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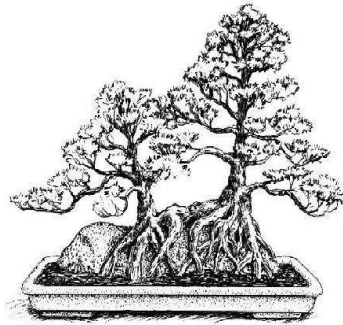
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# Bonsai Clipper

Newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida

Online Newsletter, Issue 12 January 2009



## January Meeting

The meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2009, at 9:00 AM at the SPALC Building, 6281 Metro Plantation Road (off Metro Parkway between Daniels Parkway and Colonial Boulevard).

## Program

Our program for January will be potpourri. In other words a lot of little things--all valuable. There will be a special emphasis on pots (lots of stuff) and a discussion on repotting cypress, pines, junipers and other surprises.

Also, we will be voting on the program budget and handing out the calendar for the year.

## Special Demonstration

Ben Oki's demonstration on Monday, January 19, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM will be at the Garden Club's new building off McGregor on Virginia.

***Message from the Prez:***

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May this be the Best Bonsai Year for each and every one of you. Forgive me if I ramble a little in this newsletter, but it is a new year and the wheels in this brain aren't turning smoothly yet.

I got a new roster of members for 2009 from Becky; and, as in the past, it is down considerably from the previous year. This could be for several reasons: FIRST, our Annual Show only brought in four new members; SECOND, several members haven't responded to Becky's reminder letter; THIRD, some of the past members have found that bonsai just isn't for them.

I'm not very worried about the membership; some of the tardy members will still respond, and there is always new interested people out there. Another reason to not be worried is that our CLUB has a strong, dedicated core of workers. So often, a few carry the whole thing. It's easy to sit back and let someone else do it; but of the 50 or so people that now make up our membership, there isn't a person that hasn't been willing to help, above and beyond, in some way or other. That's strength. When we cut away superfluous material, we end up with a beautiful bonsai. When we lose superfluous membership, we still end with a vibrant club, each member doing his or her share.

I have arranged for BEN OKI'S demonstration to be at the Garden Club's new building off McGregor on Virginia. We have one room that can be expanded to two if needed. The Program committee will meet prior to the next meeting. So, there will be a year's plan to be discussed at the January 17th meeting.

Prez Jim

***Bonsai Buzz***

According to Professor Amy Liang in The Living Art of Bonsai Principles & Techniques of Cultivation & Propagation:

“The propagation of moss:

1. Moss grown in woods, courtyards, or damp areas can be directly transplanted to bonsai soil. Before any moss is planted, however, it is necessary to remove the soil attached to it.
2. Used soil mixture can be stored in a wooden box and moss added to it. Put the box in a shady place and water frequently. Very soon there will be a luxuriant growth of moss.
3. Dry moss in the sun. After transplanting and repotting, sprinkle moss and shredded sphagnum moss on the soil surface. A covering of moss will soon grow.
4. When watering, apply starch (water in which rice has been washed) or superphosphate to the soil or stones to induce moss growth.
5. Used moss that has been removed can be grown in old bonsai soil.

Moss increases the beauty of the tree, prevents the loss of soil, helps the plant resist cold temperatures, and preserves moisture. There are many types, shapes, and colors of moss. If various types, heights, and colors of moss are used in a planting, the bonsai will be full of variety.” (p. 247)

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