



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **TUESDAY, September 11th**

Topic: Wiring Needled Evergreen Bonsai

September 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to the 2018–2019 Season with GSBS!

We have what we hope is an exciting and informative schedule of events for the months ahead, so read on and let us know how you feel.

This month's meeting: Evergreen Wiring Workshop

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 11th** at the usual place and time.

Fall is the season for **wiring pines, spruces, and other evergreens**, so bring 'em if you got 'em, and we will try to have several trees available for purchase as well. The club has wire if you need it, or bring your own. If you own your own tools, please bring them as well.



As always, we encourage you to bring ANY tree you wish for ideas, assistance, or just to show off. **Friends, family, and non-members are always welcome!**

Be sure to take a look at our **Calendar of Events for 2018-2019**. We have drawn up what we hope is an exciting and interesting selection of topics, but we still welcome your input and advice—our calendar always has a little 'wiggle room,' so let us know what you'd like to see!

We have two **guest bonsai artists** coming to GSBS this year—**Marc Noelanders in October** and **Koji Hiramatsu in April**. In both cases, the final dates are still to be determined, so stay tuned for further details.

Looking Back: August Meeting –Annual Club Picnic at Stillwater Bonsai Studio w/presentation by Marty Schmalenberg

Our August meeting was our annual Club Picnic, held once again at **Stillwater Studio**, the home and studio of renowned Bonsai educator **Martin Schmalenberg**. The weather was distinctly dodgy—predictions of wild thunderstorms kept more than a few members away, but about 20 of us accepted the challenge, and the rain held off long enough for everyone to enjoy good food, great company, and a tour of Marty's extraordinary bonsai garden before the rain began falling around 3:00 pm. Following lunch (thanks to everyone for your excellent contributions, and to our GSBS head grill-chef Juan Calderon), we retreated to the studio, where Marty spoke about the philosophy of bonsai as he critiqued and offered suggestions on a number of bonsai brought to the picnic by attendees. Several trees were worked on right then and there.

It was a wonderful event—thanks once again to Martin and **Amy Bridge** for hosting, and thanks for Marty's splendid presentation. If you missed it this year, be sure to join us next time.



View of Martin's bonsai garden and studio.



Left to right: Bob Chernow (background), Juan Calderon (foreground), Mark Sanders, Izzy Gurler, Doug Ladzinski, Mary Golas, Martin Schmalenberg, Brian O'Byrne.



Another view of Marty's bonsai garden.



Left to right: Martin Schmalenberg, Bob Iglesias, Doug Ladzinski, Izzy Gurler, Diego Pablos, Sheila & Mark Schmuck.



Juan Calderon man's the grill.



Bonsai Tip from your Editor: Have you started planning for winter care and storage?

I know it's only September—and an unusually hot September, so far—but it won't be long before your temperate-zone bonsai will be needing some protection from the rigors of whatever winter dishes up for us this time! Don't forget those years when we were socked with deep snow as early as October, so start planning.

Most bonsai gardeners in our part of the country use Thanksgiving weekend as the start date for getting their collections into winter storage. Provided we don't get a burst of unseasonal warmth, this date helps ensure you're not putting them away too soon—a mistake which could prompt some of your trees to break bud six months early. The way things have been changing, however, if your collection's not too large or difficult to move quickly, you may be able to postpone winter storage until late December—but watch the weather forecast carefully, being especially on the lookout for hard freezes in the early hours of the morning.

What you're mostly concerned with is allowing your temperate bonsai to have a cool resting period while avoiding total desiccation of the soil, damage caused by rodents and deep snow and ice, and desiccation of the branches from winter wind.

There are several options, which we will address in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, have a look around and determine how much space you'll need, and how much time to give yourself.

-- John Michalski



Plant Care Tips for September

It is about time to begin hardening-off your trees for the cold months ahead, and preparing a safe place to keep them. For the most part you should not attempt collecting, repotting, air-layering or drastic pruning at this time of year. If the sporadic heat waves have stressed your trees, preparing them for winter is more crucial than ever.

Feeding: Please note that fertilization must be handled with sensitivity, or else you risk pushing too much new growth that will not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather sets in. Following the needs of outdoor plantings, it can be said that deciduous trees may benefit from a low-nitrogen (that is, higher in potassium and phosphorous) feeding after the leaves have fallen but prior to November 1; this can promote bud formation and strengthen the trunk and root system for winter. Similarly, evergreens may be fed a low-nitrogen fertilizer, until the end of October. Most reference books refer to a single Autumn feeding.

Repotting and Training: Japanese texts recommend autumn repotting for most evergreens, but they also cite early spring for each of these—considering the difference in climate, I'd stick with early spring. Cherry and flowering quince are repotted by the Japanese in October. Many needled evergreens are most successfully wire-trained during the autumn months, but most sources say wait until October or November.

Winter protection: Start planning how and where you will store your trees for the winter. In a “normal” year—and when was the last time we had one of those?—most of our outdoor bonsai can stay virtually unprotected beyond Thanksgiving, but this holiday is commonly used as a start date for winter protection. If you have only a few trees, it may be possible to plant them directly into the ground, pot and all, but for larger collections it may prove useful to build some sort of cold-frame or organize some space in an unheated shed or some-such. You will not need these precautions for a few months yet, but it pays to plan ahead! [JM]

Watering continues to be the most important task during this month. Reduce feeding slightly at this point, and use low-nitrogen or nitrogen-free fertilizer. September is a good month to take hardwood cuttings. This is the last opportunity to pot up air layerings as they may not be able to root sufficiently to withstand the winter [if you wait longer]. Also remove wires from branches that have set properly and be aware of thickening branches and trunks on wired pines. [DY]

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.

Dues are Due

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.

Visit our webpage at <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/gsbonsai/>

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!



Calendar of Events for 2018-2019

September 11th: Evergreen Wiring Workshop. Fall is the season for wiring pines, spruces, and other evergreen bonsai. Bring your own to work on; the club can supply wire. We hope to have several trees available for purchase if needed.

October: Guest artist Koji Hiramatsu – exact date to be determined, stay tuned. (see <http://bonsai.shikoku-np.co.jp/en/map/hiramatsu-shushoen-bonsai-garden.html>)

November 13th: Evergreen Basic Design Workshop – (w/brief discussion of winter care). Bring your own; we hope to have several trees available for purchase if needed.

December: NO MEETING

January 8th: Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction. *Please begin scouring your collections for trees, pots, tools, etc. to put up for auction—the more the merrier!*

February: NO MEETING

March 12th: Wood-carving Workshop. Bring your own material and tools, if you have them. We will have some dead material on hand to practice with, as well as living.

April: Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Spring Festival. Stay tuned for details.

Also April: Guest artist Marc Noelanders, fresh from MABS. **Date to be determined.**

May 14th: Phoenix Graft Workshop/Repotting Workshop. Learn how to graft live “whips” onto dramatic deadwood, to create stunning bonsai material. (Repotting Workshop may be moved to April depending on room availability.)

June 2nd (first Sunday): Annual GSBS Bonsai Open House. Stay tuned for details.

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 Diego E Pablos
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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:

