



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other Sharing with the community”

April

2002

APRIL 27, 2002 AT THE GLENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER

10:00 AM - YASUO MITSUYA DEMONSTRATION

KATHY SHANER, TRANSLATOR

1:00 PM - KATHY SHANER BYO STYLING WORKSHOP

YASUO MITSUYA, KIBITZER

Mr. Yasuo Mitsuya and Ms. Kathy Shaner will be presenters at the coming Mid-Atlantic Spring Festival and we were fortunate to be able to fit our own small special meeting with them into their schedule.

You don't want to miss their presentations! *Mr. Yasuo Mitsuya* of Toyohashi, Japan. is an internationally renowned bonsai master and teacher whose personal collection is regarded as some of the finest bonsai in Japan. He is an expert horticulturist as well as an exceptional contemporary (“gendai”) styling artist who is particularly fond of working with conifers. *Mr. Mitsuya* has traveled around the world advocating “gendai” techniques and styling. In 1995, his last visit to MidAtlantic, he prepared several outstanding bonsai, He will do two lecture/demonstrations (one each on Saturday and Sunday), in addition to critiquing the Exhibit. His Sunday workshop is an Open Workshop (prior registration required) with bring-your-own-material.

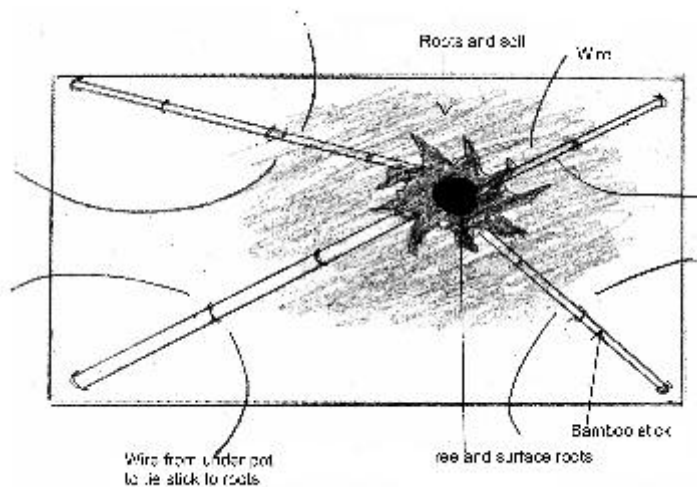
Ms. Kathy Shaner, once a New Yorker, now lives in San Jose, California which is where she discovered Bonsai. From June of 1989 to June of 1994 she studied Bonsai in Japan with a full apprenticeship under the tutelage of *Yasuo Mitsuya*. Since 1994 she has traveled extensively throughout the U.S. presenting bonsai lecture/demonstrations. At this Spring Festival *Kathy* will demonstrate her skills and ideas using material which she is bringing from California. In addition, on Friday night, she will offer a Critique of the Bonsai Exhibit material

After *Mr. Mitsuya's* lecture/demonstration (and lunch break), *Kathy* will conduct a workshop to help participating members elevate one of their favorite bonsai trees to a prized level. Participants may chose, instead, to bring pre-bonsai material for styling suggestions.

CHRIS PETERSON LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION HIGHLIGHTS SECURING A BONSAI IN ITS CONTAINER

Unfortunately, in his haste to bring his own plants for repotting, *Irv* forgot his camera, and members who missed this meeting will not see the beautifully styled bonsai and containers *Chris Peterson* brought to illustrate his lecture.

Chris spent some time discussing containers and the features to discern the degree of quality and workmanship between bonsai containers. He also emphasized the relationship between the tree and the container, demonstrating the significant difference between a “nice” match of tree and container and a “perfect” match. He reviewed the reasons for repotting, emphasizing that, especially with deciduous trees, short roots will result in short branches. In order to keep internodes tight and close together, you must repot and shorten roots frequently. *Chris* then demonstrated his technique to secure the tree in its container. He uses bamboo which he cuts to approximately 12" lengths, making sure that a natural bamboo notch is at the



end of the cut piece. He splits them lengthwise, in half or quarters, depending on the diameter of the cane. When he is ready to secure the tree in the container, he cuts each piece to a length which will be slightly less than from the tree to a corner of the container and cuts the end opposite the notch into a point. He places each stick over the roots so that the point digs into the roots at the base of the trunk and reaches diagonally, at a 25° angle, to the corners of the container. Protruding roots can then be tucked under the stick. Each bamboo stick is then secured in place with copper wire. The balance of the soil is applied so that it covers the bamboo and wire. Chris demonstrated the strength and security of the method by raising the

container, lifting the tree under the bottom branches. The purpose for the notch at the end of the stick is to prevent the wire which ties the stick over the roots from slipping off the stick when tightening.

