



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

May

2005

**FULL DAY LECTURES, DEMONSTRATION, & WORKSHOP  
AT GLENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER - MAY 7, 2005  
9:00 AM - BERNI GASTRICH LECTURE ON TIMELY PINE MAINTENANCE  
10:00 AM - HORST KREKLER LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION  
1:00 PM - KREKLER’S “BYO” WORKSHOP**

*Horst Krekeler* will be here again to show us again how to search for beauty in a challenging tree. *Horst* is a renowned author and teacher and has recently retired as curator of the Bonsai Centrum in Heidelberg, Germany. He is an excellent presenter who shares his design process by verbalizing his thinking about the pros and cons of each branch and twig, while demonstrating. Most members have seen him during his numerous trips to us and have participated in our free “BYO” workshop.

The workshop’s cost is fully funded by our treasury so we expect many members to bring their trees. Remember, only one tree per participant until everyone has had a turn - if time permits we can have another chance. *Horst* is visiting many clubs during this trip to the east coast and I note most of the workshops are charging \$40 to \$50 to participate.

Please note that the meeting is at the Glenbrook Community Center, on the second floor. Travel directions are included on page 5.

## **MARTY SCHMALENBERG RETURNS TO YAMA KI** *Gail Therrien*

For those who made it to our April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the dreariness of the weather outside was quickly forgotten as we delved into the process of "building a bonsai" with one of our favorite guest artists, the ever charming *Marty Schmalenberg* of Stillwater Studios.

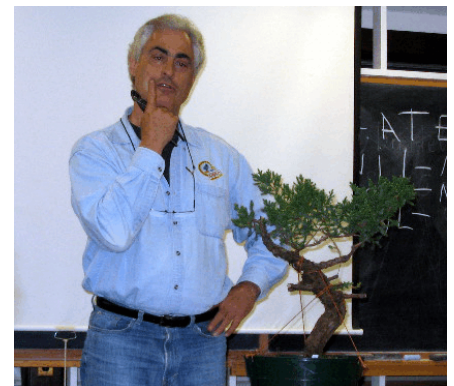
*Marty* was provided with a nice San Jose juniper acquired at the MABS Festival the previous week-end .... good lower trunk movement with a diameter approaching 3", rising into a somewhat elongated S curve with long branches containing foliage primarily at the branch ends. This "leggyness" is typical of the species unless a tree has been maintained during its growth period specifically for bonsai purposes. Unlike most other juniper species, San Jose is also very brittle and hard to bend without extreme use of wetting & raffia, and lots and lots of time.



The “Before”



Marty looking for the front



What’s next?

Before starting his work, *Marty* noted that when most people "do bonsai", they are trying to make something look like an old tree. *Marty* tries to "make a tree into an artistic form, or an idyllic tree form", not into a miniature tree. This is why creating movement in a tree, an essential element in bonsai design, is so critical.

While all in attendance studied the tree to determine its destiny, *Marty* suggested that most demonstrators feel compelled to "maximize a tree for Showtime" - thereby not always maximizing the future potential of a tree. *Marty's* preference is to "minimize" a tree, and design it for its future potential, i.e. to "build a bonsai". With that thought in mind, and to take advantage of the lower trunk movement, the top 2/3 of the tree was lopped off, leaving one branch which was developed into 3 separate pads, all to cascade back down the lower trunk line as they develop in



Add some jin and prune



The "After"

future seasons. *Marty* stressed several times that the foliage pinching that we all do with juniper will only serve to increase the foliage mass in the vicinity of the pinching. In order to develop budding further back along the length of a branch, constant cutting back is necessary until the development stage has been completed. The demonstration tree, which could have been a fairly respectable if somewhat ho-hum bonsai had its entire height been kept, now has the basis to become a very dynamic and graceful bonsai with lots of movement, and containing the "wow" factor that *Berni Gastrich* suggests a bonsai must have. Although the demo tree will be auctioned at the June annual meeting & auction, *Marty* would like to be invited back to kibitz with the future owner on its development.

Photographs by John Cotoggio

Leading into *Marty's* demonstration was a general discussion of the preceding week-end's MidAtlantic Spring Symposium. *Berni* questioned whether the quality of the trees which were provided for guest artists couldn't be improved in future years; this led to a general consensus that quality material trees were becoming scarcer as well as much more expensive. YAMA KI members are all encouraged to keep the club's needs for future demonstration trees in mind whenever they are out looking for material for themselves. Although YAMA KI cannot promise to purchase a material tree from a member, we would be more than happy to evaluate such purchases/collections with an eye toward future demo needs.

### MARTY'S GLEANINGS

- ✿ If a tree has reverse taper, it will never make a good bonsai, no matter what you do with the foliage.
- ✿ If one chooses to strip the bark on a juniper, a much better (natural) look than using shoe polish is achieved by using olive oil - virgin, of course - applied very lightly.
- ✿ "Growing bonsai" means knowing how to cultivate different species. This knowledge is vital to developing a bonsai.
- ✿ Trees with a lot of motion are the most interesting to look at.
- ✿ Mist, Mist, Mist newly pruned or transplanted bonsai to reduce the effects of desiccation and improve the climate for budding.



The tree displayed at Saturday's meeting was a European Larch approximately 30 - 35 years old provided by *John Cotaggio*. It was in a very suitable round, uneven, non-glazed brown pot

## WORLD BONSAI CONVENTION

The weekend of May 27-31 finds the World Bonsai Convention meeting relatively nearby in Washington, D.C. The Washington Hilton Hotel is headquarters.

Bonsai Clubs International (BCI), a co-sponsor of the Fifth World Bonsai Convention offers a number of opportunities for bonsai hobbyists to gain recognition for their work beyond their local clubs. BCI conducts contests for artists in this field with the application forms available at BCI's website: <http://www.bonsai-bci.com>. Deadlines for applying for these awards are extended, but you must follow the instructions with the applications.

- ✿ The Ben Oki International Design Award 2004/2005 is for BCI members who are beginners (as certified by a local BCI Organization—YAMA KI is one).
- ✿ The Ismail Sale Award 2005 is for any bonsai person, amateur or professional. It recognizes good bonsai design.
- ✿ The "Bonsai On Line Magazine" Suiseki Award 2005 is a suiseki photo contest and features several categories.
- ✿ The Pedro J. Morales Tropical Bonsai Design Award is a \$1,000 grant for new bonsai talent in the tropical Bonsai World in Latin America. It is a design award for amateurs.
- ✿ The Cetré Award International 2005, is judged in the autumn. It recognizes the ability to match a tree with a correct pot. It is for any bonsai person, amateur or professional.
- ✿ American Bonsai Society sponsors the Joshua Roth New Talent Competition. It is included in this year's Convention. Last year our own *Mike Pollock* won the coveted award. Consider entering this exciting event, and at least observing if you attend the D.C. Convention.

And finally, there will be exhibits of bonsai, suiseki, and pots, as well as the opportunity to visit the incredible bonsai at the National Arboretum (on New York Avenue no less and with space honoring *Yuji Yoshimura*). The website (above) also has a registration form for the Convention for your use.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Photographs, comments, and gleanings relating to the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2005 Festival will appear in the June issue. The charging cable for the laptop used was left at the hotel and the data stored in the computer could not be retrieved in time for this issue.

## DUES ARE DUE

The YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY'S fiscal year is May 1st through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, dues are now in order for the new fiscal year. Please send your check payable to the YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY (\$25 for members, \$35 for family memberships) to the return address on the back page.



**GUY GUIDRY AZALEA WORKSHOP  
JULY 9, 2005**

*Guy Guidry* has been working in the bonsai field for more than 20 years, his mentor was *Vaughn Banting*. *Guy* is one of the stellar American bonsai artists who has a firm commitment to native American trees as bonsai - - - without trying to make them resemble Japanese black pine. The July issue of YAMA KI NEWSLETTER will tell you more about him and his bonsai intelligence. For now, sign up for the workshop using fine quality azaleas which are ready for bonsai styling and do it with a bonsai specialist from a part of country which claims azaleas as "nearly native."

*Guy* sent the following photos of some of the material for the workshop. By July, of course, the azaleas will be much fuller.



The workshop is limited to 10 participants; the workshop fee is \$125, the cost of the material. *Guy's* workshop fee will be paid by YAMA KI.

If you wish to purchase a tree and participate in the workshop, please mail your check payable to the YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY with the coupon below. You can call or email *Irv Kleiman* (212-724-7840 or [irkleiman@rcn.com](mailto:irkleiman@rcn.com)) to reserve your tree, but the actual participants will be based on a first-come basis of the checks received.

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Yama Ki Bonsai Society, Inc.  
165 West End Avenue - 12D  
New York, NY 10023

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$125.00 for an azalea pre-bonsai and container and a reservation in the *Guy Guidry* workshop on Saturday, July 9, 2005 at 1:00 pm.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE GLENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER**

The Glenbrook Community Center is at 35 Crescent Street in Stamford, telephone: (203) 324-1301. The meeting room we will be using is on the second floor. (An elevator is available). If you are coming from I-95, take exit 9, to Route 1 (one right turn from 95 south, 2 left turns from I-95 north.) Take the first right turn onto Courtland Avenue. At the third traffic light, at the foot of a bridge, turn left. Follow the road around to take the first right, which is Crescent St. The Community Center is an old school halfway down the street on the left. If you get to the railroad tracks, you've gone too far.

If you are coming from the Merritt Parkway, take exit 36, Route 106, and turn right onto route 106 from either north or south, towards Darien/Stamford. Follow the road approximately 3 miles until you come to an all-way stop and turn right onto Glenbrook Road. At the second light, turn left on to Courtland Avenue, (you are following Rte. 106 so far). At the next light, turn right, and then take the first right onto Crescent Street. The Community Center is an old school halfway down the street on the left. If you get to the railroad tracks, you've gone too far.

OFFICERS

Gail Therrien ..... President  
Jim Glatthaar ..... Vice-President  
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Steve Peach ..... Recording Secretary

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

- May 7 *Berni Gastrich:*  
9 am - on Pines Maintenance  
*Horst Krekeler:*  
10 am - Lecture, Demo  
1 pm - "Byo" Workshop
- June 18 *Berni Gastrich:*  
11 am - on Pines Maintenance  
1 pm - Annual Meeting, Elections, & Auction
- July 9 *Guy Giudry:*  
10 am - Lecture/demonstration on Azalea  
1:00 pm - "BYO Workshop"

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