



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Saturday, August 22nd** (see below)

August 2020 Newsletter

## AUGUST MEETING: Annual Club Picnic – Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> (rain date Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>).

This year's annual Club Picnic will be hosted by renowned bonsai artist and teacher **Martin Schmalenberg** at his home and studio in **Stillwater, NJ** -- Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup> with rain date Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Martin will provide beer and wine on ice, and the club officers will take care of the burgers and dogs, cups, plates, utensils, etc.

**Attendees should feel free to bring salads, snacks, desserts, etc. and additional beverages of their choice.** 11:00 AM till 4:00 PM.

To put a little focus on the gathering, **Martin will walk us through his amazing bonsai garden** and tell the histories of selected trees, and adds that the meeting is also open for **attendees to bring problematic trees for constructive criticism**, which is usually a highlight and very informative. Don't forget your camera!



A view of Martin's bonsai garden and back yard studio.

Martin adds: "As many folks know, I am an avid stone collector and have been involved in suiseki and Chinese scholar rocks for many years. I have about 30 fine stones on display with my trees and have many, many very good stones **for sale** as well. I will have some large maple bonsai for sale as well as smaller Chinese cork bark elms and several larch that I collected way back in the day. I even have some incredible large stones for the garden and bench displays for sale. Hard to get items. Sooooo, if anyone is in the mood for some new stuff, they can have a look."

**So, put it on your calendar!** (And perhaps bring your checkbook.) If you've stayed away from meetings this summer, this is one you may not want to miss! **We will be practicing all the usual health precautions, so bring a mask.**

You can RSVP club president John Michalski at [huonia@aol.com](mailto:huonia@aol.com), to give us an idea of who's planning to attend.

Updates and directions as we get closer to the meeting. In the mean time, stay well, and hope to see you then!



## July Meeting: hosted at the home of Rick & Leslie Myers

Our July meeting was another informal get-together at the home of **Rick and Leslie Myers** in Succassuna, NJ, on Tuesday, July 14th. It was a sparsely attended meeting, but another great chance to get together, swap stories, and see what we've all been doing since the quarantine started back in March. Thanks again, Rick & Leslie!



Club members John Berna, Mark Sanders, Monica Mosquera, Mark Schmuck, Rick Myers, and John Michalski. Not pictured: Zach Bier and Greg Birrer.

## **IMPORTANT BUSINESS: Changes of meeting times and venue to be announced soon!**

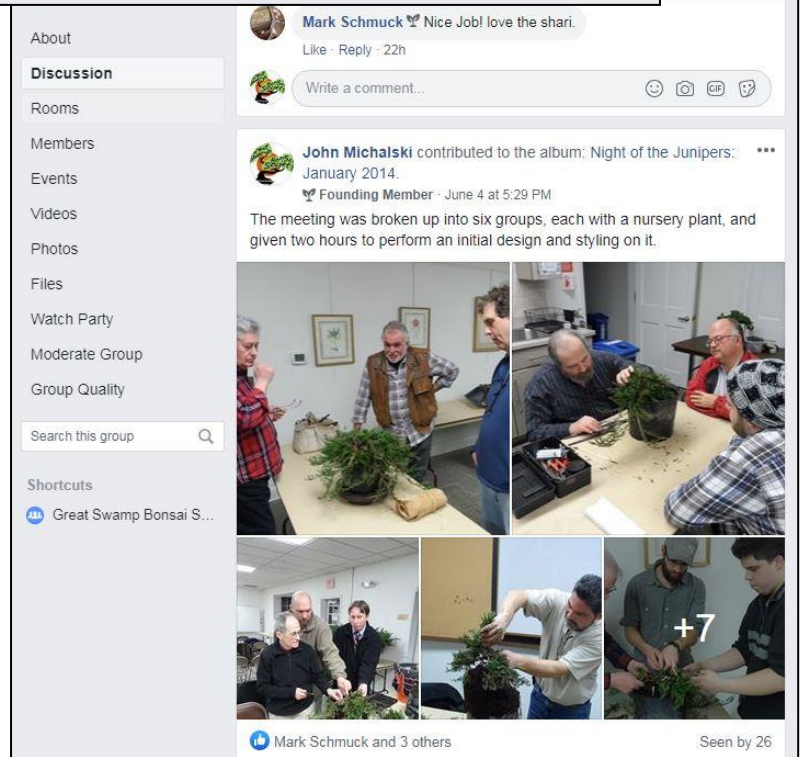
As mentioned in last month's newsletter, **our usual meeting rooms will be unavailable until sometime in 2021**, if we are lucky. In the meantime, we are working on an alternative meeting arrangement, most likely with meetings held at alternating club members' homes on Saturday afternoons. We will schedule meeting topics and host guest artists as we did under more typical circumstances. Stay tuned.

## 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.)



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!



## Plant Care Tips for August

If your bonsai are anything like mine, August tends to be the month where your trees are not necessarily looking their best—particularly with the deciduous species like maples, apples, beeches, honeysuckles, etc. This is normal—the big growth push of May and June is long over, the foliage has hardened off, there is less sprouting of new growth, and the mature leaves are showing signs of sunburn, insect damage, and fungus spots. Don't panic, this is common this time of the year. [JM]

Since August can be a very hot and dry month, it is imperative that trees be watered every day, maybe twice daily (depending of course on the weather each day). 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, as well as fortify the roots system for winter. 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]

## 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

Dues are normally collected in September, and may be paid by check or cash to **club treasurer Rick Myers**, in person or 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/>

Visit our **Facebook page** and **YouTube channel**.

***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.**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>** (Saturday, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM). **Annual Club Picnic at the home and studio of Martin Schmalenberg.** (Rain date Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>). See page 1 for details.

**September through June: Location, Date, Time, Topic To Be Determined—STAY TUNED!**

## GSBS Contact Information:

President: John Michalski  
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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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