



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

January

2007

COLIN LEWIS' TIPS & TRICKS  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007  
BARTLETT ARBORETUM @ 1:00 PM



As always, with *Colin Lewis*, it will be a novel, interesting and educational meeting! *Colin* will do design exercises with some trunk drawings based on a Juniper that *John Cotogio* is “working on”. *Colin* will also critique ONE tree that each member brings to the meeting. His critiques always suggest directions for improving the styling aesthetics of the tree (since no tree, as with humans, is perfect).

There will be a Board meeting at 10:00 AM, before our regular meeting at 1:00 PM. Any member interested in attending is welcome. You can express your opinions, but you can't vote. If you wish to participate in the planning and activities of YAMA KI, indicate your interest and you will become a candidate for the Board at the next elections in July.

## COLIN CONTINUES THE WEEKEND AT SHANTI BITHI

*Colin Lewis* is going to remain in our area and be at Shanti Bithi the next day on Sunday the 14th and Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>. He is going to restyle a large pine from their collection, with the intention of writing an article for a magazine, and possibly entering it in a competition. This is not a workshop or an open house, and they aren't advertising it because they are essentially closed at this time of year, and space is very limited. But *Colin* said he doesn't mind having observers. YAMA KI members who would enjoy the further opportunity to watch the master at work are invited. *Lavanya Muller* promised to provide hot coffee, tea, and light snacks. The work area will be chilly. Hours are up to *Colin*, probably 9-ish to 5-ish.

## COLIN ORGANIZING TRIP TO GINKGO EXHIBITION

*Colin* will be repeating his very successful 2005 trip to the Ginkgo Exhibition and Awards this year. Yama Ki members who took the trip with *Colin* came back enthusiastic and overwhelmed by the artistry displayed and the opportunity to get close and personal with many of the greatest bonsai artists and their masterpieces. For details visit <http://www.bonsaideals.com/Ginkgo>.

## HOLIDAY PARTY & AUCTION PLEASED BOTH STOMACH AND POCKET BOOK!

Members arrived before 11:30 AM to set up only to find that the Arboretum is renovating the Education Building. We maneuvered around their cartons of building materials and light fixtures to set up a festive table. Many members came bringing all kinds of food, from salads and appetizers to hot turkey, chicken, ham, and meatballs, pastas and delicious desserts. Members whom we haven't seen all year came as did “the regulars” and some of our new members.

Not only was there a surfeit of delicious edibles, but we had a highly successful auction. The mood was giddy throughout the day. It was heightened with *Pete Halm* and *Mike Pollock*, auctioneers, bantering with bidders. YAMA KI benefitted from the many donations of plant material, fine tools, containers of every possible size and style, books, periodicals, and miscellaneous items. Excess food from the table-bountiful was auctioned and some was given as a bonus to winning bidders of bonsai material. And to top it all off, members walked away with unbelievable bargains with most winning bids from \$1.00 up to less than 50% of their value.

Thanks to everyone who helped with preparations, brought the bounteous table items, donated the auction materials, and then helped with the clean up - just too many to list.

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN (NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS)

The following article is most appropriate for us all. It's from the January 2006 issue of the Bonsai Society of Greater St. Louis Newsletter (Vol. 4 No. 1)

res o l u t i o n *n.* 1. The state or quality of being resolute: firm determination. 2. The act of resolving to do something.

Ask most Americans what their New Year's resolution will be, and you will probably hear one or all of the following: lose weight, quit smoking and save more/spend less. Weight loss, quit smoking and save more/spend less, the Big Three! But what about your bonsai, what resolutions are you going to make regarding your bonsai collection and the care you provide your trees?

