



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **TUESDAY, July 9th – 6:30-9:30 PM**

Show and Tell

July 2019 Newsletter

This Month's Meeting: TUESDAY, JULY 9th: Show and Tell

By July, the bonsai world quiets down to a steady regime of watering, feeding, and pruning (we also take care of our trees—rimshot!). It's the perfect time to get together and show off our successes and discuss our “problem children”—those trees for which a clear design has evaded you, or which are showing signs of stress or failure without providing you clues as to the cause.

We invite one and all to an evening of snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, good company, and story-telling. Bring in one or a few bonsai to show us how it's been going this season—or for ideas, suggestions, guidance, or even help getting the work done on that tree that has you puzzled. **(Also a guest vendor—see page 19 for details.)**

Take a look at this series of photographs, sent in by club member S.C. Hwang, on the transformation this winter of his informal upright Chinese Elm into a semi-cascade.





June Meeting: This Year's Bonsai Open House

This year's Bonsai Open House was certainly one of the—if not THE—best-attended events our club has held in many, many years. At a conservative guess, a couple hundred people visited our exhibit between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM on **Saturday, June 2nd**. Lecture/demos were presented almost non-stop throughout the event, and we filled the 32 seats positioned near the demo tables over and over again. All the display tables (144 board feet of them!) were filled with fine examples of bonsai, of a wide variety of species, and our “work tables” were busy with club members showing our guests how we do what we do.



I was particularly taken, this year, with the activity, throughout the day, of all our participants—answering questions, demonstrating technique, and generally engaging our visitors with interesting and entertaining conversation.

I particularly wish to thank the following for helping to set up and break down, for bringing their excellent bonsai, for engaging the public throughout the day, and for all the other things it takes to make for a truly excellent event (with apologies to anyone I've left out—I tried very hard to get all the names): Fred Aufschläger, Sal Frisina, Kerry Heck, S.C. Hwang, Mary Larssen, Rick Meyer, Monica Mosquera, Bill Muldowney, Diego Pablos, Craig Reinman, Mark Sanders, and Mark Schmuck. You were all great!

If you missed it this year, don't make the same mistake in 2020—this year's event was a BLAST!

[p.s. It appears that our “yard signs” had a lot to do with the increased attendance. Lesson learned: If you want people to know about your event, it helps if you TELL them about it!]

2019 Bonsai Open House (cont'd)

We were joined, this time, by vendors **Keith Huettemann** and **Brian Cairns**, who had much on offer to further help “dress up” the occasion.



Vendor Keith Huettemann with his amazing selection of dwarf boxwoods.



Vendor Brian Cairns (left) discusses a *mame* pot with club member Sal Frisina.

2019 Bonsai Open House (cont'd)

Have a look at the wonderful bonsai brought to the event by our enthusiastic club members.



2019 Bonsai Open House (cont'd)

More photos of the wonderful bonsai brought to the event by our enthusiastic club members.



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2019 Bonsai Open House (cont'd)

Some of the excellent “smaller” bonsai brought to the event by our enthusiastic club members. (Apologies for not getting all of them—these are harder to photograph without a solid background.)



2019 Bonsai Open House (cont'd)

More of the excellent "smaller" bonsai brought to the event by our enthusiastic club members.



2019 Bonsai Open House (cont'd)

Still more of the excellent "smaller" bonsai brought to the event by our enthusiastic club members.



2019 Bonsai Open House – Demos

Some photos of the excellent turnout, and the lecture/demos performed throughout the event.



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2019 Bonsai Open House – Awards

This year our show featured 42 excellent trees. Below are photos of the ones that won People's Choice, President's Award, and Best In Show for 2019. Congratulations once again to everyone who participated!



(left) **People's Choice**, by a wide margin, went to Rick Meyer's elegant Shimpaku Juniper. (below, right) **President's Award**, by executive privilege, went to Rick Meyer's astounding Bush Honeysuckle.



(left) **Best In Show**, by a quorum of senior club members (not including yours truly), went to John Michalski's Northern White Cedar (arborvitae).

