

# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

March

2009

## MARTY SCHMALENBURG: FIRST OF THREE SESSIONS MARCH 28, 2009 @ 12:30 PM @ THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM

Please note the change of date from our normal second Saturday of the month for this meeting!

As a follow-up to last year’s popular “Continuation Classes” with *Colin Lewis*, *Marty Schmallenburg* will lead three sessions this year. The format permits members to have their favorite bonsai develop under his guidance during this winter, spring, summer, and fall. Since *Marty* was our bonsai artist at last November’s meeting, featuring forest plantings, even our newer members know of his artistry and talents. *Marty* is one of the leading teachers tempering classical bonsai styling with an emphasis on a “natural” look.



The meeting’s focus will be deciduous trees, with a lecture and discussion period followed by a critique of member’s bonsai. Please bring a tree so that we can all follow its development in the following meetings with *Marty* in June and September.

## NOTES ON FEBRUARY’S MEETING WITH TODD HANSEN

YAMA KI has not been known as a “dull” club but now we’re certainly on the “cutting edge.” February’s meeting was a refresher on both wiring and tool sharpening presented by *Todd Hansen* of Sanctuary Bonsai.



*Todd’s* wiring tips as “Gleanings”:

- \* Use your barbeque grill to anneal copper wire; use that grill rack ONLY for annealing wire.
- \* If you live in suburbia/exurbia, your local dump may be a great source for copper wire. Check it out.
- \* Avoid disturbing your branches’ vascular system. Securely anchor the wire before the first bend.
- \* Bend the wire not the branch; the branch will follow. Support underneath with your thumbs as you bend.
- \* Guy wires help put branches where you want them when regular wiring won’t hold.
- \* Mica pots for training bonsai simplify setting guy wires on pot rims.
- \* When moving a tree, use plastic wrap over the container to hold the soil in place.
- \* “Vetwrap” (self-gripping) is a fine substitute for raffia (available at pet shops).



*Todd’s* sharpening tips as “Gleanings”:

- \* Mark your tools for identification with nail polish, paint, etc.
- \* Scissors with bolts rather than rivets permit you to adjust tension and the blades can be separated for easier sharpening and honing. You can drill out a rivet and replace it with a bolt.



A self-made “cradle” to support and stabilize the stone

- \* An Exacto® knife is useful for detailed cutting.
- \* Keep band-aids in your tool box.
- \* Arkansas whetstones are the best quality sharpening stones. They are dense, not soft and keep a flat surface. *(They will be available for purchase in the Vendor's Room at our upcoming MidAtlantic Spring Festival.)*
- \* Use a few drops of camellia oil on your stone to lubricate the surface. It also picks up metal filings. *(This will also be available at MABS).*
- \* Clean your stone after each use.
- \* ONLY sharpen the outside edge of a tool. Lay the beveled edge flat against the stone, then tilt it up until the bevel is against the stone. You should not see a gap or light. Then push the edge away from you.
- \* If your stone has two sides, use the fine side for tool sharpening.
- \* Push the blade forward, away from the body only (not back and forth), matching the number of strokes for each blade of the scissor.
- \* Concave and branch cutters have overlapping edges. Count the number of swipes as you push on one edge, then turn the tool over and count the same number of pushes on the opposite edge. Remember to adjust the bevel before starting each time.
- \* Put curved tools in a clamp to hold them steady.
- \* A small hand file is useful for refining scissor edges
- \* Flexcut® blocks or emery blocks are useful for removing rust, sap, and debris from tools and pots. *(This will also be etc., etc.)*
- \* Carving tools are sharpened as are your bonsai tools. Remember many have left and right sides.
- \* A leather strip is useful for honing such tools.
- \* The average knife blade does not have a bevel. Count the courses as you swipe, then turn and repeat.
- \* Shovels and many garden tools also need sharpening.
- \* When done, wipe your tools with alcohol, restaurant wipes, Lysol, mouthwash, or bleach; then oil them.



Prior to *Todd's* February presentation, *Norm* announced that our May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will include a "Member-swap" and that the June meeting with *Marty Schmalenburg* may be at *Marty's* home, depending upon the number of members willing to make the trip.

*Nick Sadj*a won the charming Shimpaku juniper *Norm Geisinger* brought for a raffle.

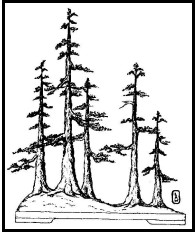
### **MYCORRHIZA PACKETS FOR SALE**

*Berni Gastrich* has purchased bulk containers of Mycorrhiza and has made small packets which will be available for sale at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The cost will be about \$3-\$5.

## YAMA KI'S REPRESENTATION AT THE MABS' BONSAI EXHIBIT

If you have a bonsai that you want to be considered for the Exhibit at the MABS Festival, send a photo of it to *Gail Therrien* ([Galtbon@aol.com](mailto:Galtbon@aol.com)) before March 25<sup>th</sup>. Share your prized "best" bonsai and hear the plaudits of your peers and the suggestive critiques from the professional artists at the Festival.

### MIDATLANTIC BONSAI NEWS



April 1<sup>st</sup> is the end of the early registration period. If you have misplaced your registration brochure, call *Rhoda Kleiman* (212.724.7840) for a replacement. Or go online to <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com> and download one.

The weekend of April 17-19 is nearly here and you do want to meet with the artists *David Easterbrook*, *Susan Amoy*, *Farrand Bloch*, and *Isao Omachi*. In December and January we introduced you to *Ms. Amoy* and *Mr. Easterbrook*. Now for *Farrand Bloch* of the Netherlands. He is returning to MABS after many years. When starting out in horticulture, his initial interest was in Japanese Zen Gardens. This led him into bonsai and advanced studies with *Mr. Hotsumi Terakawa*, *Yuji Yoshimura*, and *Suchin Ea*. When traveling in Japan he participated in workshops at *Shigeo Kuroso's* bonsai garden. Sozo Bonsai Studio is his own studio-garden which he opened in 1993. *Farrand* draws inspiration from harsh mountain conditions and the pollution and destruction wrought by humans. He describes his bonsai designs as lead, iron, and burned wood set together with Junipers. For him Junipers represent life which is eternal. Not only is he an accomplished bonsai artist, but *Farrand* has a literary side as well. He took over the former DUTCH MAGAZINE and together with *Rene Rooswinkel*, he expanded it through several mergers to today's BONSAI FOCUS. On Saturday he will present a lecture/demonstration using a large Juniper and late in the day he will conduct one of the critique sessions of the Exhibit (YAMA KI will have three trees).

More than half of the 18 vendors will have pre-bonsai and bonsai materials for your selection. You will also find tools and adjuncts (as noted above), containers--both handcrafted and machined, books, accessories, and many new ideas.

You will find a number of international artists in attendance who have registered as you do. They come because of the outstanding program MABS presents every year, and has for 25 years. And everyone at MABS is there to learn, share, and talk about BONSAI.

### BARTLETT ARBORETUM'S IMPROVEMENTS - PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

*Gail Therrien*



Over the past year or so, YAMA KI members may have noticed the numerous improvements being made at our meeting location, the Bartlett Arboretum. Along with considerable sprucing up of the grounds and the Education Building, Bartlett is engaged in a major expansion of its horticultural programs, many of which would be of interest to Yama Ki members. Check out their many offerings at [www.Bartlettarboretum.org](http://www.Bartlettarboretum.org).

In the upcoming year, YAMA KI and Bartlett hope to collaborate in developing several programs, as well as staging exhibits, for the benefit of both organizations. In the meantime, when you come to your next YAMA KI meeting, schedule a little extra time to explore the 91-acre property: "a living museum of majestic trees, rare plant collections, charming gardens, and varied natural habitats and landscapes traversed by hiking and walking trails".\* You may be surprised to see what you've been missing on your way to and from our bonsai meetings.

\*[www.Bartlettarboretum.org](http://www.Bartlettarboretum.org) website



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COMING EVENTS

- Mar 28 12:30 pm *Marty Schmalenburg*
- Apr. 17 - 19 MidAtlantic 2009 Spring Festival
- Apr. 21 5:30 pm Buffet dinner @ Bartlett Arboretum  
6:30 pm *David Easterbrook*
- May 2 11:00 am *Sandro Segneri* lecture/demo on  
Ponderosa pine plus Club Swap Meet

Remember to check our website ([www.yamakibonsai.org](http://www.yamakibonsai.org)) for updates and latest information

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