



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, September 17th**

Club Auction

September 2022 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, 9/17, Club Bonsai Auction

Our next club meeting will be **Saturday, September 17th at 11:00 AM**, at the home of **Mark & Marla Sanders, 47 Bedminster Rd Randolph NJ**.

This meeting/outing will include our **annual club auction** (which we have not been able to hold for the last few years). **Please bring any bonsai or pre bonsai material, tools, pots, magazines, books, stands, or bonsai related artwork** which you would like to put up for auction. And some cash or your checkbook! A portion of the proceeds goes to the club.

As with all our outdoor meetings, feel free to bring a snack, appetizer, or drinks to share. The hosts will supply bagels and spreads. Feel free to bring a tree for help and opinions or just to show off.

Hope to see you all then.

Summer Wrap-Up

Much has gone on since the last newsletter I was able to put together (April/May). With apologies, we offer on the following pages **a summary of GSBS activities from late April through August**.

If you have not yet joined our [Facebook](#) group, please consider doing so, as our Facebook page has kept current throughout the season, even when I haven't been able to put a typical newsletter together. Just find "Great Swamp Bonsai Society" in Facebook, and request to join the group. When I see your request I'll let you in, and then you can post photos, videos, questions, and announcements as you wish.

-- John Michalski

Summer Wrap-Up

April 30–May 1st: Plant Sale at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum

GSBS was invited to **display bonsai** and provide information about the club. We were given a couple of tables in what turned out to be a prime location, directly in the line of sight of everyone who entered the large tent set up for the event. John Michalski manned the table, with assistance from club members Mark Schmuck, Kerry Heck, Diego Pablos, and much-appreciated visits from others, including Rick Myers and Bob Chernow. We answered questions, handed out pamphlets, and signed people up for the newsletter. It was a lot of fun, and we gained about as many potential new members as we usually do at our own bonsai shows (back when we had them!). Thanks again to all who participated.



Summer Wrap-Up

Saturday, May 14th, Bonsai Open House at Rosade Bonsai Studio

It was a great day in **New Hope, PA**, spending time with **Chase Rosade**, one of the Mount Rushmore of American Bonsai Pioneers, along with several other bonsai artists who performed demos and answered questions. If you missed it, plan to attend next time!



Summer Wrap-Up

Saturday, May 21st: Guest artist Will Baddeley

Club member **Fred Aufschläger** hosted the meeting (featuring Brit guest artist **Will Baddeley**), at his home in Bernardsville, NJ. Will specializes, among other things, in the carving of deadwood, and performed an impressive demonstration on various bonsai brought by club members, including a very nice yew from Fred's collection.



Summer Wrap-Up

Saturday, May 28th, Bonsai Show at Allshapes Bonsai Nursery

Our friends David and Diane Hall, and Brian Zegar, hosted a wonderful **bonsai show** at their bonsai nursery in **Ringoes, NJ**. Several GSBS club members brought trees to display or work on, and a variety of delicious baked goods were donated by a local bakery. It was a great day and I hope the Allshapes Team will be inspired to make this a regular event.



Summer Wrap-Up

Saturday, June 25th, at the home of Peter and Genevieve Michienzi

This was an informal meeting/picnic, among the highlights of which were Genevieve's delightful food offerings and Pete's astounding collection of wild-collected (aka *yamadori*) bonsai that he has lovingly gathered and trained over the past several decades. Peter (photo, top right, on right) is one of the longest-standing members of GSBS, and his knowledge of field collecting and skill as a bonsai artist have much to offer our society.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and extra thanks for all the delicious foods and drinks you contributed to the event. Another beautiful day.



Summer Wrap-Up

Saturday, July 30th, at the home of Martin Schmalenberg

Another great day! The weather was perfect, Marty and Amy's home and garden were, as always, lovely, and we all enjoyed good food, good company, and wonderful little trees in pots. After a nice nosh, Marty walked us through his bonsai garden, pointing out various bonsai and remarking on each tree's history, styling, and maintenance techniques. Later, we gathered in Marty's studio for a critique/advice session with "challenging" trees brought in by the attendees. **Thanks again to Marty and Amy** for hosting, and thanks again to everyone who joined the fun and especially those who brought wonderful foods for all to enjoy!



Summer Wrap-Up

Saturday, August 27th, at the home of Doug and Karen Siedenburg

Our August meeting/picnic (Aren't they *all* picnics lately? No one's complaining!) was hosted by [Doug and Karen Siedenburg](#) at their home in Port Murray, NJ. Around a dozen club members came to share food goodies, enjoy the fantastic gardens and grounds, the amazing bonsai, and Doug and Karen's splendid hospitality. Thanks again to one and all.



Position available: Editor of GSBS newsletter

As must be obvious, your editor (me, John Michalski) is finding it increasingly difficult to get these newsletters out in a timely manner. If you are interested or willing to take on the responsibility, I can send you whatever you need to get started. (It's really just a Word file with photos dropped in as needed.) Contact me at huonia@aol.com if interested. Thanks in advance!

In the meantime, I'll do my best to keep them coming! As always, [our Facebook page](#) keeps things current pretty much in real time, so if you're not signed up for our Facebook group, please consider doing so.

We are collecting DUES again!

The GSBS is reintroducing club dues, at \$40.00 for individual, \$50.00 for family membership, per year—which was our rate before we suspended dues in 2020. You can pay by cash or check, in person to club treasurer **Rick Myers**, or by mail at his address at the back of this newsletter.

Plant Care Tips for September

It is about time to begin hardening-off your trees for the cold months ahead, and preparing a safe place to keep them. For the most part, you should not attempt collecting, repotting, air-layering, or drastic pruning at this time of year. For most of us, the drought has been a stress on our plants, so preparing them for winter is more crucial this year than ever.

Feeding: Please note that fertilization must be handled with sensitivity, or else you risk pushing too much new growth that will not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather sets in. Following the needs of outdoor plantings, it can be said that deciduous trees may benefit from a low-nitrogen (that is, higher in potassium and phosphorous) feeding after the leaves have fallen but prior to November 1; this can promote bud formation and strengthen the trunk and root system for winter. Similarly, evergreens may be fed a low-nitrogen fertilizer, until the end of October. Most reference books refer to a single Autumn feeding.

Repotting and Training: Japanese texts recommend autumn repotting for most evergreens, but they also cite early spring for each of these—considering the difference in climate, I'd stick with early spring. Cherry and flowering quince are repotted by the Japanese in October. Many needled evergreens are most successfully wire-trained during the autumn months, but most sources say wait until October or November.

Winter protection: Start planning how and where you will store your trees for the winter. In a “normal” year—and when was the last time we had one of those?—most of our outdoor bonsai can stay virtually unprotected beyond Thanksgiving, but this holiday is commonly used as a start date for winter protection. If you have only a few trees, it may be possible to plant them directly into the ground, pot and all, but for larger collections it may prove useful to build some sort of cold-frame or organize some space in an unheated shed or some-such. You will not need these precautions for a few months yet, but it pays to plan ahead! [JM]

Watering continues to be the most important task during this month. Reduce feeding slightly at this point, and use low-nitrogen or nitrogen-free fertilizer. September is a good month to take hardwood cuttings. This is the last opportunity to pot up air layerings as they may not be able to root sufficiently to withstand the winter [if you wait longer]. Also remove wires from branches that have set properly and be aware of thickening branches and trunks on wired pines. [DY]

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.

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!

Repeat: GSBS Sales Table – “Virtual” Sales Table

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 no longer wish to keep, while offering same to other people who might cherish them! So please feel free!

Keep those Topic Suggestions Coming!

A reminder to feel free to send your ideas and topic suggestions to any of the Board Members listed on the last page 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 2022-2023

Our calendar of events has yet to be decided, but will be forthcoming. All suggestions for topics or guest artists are WELCOME!

A return date to our original meeting room at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum remains uncertain, though there has been talk recently of getting back to our previous schedule. Please keep venue and topic ideas coming—we are cheerfully open to any and all suggestions!

September 17th: Club Bonsai Auction. To be held **starting 11:00 AM**, at the home of **Mark & Marla Sanders, 47 Bedminster Rd Randolph NJ**. Bring along any and all bonsai related items (plants, pots, tools, books, etc.) that you wish to sell off. A portion of the proceeds goes to the club. Bring cash or your checkbook, and feel free to bring any food or beverages you wish to enhance the fun! Folding chairs welcome!

October 2022: Date, location, and topic to be determined.

November 2022: Date, location, and topic to be determined.

December 2022: NO MEETING.

January 2023: Date, location, and topic to be determined.

February 2023: NO MEETING.

March 2023: Date, location, and topic to be determined.

April 2023: Date, location, and topic to be determined.

May 2023: Date, location, and topic to be determined.

June 2023: Our traditional month for our Annual Bonsai Open House. This will depend on the availability of a suitable venue.

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: Mark Sanders dealmakr@att.net

Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@optonline.net

Treasurer: Rick Myers spruce80@verizon.net
80 Kenvil Ave
Succasunna N J
07876

Newsletter: John Michalski huonia@aol.com

Club Information

Location: (If/when we return to "normal.")

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) _____ Family (\$50)

Name(s): _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (_____)

If Family Membership, please list other members:
