

# IT'S HOLIDAY PARTY TIME

BONSAI CLIPPER

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## DECEMBER ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

It is time for our annual Holiday Party! It will be held on December 15th at the Garden Center from 9:00 am till 12:00 noon. Bring a gift for the exchange if you'd like, a dish to share and your significant other. (PS It's also that time of year to renew membership for 2019...so bring your check book or cash.)

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- Club members agreed to donate \$250 to the Garden Council as a goodwill gesture and thanks for giving us the use of the premises for free.
- All nominees for the 2019 year were elected...without a recount! Your **Officers:**
  - President Sam Wollard
  - VP Sue Johnson
  - Secretary Phil Krieg
  - Treasurer Ham Agnew
- **Board Members**
  - Martha Goff
  - Gail Gehring
  - Linda Rodriguez
  - Joe Mac Kenzie
  - Justin Michael
- Results of the 2018 annual show and sale:
  - a) Net loss of \$562. Balance in the bank is \$9,615.
  - b) Suggestion is to add greeters for both gates.
  - c) Add a curtain divider along the middle of the center tables. There is a conflict due to the fans unless we used shorter dividers or do not continue along the entire length of the tables.
  - Phil presented a slide show of the exhibit with a discussion of several displays which were unique and very creative. Well done to all!
  - Patricia Tillis won the raffle.



### ABOUT US:

*We meet every third Saturday of each month at the Berne Davis Botanical Garden building located just north of the Edison Estates at 2166 Virginia Avenue. Parking is located on Larchmont street located one block south of Virginia off McGregor Boulevard.*

*Our website is:*

**[www.bonsaiswfl.org](http://www.bonsaiswfl.org)**

*We welcome everybody interested in this ancient art form to take advantage of our many experienced artists and teachers.*

*See you soon...*

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## WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR TROPICAL TREES BY MARTHA GOFF

### WINTER BONSAI WORK

1. Clean trunks of trees. One method is mixing a tsp. of dishwashing soap with a quart of water. Put in a spray bottle and apply to the trunk and/or branches of the tree. Using a soft brush (old toothbrush), scrub the trunks until clean. There are also hand-held pressure washers available to larger trees.
2. After cleaning, style and wire the tree. Our winter is a great time to wire because the wire can stay on longer with the slower growth.
3. Some of our trees go dormant this time of year, i.e. -Elms, Crape Myrtles, Cypress. They will gradually lose all their leaves, making it easy to wire and clean.
4. Check for repotting time on your Cypress, Pines, and Junipers during this time. Other broadleaf, deciduous trees are repotted at the first sign of new buds, early spring.
5. After cleaning and wiring, make sure the top soil is removed and high phosphate (fruiting/blooming) fertilizer is added and then new top soil.
6. Use the high phosphate once a month during the winter months. This strengthens roots and helps to set both leaf and bloom buds for spring.
7. Make a plan for bonsai pots if your tree will be ready in the spring for a better pot. If the style is not complete, keep using your training pots.
8. If the temperatures drop below 45°, protect your trees. One night won't hurt but several will.
9. If there are frosts or freeze warnings, move your trees to a protected area.
10. This is a great time of year to clean your benches.

### ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO

1. Once your tree is clean, if there is dead wood, decisions need to be made.
  - A. Is the area a wound that is healing or a jin or shari?
    - i. If it is a wound, clean it and cover with a sealing paste.
  - B. If the wood is a jin or shari, is the wood a hard wood or a soft wood? By soft wood, I mean is it prone to rot or bug infestation.
    - i. If it is a soft wood, then the wood will need to be treated. I recommend a mixture of water and *Titebond II*. You can find this at Lowe's or Home Depot.
    - ii. Mix ½ water and ½ Titebond in a bowl. Using a brush, apply the mixture so it completely covers the deadwood. Allow to dry. Repeat the process 2 more times. Once this is dry, it is up to you if you want the wood to appear white or natural color.

### PRESIDENT

Sam Wollard

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Susan Hoch Johnson

### SECRETARY

Phil Krieg

### TREASURER

Hamilton Agnew

### BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Giandelone, Past Pres.

Martha Goff

Linda Rodriguez

Justin Michael

Gail Gehring

Joe MacKenzie

## WINTER ACTIVITIES BY MARTHA GOFF (CONT'D)

iii. Hard wood does not need this treatment, but you may want to bleach the wood. This shows a clear contrast between the live and dead wood adding a look of age and character to the tree. Lime Sulphur is the product used to accomplish this look.

1. Why bleach the wood? This came from the old Junipers found in high dry areas. Over time the sun bleaches the dead wood white, making a striking show of the tree.
2. In the keys, where Buttonwood are often found, the dead wood has been bleached by the intense sun and sand spray.

Regardless how you feel about the bleach of the wood, as Ed Trout once advised, you must be able to tell the difference between live wood and dead wood on the tree. If you don't like the white look, find other ways to contrast the woods. Some oil the live wood with Camilla oil. It deepens the color of the live or dead wood and is good as a bug repellent.

### **SPECIAL NOTE ON LIME SULPHUR:**

The Lime Sulphur made by bonsai companies is not a bug repellent. It is a special formula created to speed up the whitening process. If you want to use it for a bug repellent as well as whitening agent, you have to find it in the bug repellent aisle at a *Home Depot* or a gardening store. To use as a bleaching agent, you use it straight from the bottle, no diluting.

It goes on yellow and turns white slowly in the sun and takes about 3 coats. You can speed up the process but you must use cautions. First have a spray bottle of vinegar. Make sure you are outside and wear a mask to cover your nose and mouth. After painting on the Lime Sulphur, gently spray the area with the vinegar and it will turn white immediately. The precaution I have learned, is necessary as you are adding an acid to other chemicals that can form a toxic gas.

Also, be sure to cover your soil and pot completely before applying the Lime Sulphur. You don't want it to get in the soil or on your pot.