Since I cannot speak for others in the club here are my bonsai resolutions for 2006:

1. *I resolve to fertilize my trees when it is required, not when I happen to think about it.* I presently have about 65-70 containers with trees in them and while I never fail to water I often neglect the carefully thought-out fertilizer regimen I planned. Or worse, I forget to fertilize and quickly adopt some haphazard approach like fertilize every two weeks, regardless of the time of year or the species of tree. This year it will be different, do the research, make a schedule, and stick to it.
2. *I resolve to stop thinking that "big is better". It's time to consider shohin, or mame sized bonsai.* Since I first got involved in bonsai (the art of miniaturizing trees) I have methodically tried to grow big, majestic trees in pots. I bought nice little trees, brought them home and then did everything in my power to change them into big trees. Looking back on it now, the whole process seems a little silly and (I apologize if this sounds like "work-talk") a misuse of time and resources. I have not become anti-big bonsai (you cannot deny the powerful image created by a large black pine) but my resolution for 2006 is to look for inspiration in alternate directions, both big and small.
3. *And finally, I resolve to document my plans and ideas for my bonsai designs.* I enjoy reading articles about the development of beautiful bonsai and the one thing I have noticed is that the artist's that create memorable images always start with a firm plan. They examine a tree carefully, note its strengths and weaknesses, and through a series of sketches create a future image or goal they can work toward. (The traditional approach, is to use pencil and paper to sketch an image. However, I plan on taking a digital photo of a tree, printing the photo as large as possible on 8 ½ x11 printer paper and then using brightly colored markers to "draw" the new image over the photo.)

### BONSAI NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

*from Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society's January 2006 "The Twig" (slightly edited)*

I will remove wire BEFORE the tree grows into it.

I will fertilize my bonsai on time.

I will repot all the bonsai that need it.

I will trim on time.

I will critically look at my bonsai and restyle those that need it.

I will remove bonsai from my collection that I do not like and can not see a way to restyle into something I like.

I will work on my bonsai more often.

I will not grow more bonsai than I can care for properly.

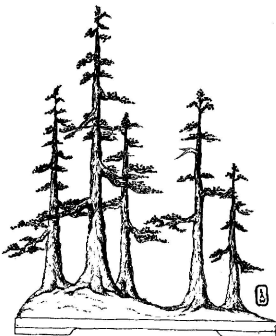
I will come to all the YAMA KI meetings and bring show trees.

I will attend MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival in April

YAMA KI'S SCHEDULE FOR 2007  
(Pretty definite, but subject to change)

January 13	<i>Colin Lewis</i>
February 10	<i>Marty Schmalenberg</i>
March 10	<i>Arthur Skolnik</i>
April ?	<i>Ted Matson</i>
April 20 - 22	MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival
May 5	<i>David Benevante</i>
June 9	<i>Colin Lewis</i> with Shanti Bithi Nursery
July 14	Annual Meeting & Summer Auction
August 11	<i>John Romano</i>
September ?	TBA
October 6	<i>Marco Invernizzi</i>
October ?	YAMA KI Bonsai Exhibit at NY Botanical Garden
November ?	TBA
December 8	Annual Holiday Party & Auction

MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES 2997 SPRING FESTIVAL



Everyone should have received their Registration Forms for the Spring Festival which will be held again at the Ramada Hotel in East Hanover, New Jersey. The dates are Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, April 22, 2007. Now is the time to mail in your reservation to reserve your spot in the Workshop and/or the Critique of your choice, as well as enjoy an early-bird discount. The bonsai artists featured are *Robert Steven*, *Guy Guidry*, and *Ted Matson*. Enjoy the convenience of shopping leisurely for all your bonsai needs in the Vendor Room. The vendors are carefully screened and selected in order to provide multiple choices of pre-bonsai and styled bonsai plants, trays and containers, tools, accessories, books, etc. Many members have said that, in addition to the programs, they learn a great deal in casual conversations with fellow bonsai enthusiasts over meals or just lounging.

NOTES FROM YAMA KI'S BONSAI ALMANAC

1. For plants kept indoors or in a greenhouse, temperature must be above 50°. Make sure temperature is warm enough to keep plants active. Watch for drafts which will damage plants.
2. If planning for a vacation, arrange for bonsai care.
3. Allocate some of the time normally devoted to summer plant maintenance to:
  - a. Clean and sharpen your tools.
  - b. Check your wire and soil supply.
  - c. Study books on bonsai, horticulture, etc.
  - d. Bring you bonsai records up to date.

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Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

Jan..	13	10:00 am	Board of Directors meeting
		1:00 pm	<i>Colin Lewis</i>
Feb.	10	1:00 pm	<i>Marty Schmalenberg</i>
Mar.	10	1:00 pm	<i>Arthur Skolnik</i>

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