

YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

June

2012

MABS

Lavanya Muller, Secretary

This year's MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival featured presentations by Isao Omachi (Japan), John Thompson (USA), and Chase Rosade (USA), as well as two Bonsai exhibits: a formal display by bonsai amateurs who are members of the 11 participating clubs, and an invitational display by 15 bonsai professionals. Rhoda and Irv have shared their photos. For a slideshow, see the **NEWS** section of the Yama Ki site: <http://www.yamakibonsai.org/>

The event was an excellent opportunity to see and appreciate (or deplore) the level of artistry that American bonsai enthusiasts are achieving. Also, the event provided a chance to learn from the masters, to mix with the bonsai community, to win a tree in one of the raffles, and to purchase all kinds of necessary and desirable bonsai accoutrements. If you missed the event this year, hopefully you'll be able to attend in 2013. *It is always a lot of fun!*

As usual, many Yama Ki members attended. And, also as usual, one of Mike Pollock's trees received one of the three awards that are given out each year. Mike's exposed-root shohin Japanese white pine (pictured) won the 2012 President's Award. This tree is one of two that will be on exhibit next month at the 3rd US National Bonsai Exhibition in [Rochester](#). We urge everyone to attend the event this year! If you need a ride, see *THE ROCHESTER SHOW* topic in this newsletter.



Mike has an illustrious history of wins at MABS. In 2006, 2007, 2009, and 2011, as well as this year, a tree displayed by Mike won either Best in Show, Peoples' Choice, or the MABS President's Award, and sometimes more than one in a show! Mike gives great credit for his excellent trees and bonsai skills to his teacher Colin Lewis, to John Cotoggio, and to his many other bonsai friends. ***Congratulations Mike! Your fellow club members are really proud of you!***

Norm Geisinger, the only other exhibitor from Yama Ki this year, showed a charming Korean hornbeam forest planting. Each club is allowed 3 display slots for the exhibit, but only Mike and Norm felt that their trees were ready to show. Remember to get your trees ready well in advance if you would like the opportunity to show them next year.

Yama Ki member, **Mike Humphrey**, showed a Chinese Elm under the auspices of the other club he belongs to, the Great Swamp Bonsai Society.

THE ROCHESTER SHOW – NO YAMA KI MEETING IN JUNE

Mike Pollock, President

The 2012 U. S. National Bonsai Exhibition will be held this year at the Fair & Expo Center in Rochester NY (Saturday & Sunday, June 9-10, 2012 9am to 5pm). **As such, there will be no Yama Ki club meeting in June.** See the Rochester site for show details:

http://www.internationalbonsai.com/store/1708315/uploaded/2012_national_exhibition/index.html

Rima Chatterjee has kindly offered to coordinate putting people together for travel. If you're interested, email Rima at RLChatterjee@gmail.com. It is so encouraging to see how many of us are going to the show. Seeing the highest level of bonsai and connecting with the people creating those trees is the best way to learn and appreciate bonsai. See you all there!

MARTY SCHMALENBERG – MAY MEETING TRAINING AND DEVELOPING A BONSAI EYE

Lavanya Muller, Secretary

Our May meeting featured Marty Schmalenberg, without his usual shears and pruners in hand. After a short introduction about the concept of bonsai as art, Marty gave a PowerPoint presentation aimed at teaching us how to really “see” a bonsai. Using a series of carefully-chosen photos of actual bonsai and illustrations from bonsai books, Marty encouraged us to evaluate each tree, pointing out its flaws, if any. Next, we had the opportunity to consider different things that might be done to improve that tree, keeping in mind the principles of good bonsai design.

Some of the photos were “before” and “after” shots of the same tree, demonstrating how much a poor tree – or even a good one – can be improved, sometimes with quite small changes. It was a challenging mental workout and an excellent learning experience!

- Finding the design
- Direction
- Character
- Triangles
- Does the tree tell a story?
- Developing balance
- Proportion
- Are rules necessary?
- Empty space
- Natural vs. refined

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## YAMA KI DUES...ARE OVERDUE

*Len Douglas, Treasurer*

Single: \$40.00 OR Family: \$50.00

Please make out checks to: **Yama Ki Bonsai Society**

Send Payments to: **Yama Ki Bonsai, 65 Trolley Road Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567**

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SUMMER PICNIC AND AUCTION – JULY 14TH

[James Glatthaar](#) has graciously volunteered to host the Yama Ki picnic/auction this year! As usual, the Board will meet prior to the picnic around 10:30 AM, with the picnic and auction starting at Noon. We will need volunteers, please contact [Mike Pollock](#) if you can help.

YAMA KI PUTS ON A SHOW - STAMFORD MUSEUM AND NATURE CENTER

Lavanya Muller, Secretary

This was a huge success!

On Saturday and Sunday, April 28 & 29, the Stamford Museum and Nature Center was the venue for a bonsai exhibit created by members of the Yama Ki Bonsai Society. Special thanks to Layne Rodney, whose inspiration identified the museum as a possible location for a show.

Layne was the main liaison between Yama Ki and the Stamford Museum, and did a great job making sure we had everything we needed, and that things went smoothly.

More than 40 trees, all belonging to club members, were displayed in a beautiful indoor setting. Thank you to all the members who prepared their trees for display and brought them in to the museum: Al DeAngelis, Berni Gastrich, Bernie Gordon, Charlie Muller, Gail Therrien, Jim Glatthaar, Joan Thomas, Len Douglas, Lucille Miller, Maggie Limburg, Mark Toepke, Mike Humphrey, Mike Pollock, Nick Sajda, Norm Geisinger, Pete Halm, Peter Schnur, Rima Chatterjee, Saeko Oshiro, Susan Simons, and Shanti Bithi Nursery.



Visitors to the museum were delighted by the variety and beauty of the trees on show. More than ten visitors mentioned to the docents that they came to the museum specifically to see the bonsai.

Docents for the show included Rhoda & Irv, Al, Nick, Layne, Norm, Mike, and others. Thanks also to Al, Charlie, Layne, Mike, and Norm for spending most of Friday before the show setting everything up at the Museum.

Joan has posted a slide show on our website's home page (<http://www.yamakibonsai.org/>), of photos from the exhibit taken by her and Berni Gastrich.

If you would like a copy of the original photo file, contact Joan (joanmariethomas@yahoo.com, phone: 203-270-7596).

DVD REVIEW: BONSAI--Art & Horticulture

Norm Geisinger, former President

Bill Valavanis presents the [bonsai basics](#). This DVD is a good intro for the first meeting of a beginner's class. Bill discusses: trees for bonsai, styles and forms, pruning, wiring, container selection and preparation, potting, care and maintenance. He performs a demo using a pre-bonsai Blue Moss Cypress which includes initial front and pruning, decisions to potting, and moss application.

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*Norm at the Garden Education Center's 51st Annual May Gardeners Market.*  
*(Photo to the right)*  
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Bonsai Obesity

Those of us who have been growing bonsai for a few decades will have noticed a trend towards ever thicker and shorter trunks. In Japan many development nurseries have had to shorten and re-design their stock in order to appeal to current tastes.

There's nothing wrong with heavy, powerful trunks, mind you, but I confess that I do mourn the passing of grace and elegance as familiar elements in bonsai design. This coincides with the decline of fine deciduous specimens being produced. Perhaps the two are linked: there is an inherent elegance in the branch structure of a deciduous masterpiece, and failure to consider this when planning and pruning leads to ugliness.



Compare these two sketches, both from great bonsai visionaries: on the left by John Naka, 1980 and on the right, from Sandro Segneri, 2010.

To read the rest of the Bonsai Obesity article, contact Colin Lewis and subscribe to his newsletter:
<http://www.bonsaideals.com/help.php?section=contactus&mode=update>

CEDAR APPLE RUST – CAR

Bernie Gastrich, Member

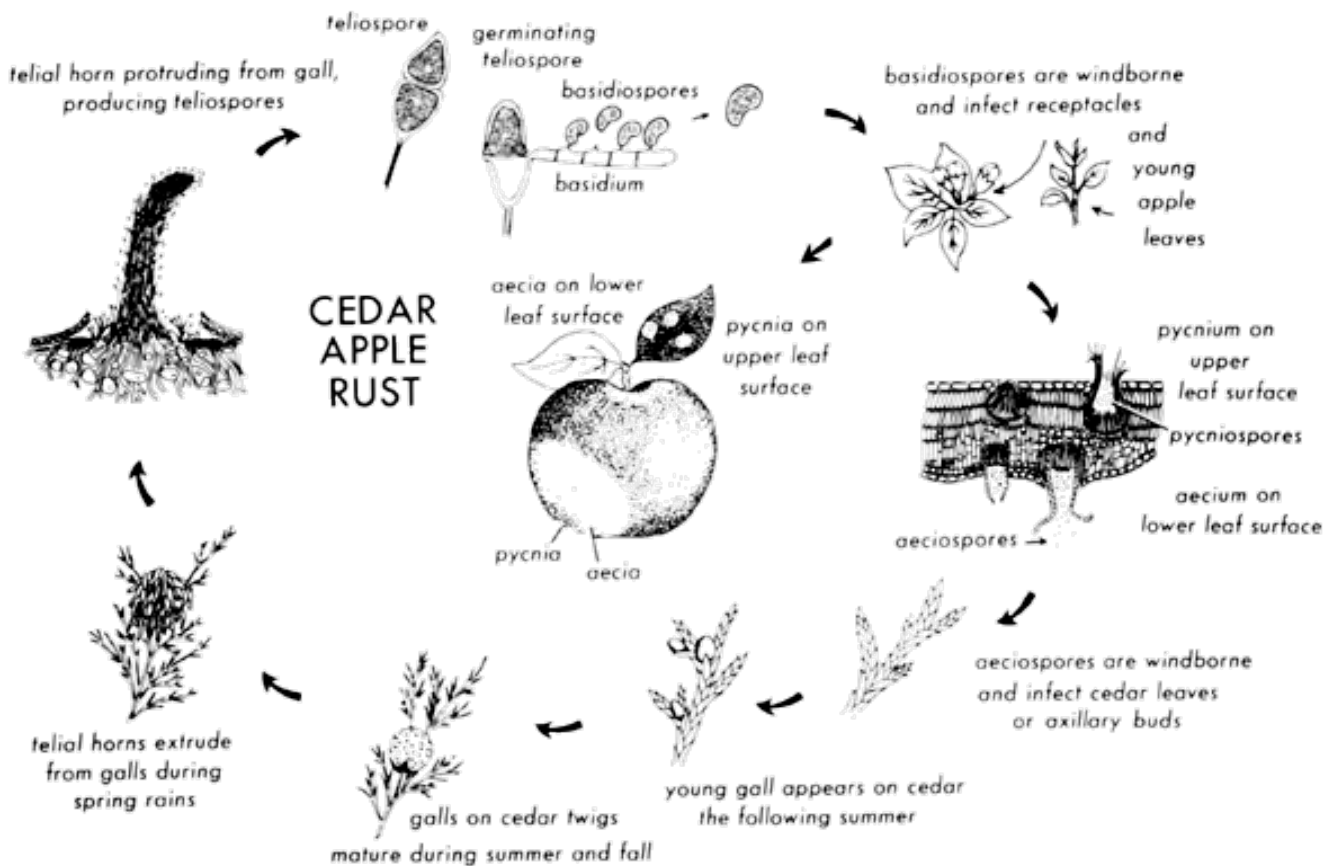
Have any of your trees, usually junipers and cedar, turned into an orange **JELLO** tree?

That orange color and blobs are not JELLO! It is the spring phase of a fungus called *Cedar Apple Rust*. If it is on your trees you need to deal with it now. At this time of year the orange blooms come out after a rain storm. What I do is to cut the branch off the tree behind the bloom.

Yes, cut the branch off, it will die beyond the bloom area. Destroy bloom and branch...burn it or put in sealed container which goes into your garbage. You must get rid of the **entire** orange bloom...all parts of it!



The treatment for Cedar Apple rust is a spray with DACONIL (active ingredient chlorothanoli) approximately every two weeks during the springtime. This has COMPLETELY eliminated the problem for me. If you have had the orange slime recently then by all means do two very thorough sprays from both above and below, and when the entire trunk as well as the foliage. Since Apple is the alternate host spraying any bonsai apple trees is equally important. If there are full-size apple trees in your area you must be very thorough every spring with the Daconil spray.



CAR Life Cycle Illustration. See also <http://osufacts.okstate.edu>, look for Document EPP-7611.

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Rima Chatterjee, Al DeAngelis, Charles Muller,
Layne Rodney, John Ruggio, & Nick Sajda

Editor - Joan Thomas

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COMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
June 9-10		U. S. National Bonsai Exhibition	Rochester NY
July 14	12:00	Picnic and Auction (Board meets at 10:30 AM)	9 Brandywine Drive, White Plains, NY

For updates and the latest information, check your email or our website: www.yamakibonsai.org

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