



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **Tuesday, JANUARY 14th**
6:30– 9:30 PM

Post-Holiday Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction

December 2019 Newsletter

***** NO MEETING IN DECEMBER *****

November Meeting: Show and Tell

The November meeting was originally meant to be a lecture/demo on **Finding the Design in Wild-Collected Bonsai material**, but one of our presenters was unable to attend, so instead we hosted a **“Show and Tell”** meeting where club members were encouraged to bring their “works in progress” and “problem” trees for general discussion, ideas, and hands-on assistance. Attendance was good and it was an interesting and engaging meeting. Thanks to all who participated! (We hope to schedule our original topic at another meeting in the near future.)



Doug Siedenburtz discusses his Pitch Pine and Korean Hornbeam.

November Meeting – Continued



Mark Sanders (left) discusses his xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

Fred Aufschläger (right) discusses forest/group plantings—Chinese Elm on left, and Korean Hornbeam on right.



November Meeting – Continued



Bill Muldowney discusses another of his wonderful *mame* (mah-may) bonsai—this one is a Shimpaku Juniper—as always, in a pot of his own creation.



January Meeting: TUESDAY, January 14th – Post-Holiday Holiday Party and Bonsai Auction

As we do every January, please feel free to bring along **food, snacks, hors d'oeuvres** (and yes, I always have to look that up to find the correct spelling!), **desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages**, to make the meeting festive. (If someone has a portable CD player, we can even have some music—contact me at huonia@aol.com if you can assist.)

This is also our **Annual Club Bonsai and Other Stuff Auction**, so please bring any books, magazines, DVDs, tools, pots, accent plants, or anything bonsai-related (including artwork) that you wish to be rid of—this is a great opportunity for newbies to pick up materials at low prices, **so bring cash or your checkbook!** A portion of the proceeds (or all of it, at the donor's discretion) goes to the club, which helps us finance guest artists and club supplies like soil and wire for workshops.

(Senior Club Members: let's have a good comb through our stockpiles to really make this year's offerings a fun lot! And pray for no snowstorm on meeting night!)



One of the tables with last year's auction offerings on display.

Photos from our Esteemed Club Members

Take a look at these photos of a **semi-cascade Hinoki Cypress** “**work-in-progress**”, submitted by **alert club member S.C. Hwang**, who sent them in with the idea of soliciting comments and suggestions.

Just the thing to warm your spirits on a cold winter day! Thanks, S.C.!



The amazing “before” pic (right) shows the tree before air-layering the top and tilting the base into the design you see above. We can’t wait to see this tree in person.

Plant Care Tips for December

We've experienced another weird fall season, with temperatures dipping into cold winter temperatures a bit earlier than what was once considered usual. If you have not put your marginally-hardy trees into winter protection by now, you may experience some losses come springtime.

Trident and Japanese Maples, along with Japanese Black Pines, may benefit from being kept in a cool greenhouse or unheated garage. As a substitute, a wooden frame covered with plastic sheeting may do the trick. If you are so inclined, maples and apples can be sprayed with an insecticide/fungicide on any available dry sunny day. [DY]

By now your deciduous bonsai have shed all but a few of their leaves or needles, and (in case this past weekend didn't make it clear) we are now looking straight into the gaping maw of the cold season. Your trees need a well-deserved rest, but you needn't go dormant yourselves! It's a great time of year to assess the design of your deciduous trees and wire your evergreen trees, to plan your repotting schedule, mix or purchase bonsai soil, clean up and sharpen your tools, read some good books and periodicals, and travel the countryside looking for suitable material from the field.

Any non-hardy trees should be inside by now, of course. No more fertilizer for your hardy (outdoor) trees, and you should be able to reduce your watering schedule. Remember, leafless trees need less water, but don't allow the soil to dry out completely! This holds true throughout the winter months. Your hardy trees are usually placed into winter protection by early December, so by the Holidays you definitely need to have them stored safely for the season.

Remember, winter protection is chiefly concerned with: a) preventing the soil from repeatedly freezing and thawing; b) preventing wind from dehydrating the upper portion of the plant; and c) preventing the soil from drying out completely. You may also have to concern yourself with rodents that sometimes feed on the bark of dormant trees. Wiring may be performed on most conifers during the winter months, but deciduous trees are often too brittle to survive branch-bending, so postpone wiring on leafy trees until spring. [JM]

Dues are Always Welcome!

Dues are normally collected at the September meeting. If you haven't yet paid up, please bring cash or check to **club treasurer Rick Myers**, 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.

Save and Bring In 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 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/>

Novices and non-members always welcome!

Come and plan to get your hands dirty!

Calendar of Events for 2019-2020

We still have several open slots in our 2020 calendar. Please email any of our club officers with suggestions—we want to plan meetings that will benefit you and cater to your interests!

*** No meeting in December**

January 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). **"After-the-Holidays Holiday Party" and Club Bonsai Auction.**

*** No meeting in February**

March 10th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). **Topic to be determined.**

April 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM) **Soils and Repotting Workshop.**

April 17th-19th Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival, Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey PA. For details go to www.midatlanticbonsai.org.

April 21st (Tuesday) **Daytime (paid) workshop with guest artist SUTHIN SUKOSOLVISIT, fresh from MABS, evening presentation with same. Details as we get them!**

May 12th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). **Topic to be determined.**

May 31st (**SUNDAY**, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM). **ANNUAL BONSAI OPEN HOUSE.**

*** No meeting in June**

July 14th (Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM). **Topic to be determined.**

August: Annual Club Picnic. Date and location to be determined.

GSBS Contact Information:

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Newsletter: John Michalski 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:
