



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

*Next meeting: Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> (see below)*

**July 2020 Newsletter**

## **JULY MEETING ! Hosted at the home of Rick & Leslie Myers**

Thanks to the generosity of another of our club members, we continue the tradition of holding an **outdoor meeting** on **Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:00 PM till dark**, at the home of club treasurer **Rick Myers** and his wife **Leslie** in **Succasunna, NJ**. (Rain date Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.) Feel free to bring beverages and/or snacks, as well as a tree or two that you'd like to display for comments, advice, assistance, or just to show off. Another great opportunity for newbies to get a little one-on-one help with that tree that has you puzzled.

You are welcome to bring a folding chair if you wish. We also ask that you come prepared with a face mask, as per current public health guidelines.

**Please RSVP Rick** at [spruce80@verizon.net](mailto:spruce80@verizon.net), so they can know what to expect. Address and parking instructions will be provided via email.

Hope to see you there! Thanks again, Rick & Leslie!





## **JUNE MEETING--Hosted at the home of Mark and Sheila Schmuck**

On **Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:00 PM till dark**, Mark and Sheila Schmuck hosted an **outdoor meeting** in the garden of their home in **Rockaway, NJ**. They provided cold drinks and nibbles, and a few other members brought fruit trays and the like. It was an informal chance to just get together (with masks and no hand-shakes) and enjoy one another's company in beautiful surroundings. For a meeting topic we went to our standby, "**Show and Tell**"—and several attendees brought trees to display and solicit suggestions, ideas, and assistance.

It was a nice event, and it was great to see everyone who turned out! Thanks again, Mark and Sheila!



## **IMPORTANT BUSINESS: The Morris County Parks Commission announces no use of indoor facilities until 2021**

On June 22, I received the following email:

Dear Affiliate Members,

As you may be aware by now, the Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum have been advised by the Morris County Park Commission that **we will not be able to return to the Haggerty Education Center until sometime early next year.** So, for the time being, we will not be able to book any meetings for you in the building.

We will work on developing an alternative meeting strategy over the next few weeks. Until then, we hope to see you at the July meeting described on page 1 of this newsletter.

## **Deep Cut Bonsai Society unveils YouTube channel**

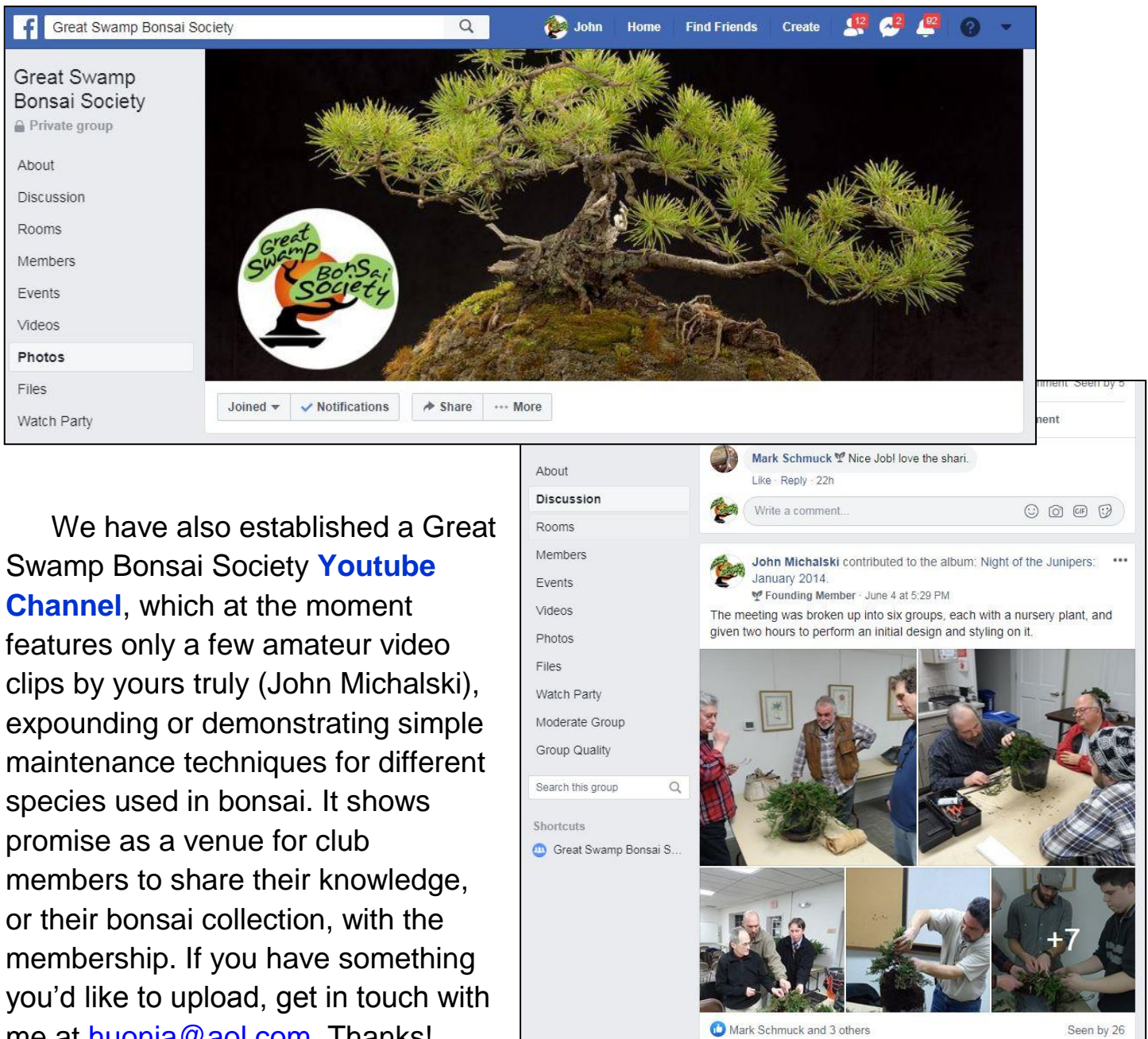
Please check out the new YouTube channel hosted by our sister club in South Jersey, the Deep Cut Bonsai Society. Just go to YouTube and enter the words "Deep Cut Bonsai Society." Could it be any simpler?

Enjoy!



## Repeat: GSBS Facebook Page – GSBS YouTube Channel

A reminder that our club **Facebook Page** is up and running, and if you haven't yet checked in, come and join the fun! This 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. (Don't worry, you won't get "friended" to death—this group is being run fairly tightly.)



The image shows a screenshot of the Great Swamp Bonsai Society Facebook page. The top navigation bar includes the Facebook logo, the group name "Great Swamp Bonsai Society", a search bar, and user navigation options like "John", "Home", "Find Friends", and "Create". The main content area features a large photo of a pine bonsai tree on a rock. To the left is a sidebar with navigation links: "About", "Discussion", "Rooms", "Members", "Events", "Videos", "Photos", "Files", and "Watch Party". Below the main photo are buttons for "Joined", "Notifications", "Share", and "More".

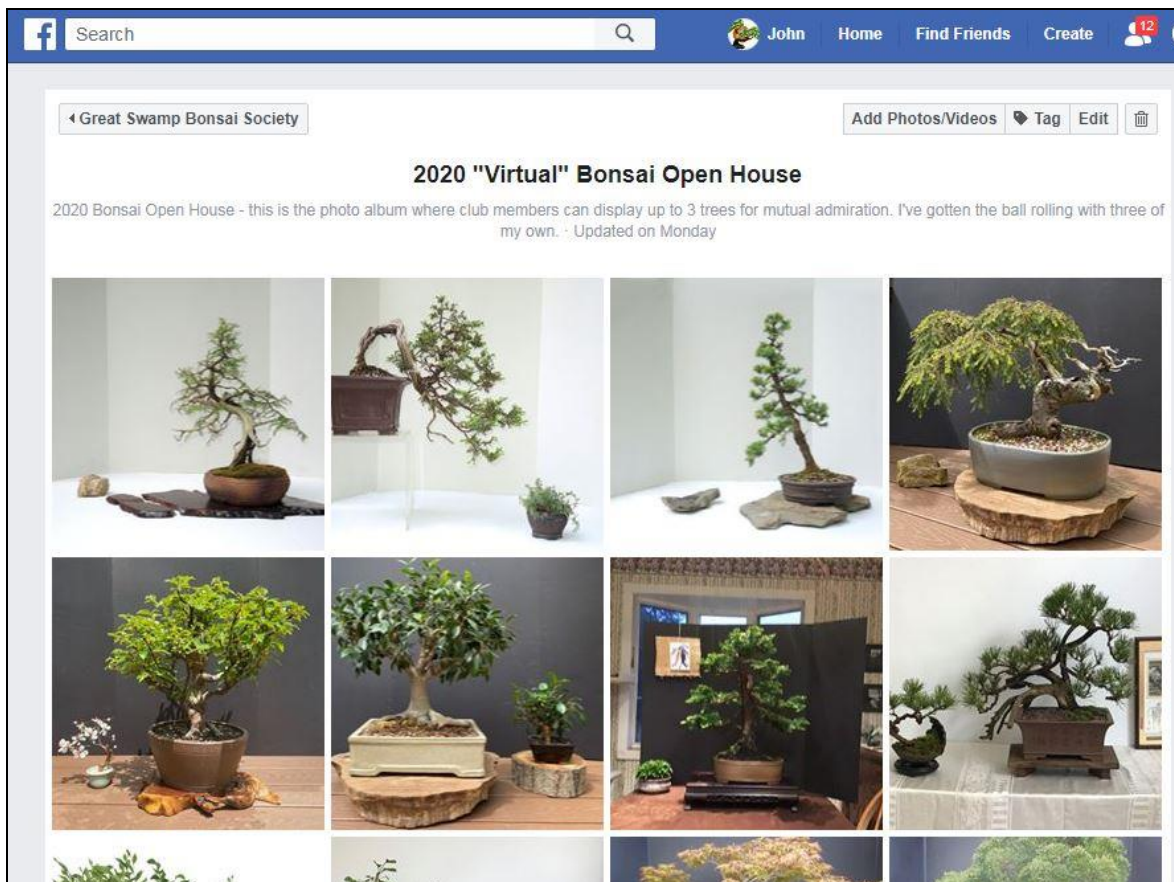
Below the Facebook page is a group photo of several people gathered around a table, working on bonsai plants. The photo is part of an album titled "Night of the Junipers: January 2014" by John Michalski. A comment from Mark Schmuck says "Nice Job! love the shari." and another from John Michalski describes the event: "The meeting was broken up into six groups, each with a nursery plant, and given two hours to perform an initial design and styling on it." The photo is credited to "Mark Schmuck and 3 others" and has been seen by 26 people.

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. It shows promise as a venue for club members to share their knowledge, or their bonsai collection, with the membership. If you have something you'd like to upload, get in touch with me at [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com). Thanks!

## Reminder: Our “Virtual” Bonsai Open House

Don't forget to add your photos to our Facebook “photo album” where members of the group can upload photos for our **2020 Virtual Open House**. Originally, we thought we'd cut off entries at May 31<sup>st</sup> (keeping to the timeline of our “usual” Open House), but have decided to throw it open, pretty much indefinitely, to any club member who wishes to share photos of up to 4 trees, just to show what you've been up to over the past year. The display so far is very impressive, so please consider adding to it.

To join the fun, go to the **GSBS Facebook Page**, where you'll see a heading for **“photos”** along the left-hand side of the page. Click on that, and you'll see a set of photos in the center of your screen. Above the photos are headings for **Photos, Albums, and Videos**. Click on **“Albums,”** and you will see one with the title **“2020 ‘Virtual’ Bonsai Open House.”** Click on that and you will see all the photos that have been uploaded so far. In the upper-right corner of that field you will see a heading for **“Add Photos/Videos.”** Click on that and you're ready to go. Please remember to add some descriptive information after you upload your photos—there's a field for each photo, once you've uploaded it, in the upper right area for writing a little something.



## 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 (new buds on Amur Maples should be allowed to extend fully and harden off before trimming back to the first pair of leaves).

Everyone seems to have their own preferences for fertilizers and feeding schedules, so ask around or find a good book. 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]

## 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!

## 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.**

**July 14<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday, 6:00 PM till dark). **Outdoor meeting at the home of Rick & Leslie Myers.** (Rain date Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>). See page 1 for details.

**??? August: *Annual Club Picnic. Date and location to be determined.***



## GSBS Contact Information:

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

Past President: Diego E Pablos  
[neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com](mailto:neyamadoribonsai@gmail.com)  
Phone: 973.224.8139

Vice President: **Position Open**

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

Treasurer: Rick Myers [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 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:**

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