



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, July 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon - 4:00 PM**— Guest Artist **Martin Schmalenberg!**

July 2021 Newsletter

## July Meeting: Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, noon–4:00 PM

This month's meeting will be held at the home and studio of renown bonsai instructor **Martin Schmalenberg, in Stillwater, NJ**. Bring food and beverages as you wish. Martin will walk us through his extraordinary bonsai garden to discuss **accent plants** in all their charm and variety. Later, he will lead a **“puzzler” session** in which club members bring their most confounding trees for Martin's thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and perhaps even some hands-on styling. If you've got a tree for which you've run out of ideas—perhaps the top has died back, or you've lost one of the primary branches, or maybe you bought or collected the tree before noticing a difficult design problem—please bring it along for Marty's consideration and group discussion.

Marty's address is **926 Middleville Road, Stillwater, NJ 07860**. Hope to see you all there!





Last month's meeting: [SUNDAY, June 13<sup>th</sup>](#), with guest artist Sergio Cuan.

The **June** meeting was hosted (outdoors) by **Mark and Marla Sanders** at their home in **Randolph, NJ**. We enjoyed good food and drinks, good company, and an excellent presentation by **guest artist Sergio Cuan**, who used trees from his own collection to demonstrate the techniques of **root grafting and thread grafting** on Japanese maples. He also allowed time for advice, suggestions, and critiques of trees brought to the meeting by club members. It was a wonderful outing and we look forward to hosting Sergio again in the near future. If you missed this one, try to make the next one! Thanks again to Mark, Marla, and Sergio!



Sergio Cuan (center) points out the locations of various thread grafts he has performed on one of his Japanese maples.



# Photos from June Meeting



The assembled gang enjoying Sergio's presentation.





## More Photos from June Meeting



Standing, left to right (for those of you trying to learn the names!): Craig Reiman, Mary Larsson, Adi Morel, Rick Myers, Mark Sanders, Zach Bier, Bob Iglesias, Samarth Nagarkar, Fred Aufschlager, Greg Birrer, John Michalski, Sergio Cuan, Mark Schmuck, Chris Kazanecki, Izzy Gurler, Monica Mosquera, Joan Chen, Mike Haverson, David Seaton. Kneeling: Juan Calderon, Sebastian Gomez.



(left) Sergio discusses design options on a tree brought in by Mark Schmuck, and (below) Chris Kazanecki.



(left) Club member Izzy Gurler demonstrates a product designed for air-layering branches on fruit trees.

## Plant Care Tips for July

It's been another strange summer, so far, with un-seasonally cool weather punctuated with staggering heat and humidity. In general, it has been a good year for gardening and for bonsai cultivation, but keep an eye on that heat for your more sensitive plants. And with this humidity, you probably don't need to water as much as you might guess based on the temperatures, so judge carefully.

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 (except for Amur maples, which require time for new shoots to lengthen and harden before cutting back to the first 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 website or 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]

### Repeat: No Dues for 2020–2021 Season!

As we will not, any time soon, be meeting at the Arboretum, and as our club treasury is already ample to meet our meager needs, dues will be suspended until further notice. If you have already paid your dues for the coming season, you may request a refund, or have them applied to next year, at your discretion.

### 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](mailto: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 they no longer wish to keep, while offering same to other people who might cherish them! So please feel free!

## Save 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.

## 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 2020-2021**

Our club meetings are finally back on track--Hooray! But keep those suggestions coming—we are cheerfully open to any and all topic ideas!

### **WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES.**

**July 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), noon to 4:00 PM.** Meeting at the home and studio of Martin Schmalenberg (see page 1 for details).

**August (date TBD): club picnic,** to be hosted at the home of club member **Doug Siedenburg.** Details to follow.

**FALL 2021: All meetings, topics, and locations to be determined. Stay tuned!**

## GSBS Contact Information:

President: John Michalski

[huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com)

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: Mark Sanders [dealmakr@att.net](mailto:dealmakr@att.net)

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

### **DUES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

#### **Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:**

#### **Send to:**

**GSBS c/o Rick Myers**       **New**       **Renewal**  
**80 Kenvil Avenue**  
**Succasunna, NJ 07876.**       **Individual (\$ N/A)**       **Family (\$ N/A)**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**If Family Membership, please list other members:**

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