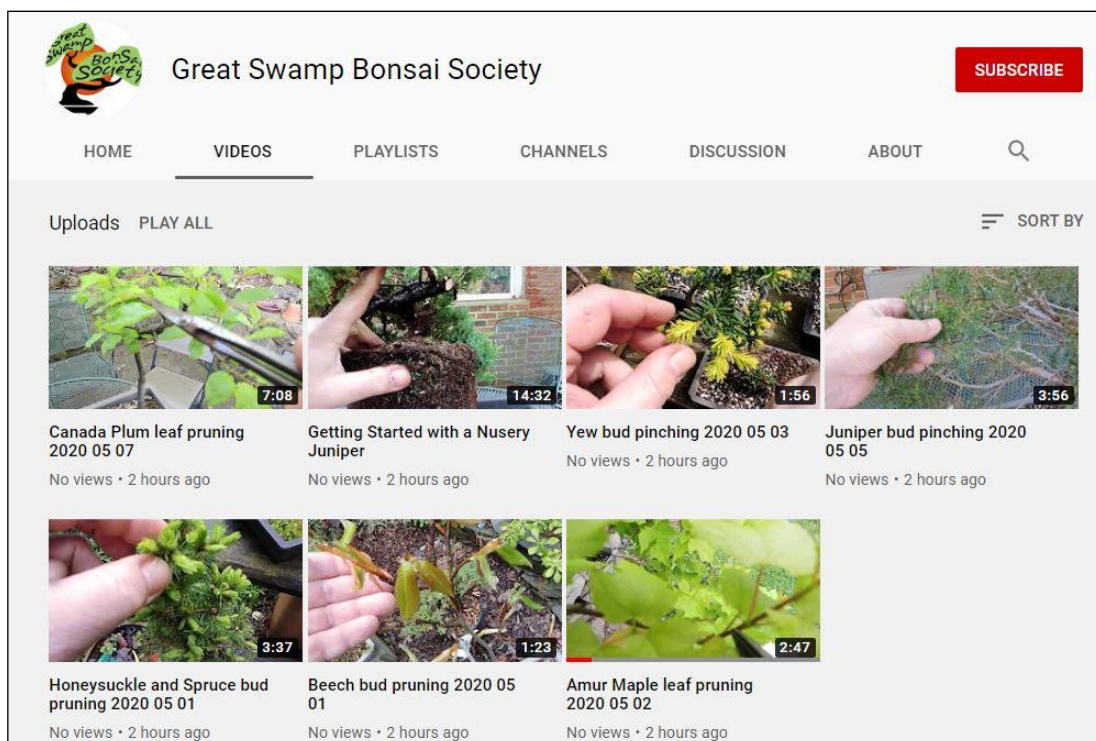
More about the GSBS YouTube Channel and Facebook Page

We have received a lot of positive feedback on the few little video clips I've made available to the membership. We have set up a YouTube channel for GSBS members to send in short clips of whatever they're doing—this is easily done and your videos (from cameras or phones) can be loaded so as to block comments, in case you're wary of people chiming in unconstructively.

I think it would be marvelous to have our members dropping new, short videos on a regular basis, to show their collections, to pose questions, to demonstrate techniques, or just to show what they've been working on lately—even just to give a shout-out and say hello!

Once our channel is fully underway, you can send me (for the time being—we will gladly accept tech-savvy volunteers to run this thing) your clips to be uploaded, given a title and a brief description, and made available for our members to watch and enjoy. For the time being we will make this access exclusive to club members (or anyone with the access information), rather than open to the world—as I've already mentioned, the internet can be a chaotic place, and within the first hour of setting up the Facebook page I had to block untold numbers of political commentary and other unrelated whatnot.

Let us know what you think! And get recording some of what you're doing out there—it's easy!



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for the Great Swamp Bonsai Society. The channel name is "Great Swamp Bonsai Society" with a logo featuring a bonsai tree and the text "Great Swamp Bonsai Society". A red "SUBSCRIBE" button is visible in the top right. The navigation menu includes "HOME", "VIDEOS", "PLAYLISTS", "CHANNELS", "DISCUSSION", and "ABOUT". Below the navigation, there are options for "Uploads" and "PLAY ALL", along with a "SORT BY" dropdown menu. The main content area displays a grid of video thumbnails with their titles, upload dates, and view counts. The videos shown are:

- Canada Plum leaf pruning 2020 05 07 (7:08) - No views • 2 hours ago
- Getting Started with a Nursery Juniper (14:32) - No views • 2 hours ago
- Yew bud pinching 2020 05 03 (1:56) - No views • 2 hours ago
- Juniper bud pinching 2020 05 05 (3:56) - No views • 2 hours ago
- Honeysuckle and Spruce bud pruning 2020 05 01 (3:37) - No views • 2 hours ago
- Beech bud pruning 2020 05 01 (1:23) - No views • 2 hours ago
- Amur Maple leaf pruning 2020 05 02 (2:47) - No views • 2 hours ago

A Few Baby Pictures

Here are a couple of snapshots of what I've been tending to recently.



