



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

March

2005

## A DAY WITH BERNI GASTRICH ON ALL PINES 11 AM “BYO” WORKSHOP, 1 PM LECTURE/DEMO MARCH 19, 2005 AT THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM

*Berni Gastrich* will attempt to do the definitive pine lecture: what to do and when to do it - for black, five needle, pitch, mugho, the Scots, etc. He will cover young versus old, de-candling, needle pulling, internode length, bud back, water, fertilizer, soil, mycorrhizza, etc. The program will help us understand that there are essentially two groups of pines and will help simplify our concerns with pine maintenance.

Come at 11:00 am and bring your pine/s (any kind) for individual advice to the morning workshop. There is no charge for the workshop - just bring your tools. The regular meeting will begin at 1:00 pm as usual.

Remember the Bonsai-Swap Meeting prior to our meeting. Bring your bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. that you would like to trade or sell. Set up your materials in the back of the room.

### FEBRUARY’S MEETING WITH MIKE POLLOCK

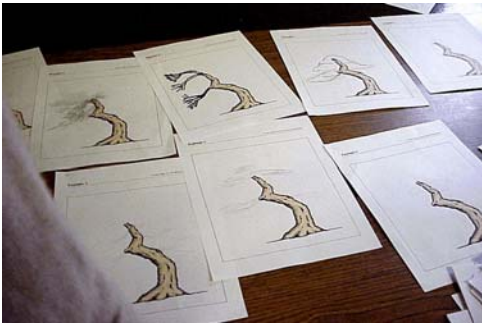
*Mike* cut back on the planned presentation of his trip to Japan to allow adequate time for *Colin Lewis’* Bonsai Design Exercise. He will make that presentation at another meeting. Instead, *Mike* presented slides of selected bonsai that he and *Bill Valavanis* photographed that impressed him and was sure we would want to see. It was almost equivalent to walking through a prized Japanese bonsai exhibit while sitting comfortably at the Arboretum.



After the slide presentation, *Mike* handed each member a set of seven of *Colin Lewis’* copyrighted bonsai design drawings of various shapes of bonsai trunks (3 sample trunks shown here, each shape on its own 8½” by 11” sheet. We were instructed to draw appropriate canopy forms or foliage masses to suit the various trunk shapes. We were told not to sign the drawings to save any potential embarrassment when the drawings were reviewed.



When we completed the drawings, *Mike* collected and sorted them so that all of the same-trunk-shape pages were together. He then spread them on a large table arranged so that drawings that were similar in concept were together.



*Mike* then critiqued the drawings using a set of answer guides prepared by *Colin*. *Colin* had indicated which canopy forms were successful, which satisfactory, and which unsuccessful for each trunk shape.

We are most appreciative of *Colin's* gift of these exercises which provided a novel and focused technique to improve our design abilities. We're sure he will be inundated with requests from bonsai clubs everywhere. *Mike* also earned our thanks for guiding us through the exercises.

## **BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI**

*Berni Gastrich*

### **MARCH REPOTTING**

The periphery versus core problem in soil which was addressed in February "Basics", can be helped in another way. When we repot, we first cut away the outer "basket" of encircling roots. Then we tease away the peripheral and bottom soil and again trim. *Yuji Yoshimura* taught us then to make several pie-shaped incursions into that central core soil so that some of the new soil gets close to the center. We often have to make blind cuts into the root system to accomplish this. The process is scary, dangerous, and often not done.

A very safe though messy way to accomplish the task is to take the tree outdoors and define your pie-shaped cuts with the water stream from a hose. Work from both above and below. Hosing will expose the roots in these areas, allowing you to use discretion in choosing which roots to cut.

Before putting the tree into the new pot, I am now applying Root Tone and mycorrhizza to the wet bare roots. My experience of the last two years seems to support these methods.



## **TOKONOMA**

*Craig Cowing* provided this month's tokonoma. It is a Kingsville boxwood with tree ferns and mudmen as the accent, both on a bamboo mat.

## MIDATLANTIC BONSAI FESTIVAL ON THE HORIZON



In the last YAMA KI NEWSLETTER you read about the two American artists who will present programs, critiques, and workshops at the MidAtlantic's 22<sup>nd</sup> Spring Festival. This month we go abroad and east to introduce *Mr. David Prescott*, of Manchester, England. He has been involved in bonsai for the past twelve years and focuses on collected material from Scotland, Wales, and the Italian Alps. He has studied with European bonsai masters who have presented at MidAtlantic such as *Salvatore Liporace*, *Kevin Wilson*, and *Colin Lewis*. *David's* public presentations include the Ginko Exhibit, Brussels; the Chelsea Flower Show, London; and other European sites where he has been awarded gold medals. He is the author of the best selling book *The Bonsai Handbook* (with *Colin Lewis* as consulting editor). *David* will present two lecture/demonstrations: Saturday's with a San Jose Juniper and Sunday morning's with an Eastern white pine. Both trees will be raffled. His appearance with MidAtlantic includes a critique of the Exhibit on Saturday afternoon and a workshop on Sunday afternoon using San Jose juniper.

Have you registered yet? Early registration fees are in effect prior to April 1. The conference will be at the Ramada Inn, East Hanover, NJ, from Friday, April 15 through Sunday, April 17. And don't forget access to major vendors and chatting time with the artists!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Gail Therrien*

For those of us who love the art of bonsai, we sometimes find ourselves searching far and wide for that perfect tree, the perfect pot for that tree, the right size wire that we "could have sworn" we had somewhere, better tools, soil, stands or scrolls ... the list goes on and on. Once a year, we have the opportunity to find everything a bonsai lover's heart could wish for, complete with masterful instruction and inspiring exhibits, right in our own backyard. There is an Exhibit of more than 30 bonsai and viewing stones from the clubs in this region. This backyard arena is called the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival (April 15-17). Those YAMA KI members who have gone once tend to go back every year, and for those who have never gone ... well, you simply don't know what a terrific event you're missing!

Whether attending for the whole week-end or just one day, the event is intimate enough to allow attendees to watch world-renowned artists up close and talk to them as they work, yet big enough (with 19 vendors) to more than satisfy whatever one's bonsai needs may be. YAMA KI also benefits financially when our members attend - the net proceeds are ultimately shared by the 12 member societies, divided in accordance with the number of attendees from each club.

Give yourself a treat this year and come to MidAtlantic - it's the perfect way to start the new growing season!

### HELP YAMA KI DO ITS' SHARE!

You may not look at Help-Wanted ads with an eye to changing jobs, but YAMA KI needs you! At the MidAtlantic Spring Festival each club participates with sweat equity. On Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 pm and on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, we will help staff the Registration Desk – two people needed for each session. We also need two members for one hour to cover the Exhibit Room as docents and as extra security. Please call *Rhoda Kleiman*, 212.724.7840, to indicate when you will help.



## GLEANINGS

Howard McNeal (Susquehanna Bonsai Club Newsletter, January 2005):

- ✿ Keep the top of the tree light. Heavier growth will fatten smaller branches and this is not desirable at the top of the trees. Conversely, leave a lower branch on the tree to fatten the trunk.
- ✿ A way to wire a lot of trees into a pot is to make a bamboo stick raft and secure it to the bottom of the pot. The raft can be used as a place to secure many trees.

### YAMA KI PROGRAMS FOR THE BALANCE OF 2005

Many members have asked for a calendar of events for the year. The following dates are pretty fixed, the programs, however, are subject to change.

March 19	<i>Berni Gastrich</i>	11:00 am: 1 hour pine critique/workshop" 1:00 pm: Generic" pine lecture/demonstration
April 15-17		MidAtlantic Bonsai Spring Festival
April 23	<i>Marty Schmalenberg</i>	Lecture/demonstration
May 7	<i>Berni Gastrich</i> <i>Horst Krekler</i> <i>Horst Krekler</i>	9:00 am: 5-needle pine maintenance workshop 10:00 am: Advanced styling lecture/demonstration 1:00 pm: "BYO" workshop
June 18	<i>Berni Gastrich</i> Annual Meeting	11:00 am: Season-appropriate pine maintenance workshop 1:00 pm: Annual elections & auction
July 9	<i>Kevin Goveia</i>	1:00 pm: Bonsai container slide show and lecture
August 13	<i>Melba &amp; Cecelia Grieshaber</i>	1:00 pm: Home visit
Sept. 17	<i>Roy Nagatoshi</i>	TBA
October		Yama Ki / New York Botanical Garden Bonsai Exhibit
Nov. 12	TBA	
Dec. 10	Annual Holiday Party	12:30 pm: Buffet lunch and auction

### LAST CALL FOR BEGINNERS CLASS

We do not enough members signed on for the Beginners' Classes. New members should take advantage of the classes which are "hands-on" and will reinforce basic bonsai styling and maintenance techniques directly than the best of the bonsai books. Each student will create his/her own bonsai to take home. YAMA KI is providing this course free to all interested members. You pay only for the plants and pot, estimated at \$40.

The dates are March 29, April 5, April 12 - three consecutive Tuesday evenings at 6: 30 or 7:00 p.m. at the Bartlett Arboretum. Please notify *Irv Kleiman* (212-724-7840 or [irkleiman@rcn.com](mailto:irkleiman@rcn.com)) as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

## BONSAI BAEDAERKER

Bonsai or business "Escapes" on your agenda? Consider these 2005 bonsai destinations:

- April 15 -17                    MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES SPRING FESTIVAL  
Ramada Inn, East Hanover, NJ  
[www.midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/fescurr.htm](http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/fescurr.htm)
- April 15-17                    HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY FLOWER SHOW  
Hofstra Arena, North Hempstead, NY  
Box Office: 1.516-463-6600
- April 30-May 7                VIETNAM BONSAIS ASSOCIATION  
Brussels, Belgium  
[Http://www.dongson.be.tf/](http://www.dongson.be.tf/) or e-mail: [bonsai.dongson@skynet.be](mailto:bonsai.dongson@skynet.be)
- May                            EUROPEAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION & EUROPEAN SUISEKI ASS'N.  
Arco, Italy
- May 6-7                        DUNGENESS BONSAI SOCIETY  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sequim, WA.  
e-mail: [banshee@olypen.com](mailto:banshee@olypen.com) or Karen Coryell, 1.360.681.3088
- May 7-8                        2005 MICHIGAN ALL-STATE BONSAI SHOW  
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, MI  
email: [ehilton@chartermi.net](mailto:ehilton@chartermi.net) or [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org)
- May 21-22                    BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY  
Olbrich Gardens, Madison, WI  
email: [bobs@charter.net](mailto:bobs@charter.net) or Bob: 1.608.249.5227
- May 28-31                    5<sup>th</sup> WORLD BONSAI CONVENTION  
Washington Hilton, Washington, D. C.  
[www.bonsai-bci.com](http://www.bonsai-bci.com) or [www.bonsai.wbff.org](http://www.bonsai.wbff.org)
- July 6-10                     FEDERATION of LATIN AMERICAN BONSAI & TROPIK BONSAI CLUB  
Kalendra Resort Hotel (Trois-Ilets), Martinique, French West Indies  
[Xenio.Baron@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Xenio.Baron@wanadoo.fr)
- September 6-8                ASIA-PACIFIC PENJING & SHANGSHI ASSOCIATION & SUB-SOCIETY  
of PENJING & SHANGSHI OF CHINA SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE  
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<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

- Mar 19 *Berni Gastrich*: Lecture, Demo & Workshop on Pines
- Apr 15-17 MidAtlantic Bonsai Spring Festival
- Apr 23 *Marty Schmalenberg*: Lecture, Demo
- May 7 *Horst Krekler*: Lecture, Demo, and “BYO” workshop

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