



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other. Sharing with the community”

March

2008

**COLIN LEWIS WORKSHOPS
MARCH 8, 2008 AT THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM
10:00 AM OPEN WORKSHOP; 1:00 PM PART 1 OF SPECIAL WORKSHOP SERIES**

The Board has approved a new approach for three of our meetings this year. *Colin Lewis* will be the guest artist for our March, June & September meetings. There will be continuity to the meetings in that he will be planning & leading all three and participating members will be ask to select one or two of their trees to bring and follow thru on all these workshops. *Colin* will be addressing three stages of design and discussing the bonsai activities associated with that time of the year. The meeting format for each of the three days will go as follows:



10:00 am -12:30 pm: Open workshop for all members. Bring one tree you wish to use in all three sessions.

1:00 pm - 4:00pm: Closed workshop, limited to 8 members (fee \$35 for each session). This session is fully booked, based on reservations submitted to *Norman Geisinger*, as announced previously. *Norman* suggests that participants select one conifer and one deciduous tree to use in these workshops. Registered workshop participants did not have to commit to attending all three of these workshops. However, attendees at this March workshop session will have priority for the June workshop and attendees at the March and/or June workshops will have priority for the September workshop. *Norm's* comment is: "This is a great approach, thanks to *John Cotoggio*, to learning bonsai, since you will be working on the same tree over a six month period and doing it with a great bonsai artist."

YAMA KI – COLIN LEWIS WORKSHOPS
Norman Geisinger

Colin Lewis will be conducting three of our meetings this year and will be running it like a school with distinct classes. They will include lecture, discussion, critiques and workshop. Three classes, three stages of design.

MARCH: Bonsai design starts at the base of the trunk—planting angle, nebari, front, etc. All repotting stuff. Session begins with introduction, then a selective critique of trees. Work will be planned for trees for the next three months...take notes. Members will supply all tools and materials needed.

JUNE: Branch development...mostly deciduous, but also yew, larch, etc. Trees will have had some growth extension so that can be monitored, discussed, planned and dealt with. Pines, won't be ready for candle work, but they can be subjected to detailed planning: Work will be planned for trees for the next three months...take notes.

SEPTEMBER: Now we can get stuck into pines and junipers. Okay, some folks will have been waiting all year for this, but meanwhile, they have learned and participated in a lot of useful stuff on other species...which will, of course, be present at this session too. Usual critique (with notes taken to allow members to continue the development process). And demo/workshop of branch formations on various conifers. This will involve some wiring.

FEBRUARY'S MEETING WITH MICHAEL HAGEDORN ON BONSAI DISPLAY

Mike Pollock, Gail Therrien, and Norm Geisinger submitted detailed memoranda on *Michael Hagedorn's* presentation of an interactive, in-depth program on bonsai display. Unfortunately, Norm's notes were lost on the internet and the following summary, for those unable to attend, is a composite article from the notes of *Mike and Gail*. *Mr. Hagedorn* gave attendees several charts which we'll try to share with you.

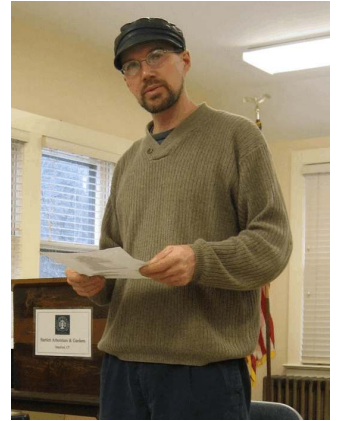
The opening discussion related to the various characteristics of bonsai, their styles, and the accessories that complement them. *Michael H.* (hereafter *Michael*) explored the relationship between tree types, pots, and stands, and scrolls. You must take into account the changing characteristics of a tree as it matures. *Michael* provided several handouts, including a 'draw the appropriate pot' sheet depicting trees of different species with different designs. He discussed the rules relating to pots (formal/conifer with rectangular/unglazed, and informal/flowering with oval/glazed) but noted that it was the overall strength of a tree's image which ultimately determined the appropriate shape to choose. To illustrate this, he used a handout of a root-over-rock conifer as it developed over 50 years. As a young tree, the rock carried the heaviest visual weight and its placement in a round pot was very natural looking. Twenty years later, the tree had grown to the point where both it and the rock held equal emphasis. Though the tree was developing mass, it wasn't yet heavy. A straight-sided oval balanced the two components. Thirty years later, once the tree had become massive with strong black pine characteristics, a deeper, rectangular pot enhanced its characteristics.

The feeling you want in a display also influences how you combine the components. Be on guard not to follow the hierarchies rigidly, but always to consider the overall effect when you combine season, culture, and environment. With that caveat stated at the outset, there are a number of guidelines with which you may want to work as you refine your own displays:

1. Any display item after the main element **MUST** be less formal than the one used for the **MAIN** item. For example, if an irregular slab is used as the stand for a literati tree (the main item of the display), then any "stand" under an accompanying item must also be irregularly shaped (the least formal shape).
2. For an informal upright tree, determine which way the movement flows (left or right). The longer, more dominant branches should be on the side "towards to flow" in order to emphasize that predominance.
3. When placing a tree in a display, the tree should "touch" (visually speaking) the scroll as one looks at the display.
4. The accent plant is placed furthest from the tree, always on the side towards which the tree moves. The stand for the accent plant must be equal to or less formal than the one on which the tree rests.
5. Thin wood slabs are used only under bunjin (literati). Bamboo mats are only for summer display.
6. Grow *Styrax* (Japanese snowbell) only in shallow containers to develop good nebari. In deep containers its roots will go straight down.

He noted that in Japan, the most important shows are scheduled in winter in order to show deciduous trees at their best. Shows are never scheduled in summer to avoid stressing trees.

Michael H. also commented on members' trees and suggested directions for future development. It was a great learning event for members of all experience levels.



MIDATLANTIC BONSAI'S 25th FESTIVAL

The weekend of April 11-13 is coming up more rapidly than most of us are anticipating. It is THE WEEKEND of MidAtlantic Bonsai's 25th SPRING FESTIVAL.

You may recall that *Mr. Graham Potter* of Great Yarmouth, UK is one of the headline artists who will present lecture/demonstrations, Exhibit critiques, workshops, and general bonsai know-how during the course of the weekend. Although his bonsai passion dates from 1999 when he met *Kevin Willson*, his bonsai interest started in 1992. After the stimulation of the exchange with *Mr. Willson*, *Graham Potter* founded the Kaizen School of Bonsai which is devoted to bonsai cultivation techniques and products. The school is based on the "kaizen" concept which is concerned with the gradual improvement in processes to attain a particular goal or result. Improved processes ultimately result in superior quality. A San Jose Juniper and a Chinese elm are the materials he will use at his lecture demonstrations. On Sunday he will conduct a "bring-your-own-tree" workshop.

In the meantime, check out his website: <http://www.kaizenbonsai.com> and be certain to send in your reservation for the weekend, or any part of it that you can make. Rates are lower for reservations received before April 1st. Call a *Irv* or *Rhoda Kleiman* (212.724.7840) for a registration form.

Another feature of our new location (The Hudson Valley Resort and Spa) is much more comfortable vendor space – larger display tables and wider aisles. And this weekend there is no competition from other bonsai groups for vendors. The MABS Board is careful to maintain a mix of vendor products and a proportion of vendors to registrants to satisfy most of our bonsai needs.

A Masakuni 17 piece stainless steel tool set valued at over \$1,500 will be raffled at the Festival. *Gail Therrien* has been selling the tickets (\$5 each, 5 for \$20, 30 for \$100). The drawing will be held April 12th - the winner does not need to be present! You can email her at: galtbon@aol.com to add your order.



APRIL DINNER MEETING WITH MIN HSUAN LO

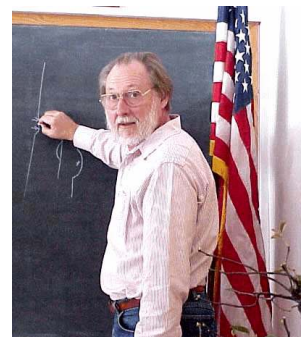
On Wednesday, April 9th, YAMA KI will host *Mr. Min Hsuan Lo* at a dinner/demonstration meeting. He is the headliner at the April MABS' Spring Festival and we are honored to have him as our "private" teacher.

But that is only the second part of the evening. As is our custom when we have a weeknight program, dinner precedes the event! This time around *Lucille Miller* is preparing a repast for YAMA KI members who reserve space by April 5th. Since it is a work night, you are not required to bring something for the repast, but you do need to make a reservation. Please call *Lucille* at (914) 934-0613 or *Gail Therrien* at 860.868.7294, to reserve your places (families welcome). YAMA KI is covering the cost of the "banquet."

Dinner will be ready at 5:30 pm. *Mr. Lo's* presentation will begin promptly at 6:30 pm so no one need worry about going to work bleary eyed the following day. You are welcome to come after dinner should your schedule not permit "early bird" dining. "Left-overs" will be on the table for latecomers stuck in traffic.

YAMA KI BEGINNER COURSE

By the time you received this issue of the NEWSLETTER the latest Beginner's Class will have had its first session (Saturday, March 1). The class was fully subscribed within hours of announcing it -- and several people were closed out. The success of *Berni Gastrich's* course last year and the eagerness of another group has led to the determination to hold another course early next autumn. YAMA KI's Board of Directors will explore the possibility of at least one Intermediate Class next fall.



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Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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COMING EVENTS

Mar. 8 10:00 am *Colin Lewis* workshops
Apr. 9 5:30 pm Dinner @ Bartlett Arboretum
6:30 pm *Min Hsuan Lo* lecture/demonstration
Apr. 11-13 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' 2008
Spring Festival
May 17 10:00 am *Pedro Morales* lecture/workshop

Remember to check our website (www.yamakibonsai.org) for updates and latest information

WEATHER HOTLINES

Connecticut *Melba Greishaber* (203) 840-1942
New York City *Rhoda Kleiman* (212) 724-7840
Westchester *Gail Therien* (914) 666-0898

or check our website online

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