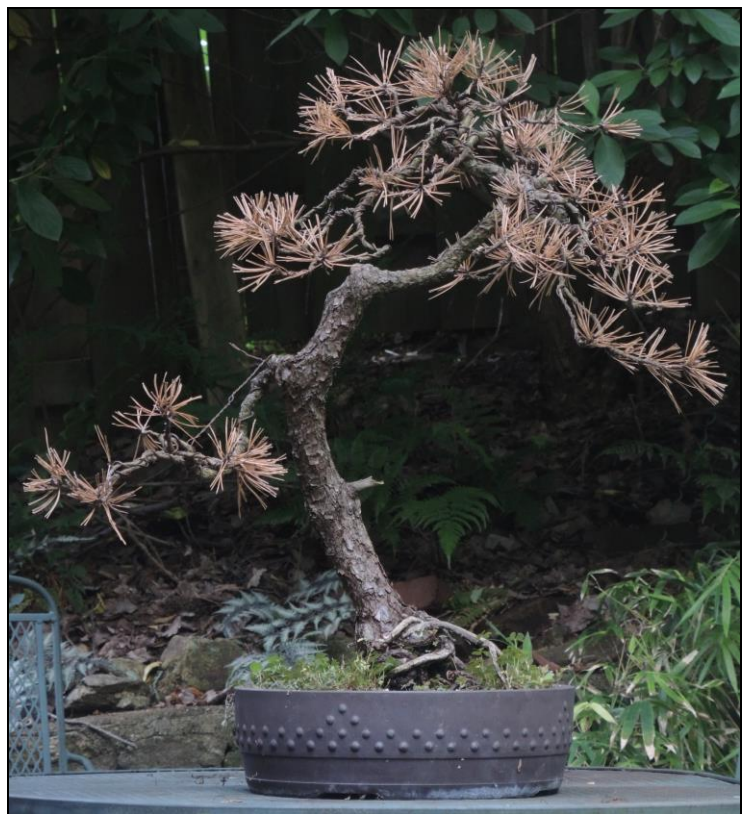
Bonsai Tip from your Editor: Always Start a Few New Trees

It happens to the best of us... honestly! There isn't a club member among us, not a single, internationally-known expert in the world, who has not lost a tree now and then... sometimes a whole bunch of trees in one fell swoop. Many times, the causes are obvious, or can be deduced after careful examination and a bit of reflection, but other times no obvious cause presents itself.

What to do? One option is to lose heart and give up on bonsai, but a better option is to continually add new trees to your collection, maybe just one here and there, as you progress from season to season, from year to year.

It will not only challenge you to expand your skill to new and different material, it will act as insurance against those (hopefully) rare and (often) devastating losses that strike us all from time to time.

As a show of sincerity, I here offer photos of two trees I lost over the winter of 2018-2019. Both probably died as a result of overexposure to the elements—the Japanese Black Pine (below, right) is only marginally hardy in Northern New Jersey, and perhaps had its roots frozen, thawed, and frozen one too many times this winter. The yew (below, left), I now finally think, may have died from pot dehydration and sudden temperature shifts—it was the only yew I kept on display while all of its siblings, all of which survived intact, were nestled together on the ground next to a privacy fence.



Plant Care Tips for July

It's generally too late in the season for digging or repotting, though the more experienced can seemingly get away with almost anything. Your feeding, pinching, and pruning schedules should be in full swing by now. Pinch the terminal buds from deciduous trees, leaving only one pair of leaves, and keep plucking the terminal buds off your junipers and cedars as well. Everyone seems to have their own preferences for fertilizers and feeding schedules, so ask around or find a good book or website. Keep an eye peeled for insect pests and don't overdo it with the chemicals! Always read and follow manufacturers' directions, and be aware that plants in small containers are more easily stressed than plants growing in the ground. If you spray your trees with insecticides or fungicides, it's best to put them into the shade for the rest of the day. [JM]

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.



Calendar of Events for 2018-2019

July 9th (Tuesday); Show and Tell. Bring in a tree or two for questions, comments, suggestions, or just to show off. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages are also welcome!

Also: Guest vendor Mark Comstock, (found on Facebook as “Pre-bonsai Mark”, but the entries are a few years old) who will bring some trees and assorted bonsai-related materials for purchase. Mark has been a vendor at MABS and has a bonsai nursery in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

August 10th (Saturday); Club Picnic! (Rain date Sunday, August 11th). Bring along salads, fruit, hors d'oeuvres, and any beverages of your choosing—the club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Exact time and place to be announced.

Dues are Always Welcome!

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you have not 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.

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:

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Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@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:
