



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other. Sharing with the community”

February

2007

M ARTIN SCHMALENBERG’S BYO WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 10, 2007 12:00 NOON AT THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM



Marty at last year’s BYO workshop

Most members will remember *Marty Schmalenberg’s* last visit and workshop with us last February (2006), so we don’t have to repeat his impressive credentials as a bonsai master. He is still the director of Asian Studies at Blair Academy in New Jersey, where he teaches Japanese and Chinese history, culture and religion and recently opened Stillwater Studio where he teaches bonsai and sells trees and stones.

In response to last year’s many requests to repeat *Marty’s* BYO workshop, he will do a deciduous and conifer teaching class and critique and help style each members’ tree. Please wait for assistance on any second tree until everyone has had time with Marty on their first tree. Do not bring more than two trees (there is no guarantee that there will be time for your second tree). Protect any tropicals you bring by insulating and bagging them.

JANUARY’S MEETING WITH COLIN LEWIS



John’s Regida juniper

Colin Lewis’ meeting was a design exercise, “Looking to the Future.” We each received an outline image of one of *John Cotogio’s* juniper bonsai. The task, using tracing paper, was to draw projected images of the tree in five, ten, and twenty years. Paper, pencils, erasers, pens, and crayons were provided to draw the tree with all the effects of aging as well as each member’s refinement techniques and/or styling changes. All projections had to be based on the realities of the tree, i.e., its growth pattern. The goal of the lesson was to emphasize that we should plan ahead while styling, envisioning how the tree should look in 5, 10, and 20 years ahead.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE - part 1



Outline Image

Colin pointed out that we must take into account the effect of the jin and live vein on the trunk in relation to our decisions for the branches and foliage, also on the changes to the bonsai container as the trunk thickens with age, etc.



There was only time to do two versions. The creator of each drawing was asked to explain their decisions for styling changes and their assumptions for the development based on the aging of the tree over the five or twenty years of its development. It was very interesting and informative to review each member's styling changes and their visions of the tree after their immediate restyling and after twenty years of development.



MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES 24th SPRING FESTIVAL

That time of year is almost here, again: **SPRING**. This season heralds not only repotting and planting frenzies but also that wonderful weekend interlude when our region's bonsai clubs assemble for a well deserved respite that includes: bonsai education, non-mall focused shopping, refining eye-training, release from watering chores, discovering new bonsai material, sharing good fellowship.

The weekend is April 20-22 and once again the site is the very convenient Ramada Inn in East Hanover, NJ. You should have received your registration brochure in mid-December. If it is misplaced or never delivered, please call Rhoda Kleiman at 212.724.7840 or email irkleiman@rcn.com. She will mail another to you immediately or request one online at <http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/>

You will want this brochure to register for the weekend training seminars led by the Robert Steven (Indonesia), Guy Guidry and Ted Matson (both USA). They bring international expertise and training, more than a century of bonsai involvement and very distinctive approaches to bonsai. The critiques conducted by these artists provide another distinctive learning mode.

Over the past several years, the artists presented at bonsai conferences, seminars, and conventions have expressed the need to spend more time developing their materials so that they can adequately cover all the major goals of their teaching. With this in mind, the MABS Board elected to have three presenters this year in order to allow each one more time with the trees he is designing.

Mr. Ted Matson comes to MABS from Pasadena, CA. His formal bonsai training has been with leading master artists with distinctive specialties. They include both *Shigeru* and *Roy Nagatoshi*, *John Naka*, *Ben Suzuki*, *Melba Tucker*, and *Warren Hill*. This varied education enabled *Ted* to develop his own distinctive skills. *Ted's* particular interest is Shohin Bonsai and it resulted in his being a co-founder of the California Shohin Society. As an active member of several bonsai societies and clubs, including the Golden State Bonsai Foundation and the California Bonsai Society, he chaired the California Shohin Society Seminar of 2000.

Note that this year the entry tags for people coming just to the Exhibit and Vendors will clearly state that the pass limits them to these areas. The fee for these two areas is nominal, with children under 12 years-of-age free.

MABS is a cooperative festival with each club actively sharing in the planning, production, and execution of the weekend. That translates into a need for YAMA KI members to give one or two hours of their time sometime during the weekend. Two people are needed for one hour each as docents/security for the Exhibit. Our time is Sunday morning from 10:00 to 11 am.

On Friday afternoon from 4:00 - 7:00 pm we need three people to help staff the registration desk; on Saturday morning, two people from 8:00 - 9:00 am. Please email Rhoda Kleiman: irkleiman@rcn.com, Lucille Miller: lucypm@msn.com or Gail Therrien: galtbon@aol.com or call 212.724.7840 and leave a message about your willingness to pitch in. And/or if you have any questions about the MABS Festival, contact one of these YAMA KI members.

The Festival cannot happen without the help of club members. Also partners, significant others, and members who are just along for the visit are welcome to help – we provide on the spot training.

ABS LEARNING SEMINARS

Last year's Learning Seminars in Saratoga Springs, NY was a very successful format change from prior seminars. The change added a sense of balance between the usual styling demonstrations which are the concentration of most bonsai conventions and the horticultural knowledge, techniques, skills, tips, etc. discussed in depth in the seminars. We all learned not only from the presenters, but from the questions and answers from many of the seminar members (many of whom could have been presenters themselves). YAMA KI was well represented at the Seminars.

This year the ABS Learning Seminars will be held in Virginia Beach, VA from June 21st through June 23rd. Members who added bonsai to their interests within the last 10 years are eligible to compete in the New Talent Competition held during the Seminars. YAMA KI has two members who have won the competitions, *Mike Pollock* and *Kevin Goveia*. The prize is \$1,000 toward a trip to Japan. We hope that many members will attend this year's Learning Seminars and maybe add to our list of winners. Check out their website at www.absbonsai.org for details. There is a registration fee discount prior to February 1st.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION

Not all of YAMA KI members receive the National Bonsai Foundation (NBF) BULLETIN. Therefore we're including a summary of the latest issue, and hope that all of YAMA KI will support the NBF in the future – now possible with credit card on the new website.

Of primary interest is the new web page which has taken a year to design. It went onto the internet on December 1, 2006 and you can explore it at www.bonsai-nbf.org. The links from the old site have been retained and updated; the material from the old site is archived on this new site. The site is accessible to non-members except for the current year's NBF BULLETIN.

There are a multitude of photos, maps, and a link to the U.S. National Arboretum site. "Information of Interest" will change periodically. Currently it features an essay on the "History of the Introduction and Establishment of Bonsai in the Western World." This page will be the platform for bonsai professionals to write on issues of philosophical concerns as well as practical questions.

NBF activities of general interest include:

§ the fact that three of their trees were selected for display at the White House during the state visit of the Prime Minister of Japan;

§ the Museum received a gift of five rock penjing and 5 *Fraxinum hupehensis* from the Shanghai Botanic Garden;

§ the addition of two new display pedestals made possible by contributions in memory of *Jack Billet* who served as a director.

WHY WORKSHOPS MATTER*

John Edwards

Bonsai as a hands on art form requires that we learn techniques and practice them to improve our abilities and ultimately our trees. While books and lectures can be informative nothing prepares the emerging bonsai artist better than hands on lessons. Workshops are structured to provide this experience and the more of them you can participate in the better developed will be your skills. To this end our aim as a club isto provide or make our members aware of as many of these opportunities as possible. The workshops are where we grow our future bonsai artists and teachers. Workshops are also where our trees get improved and maintained.

Workshops can be structured around particular trees, or the style of a particular teacher, to teach general information such as bonsai basics or specific techniques. Take an inventory of your skills and think about where you need brushing up or new areas you would like to explore and seek out the appropriate forum and teacher. Workshops also provide you with the insights of a particular teacher as well as the those of other participants and help to grow your bonsai knowledge and experience.

* Bonsai Society of San Francisco's Newsletter, May 2004 (see www.bonsaitalk.com/lug)

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COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 10 12:00 pm *Marty Schmalenberg* Bonsai maintenance and styling class & BYO workshop
- Mar. 10 12:00 pm *Arthur Skolnik*: Larch clump demo and BYO Workshop
- Apr. 14 12:00 pm *David Benevante* : large collected juniper lecture/demo
- Apr 20-22 MidAtlantic Spring Festival

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