



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other. Sharing with the community”

April

2010

YAMA KI'S APRIL ACTIVITIES

**APRIL 16 - 18, 2010 MID-ATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES SPRING FESTIVAL
HUDSON VALLEY RESORT & SPA KERHONKSON, NY**

**APRIL 26, 2010 CHARLES CERONIO AFTERNOON WORKSHOP - 1:00-4:30 PM
BUFFET DINNER & CERONIO LECTURE/DEMO - 5:30-9:30 PM**

NOTE: AT THE GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER (GEC) OF GREENWICH*

The MABS 2010 Spring Festival will again be at the *Hudson Valley Resort & Spa* in Kerhonkson, NY, a little over an hour and half from Manhattan, probably one hour from Connecticut and Westchester. At the minimum you should come Saturday for the day. Check out the Exhibit Room with members' prized bonsai. This year *David Castro, Norm Geisinger, Maggie Limburg, and Mike Pollack* are exhibiting a large shohin display and *Berni Gastrich* is breaking exhibit ground with a distinctive arrangement in the front lobby. Get all your bonsai supplies in the Vendor Room (pre-bonsai, bonsai, containers, tools, soil, etc.).

You might want to stay for the lecture/demonstrations by the visiting bonsai artists and win a demonstration tree worth hundreds of dollars. You can stay for dinner/auction and dine and chat with bonsai enthusiasts from around the northeast region, and other areas, as well as with our foreign guest artists. The best deal, if possible, is to come for the weekend.

After the MABS Festival one of the featured artists, *Charles Ceronio* will be visiting many of the clubs for more intimate workshops and demonstrations. YAMA KI's turn is Monday, April 26th. He will conduct a BYO workshop in the afternoon from 1 to 4:30 pm. Check with *Norm* if there are any last minute cancellations (the fee is only \$40). At 5:30 we will have a buffet dinner with hot and cold dishes. There is a nominal fee of \$5 to help defray some of the costs. *Charles'* lecture/demo will follow the dinner.

Because the Bartlett Arboretum Education Building is undergoing major construction renovations, we will be meeting at the **Garden Education Center (GEC), in Cos Cob, CT**. The address and directions are at the end of the newsletter.

MIDATLANTIC IS NOW

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies (of which YAMA KI) is a long-standing member, welcomes you to its 27th Annual Spring Festival. Come study with, observe, question three international bonsai artists: *Michele Andolfo*, Italy; *Charles Ceronio*, South Africa; *Michel Phaneuf*, Canada; and use the great Italian resources of *Therese Manocchia* our translator.

You can see trees from ten clubs, plus some stunning YAMA KI trees at the Exhibit. You may be able to intensely examine the trees with one of the artists at a Critique and/or take a Sunday afternoon workshop with one of them. You may shop for needed supplies, including varied soils, either handmade or machined containers. Talk with the deeply knowledgeable vendors as you consider adding to your collection from Shohin to medium large trees. Take a swim in the indoor pool and bask a few moments outdoors in



the “busting out” spring. Catch up with friends from past years and make some new ones.

You have checked the biographies of Messieurs *Ceronio* and *Phaneuf*. *Michele Andolfo* 's artistic approach has gained international recognition for him in both bonsai and suiseki. He teaches and holds workshops both in Italy and abroad. The first European book on bonsai aesthetics, “Bonsai Culture and Aesthetics Project”, is his

publication. He also authored “Bonsai Basic Course” which is very useful for teaching bonsai to children and beginners. *Michele’s* work is cited in magazines in Canada, China, Italy, Taiwan, and the USA. He manages to squeeze administrative tasks into his creative schedule with duties at the Italian College of Bonsai and Suiseki, the Italian National UBI, the Bonsai Club Martesana. He founded and leads the Andolfo Bonsai Studio School with five centers in Italy, Switzerland, and Quebec. . . and he doesn’t get out of breath.

YAMA KI needs you at the MidAtlantic Spring Festival to help at the registration desk for a few hours and two people are needed to serve as docents at the Exhibit on Sunday morning from 10-11 am. Remember this is not only a volunteer organization, but the festival is only possible with the collaborative efforts of all eleven clubs. Please email (mabsreks@verizon.net) or call Rhoda Kleiman (212.724.7840) to say when you will pitch in.

LATE MARCH’S MEETING WITH COLIN LEWIS

Colin Lewis braved the erratic, uncertain, stormy days of late March to teach and demonstrate tricks and techniques to successfully repot bonsai. Fortunately *Lucille Miller* brought in a mature Alberta Spruce as a candidate for the MABS exhibit. She guessed that the tree had not been repotted for seven or eight years and would be a perfect tree for the repotting demonstration. As you can see from the photographs, the tree was ideal! Great for *Lucille* and great for all of us at the meeting.