CHRIS PETERSON'S GLEANINGS

- ✿ Use copper wire for screening and to hold the plant in the container. Aluminum stretches and breaks. Zinc screening is okay.
- ✿ Don't use plastic screening - the roots will clog and close the holes.
- ✿ On deciduous trees, expose surface roots as much as possible so that the roots will swell up.
- ✿ To protect the bark, lift black pines by the branches, never by the trunk.
- ✿ Glazed pots most often have a definite front. Look for it!

MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES

By the time you receive this NEWSLETTER, we will be about three weeks into spring. The MidAtlantic Spring Festival 2002 is only a few more weeks away.

Remember that in addition to five international artists with whom you can exchange ideas or elicit advice, you will have access to 18-19 vendors, an outstanding Exhibit of more than 30 bonsai, an auction with dozens of items, fine camaraderie, and raffle opportunities for mature trees styled by world class artists at the close of each lecture/demonstration.

You can still pre-register for this exciting weekend - or some part of it! If you can't make the weekend, come Saturday, April 20th to the Ramada Inn in nearby East Hanover, New Jersey.

There are a few openings for *Kathy Shaner's* afternoon BYO workshop on Saturday, April 27, 2002. This is a rare opportunity to create a prized bonsai from one of your favorite bonsai in your collection. The cost of the workshop is \$30, Call *Irv* or *Rhoda Kleiman* to reserve your place (212-724-7840) or <irkleiman@rcn.com>.

BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI

Berni Gastrich

REPOTTING AND AFTERCARE

In spite of what is typically done at lecture demonstrations and workshops, it is really a very bad idea to do major work on the top of a bonsai and then immediately repot it. Serious bending of branches by wiring does a great deal of damage to the xylem and phloem tubes which carry water and nutrients to the branches and foliage. If we now root-prune the tree we interfere with circulation even more. This combination can easily cause the tree to lose branches or even die completely. When major work is done on the top of a tree it is much better to wait until the following spring for root pruning and repotting.

We have also been taught to do a thorough watering immediately after repotting and then not to water again for quite some time. This made good sense in the days when bonsai soils contained large amounts of topsoil and/or peat moss which held water like a sponge. With modern bonsai soils a 25 % air space between soil particles is formed within minutes after watering. Root rot, so much feared with the old soils will not happen when this air space is present. When the surface of the soil looks dry it is perfectly safe to water again. Remember, a totally dry bonsai can die within hours, while root rot takes weeks.

The aftercare during the first month or so after repotting is absolutely the most critical time in the life of any bonsai. We have significantly reduced the ability of the tree to take in water. Therefore it is vital that we prevent water loss from the branches, especially in evergreens. This is the one time in the life of outdoor bonsai where a greenhouse is a significant advantage. The greenhouse maintains a very high level of humidity so there is almost no water loss from the branches. A temperature range above 40 degrees is easily maintained and is conducive to rapid healing and growth. There is also no drying wind in a greenhouse. Anything we do to mimic these conditions will be helpful. Choosing a wind free location or putting up a barrier of some sort is not difficult. For evergreens at least partial shade should be provided. An anti-desiccant spray like Wilt Proof is helpful. Hard frosts should definitely be avoided. This may mean carrying trees in and out repeatedly. The tree should not be fertilized at all for three to four weeks, and then very dilute fertilizer should be used.

Finally, when the tree is removed from its "aftercare" location this should not be done on a brilliantly sunny day. The ideal is to pick a cloudy period of two or three days. An alternative is to move the tree gradually from shade to full sun over a period of several days.

BONSAI MARRIAGE

A beautiful bonsai must be potted in an aesthetically pleasing container. For years we all have read about the relationship between the two components, admired trees which are well matched their pots, or gasped at the visual harm done to a fine tree which is unsuitably potted. Do you own a bonsai which you believe is enhanced by its container; a container which is elegant and adds to the drama of the tree it holds?

If your answer is "yes," you have an opportunity to win a \$1,000 cash prize and have your treasure featured in Bonsai Magazine. BCI, in conjunction with Centre International of Italy, awards this grant for the most harmonious marriage of bonsai and pot.

Your bonsai must have been trained by you from raw material, and been part of your collection for a minimum of five years. The pot must be a footed clay container with drainage holes and may be glazed or unglazed.

Page 15 of the January/February 2002, issue lists the rules for entering the contest (using photos). The entry must be submitted by May 1, 2002. The judging is by a distinguished panel of bonsai artists. The award will be presented at BCI 2002 in Orlando, Florida, and the winner is encouraged to be present.

Since YAMA KI is a member club in good standing, any of our members may enter. *Irv Kleiman* can provide you with a copy of the application. Call him at 212-724-7840 if you are interested in participating.

OFFICERS

Melba Grieshaber President
Jim Glatthaar Vice-President
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Veronica Cunningham Corresponding Secretary
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Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

COMING EVENTS

Apr 19-21 MidAtlantic Spring Festival
Apr 27 *Mitsuya* Lecture/Demonstration
Shaner BYO Workshop
May 18 TBA