



# Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, August 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon - 4:00 PM – Club Picnic!**

**August 2021 Newsletter**

## August Meeting: Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, noon–4:00 PM

This month's meeting will be held at the home and gardens of **Doug and Karen Siedenburg, in Port Murray, NJ**. As always, feel free to bring food and beverages as you wish—and a tree, if you have something to show off, or something you'd like help with. There is no official "topic," but Doug's gardens and bonsai collection are sure to provide plenty of inspiration.

The address is **18 Skytop Road, Port Murray, NJ 07865. Phone: (908) 832-5438.**

Hope to see you all there!



(left) Host Doug Siedenburg, on right, offers advice on wiring during our 2019 picnic. (below) A view of only a small part of the Siedenburg gardens.



## Last month's meeting: Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, at the home and studio of Martin Schmalenberg.

Last month's meeting was held at the home and studio of renown bonsai instructor **Martin Schmalenberg, in Stillwater, NJ**. As always, club members brought food, drinks, and good company, as Martin walked us through his extraordinary bonsai garden to discuss **accent plants** in all their charm and variety, followed by a **“puzzler” session** in which club members brought their most confounding trees for Martin's thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and some hands-on styling. It was another great meeting, and we once again thank Marty and Amy for their hospitality and good fellowship.

If you missed this one, try to make it to the August picnic!



left to right: Timothy Kuhlman, Rick Myers, Zach Bier, John Michalski, Mark Sanders, Bob Iglesias, Benjamin Liss, Juan Calderon, Fred Aufschlager, Monica Mosquera, Martin Schmalenberg, Joan Chen, Mark Schmuck, Shauna Smith, Robert Chernow. Not pictured: Greg Birrer, John Berna, and Bob Metzger and his wife (apologies for not remembering her name!).

Photos from July Meeting



## More Photos from July Meeting



## Plant Care Tips for August

Since August is typically a very hot and dry month, it is imperative that you attend to watering, as needed, every day (maybe twice daily if the weather ever returns to what used to be considered “typical”). 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 have 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 (and sheltered if necessary) 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]

## Repeat: No Dues until further notice!

As we have not yet heard anything definitive from our “official” meeting place at the Frelinghuysen 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 2021-2022**

Venues for future club meetings are still uncertain. Please keep venue and topic ideas coming—we are cheerfully open to any and all suggestions!

**WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES.**

**August 14th (Saturday): club picnic**, to be hosted at the home of club member **Doug Siedenburg**. Details on page 1.

**FALL & WINTER 2021-2022: All meetings, topics, and locations to be determined. Stay tuned!**

## GSBS Contact Information:

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## 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:**

\_\_\_\_\_



