



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other. . . . . Sharing with the community”

January

2010

## **BERNI GASTRICH, JOHN COTAGGIO, MIKE POLLOCK & GAIL THERRIEN LEAD DISCUSSIONS ON BONSAI HORTICULTURE JANUARY 9, 2010 12:30 PM @ THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM**

“At our January meeting, four of our experienced members will each discuss one of four aspects of horticulture relative to bonsai. The discussion leaders and topics are:

*Berni Gastrich. . . . . SOIL    Mike Pollock. . . . . WATERING*

*John Cotoggio. . . . .FERTILIZERS    Gail Therrien. . . . .PESTICIDES*

Each discussion leader will present a short talk on the subject then lead a group discussion with the remainder of the panel and the audience. This is a "must be at" meeting for beginners and intermediates in our club and a great review for the more experienced members. We also look to our other experienced members to participate in the group discussions, sharing their thoughts and experiences on each topic. Questions and specific case problems are encouraged.

If time permits we will also have a session to get your thoughts on meetings' topics & artists, plus meeting format.

**Happy Holidays and a Best of Everything in 2010 to You and Your Family!!!!!!”**

*Norm Geisinger*

### **DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY & AUCTION BIG SUCCESS!**

T’was the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December and the boards did groan. Members toted fare from far and near to lade the festive tables. Some used arms and brawn as they reset set the “furniture” at the Bartlett to enable us to dine and chat. All of this at YAMA KI’s renowned holiday luncheon buffet. A quick tally was 38 including some very new members.

The holiday elves who did the prep were *Len Douglas, Norm Geisinger, Melba Grieshaber, Irv & Rhoda Kleiman, Lucille Miller, Charles & Lavanya Muller, Mike Pollock, Gail & Debbie Ruggio, Nick Sajda, Gail Therrien, Joan Thomas,*



Floyd “jumps the gun”



The cold table, hot foods on the side

When bellies were full and carbs consumed we turned to our winter AUCTION. *Pete Halm & Mike Pollock* were our lively auctioneers. There was a substantial amount of plant material – from shohin, to “two-man, too big for me” bonsai, books, magazines, tools, containers (large, small, round, rectangular, square, glazed, unglazed, etc.) and miscellaneous items.



Charlie checking auction material

Everyone who purchased at the auction had a choice of a small bonsai container from a box *Phyllis Wishnick* contributed. In their inimitable way, *Pete & Mike* kept the pace lively and cash coming to our coffers in support of programming. The bidding was fast and the auctioneers quickly awarded bids at the slightest hesitation because of the amount of material available. *Len Douglas* and *Melba Greishaber* kept up with the tally and served as cashiers.



Stomachs full - looking for empty pockets



Pete seeking a higher bidder



Mike looking for a bidder

### MIDATLANTIC 2010 SPRING FESTIVAL

If you were at the holiday party you picked up your MidAtlantic (MABS) Registration brochure for the April 16-18 Festival. If you were not there and are a member in good standing, the US Postal Service should have delivered your brochure. If you have not yet received it, tell *Rhoda Kleiman* (212.724.7840 or email her at [irkleiman@rcn.com](mailto:irkleiman@rcn.com)) and it will be in the mail to you the same day. Please be sure to indicate YAMA KI as your club affiliation. Remember, our share of any of the festival's surplus is based on each club's participation in the event.

If you have never attended a MABS Festival you can register for half (1/2) rate (not including banquet/auction, critique or workshop) for the full weekend (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon). Your spouse may come at the same rate, if she wishes to attend the lecture/demonstrations rather than the spa.

The festival is in early spring and the vendors include a number of plant suppliers with very varied material. Some of it is pre-bonsai and there will be some items that are well on their way to being collector's items – and of course there are many levels of preparation in between. This is the place to pick up any particular tool you've been looking for, the perfect colored glaze shaped container ideal for your prized bonsai, as well as bonsai soil mixes, books, and miscellaneous bonsai items.

YAMA KI's club participation includes some volunteer duty at the registration desk and an hour for two people as docent/security at the Exhibit.

Speaking of the Exhibit, each club displays three bonsai. Please let *Mike Pollock* know if you have a tree that will be of exhibit quality by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April and that you want to represent YAMA KI. You can bring it to the March meeting or send *Mike* a photo of it ([mpollock@corporatewellness.com](mailto:mpollock@corporatewellness.com)).

The following were last year's presenters:



Susan Amoy



Farrand Bloch



Isai Omachi



David Easterbrook

## BONSAI ALMANAC REMINDER

**PLANT RECORD** Date acquired: \_\_\_\_\_

Common name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scientific name: \_\_\_\_\_

Acquired		Propagated	
Purchased: <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-bonsai <input type="checkbox"/> Bonsai	Collected	<input type="checkbox"/> Cutting	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Graft	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Seedling	

Description

Approx. Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Trunk Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of trunks: \_\_\_\_\_ Spread: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style:  Formal upright  Informal upright  Semi-cascade  Cascade

Container: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Data: \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant Care and Maintenance**

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Light: \_\_\_\_\_ Water: \_\_\_\_\_ Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fertilizer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insecticides: \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant Record**

Wiring & Pruning		Potting		Other Notes	
Date	Comments	Date	Comments	Date	Comments

References Sources

\_\_\_\_\_

January is one of the months for doing the less creative aspects of bonsai. There are many details which make, if done in advance, the artistic elements of bonsai design and culture easier.

Check your BONSAI ALMANAC for off-season chores and try to get them done between now and the end of the dormancy period. This is also an excellent time to update your Plant Record forms. If you are a new member who has not yet purchased one, call or email *Irv Kleiman* at 212-724-7840 or [irkleiman@rcn.com](mailto:irkleiman@rcn.com) with your order (the member price is \$15.00. If you call in your order, you can pick up the Almanac at the next meeting, if not, add \$3.00 for shipping).

## THE BONSAI PLANT - A CONVERSATION PIECE

*By Sylvia G. L. Dannett\**

I would venture to say that the most provocative conversation piece for a dinner or supper party today is a bonsai plant. It is more striking and unusual than the traditional arrangements for the center of your table.

After the bonsai plants are no longer under winter care, in spring, summer and fall, you have a wide variety to choose from. I will attempt to name just a few that are particularly attractive. The chokan style formal upright and the five needle pines are popular as are various cypress, particularly the Chaba. The clear green spring needles of Ezo spruce are beautiful against the older foliage. Many regard them as its flowers. All of these plants give the center of your table an outdoor look.

During the winter you can still have a bonsai center-piece if the plants are grown in the greenhouse. Carissa, Serissa, Pittsafflora and Cape myrtle among others will add to the splendor of your dining table.

The pot in which your tree is planted is important shape-wise and color-wise. If you have a cobalt blue-glazed Chinese pot, then by all means try to have candles that match, with a white cloth or place mats. If you are fortunate enough to have an orange and white glazed pot of Kutani ware (for an orange tree) try orange candles with green place mats. Straw mats, too, are appropriate, and can be used under the trees you enter in an exhibit, as well.

With unglazed brown pots which are readily available I recommend green candles and brown or green place mats. Red candles with white or red place mats are in keeping with the winter holiday season.

Those among your guests who are very experienced in the art of making dwarfed trees will usually make useful suggestions as to how you may improve the style of your plant. Before long your bonsai dominates not only the scene, but the discussion at the table.

\* *Sylvia Dannett:*

Almost since our founding, YAMA KI has had a newsletter and members have frequently contributed articles to share their expertise. Long time member *Sylvia Dannett* was among the first to write for the NEWSLETTER. *Sylvia* was a gracious hostess who frequently opened the Dannett home to YAMA KI for "summer member visits." She passed away in October 1995. With fond memories and deep respect we reprint her first article for the YAMA KI NEWSLETTER from January 1978.

OFFICERS

Norm Geisinger. . . . . President  
Mike Pollock. . . . . Vice-President  
Len Douglas. . . . . Treasurer  
Lavanya Muller. . . . . Secretary  
Gail Therrien. . . . . Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS

David Castro, John Cotoggio, Irv Kleiman,  
Charles Muller, John Ruggio, & Nick Sajda

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

© YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.  
<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

Jan 9 12:30 pm Bonsai Horticulture  
Feb 27 12:30 pm Wiring Techniques Workshop  
w/Mike Pollock  
Mar 27 12:00 pm *Colin Lewis*  
Apr 16-18 MABS 2010 Spring Festival  
Apr 19 MABS artist TBA

Remember to check our website ([www.yamakibonsai.org](http://www.yamakibonsai.org)) for updates and latest information

WEATHER HOTLINES

*Norman Geisinger*..... 203-746-3200  
*Irv & Rhoda Kleiman*..... 212-724-7840  
*Mike Pollock*..... 914-764-5557

Yama Ki Bonsai Society, Inc.  
165 West End Avenue - 12D  
New York, NY 10023