



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

February

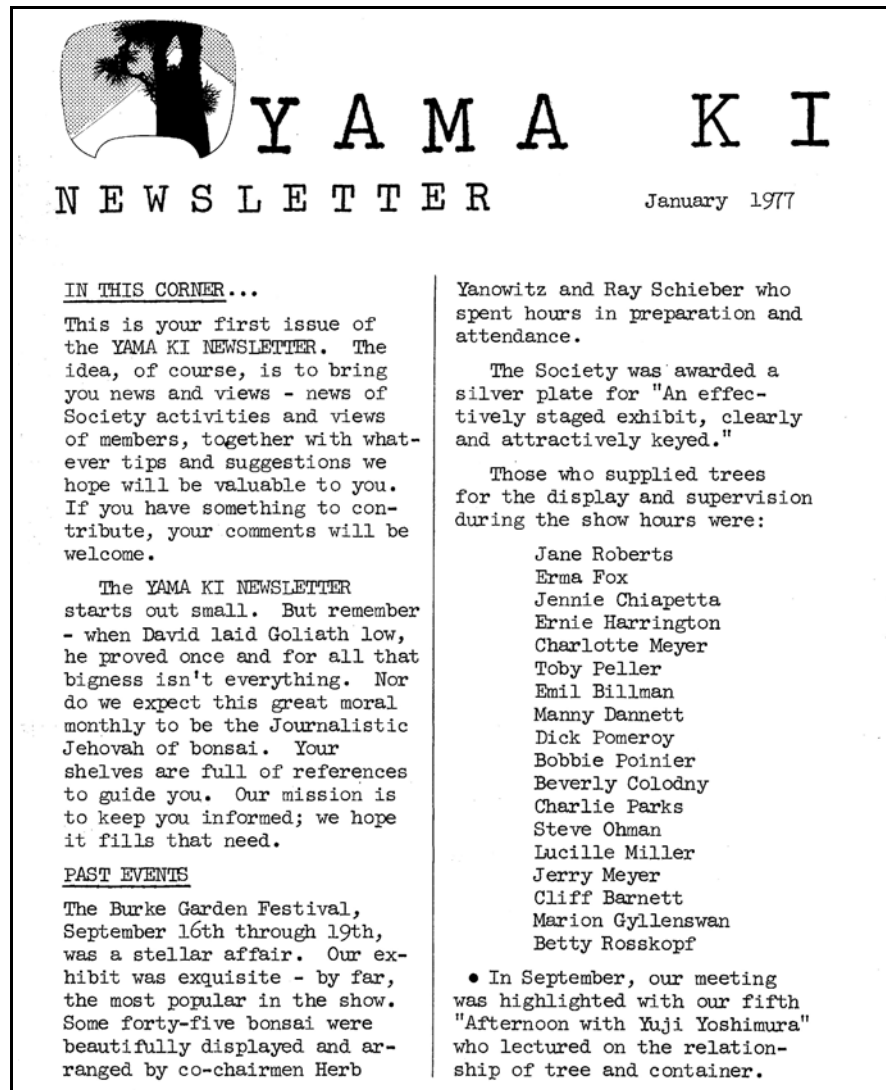
2011

**THE ORIGINS OF THE YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY  
BYO WORKSHOP 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
“EYEWITNESS TO YAMA KI’S HISTORY” 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM  
FEBRUARY 12, 2011 @ GEC**

The morning session is a free BYOT workshop, with roving assistance from several of the club’s most experienced members. If you purchased one of *Sean Smith’s* ficus, this is a good time to bring it in for styling advice. Other trees are okay too. Please bring your own tools and appropriate wire.

Following a lunch break, the afternoon’s session consists of a panel discussion, “Eyewitnesses to Bonsai History.” Founders and longtime members of the YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY will entertain and enlighten all of us with eyewitness tales about the club’s origins and early days, including stories of *Yuji Yoshimura’s* creations, member’s collecting trips to fields and nurseries, home visitations, and more. *Mike Pollock* will serve as moderator.

For example, although YAMA KI was organized in 1973, the following is a copy of the first page of the first issue of our newsletter:



 **YAMA KI**  
**NEWSLETTER** January 1977

IN THIS CORNER...  
This is your first issue of the YAMA KI NEWSLETTER. The idea, of course, is to bring you news and views - news of Society activities and views of members, together with whatever tips and suggestions we hope will be valuable to you. If you have something to contribute, your comments will be welcome.

The YAMA KI NEWSLETTER starts out small. But remember - when David laid Goliath low, he proved once and for all that bigness isn't everything. Nor do we expect this great moral monthly to be the Journalistic Jehovah of bonsai. Your shelves are full of references to guide you. Our mission is to keep you informed; we hope it fills that need.

PAST EVENTS  
The Burke Garden Festival, September 16th through 19th, was a stellar affair. Our exhibit was exquisite - by far, the most popular in the show. Some forty-five bonsai were beautifully displayed and arranged by co-chairmen Herb

Yanowitz and Ray Schieber who spent hours in preparation and attendance.

The Society was awarded a silver plate for "An effectively staged exhibit, clearly and attractively keyed."

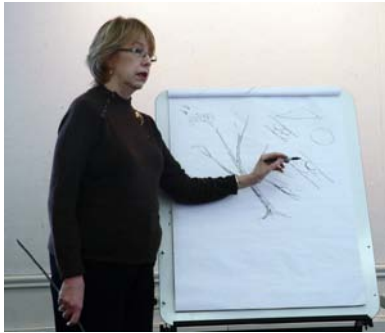
Those who supplied trees for the display and supervision during the show hours were:

- Jane Roberts
- Erma Fox
- Jennie Chiapetta
- Ernie Harrington
- Charlotte Meyer
- Toby Peller
- Emil Billman
- Manny Dannett
- Dick Pomeroy
- Bobbie Poinier
- Beverly Colodny
- Charlie Parks
- Steve Ohman
- Lucille Miller
- Jerry Meyer
- Cliff Barnett
- Marion Gyllenswan
- Betty Rosskopf

• In September, our meeting was highlighted with our fifth "Afternoon with Yuji Yoshimura" who lectured on the relationship of tree and container.

## JANUARY'S DRAWING LESSON WITH MARILYN REILLY

*Marilyn Reilly* has unusual innate abilities which make her an ideal teacher. She has both the artistic talents and skills combined with great patience, empathy, and motivation. She was able to convince many members that they really could draw! Her approach and lessons evidenced careful lesson-planning and she followed up by requesting our individual estimates of the time that should be devoted to all the elements discussed.



Drawing paper was distributed to everyone and each had brought a soft pencil and gum eraser. She began with an emphasis on posture, which should be relaxed and comfortable. We practiced on how to hold a pencil -- toward the end and loose, using the side of the pencil rather than the point. She drew the various shapes that are the atoms of all objects - circles, cones, cylinders, etc. and we all followed sketching shapes. We advanced to the technique of drawing the shapes to look three-dimensional by toning.

Assuming that light shone on our shapes from the upper-left part of the page, we shaded accordingly.

After these basics, we were each given tree branches to draw. We looked at the branch as if it was under a microscope. We drew the beginnings of buds, blemishes, scales, changes in tone and texture.

At last we were ready to draw our bonsai (we were instructed to bring a mature bonsai to draw). *Marilyn* showed us how to scale by measuring major shape changes in the tree and drawing dots on the page to mark the



trunk and branches in scale and then connect the dots. The result is that the sketch approximates the image of the bonsai.

Next we received tracing paper, to copy the outline of our drawing but incorporating changes we are contemplating, such as

adding and/or removing branches, changing angles of the trunk or branches, etc.

*Marilyn* then demonstrated various methods for transferring our drawings from sketch pads to other media suitable for a more finished and permanent illustration.



## COUNTDOWN TO MABS 28<sup>th</sup> FESTIVAL BEGINS

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> April you will find a regional (plus a handful of hearty travelers from beyond) assembly of bonsai hobbyists, professionals, and aficionados. While *Kathy Shaner* (CA) opens the proceedings with her distinctive teaching style, *Yasuo Mitsuo* (Japan) and *Steve Tolley* (UK) will be recuperating from trans-oceanic flights.

As customary, the three winter issues of our NEWSLETTER introduce one of the artists, in this instance *Steve Tolley*. He is a professional from Birmingham, UK with a broad range of talents and interests that all converge in bonsai. He teaches at his own studio, presents lecture/demonstrations, participates in exhibits, designs and styles bonsai in his studio, writes and takes photographs for international bonsai journals, and maintains some private collections in the UK and Europe.

*Steve* began his bonsai studies with *Dan Barton* focusing on bonsai aesthetics and philosophy. He later studied with some of Europe's finest bonsai artists including Japanese bonsai master *Hotsumi Terakawa*. The species which most interest him are Pine, Junipers and Yew. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious Ginko Award.

At this 28<sup>th</sup> MABS Annual Spring Festival, *Steve* will present two lecture/demonstrations, one each on Saturday and Sunday. He will also conduct a critique of the MABS Exhibit on Saturday afternoon and lead a workshop with Northern-Maine collected American Larch on Sunday. He will participate with *Kathy Shaner* and *Yasuo Mitsuya* in selecting the Best-in-Show bonsai at the MABS Exhibit and determining the winner of MABS Regional run-off of the Joshua Roth-ABS New Talent Competition.

This will be a dramatic and unusually exciting Festival. In addition to MABS participating in the American Bonsai Society New Talent Competition regional run-off (first year of regionals), MABS is presenting a Professional Artists Invitational Exhibit. More than a dozen of this country's leading bonsai professionals will exhibit some of their work.

You have a rare opportunity to see the work of renowned artists, burgeoning artists working at the Roth-ABS Competition, and some 33 trees by long-time bonsai practitioners who have not taken the professional route.

Remember, too, the vendors, friendship times, and access to bonsai practitioners all weekend long. Send in your registration form if you have not yet done so. If you misplaced your copy, email *Rhoda* ([irkleiman@verizon.net](mailto:irkleiman@verizon.net)) for a copy.

## JANUARY'S VHS TAPES NOW ON DVD

*Norm Geisinger*

Thanks to *Layne Rodney* our library collection of VHS Tapes are now in DVD format. *Layne* said they may not work on all DVD players and may work on your computer. If you wish to borrow them, they are in our closet at the GEC. Please, sign them out in the blue notebook and then back in when you return them. Thanks again to *Layne* for making our library more usable for our members.

## "MASTERS BONSAI...GROUP PLANTING" DVD - WITH BILL VALAVANIS

*Norm Geisinger*

*Mike Pollock* suggested that we should review the DVD's in Yama Ki's collection and write a summary about them for use in the newsletter. My first write-up follows:

This DVD was viewed on a Samsung player. *Bill* reviews the key elements for creating a group/forest planting using both conifer and deciduous pre-bonsai material. He covers the basics: tree selection, root and branch pruning, wiring, pot preparation, anchoring trees in pot, tree placement principles and use of moss. The majority of the presentation is using Dwarf Alberta Spruce with a short discussion using young Maple trees. The presentation is well paced, clear and easy to understand.

Ed note: When the collection has been abstracted and reviewed, we will publish a complete "booklet".

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John Cotoggio. .... Vice-President  
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Norm Geisinger. .... Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS

David Castro, Al DeAngelis, Irv Kleiman,  
Charles Muller, John Ruggio, & Nick Sajda

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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COMING EVENTS

Feb. 12	10:00 am - 12:30 pm 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	BYO Workshop YAMA KI Stories:
Mar. 12	10:00 am - 12:30 pm 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	BYO Workshop How to get the most out of a Bonsai convention Continuation of BYO Workshop
Apr. 15-17	MidAtlantic 2011 Spring Festival	
Apr. 18?	Probable evening meeting with one of MABS Presenters	

Remember to check our website ([www.yamakibonsai.org](http://www.yamakibonsai.org)) for updates and latest information

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