



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, August 10th**

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Annual Club Picnic

August 2019 Newsletter

August Meeting: SATURDAY, August 10th – Annual Club Picnic!

Come One, Come All, members and non-members alike! (Spouses too!)

WHEN: Saturday, August 10th (rain date Sunday, August 11), 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

WHERE: The home and bonsai nursery of club member **Doug Siedenburg**: 18 Skytop Road, Port Murray, NJ 07865. phone: 908-310-2777.

WHAT TO BRING: The club will provide the burgers and dogs and plates and stuff. Please bring along a side dish, salad, dessert, or whatever strikes your fancy. Feel free to bring any beverages of your choice. You may contact club member Mark Schmuck (lofty235@verizon.net) or club Treasurer Rick Myers (spruce80@verizon.net) if you'd like to let us know what you plan on bringing, or to ask for suggestions.

We always have a wonderful time at our club picnic, enjoying good food and company, amid pleasant surroundings and (in this case) some fantastic bonsai and a large collection of bonsai nursery material. (If you're in the mood to bring something home with you, bring your checkbook or some cash--you never know!)

Hope to see you all there!

Our next “regular meeting” will be Tuesday, September 10th, 6:30-9:30 PM at our usual meeting room at the Arboretum.

Topics for Upcoming GSBS Calendar of Events

Your club officers will be meeting in August to draw up our list of topics for the coming fall, winter, and spring. We have provided the meeting dates on [page 9](#) so that you can put them on your calendar, but you will see that our topics are all “yet to be determined.”

Please contact any of us (contact info on [page 10](#) of this newsletter) with your ideas and suggestions. The Great Swamp Bonsai Society exists for your benefit, so if there are topics you would like us to address (presentations or hands-on workshops so that you can learn the techniques and get some experience and assistance), please let us know ASAP so we can put them on the calendar.

Dues are Due in September

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. As the time approaches, 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!

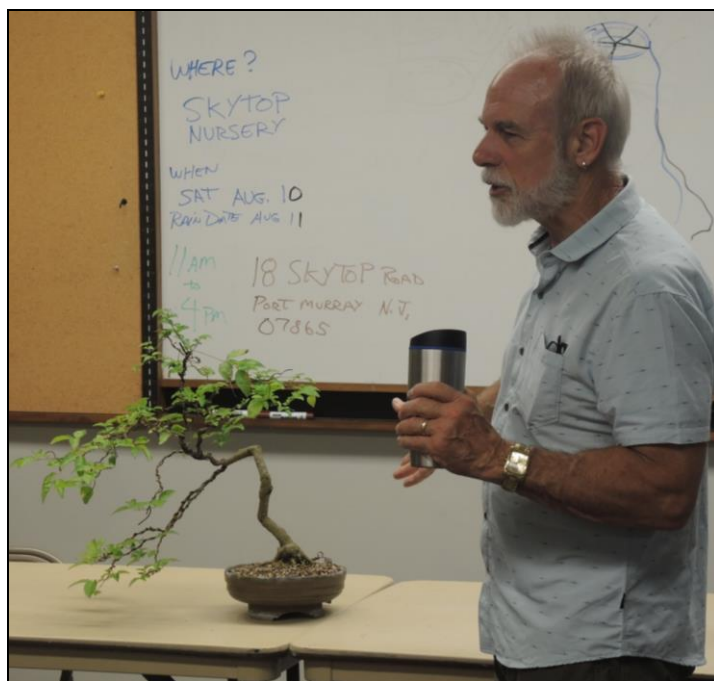
Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

July Meeting: Show and Tell

On Tuesday July 9th our topic was “show and tell,” in which club members brought in various bonsai that they are working on for comments, suggestions, assistance, or just to share their own ideas and design plans for the coming season. We also welcomed a few new faces to the club, which is always a pleasure.



Bill Muldowney (below) and Doug Siedenbug (left) show their stuff.



