



President's Corner

Hello everyone,

Typically, the December newsletter is encouraging people to come to the Christmas party and thanking everyone for their efforts during the year. For those that were able to come to the meetings, thank you and we hope you enjoyed them. To the members who were not able to attend we hope we will see you soon. With Restaurant's being closed and only available for take-out and private gatherings being limited to no more than 10 people. It goes without saying that we will not be able to have a Christmas party this year.

With all of the uncertainty of what is going on it has been difficult for people to commit and plan on demonstrations. We have many people from outside the area who are interested in coming and those that have been here and would like to come back. As soon as it is possible, we will send out a schedule of who will be demonstrating in 2021. Many said you found the workshops to be very helpful and we would like to do more in 2021. As always never feel shy about bringing in a tree to ask questions about or to discuss.

The November meeting Mark Arpag discussed and demonstrated how to set up shohin displays. Thank you to Mark not only for the demonstration but all the behind the scenes work you did to present all the different displays.

For those that could not attend November's demo, Mark set up single to multiple shohin displays. I am not going to attempt to condense all that Mark said, it is way too much information. Setting up a display is thought out and involves some trial and error. As Mark pointed out the display should also make you happy and have meaning for you.

You also noticed the respect Mark had for each tree, each stand and accent item, you could hear it in his voice and wording. Having passion and excitement for doing bonsai is one thing, and I think none of us are lacking in that. Having respect and reverence is different and being able to project that to how you style a tree but also setting up a display. Lucky for us there are a lot of examples to illustrate, unlucky for us they only cover the surface and do not fully explain the concept. Welcome to the Zen in Bonsai.

Have you ever gone to someone's house and the way it was decorated felt warm, cozy, lifeless or cold? The colors, textures and items of each room created a feeling for you. Was the furniture placed where you could feel a flow in the room? How do you look at a room? Do you just look at it in a mechanical manor? There is a couch in front of a coffee table in front of a tv, nice room, I have a place to put my drink while I watch that monster screen tv. If you only look at things on a mechanical level you will struggle to see much beyond that. Was the room cluttered to the point where it was hard to appreciate what was in the room?

Or were items arranged to draw you into to them? Most likely all of the items in the room indicated where their interests are but could you see their personality in the room? The type of person they are?

Just as a room in a house reflects a person and a feeling the same is true of a bonsai and a bonsai display. The difficulty is until you understand the rules of styling you cannot begin to express yourself in a bonsai and strike a balance. No different than the balance that exists within you.

The picture of the month is Gary Clarks American Hornbeam display from the 2017 Winter Silhouette Exhibit in Kannapolis NC. While the snow is fake, I think you can see and feel the dead of winter from the display.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year!!!

Scott

Events & Information:

Upcoming Bonsai Events

2020 Monthly Agenda:

Tree of the Month



Refreshments for month

2020 Board Members

Scott Russo- President
Paul Pearson- Treasurer
Christine Wilkolaski - Board
662-9429 membership
Bob Maxwell- Board
Kathy Bak- Board

