



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other. Sharing with the community”

January

2008

MARTIN SCHMALENBERG ON CONIFERS JANUARY 12, 2008 12:00 NOON BARTLETT ARBORETUM

Marty has been intensely involved in bonsai since he started studying on his own in 1972. Since then he has studied with *Hiro Yoshi Yamaji* and *Mikio Oshima*. *William Valavanis* has been a major influence in *Marty's* bonsai pursuits. From his years of study and his artist's eye, he has developed a style of his own firmly based on the art of Japanese masters. He has become renowned as a teacher and has headlined in conventions all over the US. Having studied North American trees for more than 30 years, in 2006 American Bonsai Society asked him to organize the first major exhibit devoted exclusively to bonsai using native materials. In order to pay the rent and fulfill his first passion – teaching – *Marty* teaches Japanese and Chinese history, culture, and religion at the Blair Academy. He also holds classes and sells trees and stones at his Stillwater Studio.

Marty's “seminar” on January 12th will concentrate on Conifers. He asks that members bring a bonsai which he will constructively critique.



Marty critiquing at last year's meeting

CONIFERS

♫ Oh tannenbaum, oh tannenbaum... So many people believe that all evergreens are cone-bearing trees with long thin needles. The reality is that most evergreens are plants which do not drop their leaves by season. They may be narrow-leaved or broad-leaved and they are more likely to have broad leaves like Camellia, Eucalyptus, and Rhododendron. Leaf color will vary by season. Warm climate evergreens (usually in moist areas) will be broad-leaved with very few conifers found in the region.

About 550 species are included in the Conifer class of the gymnosperms and with distribution most widely in temperate zones. The class includes woody plants, many shrub-like, as well as the elegant tall trees we associate with the word “Conifer.” Natural habitats tend to be high land and thin soil. When moved to cultivated areas they do flourish in enriched soil.

The cones can be berry-like as well as the familiar scale-like ones. An identifying trait is the balsamic odor that emanates from most of them. Surprisingly, there are a few deciduous members in the class (e.g., Bald cypress, Dawn redwood).

Spring, just as you see swelling buds, is the ideal time for transplanting Conifers, although early autumn is ok if the soil is moist and you take care to prevent dessication. HORTUS¹ notes that younger trees have a greater likelihood of surviving transplanting.

¹Hortus Third. A Concise Dictionary of Plants Cultivated in the United States and Canada. Revised and Expanded by the staff of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences a Statutory college of the State University at Cornell University. New York: Macmillan, 1976.

DECEMBER'S HOLIDAY FETE

Rhoda Kleiman

With a bow to *Richard Rodgers* and *Josh Logan* and their brilliant lyrics for "South Pacific", we ask you to smile and think of the ditty "There is nothin' like a dame." ♪ Hum it if you choose.

Potters, Diggers and Clippers:

We had sunlight on our soils,
We had moonlight on our stands,
We had rocks and some things arty.
And a lot of ready hands.
Where was it at?
At YK's party !

We had sushi and salami,
We had chicken cordon bleu,
We had punch and kicker too,
We needed no A-Seltzer for the stew.
We had eaters and some nibblers,
We had speeches from our Skipper,
And some cheering from the crew,



We had auctioneers and bidders
We had wires - aluminum and copper,
We had books and tools and pots,
We had bonsai items to consider
All found in many lots.
Where was it at?
YK's party spot !

Lots of things are beautiful, but brother,
There is one particular hobby that is nothin'
whatsoever
In any way, shape or form like any other.

There is nothin' like a bonsai,
Nothin' in the world,
There is nothin' to make you sigh
That is anythin' like a bonsai.

MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES

Starting news is that a new club has joined MABS. The Bonsai Society of Springfield, MA is now fully participatory. You'll hear more about their activities in the future. Remember that MABS clubs welcome members from the group at their meetings.

At the December MABS Board meeting your representatives brought back the REGISTRATION BROCHURE for the April 11-13, 25th Anniversary Spring Festival. Most of our members took their copies at the Holiday Party. The balance were mailed to your homes shortly thereafter.

If you want to take one of the Artist's Critiques or one of the workshops, send in your reservation ASAP; and you also save quite a bit of money with early registration. This stands to be an outstanding Festival in new, upscale surroundings.

It is the best forum for talking bonsai with professionals and fellow hobbyists who've been working with bonsai for a long time. It is a convenient site for picking up new material just as the planting season is opening up.

Keeping with our tradition of a local artist on Friday night, *George LeBolt* of Bergen Bonsai will open the Festival. He was one of the early students of *Yuji Yoshimura* and *Frank Okamura*. His bonsai have garnered many honors including BCI's "President's Award", MABS "Best of Show" in '05 and its "President's Award" in '06. He is an active member of Bergen, serving as its president for the past 15 years and serves on the MABS Board (past president). *George's* renown has spread along the east coast and he has presented programs in many clubs as well as at the New York Botanical Garden. As he explored plant material over the years, studying with his engineering background thoroughness, he developed a particular interest in tropical material – now about 40% of his collection. He will share the benefit of this passion when on Friday evening his program will be "Everything You'd Ever Want to Know About Brazilian Raintrees."

You can take a critique with him on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday participate in his workshop featuring mature, trained Brazilian raintrees which need reduction, trimming, and little wiring.

BONSAI BEGINNERS' CLASS

A beginners' class series on bonsai styling and maintenance will be conducted again this Spring. Designed specifically for members new to bonsai, other members may attend, subject to class size limitations. There will be three Monday evening sessions from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Bartlett Arboretum's Education building (our usual meeting place) probably in March. *Berni Gastrich* will be teaching the classes assisted by experienced club members. If you are interested, call *Berni* at (914) 764-5022 or email at gastrichba@juno.com. Full details will be announced at the January meeting and the next newsletter.

YAMA KI @ KIKU

Norman Geisinger

As president, I want to thank all those members who gave of their time to participate in YAMA KI'S bonsai exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden's KIKU exhibition. This included planning, tree selection, tree exhibition and docents: *David Castro, John Cotoggio, Len Douglas, Ann Gastrich, Bernie Gastrich, Floyd Hasselriis, Helen Hasselriis, Rupen Kiskanyan, Irv Kleiman, Rhoda Kleiman, Maggie Limburg, Lucille Miller, Charles Muller, Lavanya Muller, Mike Pollock, Joann Spence, Gail Therrien, & Joan Thomas*. The KIKU exhibition was a great success and in no small part due to the efforts of these Yama Ki members. THANKS AGAIN!

MEETING CANCELLATION

If it becomes necessary to cancel a meeting . . . if possible a note will be posted on the website and/or emailed to you directly. Check both before coming to the meeting. Also, you can call a Weather Hotline listed on the last page.

2008 NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBIT SATURDAY & SUNDAY OCTOBER 11-12, 2008 ROCHESTER, NY

Most of us have salivated with envy each time *Mike Pollack, John Cotaggio*, and others have returned from the Ginko show in Belgium describing the exhibits and demonstrations. Finally, *Bill Valavanis* (International Bonsai) has organized the U.S. version: the National Bonsai Exhibit (NBE), for the pleasure and convenience of all of us! The daily admission is incredibly only \$15 or a weekend pass for \$20.

Check out the website: www.internationalbonsai.com/nbe08. There will be continuous demonstrations by two of our favorite artists, *Kathy Shaner* and *Sutin Sukosolvisit*. Over 200 prejudged fine quality bonsai will be on display - many from private collections which have never been publicly exhibited. Both traditional and formal alcove displays will allow these masterpieces "to come alive with accessory plantings, scrolls, paintings, figurines and more."

"A sales area will complete the National Bonsai Exhibition where select vendors will be displaying and selling their bonsai, pre-bonsai, rare plants, containers, wire, tools, supplies, display stands, books, publications, scrolls, paintings and other items for bonsai creation, display and enjoyment. *Dr. Alice W. Chen*, noted Oriental brush painting artist and scientist will be demonstrating her art. Paintings as well as scrolls suitable for displaying with bonsai will be available."

On Saturday night (October 11th), there will be an Award Banquet Ceremony (\$25 [is this a misprint?]). The National Bonsai Award of \$3,000 goes to the finest specimen of the NBE. There are additional awards for the finest evergreen, the finest deciduous, the finest classical design bonsai, and more from \$2,000 to \$1,000.



Dwarf Hinoki Cypress- Harvey B. Carapella
from the internationalbonsai.com website

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Mike Pollock. Vice-President
Irv Kleiman. Treasurer
. Corresponding Secretary
Steve Peach. Recording Secretary
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DIRECTORS

David Castro, John Cotaggio, David Cruz,
Kevin Goveia, Rupen Kiskanyan, and Lavanya Muller

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

Jan.	12	12:00 pm	<i>Marty Schmalenberg</i> teaching lecture
Feb.	9	12:30 pm	<i>Mike Hagedorn</i> displaying bonsai
Mar.	8	10:00 am	<i>Colin Lewis</i> repotting & wiring workshop
Apr	9	?	Dinner and <i>Min Hsuan Lo</i> , MABS presenter
Apr	11-13		MidAtlantic Spring 2008 Festival

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

WEATHER HOTLINES

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Mike Pollock..... 914-764-5557

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