



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, Oct. 16th**

Noon - 4:00 PM – Bonsai Forms

October 2021 Newsletter

October Meeting: Saturday, October 16th, noon–4:00 PM

This month's meeting will be held at the home and garden of **Mark and Sheila Schmuck of Rockaway, NJ**. As always, feel free to bring a folding chair, and food or 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 **Bonsai Forms**, led by club member **Mark Schmuck**, so please feel free to bring along any examples from your own collection.

The address is: **235 East Main St., Rockaway, NJ 07866, at the corner of E. Main and Van Duyne Ave.** (Park on Van Duyne.)

Hope to see you all there!



[Images of various "bonsai forms" brazenly stolen off the internet.]



Last month's meeting: Saturday, September 18th, at the home of Joan Cho.

Last month's meeting was hosted at the home of **Joan Cho** in Lincoln Park, NJ. It was another great day, with good food, drinks, and excellent company, set in Joan's delightful garden. The topic, led by club member **Fred Aufschläger**, was the theory and design of **Group and Forest Plantings**. Fred and other club members brought along several examples to help illustrate the presentation, and provide material for conversation and advise. Club member **Izzy Gurler** brought some of his bonsai, for which he needs to find new homes, and several members were happy to relieve him of the burden. Izzy will be bringing more trees to future meetings, so if you are interested you may contact him directly at igurler@msn.com.

If you missed this one, we hope to see you next time!



Left to right: Monica Mosquera, Rick Myers, Mark Schmuck, Diego Pablos, Mark Sanders, Izzy Gurler, Kerry Heck, host Joan Cho, Fred Aufschläger, and a new member whose name I carefully wrote down and promptly misplaced (apologies!).
Not pictured: Ray Lancaster and photographer John Michalski.

Photos from September Meeting



Plant Care Tips for October

Tree growth is now drawing to a close, with leaves displaying a final array of color before winter. Watering can definitely be minimized at this time. Heavy branch pruning can be done on pines, and overwinter them in a cool greenhouse. Do not continue to fertilize—begin again in March. [DY]

It is hardening-off time for your trees, and by now you should have created a safe place to keep them for the cold months ahead. Certain types of trees are repotted or trained at this time of year—see the comments that follow. Most of you realize that the drought has not yet ended, and this continues to put stress on our plants, so preparing them for winter is more crucial this year than ever.

Feeding: As reported in last month's newsletter, many authors suggest a single Autumn 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. 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.

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, and the drought and all, 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 late October or November.

Winter protection: By November you will need to have figured out how and where you will stash your hardy outdoor trees. Thanksgiving 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, and cover the plant with an upturned bushel basket. 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. Beware of continuing—or surprise—warm weather, if you plan to shed or cold-frame your trees, since these enclosures can remain surprisingly warm, causing trees to pop new buds or refuse to harden off. [JM]

Dues to be Reinstated Shortly

The GSBS has been arranging for several guest presentations, including meetings to be held at bonsai nurseries and led by professional artists and growers. As such, we are preparing to reintroduce club dues, the price and schedule to be determined. We do not anticipate any great changes from what we have done in the past. Stay tuned..

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.

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.

October 16th: Bonsai Forms. 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**.

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:
