



Yama Ki Newsletter



November 2012



(LEFT) Fall color was nicely represented by member Accent plants on display at the October meeting

Marco Invernizzi's Recipe for Creating Great Bonsai

Marco compared the process of creating a bonsai with cooking, one of his other favorite pastimes.

Here is a summary of his process:

SHOP for the best fresh ingredients; COLLECT a tree with bonsai "potential"
Look for trunk movement, well established (solid roots, good bark), Nebari, Jin, Shari



ASSEMBLE & PREPARE ingredients; TRIM and PREPARE for wiring and styling
Hide or minimize defects (like younger or weak branches, ones without buds) Take time to prepare it –do not trim, wire, and style all at once. Love and respect your tree to get the best from the material; gently wire weak (older - 'virgin') branches; manage seasonal energy effectively by creating fan-shaped branches that evenly distribute the energy.



COOK the dish; Continue to take CARE of, and TRAIN, the bonsai year round
During this time, the tree becomes an "intelligent" bonsai - one that can maintain the style you have directed it into. Keep the tree in full sun until June, then move to 50% shade; don't repot until after 2 years; the tree needs 5 to 10 years of work before you can really call it a "bonsai"



ENJOY with friends; TREE now 'grows' as a bonsai



HIGHLIGHTS

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Bonsai, by an “Italian Master” – Marco Invernizzi



1

Marco’s demo material was a collected Douglas Fir that had been planted in a bonsai pot for 3 years, but not worked on. When he finished the styling, he said the tree could go in full sun until June, and then into about 50% shade for the rest of the summer. This applies to firs and spruces. The demo tree should be fertilized generously, but not repotted until two growing seasons had passed. Then, it should go into a somewhat smaller pot, but not into the smallest size. He advised us not to rush our trees into the smallest possible pots.



2

When a tree is young and the low branches are thin, the energy of the tree will go to the higher branches, which will become strong faster. The bonsai artist wants to help the weaker parts of the tree to grow faster, and slow down the growth of the stronger parts. If your tree has low branches that are weak, wire them into a higher position (or tilt the pot so the weak branches receive more light), and they will draw more of the tree’s energy. Once the low branches become thick and strong, they will draw energy evenly with the higher branches.

Before you start to work on a tree, first clean and expose the *Nebari* area for several reasons:



3

- To see the actual shape of the *Nebari* if part of it is buried
- To see which way the roots are growing (Roots can also be wired into a more desirable position or direction, but when you are working with *Yamadori*, it is best to remove as little of the roots as possible.)
- To expose the bark at the very base of the trunk to protect it from rotting and to allow the bark to age.

The goal of bonsai is to create a tree that looks old, even if it is not old. Interesting bark is a feature that gives a tree the feeling of age, and it is something that you can’t fake.



4

Chuhin is bonsai that is larger than *shohin*. Literally, it means “the size in the middle.” *Chuhin* bonsai are large enough to have a lot of interesting features. Features or details like *jin* and *shari* that are small can make a medium-sized tree look larger - or like a large tree in miniature.

Sabamiki is a hollowed area in the trunk of a tree.

Yamadori (trees collected in the wild) can be unexpectedly fragile, so be extremely careful when wiring them for the first time.

The *literati* style has a long, slender, elegant trunk and a limited amount of foliage, mainly at the top. It looks best in a small pot.

When you don’t know what to do with a tree, first eliminate all the

1. Marco critiqued the material
2. He prepared it by trimming
3. Wiring is complete
4. After styling is done



parts that can never be useful for a bonsai, such as dead branches that are too small for *Jins*. On conifers, a branch may still have green needles, but if it has no active terminal buds, that branch is actually dead, so you can remove it. However, there may be a back bud somewhere along the branch that will keep part of that branch alive, so if you think you want to use that branch, look for back buds.

The wide, rounded outline of an old tree also applies to individual branches. Long, thin, pointed branches look young. Thick, wide, spreading branches look old.

Find the good features of each tree and try to emphasize them while trying to hide or disguise any defects or flaws.

The branches and apex should tend to grow forward, so the tree looks like it is welcoming you in. However, if the apex leans too far forward, it will shade the front branches. "Elbows" are discouraged.

The appearance of movement in the trunk is a feature that always draws attention. Conifers usually have the most interesting or appealing features on the trunk.

Prune a weak branch gently. Strong branches can be pruned more aggressively. Handle branches carefully to avoid stressing them.

On a very healthy conifer, some needles can be removed in the autumn. Otherwise, spring is a better time.

When working on firs, it is good to spray the foliage with water to reduce the amount of oils from your hands that get onto the foliage.

Use a wood hardener (like Minwax) to protect and preserve deadwood on your trees. It should be water based, transparent, and have a flat finish. Lime sulfur is a fungicide and it will create a light color, but it won't preserve or harden the deadwood. It should be applied to your *Jins* after the wood hardener, and reapplied every year.

If you are less experienced, style each branch as soon as you have wired it, so you will know immediately if there is a problem with the way you have wired the branch. If you are an expert, you can wire the entire tree before you start to style it.



Don't wire when buds or candles are new. Wire can be left on until it starts to bite into the branch. You may need to remove wire from some branches before others.

After the demo, Marco provided advice to members on their trees.



Logo Contest Styling of Our American



We are looking for a new logo. Yes, you heard it right; Yama-Ki is looking to update our logo.

Creativity is *strongly* encouraged. Perhaps it's a picture of a cool branch or maybe a great piece of deadwood, not to mention a smoking hot tree. The image should be unique and unquestionably reflective of bonsai.

Digital silhouette photo's need to be emailed to either Yama-Ki Board Member Nick Sajda (nsajda@bartels-pagliaro.com) or Al De Angelis (aj.deang@gmail.com) no later than **DECEMBER 1ST**. The winner will be announced at our December 8th holiday party and auction.

In addition to bragging rights, the winner will receive a handmade imported accent pot from John Cotoggio.

Join the fun!



Vice Presidents Message

Dear Membership,

John Cotoggio called me this week and asked me to write a VP letter for our monthly newsletter. So here it goes...

What a great meeting on September 28th. Marco Invernizzi styled a Douglas Fir, followed by a membership tree critique. The chairs were set in a semi-circle around Marco and for the first two hours we all watched and asked questions as Marco transformed a piece of Mountain Yamadori into a what will be a great **bonsai tree**. One member, his name will go unmentioned, made an offer for the tree but he will have to wait for the December auction at which time the Fir tree will be put on the block. Following the workshop **every** member was given **equal** time to present a tree to Marco and ask for styling suggestions...a very informative and educational portion. ***Thank-you Marco! A great time was had by all those who attended.***

If you have not read the activity calendar in the newsletter please note, **Saturday December 8th is our holiday party and auction** at the GEC (10-5). The auction is always a major draw and an important source of revenue for the club. Please look over your trees, tools, pots and etc. and donate **quality** stuff accordingly. It takes people, i.e. members, to run any club function and our holiday party auction is no different. Alas we need a volunteer, or two, to step up and coordinate the festivities. Reach out for either John Cotoggio or myself and get more involved. For those of you who don't know auctioneer extraordinaire Pete Halm; he would say show-up on the 8th, bid often and spend lots.

Lastly, no hobby club will grow and thrive without membership support and participation. It's just not enough to send in your yearly dues. Activities like our yearly bonsai show, twice a year party/auctions, newsletters, etc. all require membership commitment. These are activities and benefits we all enjoy but without volunteers, quite frankly, things just don't happen. The pay is low but the rewards and fun are high. If you have not jumped in yet, don't be shy.

See you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

Mark Toepke,

Vice President Yama Ki

Holiday Party & Auction – Volunteers Needed

One or two volunteers are needed to coordinate the festivities this year. Please reach out to John Cotoggio, ronin812@gmail.com, or Mark Toepke, mailto:Winemwt@aol.com, as soon as possible!





This service will be free to Yama Ki members in good standing, and please remember it is for bonsai and related items only. Buyer and seller will make arrangements for payment and delivery.

Please submit your classified text to Lavanya (llmuller@optonline.net) by the 7th of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

For sale: Bryan Albright bonsai pot



Description: This is a hand-made one-of-a-kind Bonsai pot by British potter Bryan Albright. It is used, but in excellent condition. The pot is deep blue with irregular green spots, perfect for deciduous trees like maple or hornbeam.

Measurements: 12" x 8" x 2½"

Asking price: \$100

Contact: John Cotoggio, ronin812@gmail.com

For sale: Sara Rayner pot



Description: This is a new pot by American potter Sara Rayner. It has a dark brown glaze.

Measurements: Round, 6 inches across and 2 inches deep

Asking price: \$30

Contact: Mark Toepke, Winemt@aol.com



For sale: Mugo pine bonsai

Description: Purchased from Bernie Gastrich in spring of 2011. It is covered in buds!

Measurements: Height 17 inches;
Trunk diameter 3.25 inches

Asking price: \$150

Contact: Mark Toepke,
Winemt@aol.com



Other Events

2013

APRIL

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies

The Thirtieth annual MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies will commence Friday evening, April 19, 2013 and will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 21, 2013 at the Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA.

The artist lineup for the 30th annual event are:

From Japan Kunio Kobayashi and two rising superstars stars Ryan Neil and Peter Warren

New for 2013 are workshops held on Friday

www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com

Hotel Contact info:

Tel: 717.469.0661

604 Station Road, Grantville, PA

2013

JULY

Yama-Ki has reserved a table for the Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County 4-H Fair

July 27-28, 2013

Location: Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park, 201 Gypsy Trail, Carmel , NY, 10512

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Yama-Ki Contact - Layne Rodney (Show Chairperson) & Charlie Muller

OCTOBER

(a must go show)

American Bonsa

REFORGED & REFINED

October 4th - 6th, 2013

Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon

Hosted by Ryan Neil

www.artisanscupofportland.com

Yama Ki Activities — 2012 To 2013



2012

NOVEMBER

Yama Ki November Meeting at the [GEC](#) on Sunday November 11th
From 12-4

Subject: Wintering Bonsai Trees

Join in a discussion with fellow hobbyists concerning the challenges of wintering your collection.

Hosted by: John Cotoggio

Yama-Ki Board Meeting at the GEC on Sunday November 11th
From 10-12

DECEMBER

Yama-Ki December Auction and Holiday party

Where: The Connecticut [GEC](#)

Saturday December 8th

From 10-5

2013

JANUARY

Happy New Year

Don't forget to keep an eye on your trees

They need water in the winter (though not as much)

FEBRUARY

Yama-Ki Meeting at the Connecticut [GEC](#) on Saturday February 16th

From 11-4

Yama-Ki is proud to host a day with Colin Lewis

Larch/Deciduous Focus - additional detail to come

www.colinlewisbonsai.com

2013

MARCH

Yama-Ki Meeting at the Connecticut [GEC](#)

Yama-Ki is proud to host a day with Marty Schmalenberg

Meeting Time and agenda to follow

The 1st meeting of the Queens, New York Chapter

March 13th Wednesday

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

www.queensbotanical.org

Meeting Agenda TBD

APRIL

2nd annual Yama-Ki Bonsai Show

Where: Stamford Museum

39 Scofieldtown Rd, Stamford, CT 06903

www.stamfordmuseum.org

April 26th - April 28th

Start thinking about the tree or trees you want to display

Details to follow

Queens, New York Chapter meeting

April 10th Wednesday

The meeting of the Queens, New York Chapter

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

www.queensbotanical.org

Meeting Agenda TBD



MAY

Yama-Ki Meeting at the
Connecticut GEC, TBD



The Queens, New York Chapter
meeting

May 8th Wednesday

The meeting of the Queens, New
York Chapter

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY
11355

www.queensbotanical.org

Meeting Agenda TBD

JUNE

Yama-Ki Meeting at the
Connecticut GEC

Yama-Ki is proud to host a day
with Marty Schmalenberg

Meeting Time and agenda to
follow



The Queens, New York Chapter
meeting

June 12th Wednesday

The meeting of the Queens, New
York Chapter

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY
11355

www.queensbotanical.org

Meeting Agenda TBD

JULY

Yama-Ki July Auction and BBQ

Where: Jim & Sharon Glatthaar's
house

Saturday July 20th

From 12-5

Details and directions to follow

The Queens, New York Chapter
meeting

July 10th Wednesday

The meeting of the Queens, New
York Chapter

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY
11355

www.queensbotanical.org

Meeting Agenda TBD

AUGUST

Yama-Ki Meeting at the
Connecticut GEC

Yama-Ki is proud to host a day
with John Romano

Meeting time and agenda to follow



The Queens, New York Chapter
meeting

August 14th Wednesday

The meeting of the Queens, New
York Chapter

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY
11355

www.queensbotanical.org

Meeting Agenda TBD

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