



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

December

2001

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY & AUCTION DECEMBER 8, 2001 @ 12 NOON BARTLETT ARBORETUM

At our next meeting (our regular second Saturday of the month) we celebrate the year-end holiday season with our traditional buffet luncheon followed by our semi-annual auction. *Phyllis Wishnick's* committee makes sure there are some basics, but most of the buffet is created with dishes prepared and brought by members. Typically, there will be cold cuts, cheeses, quiches, meat balls, salads, dips, cakes, cookies. Each year there are some special dishes provided by members, e.g., ham, turkey, pasta, etc. The committee makes sure there is enough punch, both regular and spiked. Soft drinks and coffee are provided, of course. Call *Phyllis Wishnick* (914-723-5369) or *Melba Grieshaber* (203-327-4255) to tell us what food(s) you are bringing or for suggestions. Calling will help coordinate the balance between appetizers, entrees, and desserts. Everything is needed from hors d'oeuvres, salads, main and side dishes to desserts.

Come early to make sure you have your choice of your favorite foods and have ample time to socialize. This is an ideal time to solicit opinions from advanced members about bonsai techniques and problems. It's also a good time to preview the auction material.

Members receive a tax deduction for all items contributed for the auction while clearing their collection of surplus plants and containers. Remember, what is one person's problem tree is another person's exciting challenge! Plants, both mature and pre-bonsai, wire, tools, containers, books, and magazines are all welcome. The proceeds from our auctions comprise a substantial portion of the funds required to engage the top bonsai artists for our meeting demonstrations and workshops.

Last year our board voted to permit members to sell their plants and containers at the auction. Members may set up their materials at a designated table, with their prices. Alternately, they may place their material into the auction, with a required minimum bid. The final price realized will be subject to a 10% commission payable to the YAMA KI SOCIETY.

### MICHAEL PERSIANO DEMONSTRATES HIS STYLING APPROACH WITH KINGSVILLE BOXWOOD



First Look



Removing Bottom Branches

*Michael Persiano* discussed his styling techniques and approach, which he emphasized was based on his personal sense of beauty. Of course, he knows the "rules", but he has no problem over-ruling them based on his judgement. He was very cautious making branch cutting decisions with this tree because boxwood is such a slow grower. He adjusted his concept of the tree's front as he proceeded, based on the surface roots, trunk line and orientation.

*Mike* indicated that he prefers to use aluminum wire when he is not sure of the final branch placement, i.e., when he expects to move and flex the branch a few times. This also applies to delicate



How to Thin the Foliage?



Ready for a Bonsai Container

branches. *Harry Saunders* held the winning ticket.

### MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES NEWS



The MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Festival will commence Friday evening, April 19, 2002 and will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 21, 2002 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in East Hanover, New Jersey. There will be twelve lecture/demonstrations presented by five renowned professional bonsai artists from three countries. The featured artists are: *Yasuo Mitsuya* from Japan, *Dan Barton* from the United Kingdom, *Kathy Shaner* from California, *Ed Trout* from Florida, and *Dale Cochoy* from Ohio.

Again, there will be a dozen and a half selected bonsai vendors offering a large selection of bonsai related plants, containers, tools, and books as well as the popular exhibit of award winning bonsai from each of the member clubs, and a choice of four critiques of the bonsai exhibit by the attending artists, and five workshops.

You will receive a registration form with more details in a few weeks. Since the workshops and critiques are limited in the number of participants, it's wise to return the registration form as soon as possible. Although, the hotel is within a one hour commute for most members, registrants who will be attending more than one day and wish the convenience, a special room rate has been arranged with the Ramada Hotel.

Each issue of the newsletter will include a brief resume of one of the attending bonsai artists. Here is your introduction to the first artist:

**Dale Cochoy** will expose you to his styling techniques and artistic viewpoint on Friday night, April 19 working with *Taxus* (Yew). He comes to the northeast from Hartville, Ohio. where he is the co-proprietor of Wild Things Bonsai Nursery. If you've been to a MidAtlantic Spring Festival, you will recognize him as a regular vendor. In addition to bonsai, *Dale* creates pottery. Recently his pottery won second place in the Modern Category at the National Bonsai Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival. He is active in the American Bonsai Society, serving as a director. On Sunday afternoon, he will offer a workshop with Cranberry cotoneaster to be styled as shohin.

## KINGSVILLE BOXWOOD

Native to east Asia, West Indies, western Europe, temperate areas of the Mediterranean region, as well as Central America, the Latin name of this elegant family is “Buxus” or “Buxaceae.” Box and Boxwood are used interchangeably. It has approximately 60 species; the most popular for bonsai is the microphylla and within that numerous variants—‘Compacta’ providing a dwarf material.



Kingsville box is very slow growing, perhaps a maximum of half an inch a year. It does well in almost any well-drained soil, and prefers filtered sunlight or partial shade; once established it can adapt to full sun. This shrub is hardy in most northern zones but likes to be sheltered in the winter. The leaves will bronze out-doors, but stay green year-round indoors. The leaves on buxus are ovate, notched at the tip, and are darker on the upper side than on the underside. The smooth greyish bark tends to crack with age. The wood is very hard and is used in cabinet-making; in gardens it is widely used as a hedge and lends itself to topiary styling.

*Mr. Yuji Yoshimura* suggested spring to autumn as the preferred time to pot Box, but styling can be done at any time. Cutting and pinching are the techniques for styling Buxus, but you may wire. It lends itself to many styles of bonsai, suggested by the particular material you have in hand. Boxwood has a reputation for ease of propagation. This can be done from cuttings, layering, or division; you can grow shrubs from seed, but they are VERY slow growing.

### YAMA KI BONSAI SOCIETY ON THE INTERNET

At the last Board meeting, the officers and directors voted to initiate a marketing campaign to expand our membership while simultaneously educating the public, in accordance with our charter. We are planning a member's bonsai exhibit at *Lasdon Arboretum* in the spring and, with the aid of *Mike Pollock*, have created a web site on the Internet. The URL address is <http://www.yamakibonsai.org>. At present the site includes a brief history of the Yama Ki Bonsai Society and a registration application. Our newsletters, starting with the October issue, are also online.