Rootball reduced and flattened



Easy fastener for screens



Condensing & compressing soil



Tying string for traveling

Colin uses string instead of wire to secure the root ball to the pot. String disintegrates before it will cut into the roots. He also uses string to tie the pot to branches of the tree to add stability, especially if the tree is to be moved immediately after repotting.

The tokonoma for the March meeting used Lavanya Muller's crab apple, caught just as it bloomed and Mike Pollock's water rock.



COLIN LEWIS GLEANINGS

- * When designing, start with the nebari exposed to determine your planting angle.
- * Start thinking of repotting when water drains slowly.
- * Use string than wire to secure trees in pots; baring it down from the crotch of branches to pot sides. This prevents bark damage & is actually more secure.
- * To improve roots, cut back heavy roots (not surface nabari) which wastes space and makes more room underneath for root development.
- * Remove moss from trunks otherwise it will ultimately loosen the bark. Use a toothbrush to remove it.
- * Only use moss when exhibiting. It stops growing, anyway at 12-18 months.
- * When repotting, loosen the soil, working away from the trunk not across. Use a one prong tool to avoid cutting fine roots.
- * Work soil quickly (chop stick is fine tool).
- * Once every 10-12 years (or 3rd-4th repotting) water-blast the roots to remove all soil.
- * Use a layer of sand (not ocean sand) on the bottom of a container before adding bonsai soil. This helps wick away excess water.
- * Other soil should be even particles throughout. Soil level in pot should be flat.
- * Rock tree to be sure that all of the roots are touching the soil and twist to mix root ball and new soils
- * Reuse drainage mesh AFTER cleaning and keep it small enough to just cover the hole. Do not use window screening, it is too fine and readily clogs.
- * Add micorrhiza to first round of soil regardless of species.
- * Do leaf pruning infrequently. It debilitates the tree.
- * Elms, especially English, American, and Chinese produce roots quickly – probably repot annually.

CHANGES TO YAMA KI BY-LAWS

According to the current by-laws, the secretary must receive, in writing, any proposed changes to the by-laws sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Membership Meeting. The deadline for this year is May 10th. A copy of the by-laws is on our website. Send proposed changes to *Lavanya Muller* @: lmuller@optonline.net or 11 Burr Ln., Holmes, NY 12531.

BEGINNERS CLASS #2

The beginner's workshop/class is meeting Saturday, April 10, 2010. The class will meet between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm at the Sam Bridge Nursery on North Street in Greenwich. All students have been informed.

***DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER (GEC) OF GREENWICH**

The GEC is located at Montgomery Pinetum Park, 130 Bible St Cos Cob, CT 06807. Since the meeting will end after sunlight hours, it is advisable to bring a flashlight (we're not sure how much light there will be to find your car).

From the Merritt Parkway:

Take Exit 31 - North Street. Follow sign at end of exit ramp toward Greenwich Business District, taking North Street south to first traffic light. Just before traffic light turn left and bear right onto Old Church Road. Follow Old Church Road to the end traffic light. Turn left onto Route 1 Post Road (Putnam Ave.). At the seventh traffic light, turn left onto Orchard Street. Proceed .2 miles and turn right onto Bible Street. Follow Bible Street .7 miles; the entrance to the Garden Education Center is on your left, sign reading Montgomery Pinetum, Garden Education Center.

* From I-95:

Take Exit 4 - Indian Field Road (from NY turn left, from CT turn right). Follow Indian Field Road to the end traffic light. Turn right onto Route 1 Post Road (Putnam Ave.). At fourth traffic light, turn left onto Orchard Street. Proceed .2 miles and turn right onto Bible Street. Follow Bible Street .7 miles; the entrance to the Garden Education Center is on your left at sign reading Montgomery Pinetum, Garden Education Center.

DUES ARE DUE

The YAMA KI fiscal year is May 1st to April 30th. Accordingly renewal dues will be due by the end of this month. If you joined during this calendar year, the dues you paid cover your membership until April 30, 2011. Individual membership remains at \$40, family membership at \$50. Send your checks payable to Yama Ki Bonsai Society, Inc/ to:

Leonard Douglas 1526 Fox Glen Drive Harfstdale, NY 10530

OFFICERS

Norm Geisinger. President
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Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

May

Date, time, place and program TBD

,June 12th weekend

No formal meeting to permit members to attend
the National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester,
NY

June 19

Marco Invernizzi lecture/demo @ Shanti-Bithi

July 10

Annual Meeting & Summer Auction

Remember to check our website (www.yamakibonsai.org) for updates and latest information

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