



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

March

2012

SEAN SMITH'S PRESENTATION ON BONSAI DISPLAYS

Lavanya Muller

Sean Smith visited the club and presented a lecture and hands-on workshop on displaying bonsai. Being able to proudly show your bonsai is your reward for the time and concern you have invested in making your trees beautiful. Each tree is like a part of you; you have an emotional connection to your trees. Therefore, when you show them, you should make every effort to make them look their best.

A 2-point display is a tree and an accent plant, figurine, suiseki, or scroll. Displays that are not in a formal *tokonoma* setting are usually 2-point displays.

A 3-point display is a tree, a scroll, and an art object or accent plant. A *tokonoma* is an alcove in a traditional Japanese house, where items of particular beauty or value are formally displayed.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PREPARING TREES FOR A SHOW OR EXHIBIT

- If possible, select trees a year or more in advance.
- Consider the pot. Is it excellent, or could it be better?
- Will you have to repot your tree before the show? If so, when?
- What time of year is the exhibit being held?
- When will the tree need to be pruned?
- Should you add or remove wire?
- Will you need to re-apply lime sulfur?

THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT THE EXHIBIT VENUE

- Is the exhibit being held indoors or outdoors?
- How much table space will you have?
- What is the table height?
- How is the lighting?
- What is the background going to be (color & texture)?
- What color is the table cover going to be?



HOW TO SELECT YOUR DISPLAY STAND

- A tree should never sit directly on the table. This applies to the accent plant or figurine as well.
- Large size trees generally sit on low stands (no more than 5" high)
- Medium (shohin) trees generally sit on taller (8" – 10") stands
- Avoid duplication. Pot shapes and colors within a display should be different, as should stand shapes and styles. Different, but harmonious.

FINE-TUNING YOUR TREE

- Remove any surface litter.
- Clean the outside and rim of the pot.
- Remove unnecessary wire
- Place moss on the surface with an eye toward natural appearance

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR ACCENT PLANT OR ART OBJECT

- Companion plants have to be considered carefully, not only for appropriate size, but also for season, location, and style. A tropical accent plant doesn't work with a deciduous tree. An accent that is in flower shouldn't be shown with a tree whose foliage, or lack thereof, suggest winter.
- Scrolls, figurines, and other art objects also need to be considered for proportionate size, shape, feeling, and the season they suggest.
- The quality, or appearance of quality, of your display items is important
- Suiseki, particularly object stones (not mountain stones) can make good companion items. Mountain stones are difficult because the sense of scale is hard to get right.
- Sean suggests that for public displays you avoid using expensive, valuable, or cherished art objects, as they are easily (and often) stolen.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISPLAY

- Try not to repeat shapes or colors in the items in your display. For instance, your main tree and your accent plant should not be in pots that are the same shape or color, or on stands that are the same style.
- Proportion is important. The stand needs to be similar to the tree in proportion, weight, and feeling. For instance, a graceful feminine tree needs a slender graceful stand. A strong, masculine tree needs a sturdy stand. The companion plant or object also needs to be in proportion to the tree. A small, delicate tree will need a small, delicate accent.
- The overall harmony of all the parts of the display is key. An ornate stand can distract the eye from a simple but beautiful tree. A stand that is too large, too small, or simply a poor style choice will detract from the appearance of the tree.
- The direction of movement of the tree dictates the placement of the accent. The tree and the accent should draw the eye toward each other.
- The distance between the tree and the accent is a question of visual proportion, but the restrictions of available space can't be ignored.
- Sometimes pots and stands can also be used to suggest direction. (*like the small wood slats under the bird figurine below*) Asymmetrical planting containers and "root" stands will direct the eye, and have to be matched carefully with a display tree to avoid conflicting visual messages.



MISCELLANEOUS TIPS FROM THE PROS

- If you want a flowering accent plant to suggest the season in your display, buy it in flower at a local nursery a few days before the show and pot it just for the display.
- In a tight display space, alternating conifers and deciduous trees allows the mind and eye to refocus.
- Blowing hot air with a hair dryer on newly applied lime sulfur will change the color quickly. Be sure to protect the living parts of the tree from the heat.
- A bamboo placemat can make a satisfactory and inexpensive platform for a tree.



**BRING YOUR OWN BONSAI WORKSHOP
MARCH 10 AT THE GEC**

Bring trees that you would like to display at MABS or the Stamford Museum show, or bring any other tree to work on.

**YAMA KI BONSAI EXHIBIT IN STAMFORD
APRIL 27-29, 2012**

Plans are underway for the club to present a bonsai exhibit at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center this year. ***Details coming soon!***

THE ROCHESTER SHOW

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). See our website for more details.

AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY/JOSHUA ROTH NEW TALENT CONTEST – 2012

MidAtlantic will host a regional qualifier for the national Joshua Roth New Talent competition. Yama Ki and MABS have scholarships available for anyone who qualifies for the national contest. So please consider applying this year. The application form is on our website, to submit it, email Pauline Muth (Pauline@pmbonsai.com).

Yama Ki should have three slots in the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' Spring Festival exhibition. If you would like to display a tree, please send a photo and information to Mike Pollock as soon as possible. We'll choose the three trees to be exhibited by late March, leaving plenty of time to prepare your display. If you have a tree you'd like to display, but are concerned about stands and accents, please still apply. We'll help you put together a good display by lending whatever other materials you might need (stands, accents, etc.).

MABS

Marin Janda

Hooray it's Spring! Finally our plants are blooming, bonsai are growing, and most of all - MABS is coming!

As you've probably seen from last year MABS, is quite the event! We had a huge turnout last year with Yama Ki having the most members to come! The vendors had a few special things in store for us last year, as they will again this year. Last year, there were some beautiful trees in the vendor's area, including the most spectacular boxwoods I have ever seen!

We should be expecting some new things from this years' 29th annual MABS convention. It will be held from April 20th to the 22nd. As we have learned previously from Mike we should get there early, the vendors will have more and you can get to the better trees first!



MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies
2012
Spring Festival

One artist we will be seeing is Isao Omachi from Japan! Isao is a skilled artist and studied with Takeo Kawabe for five years starting in 1992. In 2006, he became an instructor in the Japanese Bonsai Association. He first visited MABS in 2006 as well. He impressed everyone so much that

he was invited back in 2009. I can guess we all are looking forward to watching his demo so we can all achieve a certain aspect of Japanese bonsai.

Next up will be Chase Roserade of the United States. He was apprenticed by Kyozo Yoshida in the 1960's. He will have two lectures and a demonstration at MABS (one Saturday and one on Sunday). Everyone is excited to see Chase, including me. Any artist, who has even touched a bonsai, knows how great the bonsai community can be.

John Thompson will also be present at the convention. He is an enthusiast slash lecturer. He will have a nice little workshop on boxwoods for \$150, and is only allowing eight participants so sign up if you are interested. He will be elaborating on healing and grafting, that will be a big help since spring is coming and some of us don't know what the heck to do with our cuts and deadwood, I sure don't! **We are all looking forward to this year at MABS. We, Yama Ki, have only 3 spots in the exhibit - so - start lining up!**

SEE YOU AT MABS APRIL 20th!

Chase Rosade's first contact with bonsai was in grade school and still has the bonsai he planted from seed while in college. After college with a degree in ornamental horticulture, he earned a living as a horticulturalist. Then in the 60's, he had the opportunity to study and work in Japan with a senior bonsai artist/grower, Kyozo Yoshida for almost a year. Mr. Yoshida is a specialist in Japanese white pine in Nara, Japan. He later studied with Mr. Kawamoto, an innovator in container landscapes. Upon returning in 1970, he bought property in New Hope, PA for growing bonsai and started giving classes and talks. He established the Rosade Bonsai Studios. Since 1971 he has been a major exhibitor at the Philadelphia Flower Show (the largest indoor flower show in the world). Chase has held important positions in the bonsai community, and is currently the North American Regional Director of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation. He has been a guest artist at Yama Ki and at several early MABS symposia. He has served as President and board member of many bonsai organizations and currently serves on the board of the National Bonsai Foundation. The study and pursuit of bonsai has taken him around the world to five continents in addition to our own. Chase has taught bonsai to local clubs as well in most of the world's major bonsai Symposiums and Conventions as a lecturer, demonstrator, and bonsai judge. Bonsai for Chase is a way of life – every day studying, thinking and working with Bonsai. What could be more perfect? He thinks the most outstanding thing has been to see so many of his students excel in the field of Bonsai as teachers, lecturers, writers and curators of collections.

His talents at MABS will be available to you in lecture/demos on Saturday and Sunday. He is offering a CRITIQUE of the MEMBERS EXHIBIT on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday you may take a workshop with Shimpaku junipers (Shimpaku provided). The workshop, limited to 8 participants, fee is \$130. Next month we will give you detailed information this year's Japanese Headliner, **Isao Omachi**.

**Weekend Bonsai Exhibit by Yama Ki Bonsai Society
Stamford Museum & Nature Center
April 28 & 29, 2012**

☞ We Want Your Trees ☞

The Yama Ki Officers and Board of Directors would like the upcoming bonsai display at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center to include trees belonging to as many club members as possible.

We know you love your trees; we know you take pride in the work you have done on them, even if it is not even close to being finished. Please give others the opportunity to appreciate and enjoy your trees as well, by offering **at least one** of your bonsai for display during our upcoming Arbor Day weekend event at the Stamford Museum (on High Ridge Road near Bartlett Arboretum).

Yes, this means we want *YOUR* trees too!

Your trees do not have to be award-winners. They do not have to be "finished." They can be at early stages of bonsai development, even in mica or plastic bonsai pots. Every tree, even the humblest, will be part of the learning and enjoying experience of museum-goers who view our club's bonsai display. Most of the audience will be local residents, and therefore potential new members of Yama Ki.

Please don't be shy! This is not going to be a juried show, and our audience (500-1000 over the course of the weekend) will not be bonsai experts. Many of us have found, at previous public displays, that the humbler, newer trees are often the ones that catch the notice and earn the appreciation of the general public.

Mike Pollock has offered to host a pre-show workshop to help members prepare their trees for display, including clean-up, mossing, wiring/unwiring, and finding, making or borrowing an appropriate display stand or slab and an accent or companion plant.

We expect to have space for 50 to 60 trees, possibly more, at the Stamford Museum, so literally every club member could have a tree in this show. The display area will be indoors, so your trees will be safe. Please email a jpeg of whatever trees you would like to display to Mike Pollock (mikepollock@me.com). We will consider as many trees as you would like to offer.

DVD REVIEWS

By Norm Geisinger

Yama Ki's VCR tapes and DVDs are located in our storage closet on second floor at the GEC. DVD's should play in DVD player or computer, but may not work on both. Please sign titles out then in using the blue note book. The following DVD titles are available in the club's collection:

BONSAI-WORKS OF DIVINITY

Meet Shinji Suzuki, one of Japan's new generation of bonsai masters. He has been dubbed "the best in a century". Visit the Taiken Bonsai Museum located in Obuse where Shinji is curator & his masterpieces are displayed. Follow the work on two old trees. Attend a Bonsai Creator's Exhibition & Competition. Visit other bonsai nurseries & the 700 year old Yaku-shima's Jomon Cedar.

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Editor - Joan Thomas

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COMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mar 10	12:00	Workshop, Bring Your Own Bonsai, Show Prep	GEC
Apr 20-22		MABS	PA
Apr 27-29		Yama Ki Exhibit at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center	Stamford
June 9-10		U. S. National Bonsai Exhibition	Rochester NY

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

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