



December 2016 Newsletter

Bonsai Calendar

- **December Mini-Show** – Festive Trees
- **December Food Host:** All members
- **December 8th** - Club Meeting – Holiday Party; 7pm
- **December 10th** – No Bonsai Workshop due to holiday season
- **December 28th** - No Bonsai Workshop due to holiday season

President's Message

*“Oh the bonsai outside look lonely
Bundled together so closely
I wish it wasn't getting dim
I want to trim, I want to trim, I want to trim*

*It doesn't show signs of warming
Yet I've got techniques I'm brainstorming
If only I could use me desire
I want to wire, I want to wire, I want to wire*

*When it final warms up in March
I hope to work on my Larch
Or maybe my Japanese Apricot
I want to repot, I want to repot, I want to repot.”*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS MY FRIENDS!!!!

I am assisting our newsletter editor again this month while she waits for eyes to heal from surgery. Please pardon the simplicity of this issue.

To celebrate the holiday season, SABS is hosting our annual **holiday party**. Below is a list of items currently being brought in from volunteers during November's meeting:

- Deviled eggs
- Brownies
- Cheese cake
- Bread
- Meatballs
- Cake
- Tamales

- Soda
- 3 mystery desserts
- Lumpias
- Pasta salad
- Cashew cheese

Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or a dessert to share with others. Attached is the current sign-up for food being brought in to share.

The Board would like to start a tradition of a **gift exchange**. Please bring a wrapped gift not exceeding \$15 to be passed around. The gift does not need to be bonsai related. Those that bring a gift will participate in the gift exchange.

SABS' annual decorated bonsai competition will also take place. Bring one decorated bonsai tree. Each attendee will place one vote and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will receive a gift.

November's Club auction was a great success. The Club grossed nearly \$2,000. Commissions will be paid at December's meeting or mailed afterwards. Thank you for those that participated, donated, and purchased items.

SABS is looking for **food volunteers** for 2017. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet at December's meeting.

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of **Gary Martilla** on November 13th. Gary was a 13 year member of SABS and a retired Lieutenant Coronel in the US Air Force. Gary fought a long battle of health problems that kept him away from attending meetings, but remained dedicated to the club by maintaining his membership and reading all of our newsletters. When I visited him earlier this year, he knew all that was going



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Gary Martilla teaching bonsai to his daughter's 2nd grade class in 2015.

on as well as I did. Earlier this year, he provided hundreds of bonsai items for sale and donated much of the sales back to SABS.

Gary's children are hosting a celebration of life at his residence on **Sunday December 4th from 3pm to 7pm**. All members are welcome to attend. His address is 9012 Phoenix Ave. Universal City, TX 78148.

His funeral at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery is on Monday December 5th at 9:30am.

We hope Gary continues his passion of bonsai in heaven as we tell him to "prune on Gary, prune on."

- Ryan O., President

Vice President's Message

Our December meeting will be our annual Holiday party with all the fixings that we all will provide, email Ryan what you would like to bring. We will also have a "**decorated bonsai tree**" contest, so bring out the mini lights and decorations from the garage and get started with some new ideas to decorate in miniature.

I'm stoked about all the things we have planned for 2017. We'll have quite a few things going on next year. The Board met early November and decided to do offer a wide variety of bonsai for all levels 2017. We are going to start with proper display technique; by knowing what pot, stand and accent go together to make an eye pleasing display. You want everything to harmonize when showing our trees. We will follow with proper potting techniques and pot selection. After this our 1st live auction, seeing how this event does so well we are going to repeat it in September. In May we have a surprise Master Artist and my good friend **Guy Guidry**! We will host him ALL day with 2 workshops (1 of which will be only on his specialty, the Cypresses) and for our monthly meeting Guy will astonish all with an L/D on a very nice specimen! Later during the year we will have lecture/demonstrations on fertilizers, root over rock, tree refinement, tool care and making concrete pots. During the summer we'll have lectures, demos and workshops on Tropicals. In the fall we will try a learning and team building project by doing a **team styling contest**. And you can look forward to another great yard tour next year in the late fall, including a **BBQ** at the last stop. Somewhere in there Our LSBF touring artist will be doing the rounds in October. Anybody out of breath too??

At our December meeting, I'm bringing in a tub of our 1st project from our **Cypress Study Group** to let everybody see how easy it is to propagate them, several of us already signed up, see me at the party and we'll chat about meeting times and events and get the signup sheet going. We'll have a few projects to do with bald cypress, including a demo and workshop on repotting, trunk chops, wiring branches, trimming, clipping and pretty much



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all points about Cypresses.

Fun search stuff for those cold winter days.

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/Conventionsb.html>

<http://www.bonsaimary.com/mealy-bugs.html>

<http://www.bonsaimary.com/types-of-bonsai-trees.html>

<http://bonsaifarm.tv/videos/>

With winter moving in, small or temporary greenhouses are frequently used to keep bonsai safe. These snug quarters with little ventilation can be a pest paradise! Before moving your plants into the shelter, take a good look all over each one for unwanted critters and treat if necessary. Once inside, pests can move around quickly in your toasty shelter to other plants, better to stop them at the door! Also, when weather permits, give as much circulation and fresh air as can be provided into the greenhouse to help prevent powdery mildew or fungus from becoming a problem.

When inspecting for insects on trees, check all around the foliage or leaves. The best way to find the smallest of the attacking insects (Spider mites) is put you tree over a piece of white paper and tap on all the branches, this will knock off some of the little critters onto the paper, if you can mash/smear (ugh) the specks with your finger, then they need to be eradicated. We all have their own methods of treating for insects. Regular spraying of the foliage when you water, especially on junipers, can help prevent the little critters from taking up residence on your trees. The spider mites in particular don't care for damp environments and the spray will help knock some bugs off.

- David W., Vice President