

2009 Officers

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Secretary, Becky Bodnar
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Treasurer, Sandra Bishop
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Bonsai Clipper

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida

Online Newsletter, Issue 12 December 2008

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 6

6:00 P.M.

at Anne Miller's home

1781 Whitecap Circle

North Fort Myers

From the South: Drive North on Cleveland Avenue, turn left on Hancock Bridge Pkwy., turn left onto Orange Grove Blvd., turn left onto Whitecap Circle, drive to 1781 on right.

From the North: Drive South on Route 41, turn right on Hancock Bridge Pkwy., turn left onto Orange Grove Blvd., turn left onto Whitecap Circle, drive to 1781 on right.

From Cape Coral: Drive North on Del Prado Blvd. to Hancock Bridge Pkwy., turn right on Hancock Bridge Pkwy., turn right onto Orange Grove Boulevard, turn left onto Whitecap Circle, drive to 1781 on right.

The Club will provide the meat, so members can bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert. If desired, BYOB. Unless it is raining, the party will be outdoors so dress accordingly. Members who want to participate in the gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift in the \$10-15 range. The gift can be related to bonsai, gardening, or Oriental art. If you have any problems, call Anne at 239-997-5427.

Message from the Prez:

This is the last issue of our newsletter for this year. So, it occurs to me that the year has held a lot to be thankful for: a new and less expensive meeting place, a growing number of active members, new material to work with, new ideas, a new website, a new newsletter editor, a more-than-successful annual show, new members on the Board, and participation on the state level. I could go on and on. THIS IS A GREAT CLUB!!! I, for one, am proud to be a part of it.

Martha and a committee are busy planning our program for next year. The Christmas party and the picnic are pretty much locked in; but it is my hope that the remaining months will include visits to some members' collections, a trip to the East Coast nurseries, the use of the skills of our own talented members, or even a nursery hunt for suitable bonsai.

Thanks to Jamie and James Michael, we are moving closer to having all of our materials stored in one place; the place we rented in the church is now empty. Poor Doug seems to have the only available "truck" when we need to haul something.

The CHRISTMAS PARTY will be less than a week away when you get this newsletter. Take my word for it, the party is a great time. Plan to be there for a little socializing, a lot of great food, some talk, and the Chinese gift exchange; all are good ways to end this bonsai year.

Happy Holidays from the Prez and the First Lady.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida:

Date: November 22, 2008 Location: SPALC Building, 6281 Metro Plantation Road

Present: See Attendance Roster (26 Members attended)

President Jim Gehring called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Becky Bodnar read the Minutes from the October 18 meeting. The Minutes were approved as read. Sandra Bishop gave the Treasurer's report. There is presently a balance of \$9,882.91 in the Club treasury, but some show expenses, including publicity, have not yet been deducted. Sandra reported that raffle ticket money for demo trees was comparable to last year, but the amount for dollar ticket sales was down by more than half. Anne Miller will host the Club Christmas party at her home on Dec. 6 at 6:00 P.M. The Club will provide the meat, so members can bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert. Weather permitting, the party will be outdoors. Members who want to participate in the gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift in the \$10-15 range. The gift can be related to bonsai, gardening, or Oriental art. If you need directions, call Anne at 997-5427. Martha Goff will bring calendars if anyone wishes to buy one. Dorothy verified that the rumor that the state convention was cancelled was false. Ben Oki will be visiting the Club on January 19. He will give a demo from 7:00 until 10:00 PM. The location is TBA. Martha reported that Stan Smith, a leading suiseke expert, will be available for a visit in October. *Becky moved that the Club host Stan Smith, Bob Schneider seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Judy Gore moved that the Executive Board make the final decision on what the Club would ask Stan Smith to do, Doug Suitor seconded the motion, and it passed*

unanimously. Jim announced that the Executive Board would meet on December 27 at his home. Phil Krieg said that an upscale retirement community, Mooring's Park in Naples, would like to host a bonsai exhibit in early February. He wanted an indication of Club interest in staging the exhibit. A number of members indicated that they would be interested in helping out with the exhibit

Jim read the slate of Club officers nominated for 2009 as follows:

President: Jim Gehring; Vice-President: Martha Goff; Secretary: Becky Bodnar; Treasurer: Sandra Bishop. Executive Board Members: Virginia Boka, Celestine Luke, Bob Schneider, Phil Krieg, and Erik Wigert. Ernie Fernandez will continue on the Executive Board as immediate Past-President. *Doug Suitor moved that the slate be accepted as presented, Renee Beddouk seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

Jim closed the meeting at 10:25.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Bodnar, Secretary, BSSWF

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