



Great Swamp Bonsai Society

Next meeting: **SATURDAY, Jan 22nd**

Noon - 4:00 PM – Guest Artist Chase Rosade!

December 2021 Newsletter

No meeting in December (as stated in recent newsletters)

For the past few years, the GSBS has foregone December club meetings, as this is typically a busy time of year for many in the membership. We will have meetings in January right through to June. See calendar page for details.

January Meeting – Saturday, January 22nd (inclement weather dates 01/23 or 01/29, depending on conditions)

Our first meeting of 2022 will be held at the **Rosade Bonsai Studio** in **New Hope, Pennsylvania**, from noon to 4:00 PM. Leading the session will be internationally-renown bonsai artist and instructor **Chase Rosade**, who will demonstrate various **wood carving techniques** on a field-grown juniper which will be raffled off at the conclusion of the demo.

Chase will provide the coffee, but feel free to bring along any other treats or beverages of your choice, as well as a tree or two for advice, ideas, or just to show off. Carpooling can be arranged for club members who would prefer not to drive themselves. Email John Michalski at huonia@aol.com if interested in carpooling, or feel free to contact other club members directly if you have someone who lives nearby.



November Meeting: Saturday, November 13th

Our November meeting was held at the home of **Fred and Doris Aufschläger in Bernardsville, NJ**. The official topic was **Jin Implants (inserting deadwood where none currently exists)**, led by club member **John Michalski**, who performed the operation on a dwarf Alberta spruce from his own collection.

About a dozen club members were in attendance, and several people brought trees for additional discussion. Thanks again, Fred and Doris.



The dwarf Alberta spruce before the operation (left), and after (right).
(below) John Michalski indicates the placement of the “new” branch.



Photos from November Meeting



Back row, left to right: Mark Schmuck, Fred Aufschläger, Mark Sanders, Diego Pablos, Willy Bunao. Front: Bill Kasakoff, Monico Mosquera, Rick Myers.

More Photos from November Meeting



From lower left, clockwise: Sheila Schmuck, Doris Aufschläger, and Genevieve Michienzi spend some quiet time indoors.



(left) Peter Michienzi describes the process of choosing exquisite deadwood for use with the “phoenix” method.

Plant Care Tips for December–January

Not for the first time in recent years, we are experiencing an unusually mild winter so far. But that cold snap can arrive at any time, so you should always be ready to move your trees someplace where they will be protected from low temperatures and desiccation. A few species, such as Japanese Black Pine and Trident Maple, cannot survive having their roots in the deep freeze, especially if the weather fluctuates between very cold and unseasonably warm. An unheated shed or garage that does not get below 35 degrees Fahrenheit would be ideal, but remain watchful for warm spells—a few days in the 50s could have your bonsai breaking bud, only to have them freeze in the next (inevitable) cold snap!

Warm or cold, winter is a good time 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.

Watering, when needed, should be limited to keeping the soil slightly moist. Remember, leafless trees need less water, but don't allow the soil to dry out completely! This holds true throughout the winter months.

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]

Winter is an excellent time for heavy pruning, new design and carving, needle plucking on pines (2-3 yr old needles). Don't forget to take off old wire and add new wire. This is a good time to plan your repotting schedule for spring. Draw up a list of trees that need repotting and order your soil requirements and any pots you may need. Finally, watch out for mice girdling your trees. Use mothballs or a hungry cat to prevent problems! [DY]

Dues to be Reinstated at January Meeting

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 reintroducing club dues, at \$40.00 for individual, \$50.00 for family membership, per year—no change from recent years! You can pay by cash or check, in person to club treasurer **Rick Myers**, or by mail at his address at the back of this newsletter.

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.**

December: No Meeting Scheduled.

January 22nd: Deadwood design/carving at the [Rosade Bonsai Studio in New Hope, PA](#). Details on page 1 of this newsletter.

February: Presentation by guest artist **Sergio Cuan**, demonstrating his technique of **thread-grafting on Maples**. To be hosted at the home of Peter and Genevieve Michienzi in River Edge, NJ. Details to come.

March, April, May, June: topics and location to be determined. Stay tuned!

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Succasunna N J
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Club Information

Location: (If/when we return to "normal.")

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) _____ Family (\$50)

Name(s): _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

If Family Membership, please list other members:
