



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

February

2012

JAPAN, YOU'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE



Charlie and Lavanya presented photos and described their recent trip to Japan for the ASPAC Convention in Takamatsu and the Taikan-Ten Exhibition in Kyoto. Even with a few technical difficulties, we saw working material that would be considered "advanced bonsai" here, beautiful chrysanthemums, viewing stones, kimonos, and architecture. Most signs were in English, Chinese, and Japanese. Their tour guide, Bill Valavanis, was very accommodating, as were everyone they met. Overall, Lavanya said it was a *humbling and overwhelming experience*. See

page 5 for a synopsis by Lavanya on an [Australian bonsai club member's](#) video journey of his trip to the event. Interested in going to Japan now? Check out this website for tour details: <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/>

Mike Humphrey set the stage with a few accents. And Len Douglas performed the raffle in the limelight.



SEAN SMITH – FEB 11, 2012, 12:00 PM AT THE GEC

Plans have changed for next month's meeting on Saturday, February 11th at Noon. We are pleased to announce that Sean Smith will be visiting us again. This time he'll be doing a lecture and hands-on workshop on displaying bonsai.

Sean has studied many disciplines in the years since he began his bonsai journey. The last few years he has travelled to Japan to study every winter. His study of bonsai and suiseki lead naturally to a deep appreciation for display. Sean will share that knowledge with us and also help us to adapt those guidelines to the type of display we can practice here.

Sean will be bringing items to use to demonstrate display. He would also like us to bring items that we own so that he can share the best way to use those in our own displays. This meeting is timed perfectly to help us to think about showing items at MidAtlantic, our club exhibition the weekend after, and the 3rd US National Exhibition this June.





A Tokonoma display Sean assembled in Japan

Even if your trees aren't ready for formal display, Sean can help us to learn what to look for when buying display pieces and how to show our trees at their best at home.

As he usually does, Sean will also have items to sell, from pre-bonsai material to suiseki, stands and other complements for displaying our trees. Sean is a dynamic presenter and has much to offer every member of Yama Ki. Don't miss this meeting!

YAMA KI BONSAI EXHIBIT IN STAMFORD APRIL 27-29, 2012

Plans are underway for the club to present a bonsai exhibit at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center this year. *Details coming soon!*

20-HOUR INTRODUCTION TO BONSAI STARTS IN FEBRUARY!

The holidays prevented a long enough lead time to publicize this course. Rescheduling gives everyone more time to make a decision to attend.

If you have not taken an intro to bonsai course of at least this length, I highly recommend it. Bonsai is a lifelong endeavor that requires us to continue to learn. Beginning from a solid base can help you to create trees you can enjoy for the rest of your life.

Please let anyone in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut area know who might be interested. To register, call 203-869-9242. For questions, contact me at mikepollock@me.com.

Hope to see a few of you in the class! Mike

THURSDAY NIGHTS (6:30 PM to 9:30 PM) – Feb 23, Mar 1, Mar 8, Mar 15

SATURDAYS (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM) – Mar 24, Mar 31



AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY/JOSHUA ROTH NEW TALENT CONTEST – 2012

MidAtlantic will host a regional qualifier for the national Joshua Roth New Talent competition. Yama Ki and MABS have scholarships available for anyone who qualifies for the national contest. So please consider applying this year. The application form is on our website, to submit it, email Pauline Muth (Pauline@pmbonsai.com).

Yama Ki should have three slots in the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival exhibition. If you would like to display a tree, please send a photo and information to Mike Pollock as soon as possible. We'll choose the three trees to be exhibited by late March, leaving plenty of time to prepare your display. If you have a tree you'd like to display, but are concerned about stands and accents, please still apply. We'll help you put together a good display by lending whatever other materials you might need (stands, accents, etc.).

MABS

Rhoda Kleiman

MidAtlantic Bonsai is preparing to welcome you at its 29th ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL in April. Once again it will be in Pennsylvania, April 20th through 22nd.

Not at all a “ho-hum” but another exciting bonsai seminar with opportunities to study with the distinguished Isao Omachi of Japan (translated by the inimitable Hideko Metaxas), and John Thompson of California, renowned for his work with Oaks. *Another presenter is planned...so stay tuned!*

The Festival will open on FRIDAY morning, April 20th with the first round of the ABS/Joshua Roth New Talent Competition (details elsewhere in this issue).

FRIDAY night: John Thompson will start us off on the pleasures and vagaries of Oak as a stunning material for bonsai. He'll finish the demo tree on Saturday.



MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2012 Spring Festival

SATURDAY'S lineup will feature Isao Omachi. You may recall that his entire studio and collection were swept away in tsunami last year. John Thompson will conclude the work on Friday's Oak. In the late afternoon, in another teaching mode, all three artists will conduct critiques of the MABS MEMBERS' EXHIBIT.

SATURDAY evening will find us carousing in the bonsai style (good material, careful “liquefying” proper environment, gentle handling) with our friends – old and new – at the social hour, banquet, and auction (after you spent a length of time at both the 2nd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXHIBIT and the MABS MEMBERS' EXHIBIT).

Carousing aside, utilizing every moment of this Festival, you will get up early on SUNDAY and attend the lecture/demonstrations presented by Monsieur Omachi.

From FRIDAY (4pm) through SUNDAY morning, 17 vendors, more than half of them with live material, will be open, hopefully to help you expand your bonsai holdings and find new material for styling. Others will have containers, soil, tools, teaching materials, and accessories to fill your needs. Bonsai and general horticultural questions may be put to the exceedingly knowledgeable vendors.

All demonstration trees will be raffled, with ticket prices staying as they have for several years – your chance to add to your collections.

DATA: Holiday Inn, Hershey, PA. Oh, and since the FESTIVAL is late in April most of the **Hershey Park** activities will be open for your family's fun. **Our rate at the Holiday Inn remains as last year: \$90/night per room.**

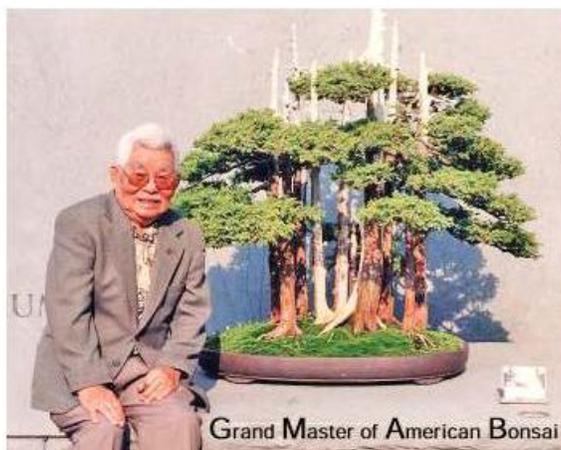
MABS will distribute the registration brochures later this month, but you should mark your calendars today for this enrichment weekend seminar.

SEE YOU at the MABS 29th SPRING FESTIVAL April 20-22, 2012!

APRIL 1, 2012: Deadline for Entries in the John Y. Naka Design Award

Open to all N.A. regional associations, local clubs, study groups and professional bonsai educators and their members or students who exhibit the spirit of artistic design as taught by John Naka. Open to professional and hobbyists; either Native American Plant material or Material grown entirely in North America is to be used.

2012 John Y. Naka Design Award Program



The American Bonsai Society in fellowship and remembrance of our American Grand Master is pleased to announce that the 2012 John Y. Naka award program is now open and accepting entries from across the North American continent. The program is open to both professional and amateur artists competing separately using either Native American plant material or plant material grown entirely in North America.

All regional associations, local clubs, study groups and professional Bonsai educators are encouraged to enter trees of members or students of their organizations who exhibit the spirit of artistic design taught by our beloved Grand Master. The rules are simple,

and offer 4 awards that will be presented at the Denver, Colorado Learning Seminar scheduled for June 2012.

- ✚ Showcase the best Amateur and Professional Designers of Native and Non-native trees in your club or region!
- ✚ Organize club activities to sponsor the best designers in your club!
- ✚ Receive National and International exposure in the ABS journal and the ABS website!
- ✚ Entering can be done directly on the ABS website! No papers to fill out, nothing to send in by Snail-mail, just Enter and Go!

Entry deadline April 1, 2012

Rules and entry information can be found at <http://absbonsai.org>

If you have questions about the program contact naka@absbonsai.org

THE ROCHESTER SHOW

The 2012 U. S. National Bonsai Exhibition will be held this year at the Fair & Expo Center in Rochester NY (Saturday & Sunday, June 9-10, 2012 9am to 5pm). See our website for more details.

BOXWOOD BLIGHT

For information on this, see the January 14, 2012 Disease Alert on the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station website: <http://www.ct.gov/caes>

Steve Pilacik (919-753-8331) of Matsu Momiji Nursery, www.matsumomiji.com is selling trees and pots at reduced prices. Field trees can be dug until sometime in March. Field grown trees include: Junipers, Tridents, and Elms, to name a few. The listing process has begun! I must let you know you that I have so many things they might not get listed. If you are close enough to my nursery please call for an appointment, the close up pictures do not do justice to the items for sale!

NOTE: Credit cards or PayPal are no longer accepted.

A FEW SELECT PHOTOS FROM CHARLIE AND LAVANYA'S TRIP TO JAPAN



A SYNOPSIS OF ANDREW SELLMAN'S BONSAI JOURNEY (ON YOUTUBE)

First, a giant thank-you to **Andrew Sellman**! He has posted 6 beautiful videos filmed during his own bonsai journey in Japan this fall (<http://www.ausbonsai.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=27&t=10463>), and has taken the trouble to include a musical soundtrack. Every part is worth watching, but parts 4, 5, and 6 especially should not be missed. Only Omiya Bonsai Village is missing from this overview of bonsai in Japan.

Bonsai Journey Japan Part 1: This segment includes some short travel scenes, street scenes in Japan, some modest bonsai nurseries, as well as famous (and of course beautiful) temples and parks.

Bonsai Journey Japan Part 2: This segment is filmed in Osaka, mainly at bonsai nurseries there. There are other scenes from Osaka in Part 6.

Bonsai Journey Japan Part 3: Begins on the train to Tokyo, and focuses on Shunka-en, the bonsai nursery of Kunio Kobayashi. This section also includes an interview with Peter Warren.

Bonsai Journey Japan Part 4: Welcome to Takamatsu, the origin of most of the world's black pine bonsai. The bonsai growers of Takamatsu are featured.

Bonsai Journey Japan Part 5: This segment is filmed at the ASPAC Convention in Takamatsu, including a very complete tour inside the exhibition itself. Yay! Nice views of the demo hall, and short segments of each of the presenters working on their trees. Tamamo Park and Ritsurin Park are also featured. This is a wonderfully complete overview of what we saw in Takamatsu. You will feel like you were there!

Bonsai Journey Japan Part 6: This segment begins at Takasago-an, the incredible garden of Daizo Iwasaki, with its endless collection of awesome black pines, both in the garden and in bonsai pots. Then it moves to the famous Gardens of Adachi – almost impossibly perfect. Truly breathtaking! The segment ends in Osaka, at the historic Osaka Castle.

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Editor - Joan Thomas

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COMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
Feb 11	12:00	Sean Smith	GEC
Mar 10		Workshop	GEC
Apr 20-22		MABS	PA
Apr 27-29		Yama Ki Exhibit at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center	Stamford
June 9-10		U. S. National Bonsai Exhibition	Rochester NY

For updates and the latest information, check your email or our website: www.yamakibonsai.org

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