



The Midwest Bonsai Connection

A Newsletter Published by The Midwest Bonsai Society

December 2001



This is a Reminder!

Liz Ostman tells me that our Holiday Party will be held on December 8 at 6:00pm.

This will be held at the Winnetka Community House and will be a pot-luck.

Beverages will be furnished.

There will be door prizes and a word puzzle.

The Winnetka Community House is at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka, that is at the corner of Pine and Lincoln block east of Green Bay Road and one block east of the railroad tracks.



EDITOR'S COMMENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

The term "end of the year" creates an implication of the beginning of the next year.



For next year we have a new Board and new Officers. Steve and Jack and Jim are still in position but Susan Cargill and Rich Helminiak have turned over the stewardship of "special events" to Tom Longfellow.

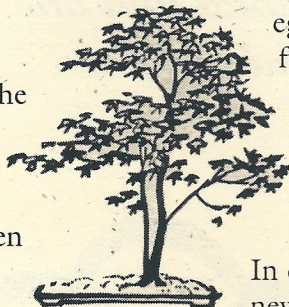
"Special Events". What a quiet way to describe so much work.

"Special Events" includes the annual Mid-America Bonsai Show. The work on the 2002 show started even before the 2001 show was finished. Already plans have been made and initiated to change the banners, change the tables (get them higher), improve the backgrounds, get a headliner, and that does not cover what has yet to be done.

Rich and Susan, while the show was going on, were already working on plans for the next show with Tom. I am confident this will be a smooth transition.

I must point up how much Rich has done for the Midwest Bonsai Society. Even little stuff. When you get your newsletter it has a label on it.

Right? Rich takes care of the labels and the telephone lists. Rich is also a volunteer working on the Chicago Botanic Garden trees. I have a question? I ask Rich. If he doesn't know, probably nobody knows.



Liz Ostman has had to drop out of the Recording Secretary slot for

personal reasons. I am taking that over on a pro tem basis. You want a job? You got a job. It is not too big. You record the minutes of the Board meetings and write them up and mail them out to the Board Members so they can complain before the next Board Meeting.

On the newsletter masthead, I have removed the name of Scott Clark and left this blank. Actually Steve is the past president and Scott is the past past president. It is nothing against Scott. It just seems to make sense to me at this time. If you have a strong objection, please express it.

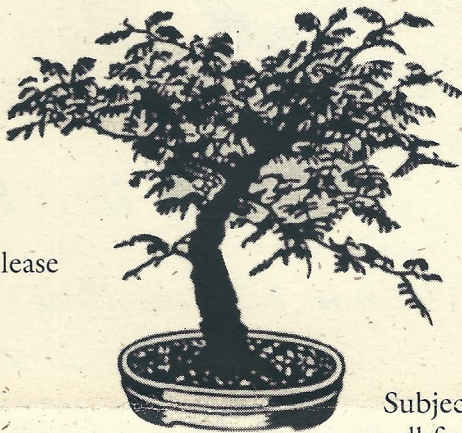
The Members at Large are Susan Cargill, Rich Helminiak and Ivan Watters. I don't exactly know what it means - "Members at Large" but they do have a voice and a vote. If you have a complaint or a question, they are good people to ask because they have less of an axe to grind than the rest of us.

I am still listed as "Editorial". I like that. I really enjoy doing this newsletter. Maybe it is just an ego thing but I have a lot of fun doing this job. As witness, I am doing this N/L and I am not even sure that we have had a December issue before.

In closing this portion of this newsletter, let me remind you that I can be reached on my e-mail (splashpix@earthlink.net) or on my telephone at 312-226-2442 or through the web site

www.midwestbonsai.org. Feel free to call or write anytime with comments, criticisms, ideas, whatever.

Pictures have worked better than I had expected in this newsletter with this printing. I will use more pictures this year. Consequently, if you have any pictures that you would like me to use, please get them to me. I can scan prints, use JPEG off of e-mail, and scan color neg or pos when my scanner is in a good mood.



There will be one requirement with pictures. They will be running in black and white.

Subject should stand out well from background.

Many times I can help this on Photoshop but I need time and something decent to start from.

I intend to continue to run articles about the emotional quality connected with bonsai. Stated a different way - Bonsai is an art form; a perfect piece of art can be perfectly boring. For example, we had in the show an absolutely immaculate trident maple. It was perfect. It followed all the rules. It got a red ribbon.

I am looking forward to 2002. I hope you are too.

LARRY



Property of Chicago Botanic Garden

WINTER STORAGE

I managed to keep quiet in the meeting this year concerning winter storage. The roots on my hardy trees will freeze. I want them too. That is what happens to the trees in my yard and for this reason, I like my bonsai trees to have their roots freeze.

Having said that I will continue by saying that it is murderous for trees to have their roots freeze every night and thaw out every day. Changes in temperature should be minimal and gradual. Ideally, I would like all of my trees to stay at a temp of 28 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter. This guarantees a long dormant sleep with no stress on the root system.

Actually my hardy trees get colder and my not so hardy trees (trident

for example) I keep at that 28 degree temp.

I do put the pots in cat litter boxes that are filled with pine bark mulch and I bury the pots to their edge. I spray the trees and the mulch with NEEM to protect from fungus.

I have constructed a cold frame out of inch and a half foam insulation sheets. This is in the car-port up against the house. Inside I have a thermostat that clicks on at 28 degrees and off at 29 degrees. In the "on" position it turns on heat bulbs which I get from a pet supply store.

THERE IS ONE VERY IMPORTANT PART OF WINTER STORAGE. YOUR TREES MUST NOT DRY OUT!!!

THEY MUST BE CHECKED FOR WATERING ON A REGULAR BASIS!!! IF THE TEMPERATURE OF THE TREES GOES ABOVE FREEZING THEY WILL PROBABLY NEED TO BE WATERED!!!

The best watering medium for trees in winter is snow. Dump it on the trees. If it thaws, the trees get watered gradually. If it stays cold, snow cover keeps the temperature of the trees at 32 degrees.

Good Luck,
See You Next Year,

LARRY

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www.midwestbonsai.org

P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, IL 60035-7373