



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, Sept. 18th**

Noon - 4:00 PM – Forest & Group Plantings

September 2021 Newsletter

September Meeting: Saturday, September 18th, noon–4:00 PM

This month's meeting will be held at the home and garden of **Joan Cho of Lincoln Park, 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. The official topic is **Forest and Group Plantings**, led by club member **Fred Aufschläger**, so please feel free to bring along any examples from your own collection—or even a selection of trees that you are thinking of planting together to make a group.

The address is **62 Anthony Blvd., Lincoln Park, NJ 07035. Phone: (908) 300-0790.**

Hope to see you all there!



Last month's meeting: [Saturday, August 14th](#), at the home of Doug and Karen Siedenburg.

Last month's meeting was held at the home of **Doug and Karen Siedenburg** in Port Murray NJ. It was another great day, with good food, drinks, fantastic company, and of course Doug and Karen's extraordinary house, gardens, and hospitality. Thank you both, once again, for hosting another great event!

If you missed this one, be sure to join us next time!



Photos from August Club Picnic



More Photos from August Club Picnic



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. The weather patterns have shifted in recent years, so preparing your trees 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 not with glazed pots), 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]

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. 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.

Great Swamp Bonsai Society: upcoming dates and agenda in the works!

Your club admins have met recently to discuss the calendar and schedule of events for the 2021-2022 season (see page 8). As of yet, we still have no word from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum about when or if they will re-open their buildings for indoor meetings. So, we will continue with **outdoor Saturday meetings, noon to 4:00 PM**, with rain-dates on the following Sunday.



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

A return date to our original meeting room at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum is still uncertain. Please keep venue and topic ideas coming—we are cheerfully open to any and all suggestions!

All meetings held on Saturdays, noon to 4:00 PM, with rain date the following Sunday. **WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES.**

September 18th: Forest and Group Plantings. Hosted by Joan Cho at her home at 62 Anthony Blvd., Lincoln Park, NJ 07035.

October 16th: Bonsai Styles. Hosted by Mark and Sheila Schmuck at their home in Rockaway, NJ.

November 6th: Jin Implants—Adding dead limbs where no limbs exist. Led by John Michalski, hosted by Fred and Doris Aufschläger at their home in Bernardsville, NJ.

December: No Meeting Scheduled.

January-February-March: Stay Tuned! We are working on **indoor meetings** to be held at the **Rosade Bonsai Studio** in New Hope, PA, the **Allshapes Bonsai Nursery** in Ringoes, NJ, and a possible **March** presentation by **Sergio Cuan**, demonstrating his technique of **thread-grafting on Maples**.

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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:
