



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

May

2011

## MARCO INVERNIZZI ALL DAY DEMONSTRATION MAY 21, 2011 9:30 AM SHANTI BITHI NURSERY

The YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY meeting will take place at the Shanti Bithi Nursery (3047 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, CT). All, except possibly a few new members, have shopped there and taken advantage of our member discounts. *Marco Invernizzi* will be there all day demonstrating his styling techniques. Usually this day is a SALE DAY and you will have the opportunity to have our experienced members help you select your purchases as well as the expert Shanti-Bithi staff.



## APRIL'S DINNER MEETING WITH STEVE TOLLEY



By arrangement, *Steve Tolley* arrived from Binghampton, England before his engagement as one of the featured artists at the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival. YAMA KI had the privilege of an intimate meeting with *Steve* at our evening dinner meeting the day before the Festival.



*Steve* reminded us that bonsai is one of the few creative activities that has four dimensions. In addition to the usual three (length, width, and depth) there is the forth - time! Bonsai styling and maintenance is a continuous process. While styling today you must take into consideration the future - from a compositional as well as horticultural perspective!

*Mike Pollock* brought a mature collected American larch to serve as the demo material. After studying the tree, *Steve* stated that there was not sufficient time to style the tree to its full potential and indicated what he could do now to enhance it as a bonsai. After a brief discussion, members present voted for him to describe what he would do if time permitted.

The tree had some large heavy branches at odd angles and wrong places. *Steve* said to change the positions of the branches would take hours, but that with steam he could accomplish it in minutes -- yes, with steam, even with using a wall-paper steam remover. Using bags and wet cloths to protect the trunk and foliage, you apply the steam at the bending point for about three minutes, and the branch will bend quickly and easily. Then use a guy wire to hold the branch in place as it cools and dries. In fact, if you apply the steam too long, the branch will droop. He also recommended using a creme brulee burner to smooth old wood jin and shari.

He then proceeded to critique the best and worst features of the tree and to style accordingly, within the time constraints., using raffia, wire, and muscles. We hope *Mike* will bring the tree to a meeting next spring to show us how time and his bonsai experience have enhanced the bonsai.



*Mike Humphrey* provided the Kusumono containing Sedum, Sekura viola, Aruncus and the Labrador violet.



Labrador violet,.....

## MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES FESTIVAL

*Rhoda Kleiman*

WHEW ! The 28<sup>th</sup> MidAtlantic Bonsai Festival is history. But it was certainly a terrific weekend. Setting the mood directly facing the hotel's entrance, *Dave Tettemer's*, Lehigh Valley Bonsai, set an eye-catching tokonoma. The hanging scroll was a scene of his barn while three miniature sculpted hens/roosters sat on a bit of slate from the farm as an accent



From 8am til 5 pm Friday, April 15, five aspiring bonsai "newbies" worked on comparable Shimpaku junipers as they vied to be winners of the first round of the New Talent Competition (sponsored by *Joshua Roth* and American Bonsai Society). Attendees and hotel guests were welcome to stroll in and out of their workroom.



There are many photos of the demonstrations and exhibit trees still to edit, so this article will continue in the June newsletter.

The article on the following pages was written and sketched by our new YAMA KI member, eleven-year old *Martin Janda*.



# The Lightning Style

Dedicated to

Mike Pollock

The lightning style depicts a tree that has been struck by lightning in the wild. Creating the lightning style on a bonsai can be very dangerous as it involves burning and cracking the tree which may harm or even kill the tree if not done correctly. The method can be used to shorten a collected tree if you do not want a broom style. Be aware do all ~~the~~ deadwood burning before bleaching with a powerfull mix of lime and sulfur. This style will not represent a tree exactly for the small shari's will not appear on a full sized tree. The style is best used on pines, and or conifers.

Drawn example



an unbalanced rock landscape to give the impression of height

Turn  
For  
steps

By Martin Janda





# Instructions for Lightning Style

read (2) before doing (1)

(1) decide a proper cut line that is diagonal



(2) select a maximum of 3 branches to be kept on the tree.



(3) The rest of the branches should be pruned. That is those that are below the cut line.



(4) The wood above the cut line should now be cut off.



(5) Now create a large shari about 3 inches long around the cut creating deadwood.



(6) The deadwood should now be cracked and frayed



(7) Now burn parts of the existing deadwood.



By Martin Janda

cont

⑧. now move down the trunk creating small sharis. The sharis should cut deep so they will not heal.



⑨. Bleach all sharis. With a mixture of lime and sulfur.



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#### COMING EVENTS

##### May 7 YAMA KI EXHIBIT & VENDOR'S TABLE

Yama Ki is participating in the Garden Education Center's (our meeting place) 50th Annual May Gardener's Market. We will have between 2 and 4 six-foot tables for our display. We will also have a vendor's table from which to sell bonsai-related items. The market is open from 9 am until 2pm. Participants are asked to be finished setting up by 8:45; the grounds will open at 7 am for setup.

We will have relaxed requirements for this exhibit. We encourage trees-in-training and don't require multi-object displays. If you would like to exhibit a tree or trees, please email *Mike Pollock* ([mikepollock@me.com](mailto:mikepollock@me.com)).

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

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