



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

June

2011

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011 AT GEC  
10:00AM BYOT WORKSHOP, 1:00 PM TBA**

Please watch your email from *Mike Pollock* for our June program.

## MARCO INVERNEZZI DEMOS AT SHANTI-BITHI

Once again *Marco Invernissi* shared his sophisticated bonsai styling and humorous repartee with us. And once again we met at Shanti Bithi. The occasion was Shanti Bithi's annual Spring Open House which coincided with our May meeting. *Dakara* (Japanese for therefore) a goodly number of our members came out to gain techniques and insight into styling a 25-30 year-old White pine. It was a large specimen with dramatic nebari. It required the entire morning to begin to show its best features and allow a suggestion of its ultimate design.



After a brief lunch and stretching break, *Marco* resumed his teaching role. This time he worked on a Kingsville boxwood which has been growing for 35-40 years with no thought of becoming a bonsai. This is a slow-growing, broad-leafed species, that requires high maintenance because leaves are constantly popping during growing season. Use a rogue branch for 2-3 years to help thicken limbs. Cut it back after that time, but do not eliminate it as you may get ramification. Cuttings root well in mix of 50% peat moss and 50% perlite.

An odd factoid is that the morning attendance included a number of non-YAMA KI members. The afternoon was only our members.

Here are a few of the gleanings we noted during his presentation:

- \* An apex from a twisted branch is more interesting than one from a straight branch;
- \* the beauty of a bonsai is in its ramification not its bark or nebari so try to make nebari compact;
- \* to create shari peel cambium to dead wood – initially start with a small area and expand it each year as your tree grows;
- \* to anchor guy wires, shove 2 sticks into the soil, placing one vertically and one diagonally across the first. Then wrap the ends of the wire round each stick and tighten by twisting with pliers;
- \* when cutting conifer branches for jin, never cut all the way to the trunk - a forever scar will remain; leave room to work the jin;
- \* use thick rubber hose from an auto store to help protect your branches when using guy wire technique;
- \* curved jin is more interesting than straight;
- \* split a jin along its full length to ease bending; use standard gauge of wire as if it were a live branch;
- \* wire the jin with coils about 30° rather than usual 45° used in wiring live branches;
- \* Boxwood often presents 2 or 3 apices (apexes) so you must cut back to one;
- \* if using organic fertilizer, do not be afraid of over-fertilizing since plants can take only what they need;
- \* crossed branches should either be bent away or removed;
- \* if a tree does not bud-back it will never make a good bonsai



Mike setting up White pine with Marco



Pruning the obvious



Discussing 5 needle pines & buds



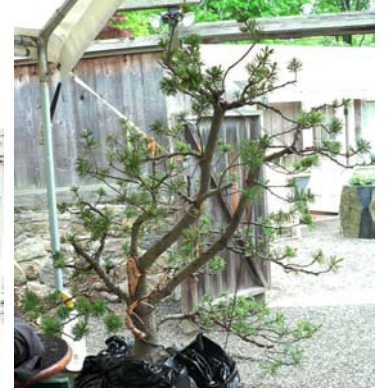
Discussing cones



Ripping to create shari



Berni helping guy wiring



Phase 1 done - do nothing for at least a year!



Kingsville boxwood



Pruning, joking, teaching



YAMA KI members at attention

## MABS 2011 SPRING FESTIVAL

*Rhoda E. Kleiman*

The 28<sup>th</sup> MidAtlantic Bonsai Festival is history. But it was certainly a terrific weekend! All day Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, five aspiring bonsai “newbies” worked on comparable material as they vied to be winners of the first round of the New Talent Competition (sponsored by *Joshua Roth* and the American Bonsai Society). Attendees and hotel guests were welcome to stroll in and out of the workroom.

*Kathy Shaner* began the teaching component of the proceedings by starting to style a Pitch pine, the first of two trees she demo’d over the weekend. With the now standard procedure of having additional time the next day to work on the tree, on





Saturday afternoon she presented a well-designed bonsai – but with some work left for its new owner to complete.

On Saturday afternoon she also lectured with a San Jose juniper demonstration tree. She presented the “finished” tree just before the closing on



Sunday noon. Attendees at her Sunday afternoon workshop chose from a selection of fine trees including Itogiasa or Shimpaku juniper, Mugo pine, Larch, and Little leaf linden.

On Saturday morning at 8:30am *Yasuo Mitsuya*, translated by the adept *Hideko Metaxas*, began to work on his first tree of the symposium. It was a two-man Juniper perstrada. He continued demonstrating his artistry in the breakout room while we all enjoyed a stand-up break and coffee. The main demonstrations concentrate first on



styling issues; learning intricate tips and tricks are best demo'd in the breakout room.

As *Mitsayu* left for the breakout room to continue styling, including refining shari and jins, he was followed by *Steve Tolley* whom you had the pleasure of working with at YAMA KI on Thursday night before the conference.

This photo, taken in the breakout room, *Steve* showed us how he bent the thick trunk of the Juniper demo tree.



On Sunday morning *Steve's* lecture/demo was based on an American larch. The workshop he conducted on Sunday afternoon was with shohin Shimpaku juniper



At MABS, “new owners” are the raffle winners since all demo materials are raffled at the symposium session in which they are displayed -- with comments about care, future repotting, and styling from the artist. Over the past several years MABS increasingly has been able to purchase “significant” trees for the lecture/demonstrations. We have gone farther afield for specimens and have been able to allocate more money for their purchase.

When needing to stretch their legs, registrants studied at the new Professional Invitational Exhibit, the two rooms of Member Club trees, and the vendors spacious double-room; coffee breaks also gave stretch time. Sixteen professional bonsai artists, from six states each displayed a tree. *Jim Doyle* of Nature's Way Nursery designed a stunning spring landscape for the entry which brought you into the exhibit with high expectations—fulfilled! *Hideko Metaxas* and *Mary Kay Doyle* each provided an ikebana floral arrangement, adding to the ambiance. Nine species, several varieties, were in the exhibit in some stunning containers – created on three continents, some by the exhibiting artist themselves.

The 18 vendors were open from 4 - 6pm on Friday afternoon and did a rapid fire business with the attendees who were waiting for the doors to open. They kept them open until noon on Sunday. Shoppers and vendors were well satisfied with this weekend.

A series of silent auctions ran throughout the weekend with modest and terrific items going for small sums.

All three artists presented a critique of the Member Clubs Exhibit. Saturday evening had a major gear-shift: a cocktail/social hour followed by a banquet and auction. Before letting anyone eat, MABS presented awards for outstanding bonsai to exhibitors in the Member Clubs Exhibit: *Roger Krauss* of Lehigh Valley took the Exhibit Committee award for his *Pinus sylvestris* "Watereri"; *Paul Krasner* Pennsylvania Bonsai received the President's Choice award for his Atlas cedar; and our own *Mike Pollock* walked out with two awards for his Korean hornbeam--Best in Show and People's Choice (chosen by the registrants and walk'in visitors).



*Mike Pollock's 2 awards*

The auction was lively, 90 lots to be sent off by *Jim Gillespie*, *Jim Doyle*, and visiting California auctioneer *Gordon Deeg*.

Statistically this was the second best attendance MABS has had, more than 200 registrants, but not quite matching the last time at this hotel when we had 217. On the other hand, the 1995 symposium was not during an economic "downturn."

At 1:00pm on Sunday afternoon the planning began for the 29<sup>th</sup> MIDATLANTIC BONSAI FESTIVAL. We hope to see you there when we reconvene at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA.



*Frank Mihalic & jewelry*



*Herb Yanowitz & boxwoods*



*Jim Gillespie hawking*

There are many pictures of the exhibit trees, and if I can identify them, they will appear in a future issue.

*Irv*

**DUES ARE PAST DUE!!**

Our fiscal year ends April 30th, so dues are past due! Dues remain the same: singles @ \$40, family membership @ \$50. If you joined in 2011, the membership dues you already paid includes membership for the new fiscal year. Please send your remittance, before you forget, to:

Yama Ki Bonsai Society, Inc. c/o Len Douglas 65 Trolley Road Courtland Manor, NY 10567.

## COMING EVENTS

### OFFICERS

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

### DIRECTORS

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

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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June 11 10:00 am BYOT Workshop  
1:00 pm

July 16 11:00 am Member visit at the Pollocks &  
Summer auction

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

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