



Yama Ki Newsletter

LAST ISSUE, March 2014

A Time for Change

Just like our bonsai which are perpetually changing in partnership with us, so does our club. One big change to announce is - this is the last Yama Ki newsletter.

The newsletter started in the early days of the club as just that, a physical letter sent with news of the club. Over the years it became more; a bit of a magazine, a record of past events, and a place to publish our calendar. As you well know, the first place people go for current news on anything is online and, over time, our newsletter went there too. It became a mostly emailed document that was also posted on our website.

Our current newsletter editor, Joan Thomas, had graciously continued to compile the newsletter for us even though she has moved and is no longer a regular member. Now that she is giving up the position, it seems a natural time to make the move to a fully online communications tool.

So from now on, here's how you'll get all the information that was in the newsletter and more.

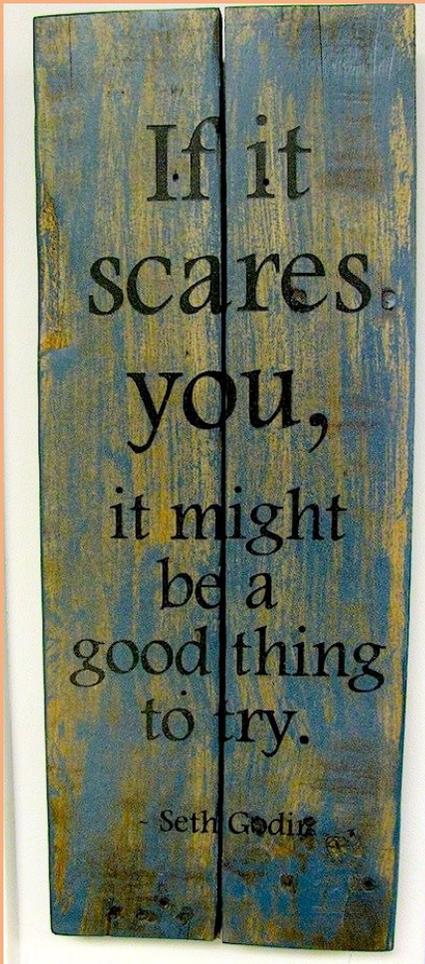
All of the following sections are accessed through the toolbar at the top of the website www.yamakibonsai.org.

Our **events calendar** is online at our **Meeting and Events** page. Directions to our meetings have their own section. Exhibitions will be there with a place to see our fellow members' trees whenever you like.

Soon to be added will be a **blog**. The blog will be the place for adding quick, interesting information for everyone. Visited a bonsai collection recently? Send some photos and a paragraph or two about it. We'll add it there. Going to an event and want to see if anyone else wants to join you? Post it on the blog for other members to see.

As always, events and important information will also be sent out via email so you don't miss it if you don't check in at the website.

All club activities and benefits are produced by our members. **We look forward to having this new avenue to grow in bonsai together.**



Highlights

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February Meeting Photos – Colin Lewis

Dave's Photos:

A great day at Mikes' studio with a great teacher, artist and friend, Colin Lewis.



Colin Lewis on Deciduous Trees

Gail's notes:

Our February meeting, held at Mike Pollock's Bonsai Shinsei studio in Pound Ridge, was a reminder of why we so enjoy having Colin Lewis as a guest speaker. Following are some of the points he made regarding deciduous trees during his afternoon with us.

- When developing a deciduous tree from start, always begin the process at the base and slowly (over years) develop the branches in ascending order. This will ensure that the lowest branches will be thickest, becoming thinner as you climb the tree.
- Ramification (through pinching) comes a long time after the wiring of branches ... years! Full development of branches can take 6 -10 years in some cases. All parts of the tree cannot be developed at the same time.
- When developing branches, do not grow them to the length you want and then wire and pinch. Instead, you should select the branches you want to keep, wire them loosely to just give them general direction, & let them grow to develop girth. Then cut back to the first internode and repeat, and repeat, and repeat ...
- For balance, keep the apex cut while you're developing the branches. This will guarantee that the apex will not become too heavy, nor will it shade out the lower portion of the tree.
- When you perform a major procedure on a tree (grafting, e.g.) and need to have it heal fast, the best time to do it is during a period of maximum growth (e.g. in June), not in spring.
- The apex of a deciduous tree should have 360-degree growth.
- When pruning, try not to leave any 'continuous' lines. There should be movement at nearly every internode.
- Directional development through pruning will produce abrupt changes in direction. Development through wiring will produce softer, more rounded curves.
- If you want to remove a branch and do not want regeneration, prune in the fall. If you want to perform a major cut and produce regeneration, early June is the best time.
- Growth retarding auxins at the tips of branches provide apical dominance and prevent dormant buds further down the branch from growing. At the same time, cytokinins from the roots are moving upwards, encouraging the growth of buds. So, when a plant is in full growth (e.g. in June), by removing all apical buds by cutting back a branch, the energy from the cytokinins will produce lots of back budding.
- When topping a deciduous tree to develop taper, make the cut flat, not angled. This will leave the greatest possible number of buds for future development.

Gail's Notes Continued

- Bud scales are found in branch collars. If you leave a stub of about 1/8 inch when pruning, you will get new buds developing from that area. If you cut beyond the collar, you will remove the buds as well.
- When pruning deciduous trees, always apply cut paste to the wound. If you don't, the bleeding sap will very likely cause the branch to die back.
- All tree species have a limit when it comes to the amount of growth they can naturally support. If we try to force a tree beyond that natural limit, it will respond by shedding branches, dying back or reducing leaf size. If a tree is kept well watered, well fertilized, and is given proper sunlight, the likely response will be reduced leaf size.
- Ramification of deciduous trees is developed differently than it is for pines. Pines have a flat branch structure, which is developed through wiring. The ramification of deciduous trees has varying elevations - buds will grow not only sideways, but also up and down (broomlike) from the branch. The 'cloudlike' branch development is achieved mostly through pruning.
- Junipers are more similar to deciduous, in that you want to develop 'clouds'. With junipers, this is achieved by wiring.
- Colin thinks haydite (shale) and most bark should never be used in bonsai soils, as they promote no root growth. Bark is fine if it is decomposed, but most bark purchased commercially is not, and will rob the soil of nitrogen during the decomposition process. Soil components that Colin likes are akadama, lava rock, pumice, fully decomposed bark, forest humus.

Yama Ki Activities



Check out the Meeting & Events page on the website!

<http://www.yamakibonsai.org/meetings-and-events/upcoming-events.html>

Prior Newsletters



From 2001 to 2014 – see the website!

<http://www.yamakibonsai.org/newsletters/>

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