



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, August 11th**

Topic: Annual Club Picnic

August 2018 Newsletter

This month's meeting: Annual Club Picnic at Stillwater Bonsai Studio w/presentation by Marty Schmalenberg

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, August 11th** (rain date Sunday 7/12) from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the home and studio of renowned Bonsai educator **Martin Schmalenberg**. GSBS will provide burgers, hotdogs and buns, with attendees bringing the rest—beverages of your choice, desserts, salads—whatever strikes your fancy! Please RSVP Mark Schmuck at lofty235@verizon.net to let him know what else you would like to bring. Non-club members are welcome too! Email Mark at lofty235@verizon.net for more information!

Marty's address is 926 Middleville Road, Stillwater NJ (near Blairstown – for GPS users, also search 926 Middleville Rd. Newton, N.J. 07860 Stillwater Township).

Following introductions, tours of the grounds and bonsai garden (see photo, right), and lunch, we will proceed to Marty's studio where he will offer suggestions on any tree(s) you bring to the picnic—so please bring up to 3 trees for which you would like ideas, comments, critique, or suggestions from a world-class bonsai artist.

Marty will also have a number of fine quality bonsai and pots available for purchase, so bring your pocketbook.



It should be a great day. Hope to see you there!

Looking Back: July Meeting—Show and Tell

July's meeting was a general "show and tell" event, a chance to show us what you've been working on, as well as a chance to bring that puzzler that has you stumped. The meeting was well-attended and dozens of trees were brought for ideas, suggestions, assistance, or just to show off.

Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success!



(above) Izzy Gurler describes the care and maintenance of *Bougainvillea* bonsai. (below) Newbie Sherrie Miller gets suggestions for her Willowleaf *Ficus* from S.C. Hwang and Diego Pablos.





(above) S.C. Hwang explains his ideas for developing his windswept juniper. (below) Mark Sanders takes suggestions on his Japanese Holly from Bill Muldowney and S.C. Hwang.



Bonsai Tip from your Editor: Don't forget to keep snipping those Deciduous Bonsai!

We're at the start of August, normally a time when many plants go into a developmental dormancy in the garden—steeling themselves against the usually hotter and drier month ahead—but your bonsai are being watered and fed like a healthy barnyard calf!

Depending, of course, upon the species, some of your deciduous bonsai have finished pushing new leaves for the season (e.g. beeches), whereas others (apples, maples, birches, etc.) are bursting with new shoots and leaves for the second or third time this summer.

Take my bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera morrowii*), for example. As long as they're watered and fed, they'll keep popping new growth into the early winter—the challenge is to back off on the feeding by mid-August, or they might not harden-off sufficiently for the cold months.

But as you can see from these photos (below) taken the same day as I write this (July 30th), a third round of new shoots (which can be told by their much lighter, brighter green color) are already lengthening. My advice is to allow them to harden off, just a bit, and then prune them back to the first pair of leaves. You will almost certainly get yet another burst of growth out of them before the season ends. (This, by the way, is a process that you should begin with the first blush of growth in April or May. I get at least three prunings per season, sometimes 4 or 5!).

By keeping up with the pruning activity, you encourage new branch ramifications each time, allowing you several developmental bursts per season.

-- John Michalski



Plant Care Tips for August

This has been, not the first time over the past few years, a peculiar summer. We've had much more rain than what used to be considered typical for July, and it shows little sign of letting up. For your bonsai collection, this has probably been a bonus. For you, it has meant much less watering. If that keeps up into the fall, water will not be your, or your trees', problem.

However, August is *usually* the hottest and driest month of the year. Under such conditions it is imperative that trees be watered every day, maybe twice daily. Not much else can be done except to feed regularly. From August on, trees will need less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus to harden the wood and induce budding. Continue to pot up air layerings that put out roots. Branches start to thicken during August, and wire which begins to bite into the branches should be loosened. [DY]

August is pretty much about keeping your trees sufficiently watered against the heat, and beginning to harden them up for the coming fall. This is about the time that most people start backing off their feeding, pinching, and pruning schedules. Don't fertilize too aggressively, or else you risk the trees pushing too much new growth that will not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather comes in. [JM]

Save and Bring In Your Discarded Bonsai Wire

Please remember to save and bring in those wire clippings. 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.

Have You Paid Your Dues?

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you have not yet paid up, please bring cash or check to **club treasurer Rick Meyers**, 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. See last page for details.

Meeting Dates for 2018–2019

***NOTE: We are working on our calendar for 2018-2019
– suggestions welcome!***

August 11th, 2018 (Saturday): **Annual Club Picnic—friends and family welcome!**

September, October, November: TOPICS OPEN

December: NO MEETING

January, February, March, April, May: TOPICS OPEN

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:

President: Diego E Pablos
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Phone: 973.224.8139
289 Mount Hope Ave.
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Dover, NJ 07801

Vice President: Bill Kasakoff bill.kasakoff@gmail.com

Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@verizon.net

Treasurer: Rich Meyers spruce80@verizon.net
80 Kenvil Ave
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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 Diego E Pablos
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway twp.
Dover, NJ 07801

Great Swamp Bonsai Society Membership Registration:

Send to:

GSBS c/o Diego Pablos _____ **New** _____ **Renewal**
289 Mount Hope Ave.
K-12, Rockaway Twp. _____ **Individual (\$40.00)** _____ **Family (\$50.00)**
Dover, NJ 07801

Name(s): _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** (_____)

If Family Membership, please list other members:

