

YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other. Sharing with the community”

February

2009

TODD HANSON ON TOOL SHARPENING TECHNIQUES SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2009 AT 12:00 NOON BARTLETT ARBORETUM

The February 14th meeting will be “sharp” as *Todd Hansen* guides us through the skills used to keep our tools in prime condition – especially the ones used for cutting. Bring your tools, a wet or dry stone, and perhaps your YAMA KI apron. If time permits, *Todd* will also conduct a wiring workshop, a skill most of us need to refresh, review, and hone.



Todd is the proprietor of Sanctuary Bonsai in Hartford, CT. He has studied with numerous bonsai artists from around the world in day-long workshop formatted events. He has been an active member of 5 clubs locally and nationally for many years. The Bonsai Society of Greater Hartford has benefitted from his skills while serving on their Board for several years. He is a guest lecturer and instructor at many Bonsai and Garden Clubs and Bonsai Exhibitions. He has published articles in bonsai magazines and authored a 12-part series on Bonsai History and Technique for Connecticut Public Television. Since 2003 some of his trees have received awards at juried national and regional exhibits. *Todd* promised to bring some things from his nursery for sale. Check out his website, <http://www.sanctuarybonsai.com>.

JANUARY MEETINGS??

Not once, but twice we had to cancel our meeting because of snow. Many of us were very eager to watch *John Cotoggio* and *Mike Pollock* jointly present a bonsai lecture/demonstration. It will have to wait for another day - but their presentation will probably be completely different from what they had planned and prepared. It is assumed that many members took advantage of the cancellation to walk in the woods to enjoy the snow on the branches which highlighted the trees’ “composition”.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

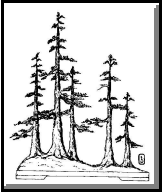
Norm Geisinger

The Board of Directors has decided that the MABS Spring Festival, April 17-19, will serve as our monthly club meeting for April. We encourage everyone to attend the convention... even if for Saturday only. It is a great place to see top notch artists, learn some new techniques, share your bonsai experiences with others, purchase some of those bonsai supplies you need, or win a tree in the raffles.

You should have received your registration packet, if you did not get it let me know and I will arrange to have one sent to you. YAMA KI also benefits from your attendance since the profits are shared among the clubs based on attendance...last year we had the highest club attendance and received \$1,900.

CARPOOL--If you are interested in forming a carpool & sharing the costs to travel to the Festival, let me know and I will give you contact information for others who wish to do the same. Let me know when you wish to go.

MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES



Many of us have interests that are tangential to bonsai. One of these is succulents which we can raise very successfully indoors in a minimum of space and with a modicum of attention to watering. With these points in mind, *Susan Amoy* will open the 26th SPRING FESTIVAL on Friday night, April 17.

Her interest in succulents goes back 30 years, and more than 15 years ago she expanded horticulturally into bonsai. She shares a bit of heritage with our new President in that she grew up in Hawaii where her parents grew orchids. Educationally her background was in the fine arts when she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in that field....developing her eye for bonsai even though she did not know it at the time.

Susan is professionally active as a corporate design consultant for interior landscapes, maintaining bonsai for private clients, conducting workshops and lectures on both succulents and traditional bonsai. She is also active in several horticulturally related societies.

For the MABS weekend she will not only present a lecture/demonstration on Friday night, but she will conduct a critique of the EXHIBIT on Saturday. She will be around for bonsai/succulent conversation. Then on Sunday she will lead participants in a workshop using large, collected *Bursera fagaroides* which are a semi-tropical succulent about 50 years old.

Adding to your enjoyment of the Festival at the Hudson Valley Resort & Spar this year, the Columbia Room will house our Exhibit. You will find it not only more spacious than last year's exhibit room, but much brighter and somewhat nearer to the main lecture/demonstration room.(Ballroom B). Think about your bonsai (safely tucked away in this crazy weather) and envision one of them displayed as one of YAMA KI'S entries.

BURSERA FAGAROIDES

Do you have a Biblical orientation? Frankincense and myrrh are resins which come from some genera of *Bursera fagaroides* (fragrant *Bursera*) -- the plant which *Susan Amoy* will use for her lecture/demonstration and workshop at the April MABS Spring Festival. Interestingly, it is native to both the Old and New Worlds. We thought you might want to know more about the botanical history and behavior of this semi-tropical material. It is a member of the Burseraceae family – commonly Torchwood with this variant known as “Elephant Tree.” Generally its maximum height is 5', with a stubby trunk which is reddish-brown and peels to grey-green. Its compound leaves are cream to greenish. It presents a lovely display all through the year starting in spring with small green-grey, aromatic flowers that mature into a single seed which may be yellow or red. It can be cultivated from seeds or cuttings. Surprisingly for a succulent it takes moderate water, good sunlight, and doesn't do well below about 34° F. Commercially the trees remain valuable for they are used to produce incense and for treating asthma.



EXHIBIT MY BEST BONSAI ?

At MidAtlantic's Spring Festival, each of the 11 member clubs shows three bonsai at the EXHIBIT. April 17-19 this year is the festival weekend. The trees should be three of the best trees held among a club's members – name to large size, any species, just QUALITY bonsai.

So many of YAMA KI's members have developed their trees to an “exhibitable” stage, that the Board hopes you are interested in publicly sharing one of your holdings (may be more, if name). Please bring it to the March YAMA KI meeting or submit a good color photo to *Gail Therrien*: Galtbon@aol.com. A committee of Board members will select the three to represent YAMA KI in 2009 at MABS.

The MABS Exhibit Committee has tightened the entrance standards. That means that no tree, even though chosen by a Club, will be exhibited which is in a dirty or stained pot, has sloppy wiring, is not well groomed, or has

any type of disease or insects. This new rule has come about from MABS' exhibit-training with visiting international headliners.

Bring your plants with the following preparation:*

- ✓ Groom your trees by removing any surface debris including twigs, leaves, weeds, etc.
- ✓ Replace or freshen moss or other ground cover.
- ✓ Polish pots by removing mineral deposits, soil and water spots.
- ✓ Bring mats of a neutral color (e.g., bamboo or grasscloth) or stands for positioning your bonsai.
- ✓ Accent plants are welcome as they are a traditional part of a bonsai display.

* Sounds familiar? Its reprinted from our May 2007 newsletter. The August 2003 issue of our newsletter contains a detailed article on preparing bonsai for display by *Colin Lewis*. You can view or print it, leisurely at home, at our website (www.yamakibonsai.org). Click on Club Newsletters on the left side column of our home page.

By April 1st, we must provide the Exhibit Committee with the tree's data: name (English & Latin names, approximate age [if known], number of years in training by owner). The owner may choose to have her/his name with the tree or simply leave it with the Club's name.

FIRST TIME MABS' REGISTRANTS' SPECIAL DEAL!

If you will be a first-time registrant for the full weekend's basic registration at the 26th Spring Festival, you may register for half (1/2) price the same holds true for your spouse--this does not include critiques or workshops. Take advantage of this exceptional savings and register before April 1st for the weekend of April 17-19. See the MidAtlantic article elsewhere in this issue.

If you need another registration form, please request it from *Rhoda Kleiman* at irkleiman@rcn.com or by phone: 212.724.7840.

NEW TREASURER

Norm Geisinger

About six months ago *Irv* notified the Board of Directors that he wished to step down as Treasurer after many, many years of service in that position. *Len Douglas* has stepped up to the plate and volunteered to assume the Treasurer's responsibilities. *Irv* and *Len* have been meeting over the past two months to transition the accounting records and duties. The transfer of the checkbook ceremony scheduled for January, will occur immediately before the February meeting.

I have asked *Irv* to remain on the Board as a Director so his experience and advice continues to be available in guiding the club in the future...he has agreed to do so.

I want to thank *Irv* for his many years of service to YAMA KI as its Treasurer and welcome *Len* as an Officer & Board member.



Our February meeting is the 14th, widely celebrated as a day to admit of deep affection and commitment. We take the opportunity to use this space and the festive day to admit to our deep affection and commitment to YAMA KI and to BONSAI and to thank YAMA KI for honoring us with lifetime membership and an elegant trophy. In the spring of 1986 we "fell into this world "when we took Yuji Yoshimura's beginners' class at the New York Botanical Garden. He opened, for us, the pleasures or seeing nature's bounty with new eyes, of working its material within the guidelines set by an ancient culture as we create within a new aesthetic. He steered us to YAMA KI where we have found friendship as well as creative guidance in this deeply satisfying hobby. It is we who thank YAMA KI for the years of pleasure gained from our participation symbolized by the award and certificate.

Irv & Rhoda

OFFICERS

Norm Geisinger. President
Mike Pollock. Vice-President
Len Douglas. Treasurer
Lavanya Muller. Secretary
Gail Therrien. Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS

David Castro, John Cotoggio, David Cruz,
Irv Kleiman, Charles Muller, and John Ruggio

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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COMING EVENTS

Feb. 14 12:00 pm *Todd Hanson: Tool Sharpening
Techniques*
Mar. 14 12:00 pm *Marty Schmalenberg*
Apr. 17-19 *MidAtlantic Spring Festival*

Remember to check our website (www.yamakibonsai.org) for updates and latest information

WEATHER HOTLINES

Norman Geisinger..... 203-746-3200
Irv & Rhoda Kleiman..... 212-724-7840
Mike Pollock..... 914-764-5557

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