



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other Sharing with the community”

August

2003

GARDEN VISIT WITH BERNI & ANN GASTRICH AUGUST 12, 2006 @ 1:00 PM

New members who have not been to the *Gastrich's* home, garden, and bonsai collection are in for a very special treat. The home and grounds are beautiful, with bonsai mounted on pedestals as living sculptures, as well an extensive collection of bonsai and pre-bonsai plants watered by a sophisticated “sprinkler” system. For the rest of us, it’s great to refresh our memories and review the maturing of Berni’s well-known bonsai and the subtle styling enhancements. Travel directions are included on the last page.

JULY’S BARBEQUE, ELECTIONS AND AUCTION AT THE POLLOCKS



Roslyn Pollock prepared an elaborate buffet barbeque featuring chicken, sausages, franks, burgers, and all the accessories and trimmings. The additional choice of hot and cold beverages, cookies, and fruits put us all in a contented bidding mood! Before the meeting *Mike* walked with members down the aisles of benches discussing his bonsai, i.e., where and when purchased, reasons for his styling choices, his maintenance procedures, etc. *Mike* also displayed his loose-leaf book of his before and after bonsai photographs .



Viewing some of Mike’s collection

The day was sunny and most of us came early so there was plenty of time to review the auction material. The plants ranged from pre-bonsai to bonsai created by international artists which were purchased by YAMA KI for the artists’ demonstration material. Of course there was a large assortment of containers, trays, books, magazines, and a few tools.



Viewing some of the auction materials

The bidding was spirited and the auction was financially very successful while, at the same time, members walked away with “steals”.

THE ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee, chaired by *Melba Grieshaber*, presented their recommended slate of officers and directors, which was unanimously approved. They are:

<i>Gail Therrien</i>	President	<i>Mike Pollock</i>	Recording Secretary
<i>Norman Geisinger</i>	Vice President	<i>Steve Peach</i>	Corresponding Secretary
<i>Irving Kleiman</i>	Treasurer		

David Castro and *Kevin Goveia* were elected as Directors for a three-year term and will serve with *Lanya Muller*, *Rupen Kiskanyan*, *John Cotoggio*, and *Craig Cowing*

YAMA KI BONSAI EXHIBIT AT THE HAMMOND MUSEUM & JAPANESE STROLL GARDEN *Gail Therrien*

Members of Yama Ki put on a terrific learning exhibit at the Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden on July 16th, on a swelteringly hot Sunday afternoon. We were fortunate to be in a shaded area, near the stage where classic Asian performing arts took place. Our exhibit featured everything from a newly created young saikei to some of our members' best mature specimens. Thanks to *Mike Pollock*, we also had a mame display and a suiseki display. To all of the following folks who took part in the day one way or another, thanks for your help: *Robert Roffinan* (brand new member - thanks *Bob!*), *Norm Geisinger*, *Lucille Miller*, *Steve Peach*, *Mike Pollock*, *Maggie Limburg*, *Craig Cowing*, *Anita Hawkins*, *Berni Gastrich*, *Lanya Ghose*, *Charlie Muller*, and yours truly.

Berni Gastrich provided the following photos of members' bonsai and suiseki which were on display:



BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI

Berni Gastrich

SUMMER

This is the time of year when organic fertilizers function well. The warm soil produces the microbial action which results in the breakdown of the organic matter into N.P.K. It is also the time of year when trees set flower buds, or leaf buds, for next year. Fertilizers with high nitrogen encourage leaf buds. Those with higher phosphorus and potassium encourage flower budding. Stop high nitrogen in mid-September or the leaf buds may activate before winter. 0-10-10 can be used till you put your trees away for winter.

If we have high heat and humidity, this month it is a good idea to spray in not only the trees, but also the entire area under and around the bonsai benches with a fungicide. An excellent one is Daconil. If you cannot find this look for any product which has the same active ingredient: chlorothanil. This product does not break down the fungal mycorrhizza in the soil. For those who like an organic product, Neem oil will also work. Do not use this (Neem oil) on larch, blue spruce etc. The blue color will entirely disappear. This color change is retained until next year's growth.

NEXT YEARS BUDS

In the heat of summer most plants in the north temperate zone go into a semi-dormant state. Growth slows considerably, and very little fertilizer is used. Over-fertilizing at this time of year can produce root rot.

A dilute solution of a fertilizer high in phosphorus is the one exception to this especially for flowering and fruiting plants. Such fertilizers as, "FRUIT and BLOOM" or 0 10 10, are suitable for this purpose. They help the plant to produce flower buds for next year. During the month of September, a balanced fertilizer which includes nitrogen is appropriate, this will help the plant to produce growthbuds for next year.

AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY'S 2006 LEARNING SEMINARS

YAMA KI's editors have been recruiting members who attended the ABS's 2006 Learning Seminars to write an abstract of their sessions. We will print them as we receive them. Here is the first:

DAVID EASTERBROOK'S ABS SESSION ON WEEPING STYLE

Joann Spence

David Easterbrook held a two part session on Weeping Style (Shidare). He presented theory and a demonstration on how to create this graceful style, complete with slides illustrating the fundamental techniques. He worked on a 'wild', very overgrown *Salix x crysocoma*, Golden Weeping Willow. Willows grow very rapidly and require wiring in very early spring and must be repeated every three or four weeks during the season. David uses aluminum wire on this soft-barked deciduous and applies it loosely. The trunk can thicken up to three times its original caliper in one season!

Repotting must be done twice a year--early spring and in early August. It is necessary to cut off 50% of the roots at the bottom in spring, and one-third of the roots in mid-summer. *David* recommends using charcoal chips (from a pet store) in the bottom of the pot to 'sweeten' the potting mix since willows require copious amounts of water.

Training is in the informal upright, slanting, or semi cascade style. Wiring is unique because to create an arc up, one must wire under the branch, bend it up to arc, then straight down. Movement is more important than trunk taper for the result is to be poetic and nostalgic.

Workshop Session--*Salix babylonica* "Rakkakudo" (a cultivar from Japan). David started these cuttings four years ago and wired the trunks for graceful movement two years ago.

Though very flowing and graceful, one negative aspect of willows is that they are very susceptible to pests and diseases--aphids, mites, caterpillars as well fungal diseases. However, they are readily controlled if detected early.

PREPARING FOR DISPLAY

Colin Lewis

Nobody has trees that can just be taken straight from the bench and placed in an exhibition. The major exhibitors in Japan and Europe will begin to prepare their trees for display up to a year before the event, sometimes longer, making sure that it is as near to perfection as possible. You may not have trees of that quality, but you can - and should - still make sure that your exhibit is also as near to perfect as possible.

Wire or no wire?

Deciduous trees should not have wire on when in an exhibition. Why? Because aluminum wire is thick, brown and unsightly. If you want to make minor adjustments to small branches with thin wire that is hidden by foliage, then perhaps that would be okay, but it must be very discreet.

On the other hand, conifers almost always need wire to bring the image to completion. Use ONLY copper wire (because it is thinner and its color is less obtrusive) and apply it neatly and discreetly. Don't use any more than necessary and measure to use the thinnest possible to achieve the purpose.

If you use guy wires or ties, use only #20 or #22 wire, and it is less noticeable. Remember that an exhibition should be a display of finished works of art not of the engineering involved in their shaping.

Foliage:

Deciduous:

- clip off any oversized or diseased leaves;
- if you prune shoots, don't allow the cut end to be visible - cut it back so it's hidden by other foliage. In fact, it's best to prune two to three weeks prior to the show so that the leaves readjust their position;
- clean off any lime or chemical deposits on the leaves;
- make sure there are ABSOLUTELY NO bugs or diseases.

Conifers:

- remove all dead or yellow needles;
- do NOT cut through pine needles to shorten them - pull long needles off or live with them;
- do NOT cut through juniper shoots, pluck them;
- define the undersides of the pads by removing all foliage that dangles below a horizontal base;
- thin out over congested areas in pines, so all the needles are in tufts at the ends of the shoots.

Trunks, branches and nebari:

- clean trunks, nebari and branches with a toothbrush to remove all algae and moss;
- on junipers, remove the flaky outer bark to reveal the red under-bark. Do this a week or two before the show so that the bark has a chance to weather and look more natural;
- cut away any fine straggly roots from the nebari, and clean out 'between the toes'.

Deadwood:

Clean deadwood and apply lime sulphur at least THREE WEEKS before the show. This will allow time for the harsh white to weather down to a more subtle shade. Also, if it remains slightly yellow, you have time for another application.

Soil surface:

Bonsai soil is downright ugly! The surface of the soil should be absolutely weed-free and, where not covered by moss, dressed with a thin layer of fine (eighth-inch or less) single ingredient so the soil doesn't too much like a kaleidoscope.

Moss should be applied at least two weeks before the show, so it has time to become established and look natural. Make a natural-looking patchwork of different mosses, placing each piece close against its neighbor and pressing the edges down into the soil to prevent dehydration. Some people prefer to moss the entire pot surface, others leave an irregular margin - either is okay.

Pots:

Pots must be scrupulously cleaned. Unglazed pots can be smartened up by burnishing, but don't make them look highly polished. A tiny amount of oil (olive, vegetable) on a lint-free cloth will enrich the color without causing a sheen. You can also use a small shoe brush with a little amount of oil or polish - but again, emphasis is on 'little amount'.

Stands:

No pot should stand directly on the table. If you don't have proper display stands you can use bamboo place mats, cutting boards, or anything that is serviceable and subtle and suits the tree.

Accessories:

Accent plants, suiseki, etc. should not be so large or visually powerful that they compete with the tree. If you don't have a suitable accent, best not to have one at all than to have one that is wrong. Ideally the accent should harmonize with the tree: a mountain tree should have a mountain suiseki or mountain accent plant; a forest should have a forest plant as an accent, etc. Also, bear in mind the seasonal aspects of the display when choosing accents.

Labels:

Name tags and labels should be placed near the pot but not in it nor directly in front of it.

BERGEN BONSAI SOCIETY'S NEW ENGLAND BONSAI TOUR

The Bergen Bonsai Society has chartered a bus for the weekend of September 16-17th for a bonsai tour of New England. The cost is \$145 per person and includes all transportation, admission fees, 3 lecture/demonstrations, 4 bonsai tours, hotel, breakfast and Sunday night dinner. The tour includes:

- . A tour of Todd Hanson's private collection and Japanese garden followed by a lecture/demo program;
- . A tour of Bonsai West Nursery with a lecture/demo and a special discount on purchases;
- . A tour of New England Bonsai Nursery including a lecture/demo and a special discount on purchases;
- . A tour of Royal Bonsai Gardens and a special discount on purchases (Suthin will be away).

If interested, contact *George LeBolt* (201-768-7455), there may be a few seats still available.

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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

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| Aug | 12 | Home visit with the <i>Gastrichs'</i> |
| Sept | 16 | <i>Colin Lewis</i> workshop and members' juried exhibit |
| Oct | 14 | <i>Guy Guidry</i> workshop |

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