Yew thinned and re-wired.

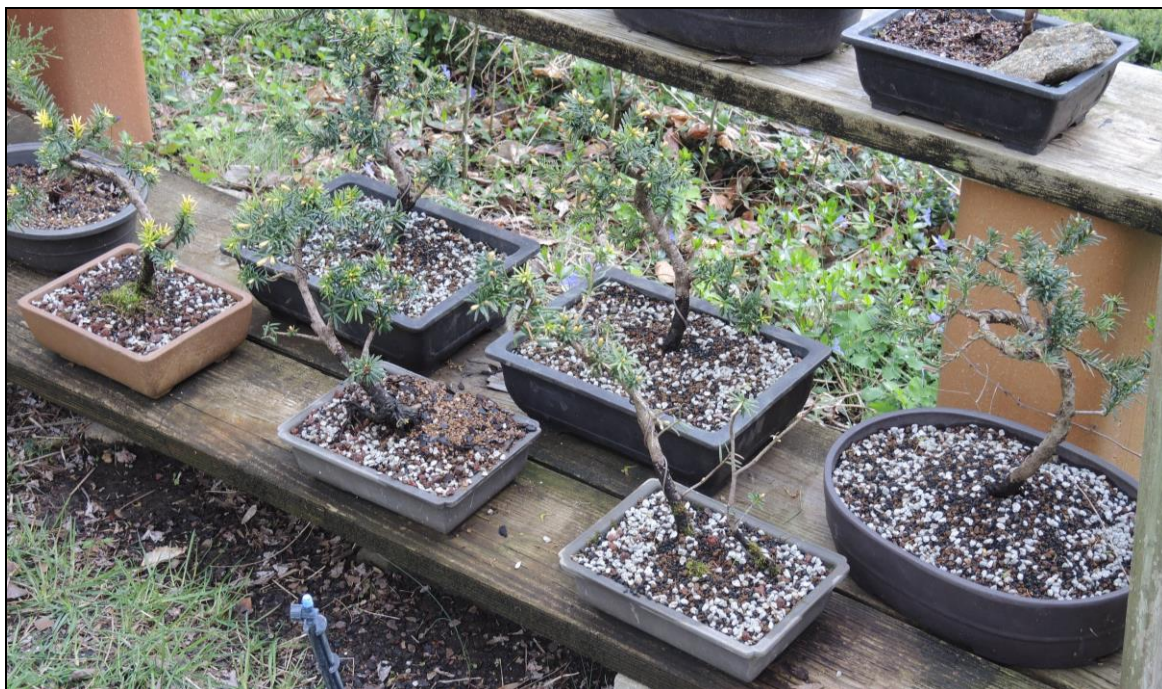


Arborvitae repotted.



Juniper restyled and repotted.

Baby Pictures (continued)



A series of 6-year-old yew cuttings repotted into profession mix.



Two dwarf Alberta Spruce repotted.

A “Virtual” Bonsai Open House

I take this opportunity to suggest once again the idea of our club creating a “virtual” display of our club members’ work that can be shared online, in lieu of our usual Bonsai Open House. This can be part of our revamped Facebook page.

For those who are interested, my suggestion is that you photograph your trees against a white or pale gray background (a bedsheet hung from a line works perfectly well), and experiment with lighting (time of day for outdoor natural light, flash/no flash otherwise) to try to obtain the most flattering images possible. Feel free to share them with me or any other club members, and maybe we can get a whole display going.

Your images can be sent to me at huonia@aol.com.

-- Club President John Michalski

Plant Care Tips for May

By May most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering should now routinely be done once a day (as needed). Cuttings of evergreens may still be taken. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts can damage the young leaves. [DY]

You can still repot or dig trees in May if you’re careful. Begin your feeding, pinching, pruning schedules in earnest. It’s growing season, folks! Oddly, in many ways this is easier than the worrying months of winter. [JM]

GSBS 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. 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!

Dues

While it does not appear that the club will be spending a lot of money any time soon, we will of course still accept dues from current club members, as well as those who wish to officially join our organization. Until we meet again, dues may be paid by check to **club treasurer Rick Myers**, mailed to his address on the last page of this newsletter. Annual membership remains at \$40 for individual, \$50 family, and helps support club activities such as hosting touring experts and purchasing supplies like soil and wire for group activities.

Save and Bring In 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.

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

Obviously, our calendar is currently up in the air. But keep those suggestions coming—we will be back on track sooner or later!

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES.

*** *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:

President: John Michalski

huonia@aol.com

Phone: 973-829-0094
223 Mt. Kemble Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960

Past President: Diego E Pablos

neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com

Phone: 973.224.8139

Vice President: **Position Open**

Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@verizon.net

Treasurer: Rick Myers spruce80@verizon.net

80 Kenvil Ave
Succasunna N J
07876

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:
