

YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other Sharing with the community”

June

2003

GEORGE LEBOLT WILL LECTURE, DEMONSTRATE, & CONDUCT A WORKSHOP ON TROPICAL TREES JUNE 14, 2003 10:00 AM AT THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM

George LeBolt is well-known to most bonsai enthusiasts, including YAMA KI members. He has studied and been actively involved with bonsai for forty years. For the last seventeen years he has conducted lecture/demonstrations extensively in the north, south, and central America. He is a specialist on tropical bonsai. *George* is president of the Bergen Bonsai Society and is a past-president of the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies.

The June 14th meeting will begin at 10 am when *George* will style a large *Ficus retusa nitida*. Following his presentation, during the brief lunch break, the 30th Anniversary Committee will hold an open meeting. Then *George* will preside over a workshop with *Ficus* material. The workshop is limited to six participants who will select their tree in the order in which they reserved their place in the workshop. The workshop material consists of different varieties and cultivars of *Ficus*, all “substantial” trees with large trunk bases and excellent root flare. The workshop fee is \$75, which is the actual cost of the trees. The workshop trees are: 2 *Ficus nerifolia*, 1 *Ficus Kingman*, 1 *Ficus burtt-davyi* (dwarf), 1 *Ficus burtt -davyi* (regular leaf), and 1 *Ficus burtt-davyi* (long leaf). The workshop is still open – call *Irv Kleiman* (212-724-7840 or irkleiman@rcn.com) to reserve your place.

George will review the styling possibilities and help each participant select the bonsai front and style as part of the workshop. The other participants and observers will be able to review and discuss the various styling decisions made by *George* and the workshop participant.

After lunch, all members are invited to remain as observers while *George* provides guidance to the workshop participants. He will bring for sale some Brazilian raintrees and some interesting small plants and trees – all relatively inexpensive.

PS: *George* just reported that he will also bring 2 *Portulacaria* (elephant bush) trees which will make great bonsai. They are priced at \$60 each and can be styled in the workshop. The *Portulacaria* photograph at the right was created by *George* and exhibited at this year’s MidAtlantic Spring Festival



MARIAN GYLLENSWAN

Marion Gyllenswan died May 2, 2003, three days before her eighty-second birthday. *Marion* was one of the founders of the YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY, as well as the American Bonsai Society and the National Bonsai Foundation. She had been president or chairperson of the Foundation from its beginning. We had planned for her to reminisce about her efforts promoting bonsai in the US and about our beginnings at our 30th Anniversary Celebration this fall.



HORST KREKELER'S LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION



The manikin views "Before"

Horst Krekeler picked a magnificent Bird's Nest spruce for a demo tree. For several years the tree was dug and its roots trimmed, so it developed an impressively compact root ball. The tree is about 40-45 years old, has been in *George LeBolt's* possession for about 30 years, has a massive trunk, approximately 6" in diameter, and is about 12"-15" in height above the root ball. *Horst* reported his thoughts to us all as he turned the turntable around and around looking for the bonsai in the tree. He argued aloud the positives and negatives of each view, including a discussion of the relative weight to be given to each "front" and to the "no-no" styling guidelines ignored. As

a visual aide to his styling advise, he manipulated a wooden manikin into many positions to illustrate that human posture closely compares to a tree's posture. He moved the manikin's parts to illustrate a tall strong young person, an aged person, a distorted and unbalanced body, etc. We could see immediately that those positions indicated the same condition in a tree.



Horst Krekeler with manikin

There was no time available to carve jin which he wished to create in order to narrow a too thick branch, but he used a Dremel to outline the area.

Berni Gastrich will tend to the tree until our July auction and the winner will have the satisfaction of completing the styling.



Wiring the branches



Outling the jin area



End of first phase

THE KREKELER WORKSHOP



Kevin Govea

Horst had each of the participants bring their tree to the demonstration turntable for analysis. He reviewed and discussed the alternative styles that he saw and evaluated aloud the pluses and minuses of each. This was an interactive session with all the members in attendance (workshop participants and the many observers). Audience participation in the critiquing was encouraged - It was a great session! After the trees were reviewed, participants were able to follow-up back at their tables on their new insights.

The following photos illustrate *Horst* working with some of the workshop participants.



Jim Glatthaar



Lucille Miller



Adam Hume

GLEANINGS

Horst Krekeler suggests

- * aluminum wire for smooth barked trees – thicker wire doesn't cut the bark as easily.
- * don't move Spruce and Beech trees suddenly into bright sunlight – the thin bark may split.
- * the best time to prune Spruce is early April or late July-August.
- * turning up branch tip ends encourages growth, not bud-back.
- * after root pruning, wait one to two years to restyle.
- * when wiring, stand behind the branch, hold the branch with one hand, turn the wire toward you.
- * that you must fertilize for bud-back! High nitrogen (N) for growth into mid-summer, then change to high potassium (K) to harden the trunk.
- * he prefers bonsai soil composed of equal parts of sand, gravel, and clay.

George LeBolt recommends

- * instead of wooden boxes for starter containers for large root-balled collected bonsai, use large plastic trays from a restaurant supply house. Drill holes in the bottom for drainage and holes on the top rim to tie wires. (e.g., the container in the *Krekeler* demonstration tree photos)

GLEANINGS FROM MIDATLANTIC SPRING FESTIVAL

Colin Lewis: re: landscapes, group plantings, etc.

- * Use moss to increase depth perception by using large textured moss in front and small textured in the rear.
- * If using manufactured or cut stone slabs, chip the edges with a hammer to give a weathered look. Chip downward at the lower edges and upward near the top surface.
- * If you want varied levels on a slab, build with layers of slab material rather than with soil, which will only provide a hill-look.
- * To emphasize horizontal line, keep soil as level as possible.
- * Use twine to secure trees for initial stability rather than wire since twine (not nylon or poly) will rot. By then the roots will have taken hold. Wire, in time, may constrict the roots.
- * Use pure unfired Akadama for pines and group plantings.
- * Do not use muck to hold trees on slabs but do use it for the edges of the slab to retain soil.
- * Do not put drainage holes in slabs since excess water will seep out from edges.
- * Sphagnum moss has antibiotic value and is great as a rooting medium
- * If you lack Akadama, line the base of your container with some sphagnum moss.
- * Remove sick plants from soil and repot them with sphagnum moss.
- * Korean hornbeam is tough and can be repotted while in leaf. It heals well.
- * Group plantings should have trees close together to retain dynamism and improve perspective.
- * It is vital to establish a strong front in a group planting.
- * In group plantings **do not** use trees without bonsai potential. Each tree should be selected for the forest and its position within the group as for any composition.
- * Sketch your vision for the grouping, but don't be a slave to the plan when actually composing it.
- * Keep foliage in balance with the thickness of the trunks (thinner trunks should have less foliage than thicker trunks).
- * For a large group planting, do first repotting in 2 years. Do not take pie slices of the root mass since they will have entwined and you will not be cutting what you are expecting to remove. After 2-3 years, work the edges a little, then remove roots from underneath.
- * Study landscape paintings. All have some open space disappearing around a corner.
- * Do not use Lac Balsam as it retards cambium regeneration.

BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI

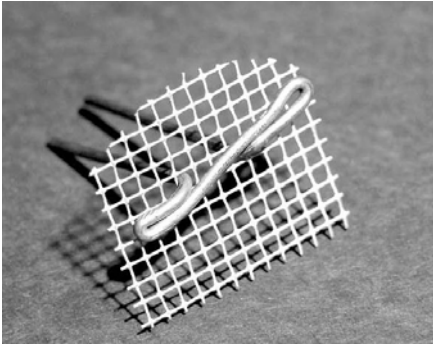
Berni Gastrich

Your repotting should be essentially finished by now with the notable exception of azaleas. These are best repotted immediately after bloom. If this is a full-grown bonsai, trim it back rather drastically including all flowers. If you want it to grow larger it is still important to remove all flowers. When the flowers on any blooming tree wilt, they've produced fruit and/ or seed. This takes a huge amount of energy out of the plant. If you allow this to happen you will probably not get bloom the next year. The flower removal, called 'deadheading' must be done immediately when the blooms begin to wilt.

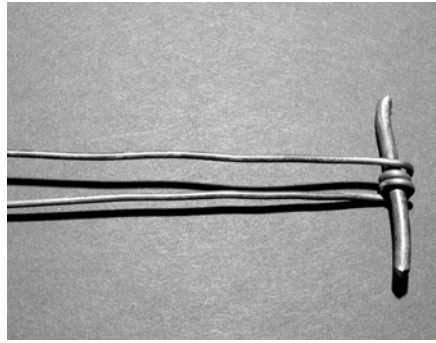
Repotting at this point is very safe but should be done right away. The usual precautions of keeping the plant out of wind and direct sunlight are more important now due to the hotter weather. After about three weeks you can begin fertilizing with a fertilizer that has a high phosphorus content. This will help to encourage bloom the following year. An excellent one is: Schultz Bloom Plus 10/60/10. Others are Peter's Root and Bloom 5/50/17 or Miracle Gro 15/30/15. Do not use Miracid 30/10/10. While it is a good product, it encourages leaf growth rather than bud set for flowers.

CHRIS PETERSON'S POTTING TECHNIQUE

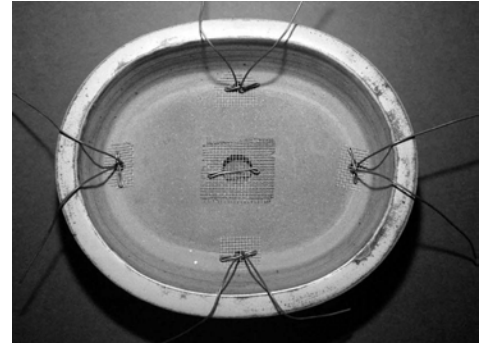
Many members missed the April meeting and workshop with *Chris Peterson*. *Chris* distributed a hand-out with eight photographs detailing the procedure he uses to secure a bonsai plant in a container. This procedure firmly locks the plant in place (he demonstrated by lifting a repotted bonsai by the trunk). Moreover, it does so without any wires exposed and without wires cutting into the roots. The following photographs taken from his handout help illustrate his technique as reported in the May Newsletter.



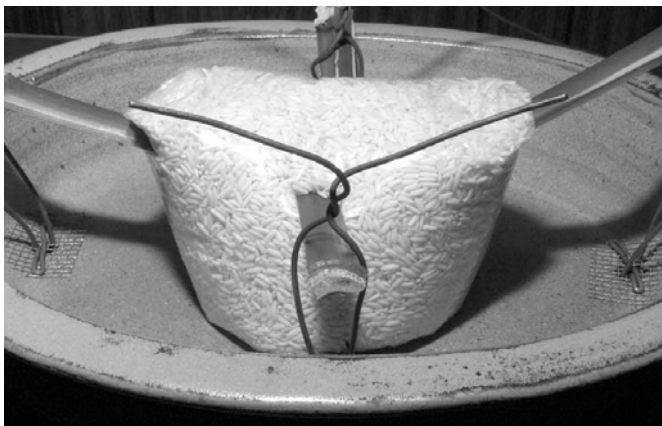
Closed figure eights hold downs



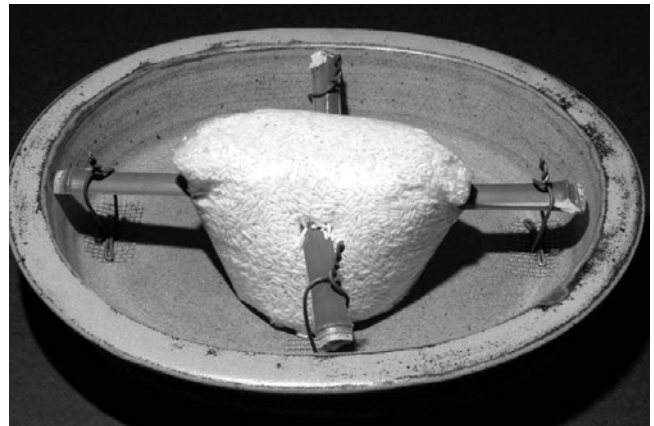
Tie downs around strong wire. Wraps must be fixed so they don't slip off



Tie downs inserted from underside



Bamboo inserted into rootball at an angle, tie downs wrapped around bamboo



Tie downs twisted to pull down ends of bamboo

OOPS! MEMBERSHIP DUES WERE DUE MAY 1ST



The YAMA KI membership year is May 1st to April 30th. We wanted to get some coverage in the last Newsletter about the MidAtlantic Spring Festival and forgot about the dues notice. Of course, no one checked their calendar and sent in their dues unsolicited.

Fortunately, our financial condition again permits dues to remain the same - \$20 for individuals and \$30 for family membership.

Please let's not waste Newsletter space dunning for dues. Send your check now and, at the same time, update our database with your phone number and email address. If you joined YAMA KI after November 1, 2002, your membership dues will not be due until May 1, 2004.

OFFICERS

Adam Hume President
Jim Glatthaar Vice-President
Irv Kleiman Treasurer
Mike Pollock .. Corresponding Secretary
Gail Therrien Recording Secretary

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman
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COMING EVENTS

June	14	<i>George LeBolt</i> Tropical bonsai lecture, demonstration, & workshop
July	12	Annual elections and auction
Aug	9	House & garden visit
Sept	22	Special Dinner Meeting: <i>David DeGroot:</i> Azalea design and refinement

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