July Meeting: Show and Tell (cont'd)

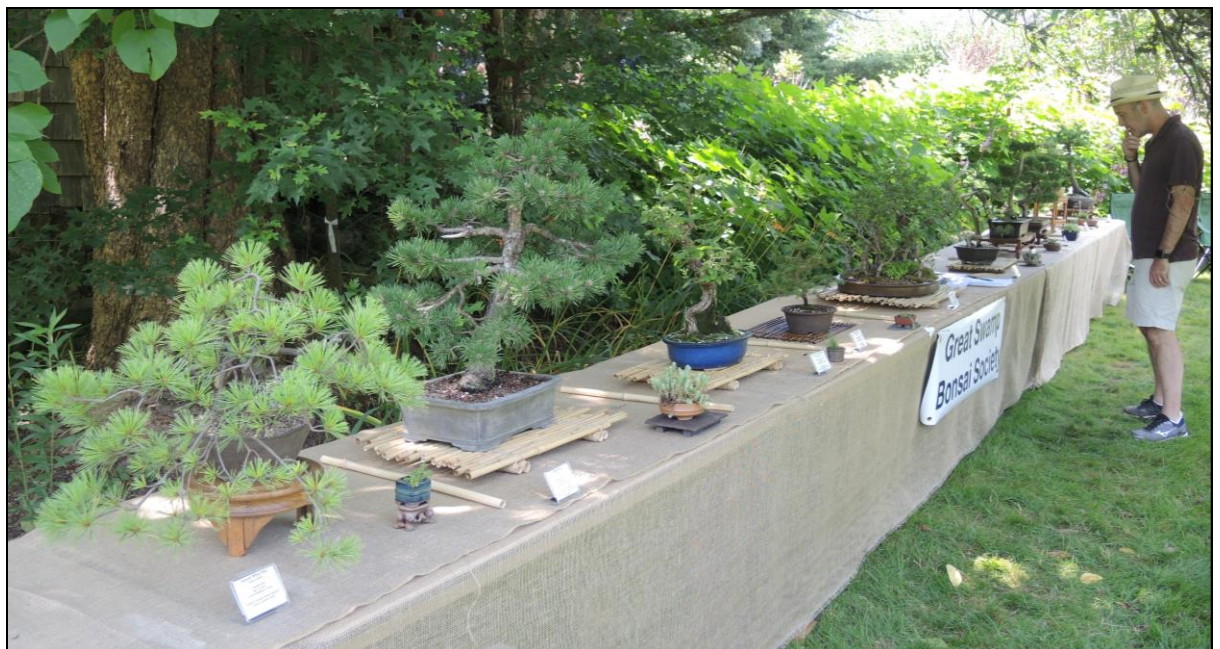


Fred Aufschläger (left), John Berna (middle) and Bill Kasakoff (bottom) show what they've been working on lately.



Club members display bonsai at Willowwood Arboretum

On Saturday, July 14th, club members **Fred Aufschläger** and **Mark Schmuck** brought a wonderful assortment of bonsai from their own collections to display as part of the **Willowwood Arboretum's** (Chester Twp., NJ) Japanese Garden Festival. It was a lot of hard work and the display by Fred and Mark was really delightful. Many people attended the event, and though the site chosen by Mark and Fred was a bit off the beaten path (literally), they received a small but steady influx of curious and appreciative visitors, and represented our club and its interests very well (and got a few new sign-ups for our newsletter in the bargain). Great job, fellows!



A Visit from the Phoenix Bonsai Society

On Sunday, June 23rd, club members John Michalski and Fred Aufschläger hosted an informal visit from past-President of the Phoenix (AZ) Bonsai Society, **Eric Zimmet**, who was out east on business, but who wanted to find a local club to see what kinds of things we are doing.

In Phoenix, Eric explained, summer temperatures are uniformly in the low 100s by day, so he keeps his entire collection in full shade during July and August. Never mind, there is plenty of ambient bright light flooding in from every direction. Winter frosts are rare to nonexistent, and in the summer months his trees require watering three or four times a day. The species Eric works with include olives, Ficus, and Bougainvilleae. Check out the Phoenix club's website for amazing photos of brilliant bonsai.

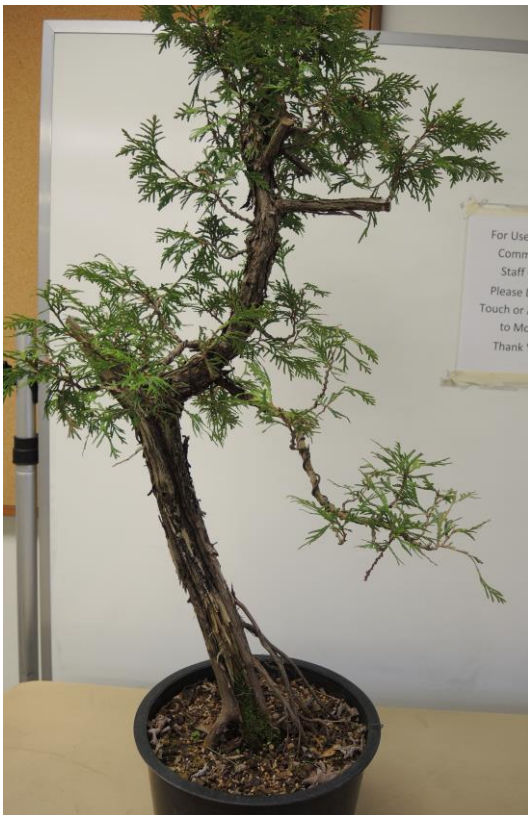


Bonsai Tip from your Editor: Take Before-and-After Photos!

I say this all the time at meetings, but to me it never gets old—always take a moment to photograph the trees you're working on, before you start, and immediately after you've finished with any large-scale design or styling session. You will be amazed at the progress of your bonsai, though initially they may have seemed to have changed little over the years. If nothing else, at least photograph each tree individually once a year, preferably in the same month each year.

I recommend a neutral background (a stand-up display board, such as you can purchase in office supply shops, works well, and I have them in both black and white for different types of photographic conditions. A grey bedsheet is another good backdrop, particularly for larger bonsai that exceed the boundaries of a standard display board. Take your photos in the shade, if possible, to allow your camera or phone to adjust its settings without washing out the bright spots or darkening the shady bits too much.

And then keep your photos organized so that you can make comparisons from year to year! It's a great way to measure your own progress, as well as a great way to plan where you wish to go with your trees, or to identify things you might want to do differently in future.



Collected Arborvitae (Northern White Cedar) in 2016 (left) and 2019 (right).

Plant Care Tips for August

It's still peak growing season, so keep on pinching and pruning those growing tips and elongated shoots. Deciduous trees can still have their new growth snipped back to just beyond the first or second set of leaves, and you can expect at least one more flush of new growth from those cuts before the season is over.

By mid-August you'll want to reduce fertilization to avoid pushing too much new growth that may not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather comes in. [JM]

Since August can be a very hot and dry month, 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]

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 2019-2020

As you can see, we have yet to draw up our topics for the coming fall, winter, and spring. Please email any of our club officers with suggestions—we want to plan meetings that will benefit you and cater to your interests!

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.

See page 1 for details.

September 10th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

October 8th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

November 12th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

*** *No meeting in December***

January 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

*** *No meeting in February***

March 10th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

April 21st (Tuesday) **Workshop with guest artist from MABS, evening presentation with same. Details as we get them!**

May 12th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

May 31st (**SUNDAY**, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM). ***ANNUAL BONSAI OPEN HOUSE.***

*** *No meeting in June***

July 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). ***Topic to be determined.***

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: **Position Open**

Secretary: Mark Schmuck lofty235@verizon.net

Treasurer: Rick Myers spruce80@verizon.net

80 Kenvil Ave
Succasunna N J
07876

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:
