



December 2007 Newsletter

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December 2 Auction/Holiday Party

An opportunity and an obligation

The December 2nd, annual TBS Holiday Party has become a traditional time for members to share wonderful food, contribute something bonsai for the auction and take home great values from the auction and raffle.

Thus, the Holiday Party is an **opportunity** to prepare a little something special to eat and the opportunity to take home a pre-bonsai, bonsai, pot, tool, book and who-knows-what-else. TBS will furnish drinks, ice, paper products and plastic-ware utensils.

Additionally, the Holiday Party creates an **obligation** for each member to bring something for the auction. I'll bet even the newest member has an item they could contribute.

Featured auction items this year are the big juniper Ted Matson styled in April and the pond cypress brought to us by Jim VanLandingham. There will be a raffle item or two so don't spend all your cash on a Thanksgiving turkey.

Remember, TBS doesn't take plastic, but checks and cash are always welcome when it comes time to pay for your auction items. And for those of you who have committed to the 2008 TBS School, but have not yet submitted payment, please bring your check and give it to Tina Johnson.

The Holiday Party will be held at the usual meeting site, Wake County Office Park, Carya Blvd. just off Poole road. Activities will begin promptly at 1:30 so if you want to have time to look over the auction items, be there before 1:30.

Hoping this is the most fun ever,

Harold Johnson

From the President

Yes, it is that time of year again, with our annual Christmas party just around the corner. But before I go into that, I have the pleasure to announce Steve Zeisel as the winner of this year's president's award. The award was given to Steve after serious consideration from Arthur Joura, Brussels Martin and me at the North Carolina Bonsai exhibition for his penjing on a marble tray with blooming serissa. Congratulations Steve! I have decided to change next year president award a little to hopefully include a broader participation of TBS members. So far we have only considered trees that were actually exhibited at the

Asheville Expo, and typically we do not have more than 5 trees. I know however that we have more than 5 good trees in the club, so therefore next year we will judge all the potential trees to be considered for the Expo either during one of our regular meetings or some other event still to be determined. As soon as we have all the details I will let you know, but it's never too early to start working on your specimens.

What I like to do at the end of every year is take inventory of the club status and what we have accomplished during the year:

1. **Financial:** Although we have spend extra money on our Asheville display, the financial status is not only stable but actually growing. We are discussing having an additional visiting bonsai artist in 2008.
2. **Membership:** Every year we loose some members and gain some, but with all our activities, the club is growing in membership.
3. **Public awareness:** In my recollection, we have never had so many public programs as we did in 2007 and the result is the above.
4. **New programs:** I think the most significant thing we have accomplished is starting the TBS school for intermediate and advanced students to begin in 2008. This will enable us to excel us in our bonsai skills and knowledge. In 2007, we introduced the "head start" program for our beginners. I have also initiated a collecting initiative and the phone is ringing of the hook ever since. Now how about our first new talent competition in the Joshua Roth style; was that not fun?
5. **Board and officers:** We have successful recruited a new newsletter editor, 2 board members and president.

So not so bad for one year. Thanks for all the help and participation.

Now, on to the major event this year--the Christmas party. This is, and always has been, the most important event to raise money in order to finance our club activities. So please look around and see what you don't need anymore and would be willing to donate. Don't limit your search to only bonsai or prebonsai, but also look in your bookshelf and toolbox, and think about those unused ceramic or plastic pots. But most importantly, do not forget to bring yourself since it can only happen with YOU.

Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Ed Lauer

November 4 Meeting Minutes

There were 32 members in attendance, and thanks to Linda and Nic Ruotolo for providing the refreshments.

Ed Lauer welcomed new members Rob Hawkins and Bob Meehan.

A few spots remained open for the 2008 TBS School of Bonsai, but by the time you read this, they may have been filled.

Ed thanked everyone who volunteered to help with the NC State Fair display, especially to Brian McCrodden for coordinating everything! And thanks to everyone who helped with TBS' display at the Carolina Bonsai Expo in Asheville, especially Ed Lauer for his efforts!

Ed presented certificates to the winner of the TBS 2007 New Talent Competition, Ken Larkin, who unfortunately was not able to attend the November meeting, and to the runner-up, David Keller.

Congratulations to Steve Zeisel, who won the President's Award for the best bonsai for 2007!

Merritt Barnett

Member Update!

For details see e-mail attachment; personal information not posted on the web

New Members:

Rob (Robert P.) Hawkins

Changes:

David Rosado has changed his email

2007 Upcoming TBS Events

Dec 2 Holiday Party and auction

Jim Easterbrook