



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

“Learning from each other Sharing with the community”

December

2006

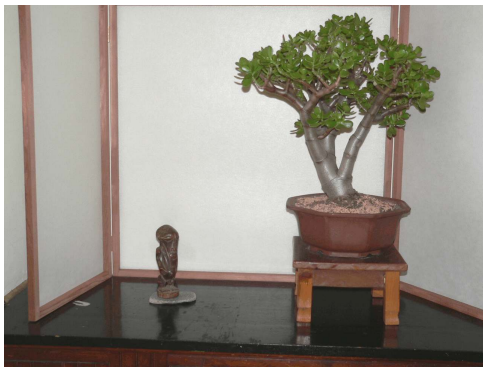
YAMA KI'S HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES DECEMBER 9, 2006 STARTING AT 12:30 PM AT THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM

December 9th YAMA KI will usher in the holiday season with its ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. For those of you new to our traditions: we celebrate with a pot-luck luncheon catered by All-Of-Us, UNLIMITED. Bring some appetizers/hors d'oeuvres, a main course, side dishes, a salad or two, dessert(s). Call *Gail Therrien* (914.244.1320) or *Rhoda Kleiman* (212.724.7840) so that we may keep the menu balanced. Set up will be at 11:00 am in the Education Building at the Bartlett Arboretum. Munching will commence at 12:30pm. Bring your contributions and your appetite. Come share with friends of long-standing, come meet new friends and fine bonsai talk.

THE AUCTION, semi-annual, will follow the joyeux/gemutlichkeit/freilach/happy repast. Again, you know the tradition: bring bonsai material (mature, middle-aged, or wannabe), plants, pots, tools, scrolls, books, magazines, display stands, watering devices, soil, fertilizer, ad infinitum. This sharing will not only enhance your sense of well-being and early-holiday giving, it will enable you to make room for exciting new things that someone else must move out or that you will buy at MidAtlantic in April. Experienced auctioneers will provide a release from the intensity of bidding. The success of the AUCTION depends on your participation - both by donating and by bidding!

DAVID EASTERBROOK and STUNNING LARCH

Norm Geisinger, Vice-president, opened the meeting shortly after 10:00 am on Saturday morning November 11th. He took care of a few business details. *Anita and Craig Cowing* brought a mid-size *Cressula arborescens* (Jade plant) that has been in training for about two years for the tokonoma. Its unusual accent was an African ancestor statue, about 6" high, from the Songye tribe.



John Cotoggio introduced *David Easterbrook*, Curator of the Bonsai collection at the Montreal Botanical Garden. *David* is also a bonsai artist, nurseryman, and bi-lingual raconteur. We were treated to a brief introduction to the anthropology of New Guinea during the course of the day. He presented a lecture/demonstration in the morning using a large Larch, between 75 and 199 years old, from Canada's

Crown Land (you can collect, but with permission). All material for the day, morning presentation and afternoon workshop, was Larch (*Larix*) which had been collected one to three years earlier, in early October, in the Canadian tundra near Labrador B a 20-hour drive from Montreal. As you may recall from the NEWSLETTER announcing the program, the specimens ranged from small single trees to a very large forest. *David* noted that the criteria for selecting trees from the wild differs from selecting nursery grown trees.



Collected Larch -Beginning



Larch at end of Demo

Larch are conifers, a member of the Pine family, which grows very fast in soil. These trees, in tundra climate, may have been dug from crevices with thin soil, basically in a bog-like area. They like strong sun, fast draining soil, and a Ph near the mid-point about 6-6.5. They do not have really thick trunks due to drying from strong winds. On the tundra they are very slow growing, but very rapid growers in soil. Bark on old Larch is flaky with tiny scales. DO NOT lift one by its trunk! *David* chose to emphasize the windswept look of the demo tree. He recommends flat Karama stones (or the equivalent) for planting Larch. He also suggests Nick Lenz's book for care of collected materials. [Lenz, Nick. Bonsai: from the Wild, (New, rev, and expanded) Passumpsic, VT: Stone Lantern, 2006.]



David & Larch clump forest

The workshop people will not re-pot their trees for one to three years depending on when they had been collected. Additionally, the older trees need a longer time to recuperate from the trauma of leaving their birthplace. A good soil mix for that transplant will be 2 coarse sand and 2 Perlite⁷ in order to provide good drainage. The Larch forests would do well with 1/2 Promix⁷ and 2 bonsai soil; this requires very careful watering on a flat stone. The growth will be from new roots which develop near the trunk. When working with such coarse soil, do not use root rakes or other heavy tools; you mainly work it into the roots with your fingers and only a small amount of chopstick motion to prevent damaging the roots. Repotters are urged to retain some of the original soil as your hands comb out the roots.

Forest stylers will try to create a triangular silhouette for the overall look. They must also be careful to create light so the grouping is not too dense. All trunks must be either straight, curved, or bent but not mixed as it is too distracting. The placement of your main tree determines the front focal point and 2-3 trees close together may fill that need. As with all bonsai, native accent and seasonal plant material is very desirable. In the case of the demo tree, there was a substantial amount of wild blueberry as ground cover. Pitcher plant and wild grasses would also be effective.

Larch prefer a moister soil than Pines or Spruce, but not soaking. It helps to keep their trunks moist. Fertilize about three times a year B when first budding out in the spring, mid July, late August or early September B using weak organic mixture such as 2 strength Miracid.⁷ This fertilizer helps the leaves darken and retain their bluish color. Agricultural sulphur will keep the color also. Overwinter outdoors and keep them in a cold shady area with mulch. Do not put in a garage or cold greenhouse.

Keep the needles short (less than 2"). Out of their native habitat they tend to get longer. They have a nice bluish cast which turns yellow in autumn. Length is maintained by pinching, not cutting. Because the tree grows so rapidly you need to pinch 2-3 times a season, with the last time in July. To pinch, hold the new bud at its base leaving 3 - 4 leaves and pull out the new bud from its center. In July remove all needles from the bud area.

Springtime, **before** buds open and just as trees emerge from dormancy, wiring is preferred, but fall is ok. Do not wire after budding. The branches are very flexible; unlike Pine the bark does not separate from the branches. Young trees, because of rapid growth will absorb the wire if it is on too long. Older trees tolerate longer wire retention. Old wood does not bud-back very well. If you need to move branches, both approach and thread grafts work if both trunks are very healthy.; For Larch, put jins only on thicker branches since the wood is not as thick as Juniper or Pines. Beware of jin or shari near the base of the trunk which might be susceptible to rot. Treat jins and shari with Min-wax⁷ hardener. Do not try to improve on the attractive natural deadwood.

Aphids tend to like Larch especially if ants are in the soil. *David* recommends using insecticidal soap or Diazanone⁷ or Peerless⁷ spray. Occasionally mealy bugs or gypsy moths attack and they can be controlled with dormant oil with lime sulphur added. You should do preventive spraying by mid-November.



David & Joann



Lavanya & Charles



David Castro



John Cotoggio



Norman Geisinger

“MABS” WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW

This bonsai-quiet season is a good time to open your spring calendar and plan for some of the exciting bonsai events that are on the horizon. The MidAtlantic Spring Festival 2007 will be held on April 20-21-22. By the time you read this NEWSLETTER you should have received your registration brochure B loooooong before holiday mail causes clutter.

Peruse it carefully and send it in now to take advantage of the early-bird rates and to ensure your seat in one of the special workshops.

Note that this year the fee for walk-ins coming just to the Exhibition and the Vendor Sector will be \$10 per person per day; no charge for children under 12 years of age. You must stop at the registration desk to pick up a name badge for each person.

Remember that a bit later on we'll be coming to you to help at the Registration Desk or for an hour for security at the Exhibition. Every club participates in all of the planning and activities before, during and after the Festival itself. If you have any questions about the Festival or your registration, contact one of your representatives: *Gail Therrien* (914.244.1320), *Rhoda Kleiman*(212.724.7840), or *Lucille Miller* (914.034.0613).

GLEANINGS from *Guy Guidry*

- * Junipers do not generally have a base line; to determine the front use the trunk line
- * A tree's apex and top branch should not come from the same location if they are the same size
- * Junipers may die back when pruned but take 2-3 years to show the wound
- * Collected trees tend to have two zones: one very stiff, one quite pliable
- * Trees look better planted at container line, not on a mound
- * To oxygenate trees, tilt the pot then blow into the drainage hole; for larger pots, use blower end of a vacuum cleaner.

MEMOIRS OF A VIRGIN* (MidAtlantic Bonsai Symposium 2006)

Call it luck or call it fate, my name was drawn at the Susquehanna Bonsai Club meeting to attend my first MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival in East Hanover, NJ, for Friday, April 21, thru Sunday, April 23, 2006.

George Gracey was gracious enough to drive me to and from the event, held at the Ramada Hotel on Rt 10. The facility is ideal for holding this type of event. The rooms are nice and the vendor area is large and accommodating, as was the lecture room. The food was plentiful and good. Their free breakfast had eggs, sausage, bacon, toast, bagels, danish, fruit, yogurt, juice and coffee. Service was outstanding. George took me to an Italian restaurant on Friday night...I went on a diet when I got home.

The featured artists were very talented and more entertaining than I expected. SBC's own *Sheila Becker* won a large raffle tree done by *Marco Invernizzi* of Italy. The exhibit trees were excellent and stood out against a black-draped background.

There were many vendors with trees for sale ranging from \$15 to \$10,000 with many good trees priced in between. Whatever you needed (or not) related to bonsai, was for sale. I now know why this symposium has been successful for many years. The location is central to member societies and clubs, has good accommodations, and is well organized.

I highly recommend club members attend this event. I'm glad I got the 'chance' to go.

* *Bob Ellis (no longer a virgin)* - Reprinted from the May 2006 Susquehanna Bonsai Club Newsletter

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COMING EVENTS

Dec.	9	12:30 pm	<i>Holiday Buffet & Auction</i>
Jan..	13	1:00 pm	<i>Colin Lewis</i>
Feb.	10	1:00 pm	<i>Marty Schmalenberg</i>

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