



# YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

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

January

2002

**CHASE & SOLITA ROSADE LECTURE, DEMO, & WORKSHOP  
JANUARY 12, 2002 AT THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM  
10:00 AM LECTURE/DEMO - 1:00 PM WORKSHOP**

2002 programming for YAMA KI opens on January 12th, at 10:00AM when the renowned husband and wife team of *Chase and Solita D. T. Rosade* will present a morning lecture/demonstration using macrophylla [Kingman (Tiger back) ficus]. The afternoon session, following a brief break for lunch will be a workshop with the same variety of ficus. The workshop fee of \$50 includes the plant. Since the workshop is limited to a maximum of 12 participants, *Chase and Solita* will be able to provide ample personalized instruction and suggestions. Containers will not be provided, since there will be no repotting. Please bring your own wire and tools.

*Solita D. Tafur Rosade* has been involved in bonsai since 1983 when she moved from her painting and horticulture hobbies. She began her bonsai studies in her native Colombia where she soon began to care for extensive collections beyond her own specimens and began to write about bonsai; she has co-authored a bonsai manual in Spanish. Several international teachers have helped develop her skills and knowledge of bonsai. *Solita's* love of teaching has led her to share the art of bonsai with students of all ages. She has presented lecture/demonstrations in this country and elsewhere on the planet – most recently in Malaysia. She is active in numerous bonsai organizations and was instrumental in founding the Latin American Bonsai Federation. In addition to international activities – demonstration and organizational, *Solita* works with her husband *Chase* operating the Rosade Bonsai Studio. She brings expertise with tropical materials to their operation. The January 12<sup>th</sup> program will be her first appearance at YAMA KI.

*Chase Rosade*, a Philadelphia native with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture, returns to YAMA KI after an absence of several years. In 1963, on an international jaunt, he visited Tokyo where he discovered bonsai. About the same time he came across a copy of *Yuji Yoshimura's* book “The Japanese Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes” which deepened his interest in the art. He made arrangements to study with *Kyuzo Yoshida* of Nara, and later with *Mr. Kawamoto*. *Chase* began to teach bonsai in 1968 and two years later established the Rosade Bonsai Studio. He has traveled on four continents teaching, lecturing, and presenting demonstrations. He established the *Chase Rosade Award for Design*. Although his preferred materials seem to be Pines, Junipers, Maples, and Azaleas, he says his favorite is the specimen with which he is working. *Chase*, too, is active in bonsai organizations, both domestic and international.

## **ROSADE'S WORKSHOP MATERIAL - FICUS MACROPHYLLA**

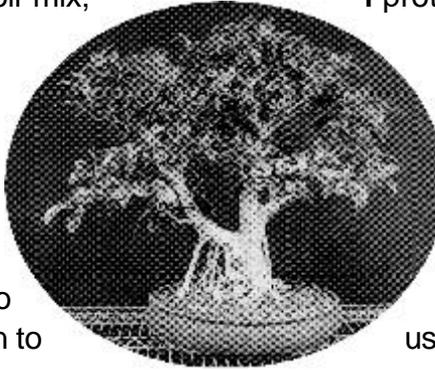
Ficus is hardly a new species for YAMA KI demonstrations, but *Solita and Chase Rosade* are bringing Ficus macrophylla to their workshop on January 12th. They recently returned from a bonsai presentation in the Malaysian Archipelago where they acquired a great deal of information about this variety of Ficus.

The Ficus, or rainforest fig, is naturally a tropical material which originated in the south-east Asian jungles. The more than 600 species are mainly evergreen with a few deciduous exceptions. The fruits vary from edible to inedible; in India the young shoots are eaten to prevent scurvy. The fruits enclose their petite white flowers, but fruiting is not common. In their natural habitat, these figs have elegant buttresses with wide trunks, and plentiful aerial roots. Young twigs are green or somewhat reddish, the leaves alternate and equilateral; older limbs are gray with old trunks nearly black.

The material is generally very sturdy with a few caveats for care:

• Avoid overhead watering, yet do mist it frequently especially in the summer; • Try to maintain even soil moisture; • If the area between leaf veins yellows, remove the infected leaves from plants; • Discard badly infected plants; • In addition to requiring temperatures above 40F (some say 55F), Ficus prefers full sun but tolerates low light and it has a tolerance for almost any soil mix; • Protect it from wind and draft, especially away from air conditioning units.

You can reduce leaf size by weekly in the summer and every 4-6 weeks in the winter. Ficus should be watched for scale, eelworm, black fly, thrips, anthracnose fungus and some forms of rot (all relatively easy to control). Because Ficus oozes its latex, a writer from Bonsai Clubs International notes that it is unnecessary to use a sealant when trimming branches. In fact they site *Gustafson's* suggestion to use a dull pruning tool which draws less latex than a sharp tool.



