



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

September

2002

**WALTER PALL & JIM DOYLE  
LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION @ 10:00 AM  
WORKSHOP 1:00 PM**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 @ THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM**

*Walter Pall* of Germany is the featured artist at our September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. He was born in 1944, growing up in the Austrian mountains. After studying economics in the USA and Austria, he worked in the electronics industry. He ultimately settled near Munich, and established a private consulting firm in order to have time for bonsai.

He acquired his first bonsai in 1978, and by the early '80s became one of the first serious bonsai artists in Germany; he also began collecting in the wild. Since 1985 he has been exhibiting and has received more than 15 national and international awards. His own garden contains more than 1,000 bonsai, predominantly collected European trees. As a designer *Walter* works with both conifers and deciduous trees. His is well known for his outstanding knowledge of horticulture.

As a bonsai writer, he has published in bonsai magazines around the world, frequently illustrating his articles with his own photographs. Since 1992 he has presented bonsai lecture/demonstrations all over Europe and the United States and has been a featured headliner at national and international conventions. In addition, he has and does serve as an officer of both German and international bonsai organizations.

*Walter* will work with *Jim Doyle* (last seen here in June) as he designs two trees at our 1:00 pm meeting. *Jim's* bonsai artistry is unchallenged, but are you aware that he also has abilities in dance and haiku (neither will be part of the September 14<sup>th</sup> session).

*Walter Pall* and *Jim Doyle* will style two trees at the September meeting. One will be a San Jose juniper (*Juniperus chinensis*) which is approximately 15 years old. Within the species there are many cultivars – we'll learn the specifics when *Walter and Jim* unveil the specimen for our demonstration. Junipers, evergreens, are found all around the world with more than 70 sub-species. They range from half-hardy to hardy and all parts

of the tree have practical uses. Varnish, medicines, alcoholic beverages, and flavorings come from the cones; furniture, poles, pencils, and fuel come from the wood. The *chinensis* is a creeping type that reaches a height of 12" but can grow to 24" and as much as 6-8' wide. The sage green foliage is needle-like while young and scale-like in maturity. Generally the trees are slow-growing and drought tolerant, preferring strong sun light. The soil is light and somewhat sandy indicating they should be well drained. The troublesome pests are rusts, blight, bag worms, aphids, scale.



*Juniperus chinensis*

The other tree which they will style is a collected Rocky Mountain spruce (*Picea Engelmannii*) approximately 70 years old. This Spruce, with somewhat pendent branches, has an almost frosted look which is the result of a thick wax layer on its needles. It is also referred to as a Colorado spruce or a Blue spruce. The genus *Picea* has about a dozen species which are native to North America, and about 20 which come from Eurasia. Our specimen ranges from the Rocky Mountain region from British Columbia, eastward to central Montana and New Mexico as well as southern to Arizona and New Mexico. Among its common names are White pine, White spruce, and Balsam. In nature, the Rocky Mountain spruce can reach 150' in height

with a 3.5' diameter. Commercially the tree is used for lumber, violin making, and pulp and paper making; it has been used in folk-medicine. If you are inclined to jin and shari note that fresh spruce wood may cause dermatitis.

Following the lecture/demonstration, we will raffle one tree and hold one tree for the auction at our holiday party.

After a brief lunch break, both artists will assist participating members styling their choice material - Alpine fir or Bird's Nest spruce. Although there was sufficient interest indicated at the July meeting, so far not enough members have placed their orders. Call Jim Glatthaar @ (914) 949-2700 extension 6159 ASAP. The cost of the workshop covers the plant and container (\$100 for the fir, \$65 for the spruce). The club is subsidizing the fees and expenses of the artists. Remember to bring your own tools and wire.

### **THERRIEN'S AUGUST HOUSE WARMING**

On a classic August afternoon, YAMA KI had the great pleasure of visiting *Gail Therrien's* beautiful new home and garden. The grounds are some four acres of varied terrain including wetland and a nursery with about 1,000 plants. Our very thoughtful host even had a type of golf cart for getting from one end of the property to another – a valued feature on that hot Saturday. A distinctive space in the house, and one which most members can only dream of replicating, is the basement plant room. *Gail* sold several plants and is returning 10% of her fee to the YAMA KI treasury. We've never had a profitable home visit before! We're all looking forward to another visit in a few years to see how the landscaping has developed and to enjoy *Gail's* gracious hospitality.

### **MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES UPDATE**

At YAMA KI's Annual Meeting *Lucille Miller* and *Gail Therrien* volunteered to serve as representatives to the MidAtlantic Board. Their first task in that role will be to present YAMA KI's preference for the new exhibit area at the Spring Festival. At our September meeting they will entertain suggestions from our membership who suggested (in June) a 5' saikei designed by several members rather than the three three trees which have represented the entire club at past exhibits.

*Kurt Wittig*, president of MABS has announced that the opening session of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Festival on Friday night, April 11, will be a presentation by *Dr. David Andrews*, *Chase Rosade*, and *Bill Valavanis* – all of whom were presenters at the first Spring Festival. In addition, *Colin Lewis* will join headliners *Kunio Kobayashi* and *Patrizia Cappellaro De Martino* (Italian not English) in offering lecture/demonstrations, critiques, and workshops.

### **BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI**

*Berni Gastrich*

The worst heat of the summer should now be behind us. When the soil temperature in our pots gets to be below 80 degrees there will be a spurt of growth just as we have in the spring when the soil temperature gets above 40. Our trees can now utilize fertilizer effectively. High nitrogen fertilizers are a good choice from now until about mid-September. Watch your wires carefully because branch and trunk thickness increase rapidly during this time. From mid-September to mid-October, gradually decrease the percentage of nitrogen in your fertilizer. After that, no more nitrogen at all. This is to prevent young tender growth just before dormancy.

The purpose of this fertilizer program is of course to keep the tree healthy, to increase trunk and branch thickness, and to encourage the tree to develop new buds for next year.

It is also advisable to trim back branch tips and generally open up the tree to allow light deeper into the branches. If we do this, we will get a greater percentage of budding further back along the branches. The importance of this can not be overstated! Without such bud back we end up with a tree which has all its foliage at its periphery. This is both unhealthy and aesthetically displeasing.

## YAMA KI at NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

It's almost that exciting time of year again when YAMA KI has an opportunity to share bonsai with the world at large. The New York Botanical Garden autumn festival known as Momijiigara will take place on October 4-20. Once again we have been invited to exhibit top quality bonsai, and this year some of the Museum of Modern Art's sculpture will be on display in the garden just outside our exhibit area – a location which may bring even more visitors to the area.

*Berni Gastrich* and *Lucille Miller* are chairing this outstanding event. If you have bonsai - large, medium, or small (shohin pieces) which you would like to show at this exhibit, please bring it/them to the September meeting for a couple of our "platinum referees" to evaluate. This *is* not a member show and the NYBG asks for stellar material. If your bonsai is too large to transport, call *Lucille Miller* at (914) 934-0613, and ask that someone come check it out. Transportation to and from the NYBG can be arranged. Don't worry about watering, that will be taken care of daily by experienced people. Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> is set-up day.

Please sign up as a docent, a waterer, or an information sharer at the September meeting, and sign up for more than one session. Our commitment is for 17 days and that requires a lot of people-power. If you cannot attend the exciting September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, please call *Lucille* and tell her when you will be helping out.

*Ronnie Cunningham* has quite a number of plants and pots to sell.  
If you are interested, please call her at 914.762.7163.

### OFFICERS

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

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

© YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.  
<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>  
165 West End Ave - 12D  
New York, NY 10023-5509

### COMING EVENTS

Sept 14 *Walter Pall* Lecture/Demo

Oct 4 - 20 Yama Ki Bonsai Exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden

Nov 9 TBA