28 November 2013

Dear bonsai-member,

It’s been a month since the convention ably hosted in Edenvale by EBS and the first meeting of the new executive. At the meeting attended by both the old and new executive committees we had quite a good discussion on how to make SABA more effective.

You’ve probably all been wondering what has been happening and therefore I thought to just drop every club a letter just to show we have not entered the holiday season early. (Please excuse my English, it is not my first language).

To get better communication going I have opened a SABA Facebook page. Please join and share your bonsai and club news with us. There is already about a hundred members but I would like to see every club join in.

That was done because we had to give a month’s notice to move the website to a new service provider. This morning I got notice that it could be up and running within a few days. I will keep you posted.

As most clubs have their AGM’s this time of year and elect new committees it would be greatly appreciated if you could let me know who was elected and to who we should send communication for distribution.

To everyone who notified us that they would like to join SABA again (thanks!) we opened up a new bank account and are in the process of transferring the old account. This was a labour intensive exercise as we had to conform to a lot of Fica-regulations. Thanks to the KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng members as well as Duncan for helping the process along. As soon as we are ready we will inform everyone of the detail.

We’ve had exiting news on various fronts on how to take bonsai in SA to the next level. With the help of all clubs and members we can make sure that our hobby grows and attract more members. We are also looking forward to working together with ABA and have a very good relationship with Jonathan Cain, the WBFF and BCI.

We have started with the organising of the Africa Bonsai Convention in 2015 and will have another meeting next week.

We are also busy with a bonsai events calendar so that everyone knows what is happening in different regions. It is terrible to find out about an event after the fact.

Further quick decisions:

1. Compile an up to date list of all clubs, contacting detail and improve communication. Here we need your help. If you see anyone not on the mailing list, please pass this letter on to them.
2. We will not be starting a new bonsai magazine as there is an existing one very ably run by Caroll Herman in Natal.
3. We will compile a list of demonstrators and would like every club to nominate the people they recommend.
4. Get a monthly photographic competition started early in the new year. A big thank you to sponsors who approached us about this.
5. Start a competition in January to change the SABA-logo.
6. Try and get all the club newsletters onto the website as soon after publishing as possible.
7. We are looking for volunteers to get a proper archive of bonsai history in South Africa going.
8. Do everything possible to help Katriver Kai make the next mini-convention a great success.

I am looking forward to working together with everyone who loves bonsai.

May we grow and grow and grow. We will let you know about other exiting projects as soon as they are finalised.

Regards,

Willem Pretorius.

President: SABA.