Jerry "Bonsaihunk" Meislik  
[www.bonsaihunk.8m.com](http://www.bonsaihunk.8m.com)

Repot any time of year, but the spring is ideal. Because Ficus roots proliferate so rapidly, you can cut as much as 50% when repotting. Although you may need to repot annually because of superb growing conditions, the guideline is once every 2-3 years—check the underside of your pot. When styling, trimming is preferred, but if you wire, constant vigilance must be maintained to avoid wire bites. When cutting back, always leave 2-4 leaves.

A good deal of tangential information is available about figs that is interesting: peculiarly, they do not have exposed flowers--the flowers are actually in an indentation which resembles its immature fruit; a specific wasp pollinates each species in a complexly structured process which is part of the food chain. The *Dockrilla cucumerina* orchid likes to grow on the underside of "macrophylla" and birds are drawn to its fruit (listed as either black or purple depending on the source cited).

Much of this information was obtained from the internet. Search "Ficus Macrophylla" on the Google search engine for further data.

### **'TIS JUST AFTER PARTYING**

YAMA KI's annual holiday party/auction was early in December last month: the 8<sup>th</sup> in fact. About one-third of our members came to the Bartlett toting edibles, comestibles, and potables, all especially prepared for celebrating Yama Ki, friendship, and the close of another successful bonsai year. As is our tradition, *Phyllis Wishnick* marshaled a helpful crew who, in under one hour, assembled a feast from hors d'oeuvres to dessert. A number of members exchanged recipes for there were several new dishes for tasting. Following a quick and thorough cleanup, *Pete Halm* and *Adam Hume* conducted our semi-annual auction. Thanks to the contributions of *Ken* and *Wendy Dannett*, we had a very successful trading afternoon—trading pots, containers, rocks, reading matter, and some limited plant material for \$s for our treasury. Everyone went home contented with the festivities and the auction.

### **REMOVE MINERAL STAINS FROM POTS**

The Holiday Auction included many large used containers from *Manny Dannett's* collection. Many of the containers had mineral stains which brought up a discussion about methods of stain removal. Both *Gail Therrien* and *Berni Gastrich* told us about "Sandflex", a product they use which successfully removes mineral buildup from ceramic containers. It is made in Germany by Klingspor Abrasives. Berni uses medium grain and paid \$5 at the MidAtlantic Spring Festival for a supply. He asked *Chase Rosade* to bring some to the January Meeting for sale to members.

## MIDATLANTIC NOTES



You should have received the MidAtlantic Spring Festival 2002 registration packet by now. If you haven't registered yet, do it now and mark your calendar for April 19<sup>th</sup> thru April 21<sup>st</sup>. Plan now which plant you would like to submit as one of the three bonsai to represent the YAMA KIBONSAI SOCIETY in the Exhibit Room. While basking in the enjoyment your plant brings to others, you will be able to enhance the styling by the critiques of the professional presenting artists.

Continuing with a brief professional biography on the MidAtlantic presenters, this month the second presenter is Mr. Ed Trout.

*Mr. Trout*, a Floridian, a grower and wholesaler with a depth of horticultural knowledge about tropical and semi-tropical materials, will be a first-timer on Saturday, April 20, at the Spring Festival 2002. He has been very active in Bonsai since 1970. He is the recipient of several international awards, among them the 1994 Ben Oki International Design Award and the 1999 JAL World Bonsai Award when one of his submissions received recognition as one of the top 100 world bonsai. He is active in international and national bonsai organizations where he holds board positions. *Ed* will do several presentations including a lecture/ demonstration with *Ficus neriifolia*, a critique of the Exhibit material, and on Sunday a material-supplied workshop with *Ficus neriifolia*.

### BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI

*Berni Gastrich*

### WIRES AGAIN

How many times have we heard the speaker being asked: "do you prefer copper or aluminum wires." I think we should all realize by now that the choice of wire does not determine the quality of the finish Bonsai. It is the ability and creativity of the artist. Either type of wire will work.

The one advantage of aluminum is that since you need to use wire approximately twice as thick as copper to hold your branch in-place, you are less likely to leave wire marks on your tree. The thick wire simply does not cut in as soon. The double thick wire is however much more conspicuous as is the brown color. Wire marks appear rapidly on smooth bark trees such as Beach, Maple, Zelkova etc.

The advantage of copper is its much greater holding power as well as the fact that it oxidizes to a very inconspicuous dull color. With the thinner copper wires you can make a mistake, unwrap that section and rewind just as you can with aluminum. This is not true for thicker copper wires. If you buy properly annealed copper wire or anneal it properly yourself, it is just as soft and easy to work with as aluminum. On rough bark trees e.g. black pines and most evergreens, I often leave copper wires in-place for as much as two years without wire marks.

If there is enough interest, we may be able to place another group order for copper for the club at a considerable discount.