



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

September

2010

**RODNEY CLEMONS LECTURE/DEMO  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2010 12:00 NOON  
AT THE GREENWICH GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER**

*Rodney Clemons* spent his formative years in the Florida panhandle, moving to Atlanta, GA when he was thirteen. He was captivated by bonsai in 1973 when he saw a Trident maple forest that struck chords in his heart and artistic nature. Bonsai has been his passion since that time. *Rodney* is a bonsai artist, instructor and professional landscaper, specializing in Japanese gardens and natural water features. His work has developed his sensitive eye and skill with rock and plant placement which adds realism to his bonsai creations. He studied with *E. Felton Jones* and enjoyed workshops with many visiting artists like *John Naka* and *Yuji Yoshimura*. His style has been formed by studying nature, drawing heavily on childhood memories of coastal Florida. *Rodney* excels in capturing the tension in nature and translating it to bonsai. He is best known for his unique "rock plantings" and his love of "Kingsville" boxwood. When teaching his remarks are delivered with a liberal dose of humor. He has presented demonstrations at numerous bonsai societies meetings and conventions. A few of the highlights are: 1996 ABS Convention, Hershey, PA; 1997 International Bonsai Convention, England; 1998 International Bonsai Symposium, Rochester, NY; 2001 (MABS) Mid Atlantic Bonsai Festival, NJ; 2002 and 2004 Brussel's Rendezvous, Memphis, TN; 2003, 2006 and 2009 Expo 2003, Asheville, NC. He has spoken at four BSF (Bonsai Societies of Florida) Conventions, the last one was in Gainesville, FL. in 2006. *Rodney* enjoys the opportunity to share and express his love of nature and bonsai with people in the hope that he can influence them in a positive way.



*Rodney* will do a "Stump the Chump" program. We will spend the afternoon learning from him by using our own bonsai as a learning tool. This is your chance to get the opinion of an expert on how to develop your most difficult tree. You can bring a pre-bonsai up to a finished tree for his critique and comment. Each person should bring one (1) tree (this is not a workshop) for *Rodney's* use in his presentation. He will try to get to every tree, but as always with this type of program, no guarantees

**AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup> MEETING AT SUSAN AMOY'S "STUDIO"**

Fifteen members attended our July meeting at *Susan Amoy's* studio in Newburgh, NY, including four new members and two of our most senior members, *Herb Yanowitz* and *Phyllis Wishnick*. YAMA KI was blessed by a break in our very hot and humid summer - the weather was perfect for an outdoor meeting.

*Susan's* greenhouse is made from pre-fab units which she planned in every detail. All components are designed to maintain a constant 60 F. temperature; an automatic watering system; triple-thick plastic walls; its own electrical panel and generator; automatic vents in the roof, convection heating, etc. No jealousy among the members, just approval for the precision planning and construction, even from our two architect members –*Stan Maurer* and *Nick Sajda*.

Even more interesting than the construction details, the contents of the greenhouse had us enthralled: rare imported plants, predominantly succulents, which may no long come into the country. They came from South Africa, Yemen, Hawaii (even though it is our 50<sup>th</sup> state), Madagascar, Somalia, and elsewhere. Some are so rare they do not have common names. She is propagating them for resale. Behind the greenhouse *Susan* has large

fenced areas with winter hardy plants. Some are very elegant, mature bonsai which she maintains for clients while others are her bonsai - her own collection and “inventory” for sale.

After her guided tours we had a short lunch break. In the absence of *Mike Pollock*, our new president, *Norm Geisinger* conducted a brief business meeting.

*Susan* followed with a lecture/demonstration on a large *Adenium obesum* from East Africa. After reviewing the possible angle and placement of the plant, she decided on an angle that required a large rock or rocks to anchor the plant’s position. No problem, she excused herself and explored her property, returning with a large suitable selection. The plant has thin roots so she removed very few roots,

The “finished” demo tree was raffled and was won by *Mike Humphrey*, one of our new members. *Stan Maurer* won another succulent that *Susan* donated.

### GLEANINGS for SUCCULENTS AS BONSAI

- ✿ Use aluminum wire on succulents.
- ✿ Lookout for spider mites, mealy bugs, or white fly.
- ✿ Malathion<sup>®</sup> is deadly for Jade, but spray monthly with Safari<sup>®</sup>.
- ✿ *Susan’s soil*: chicken grit or small stones, bark (Pine) chips, and lime, pea gravel or crushed red lava for top dressing.
- ✿ April to September is a good repotting season.
- ✿ After repotting, sun only ½ day for several days and lightly spray.
- ✿ Wire after repotting.
- ✿ *Portulacaria Afro* can tolerate chilling as low as 50F.
- ✿ *Cedum Bertram Anderson* can tolerate chilling as low as 40F.



Members who arrived early helped setup *Susan’s* large open tent for the lecture/demonstration and workshop. The following photos were taken before the meeting and tour. It is difficult to sense the size of the greenhouse and the extent of her collection from the pictures.





Every inch of space is utilized. The meeting started with a guided tour of the greenhouse.



The tour continued to the back area of the greenhouse where winter-hardy bonsai are stored on tables secured within large anchor fencing. A large separate “cage” contains mature prized bonsai owned by wealthy individuals and maintained by Susan.



↘ Bonsai maintained for clients ↘



Bonsai available for sale

Susan tried positioning her large Adenium obesum in many ways, seeking a balanced composition while still exposing the root structure.



The tree ready to be raffled.

Workshop samples



## COMING EVENTS

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Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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Sep 19 12 pm *Roger Clemons* Lecture/Demo  
Nov 13 12 pm *Sean Smith*  
Dec 12 12 pm Holiday Party & Auction

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

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