



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other Sharing with the community”

July

2002

ANNUAL MEETING & AUCTION BARTLETT ARBORETUM JULY 13, 2002 AT 1:00 PM

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Because of the opportunity to have *Jim Doyle's* slide presentation and tray planting demonstration at our June meeting (based on his busy schedule), we moved our Annual Meeting back one month. Besides the Treasurer's financial report, the primary business is the election of officers and directors.

Officers serve one year terms; directors serve three year terms, with two directors being replaced each year. Most of the current officers have already served three one-year terms.

Our Nominating Committee has had only three affirmative responses in its search to fill seven positions. As of press time, *Jim Glatthaar* has agreed to continue for a second year as Vice-President/Program Chair. Also, *Irv Kleiman* will continue as Treasurer. *Arlene Quigley* has accepted the candidacy for one of the Director positions which will be vacated by *David Cowles* and *Nancy Tedrowe*. Candidates are needed for:

- President (horticultural savvy is not a pre-requisite),
- Corresponding Secretary (primarily responds to membership inquiries),
- Recording Secretary (take minutes at board meetings)
- Director (attends board meetings)

YAMA KI, as a membership organization, can only serve its members as these same members are willing to serve the organization. We have a minimum number of Board meetings a year, and they usually coincide with regular membership meetings. The arguments, therefore, that "I'm too busy to be an officer or director" doesn't hold up.

Call *Nicki Wallhofer* at 203-359-9229 to indicate your consent to take your turn serving our club. The organization cannot survive without volunteer leadership.

SEMI-ANNUAL AUCTION

Auction time: summer cleanup/new treasures? Check your collection and contribute your excess plants (including "raw" trees, works in progress, and potted bonsai), containers, tools, books, magazines, etc. On the other hand, bid aggressively for *Yasuo Mitsuya's* Hinoki cypress and those items which you need or wouldn't mind having at their attractive bargain prices. Remember, for those excess plants which you would rather sell rather than donate, a display table will be available. All such sales are subject to a 10% sales commission to the YAMA KI treasury. Our dues are low and have not changed in many years. This is due primarily to these semi-annual auctions - our primary fund-raising event!

JIM DOYLE'S TRAY LANDSCAPE

You'll never guess who won the raffle of *Jim Doyle's* stunning tray landscape....well, let's save that for the end of the article and tell you of the fine presentation he did at our June 8th meeting at the Bartlett. *Jim* has taken three trips to China and studied literati form there. He teaches bonsai at the Chicago



Selected plant material



Tray ready for planting

Jim brought some *Chamaecyparis andelensis* (cedar family) "little Jamie", collected from the New Jersey Pine Barrens, as the primary trees for his planting. The pine barrens region is distinctive in that it is the northernmost area for southern material; at the same time it is the southernmost area for northern material. The material comes from a bog area with a highwater table yet the trees can do well in a low water level area. They are very hardy. He put some soil in the large green tray which he had prepared with mesh covers for the drainage holes and wires to secure the large trees. His first step in designing the landscape was to mound the soil for a hilly look and to place well-textured stones. He then selected six of the cedars which he had previously cleaned and trimmed. He sited them on the "landscape" being certain that no two were parallel from any angle and with the largest tree in the front, somewhat off center. *Jim* added dwarf varieties of both Meadow rush and *Erodium* for color and texture; a small piece of Golden fern showed up in the soil mix of one of these accent plants, and he planted that as well. Looking at the tray, he then decided it needed

one more tree and added a small cedar to the rear for depth. He

used mud around the tree roots to help stabilize the plantings. The mud is a mix of Florida sludge and peat, and can be purchased at bonsai supply shops. Then *Jim* finished the work with moss which he applied in small sections leaving some air space between them. . . small moss sections work better than do fewer large ones.



Jim and son, Max, preparing trees



"Finished" tray planting

He suggested that it is alright to have several apexes because nature will select the dominant one within a reasonable length of time. Pinch back new growth (light green) to help develop the trees. Oh, yes, the raffle winner was *Harry*

Saunders who needed another pair of hands to help carry the elegant planting up to his car.

GLEANINGS:

- ✿ The USDA has a very useful website; check it monthly: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/Beltsville/na/>

Jim Doyle:

- ✿ To get rid of mugwort, a.k.a. liverwort (*Marcantia*) mistakenly thought of as moss, but very destructive in bonsai, dip a sponge in vinegar and stroke the top of the worts with it. This will kill the worts but not anything else in your pot
- ✿ Contemporary bonsai soil is not good for growing moss so sprinkle some pine loam on the soil where you are putting moss and it will do well
- ✿ When watering, do not mist foliage - actually wash plants to let water runs off leaves (helps remove insects).
- ✿ When you store summer clothing and put moth balls in the storage space, put one in each bonsai pot to help prevent against spring insects
- ✿ It is desirable to have at least 3 movements in the trunk of a literati bonsai

YAMA KI ARTIST-TEACHER TURNS AUTHOR

An editor from THE GREENWICH MAGAZINE spent time at YAMA KI's last exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden. Her visit fell on a day when *Berni Gastrich* was a docent. The editor was captivated by a number of the trees and spoke with him at length about bonsai in general and some of the specimens on display. She told him that a number of Greenwich residents had bonsai and then she asked him to write an article for the magazine.

Bernie did so and a fine introductory article appeared in the May 2002 issue; it is well illustrated with color photos taken by both *Ann and Berni*. There are also photos of some of the local residents with their bonsai. The editor aptly titled the article "Poetry under wire: to shape a mature tree into a successful bonsai is to create a Zen experience." Not only is the title poetic, but so is much of *Berni's* writing.

We will have a copy of the article at the July meeting at the Bartlett Arboretum. Remember to ask to read it.

MIDATLANTIC BOARD MEETING

Following the 19th Spring Festival, the MidAtlantic Board (MABS) met and reviewed all aspects of the Festival. It was very well attended with more than 189 people who registered for Friday/Saturday or the full weekend. More than 200 people came to visit the Exhibit and the vendors. The Board voted unanimously to hold the 20th Festival at the same site – The Ramada Inn in E. Hanover, N. J. Officers for the new year were elected: *Kurt Wittig*, President, *Jim Brant*, Vice-president, *Rhoda E. Kleiman*, Secretary, and *Brian O'Byrne*, Treasurer. They also welcomed a new club: Deep Cut of Middletown, New Jersey.

At the June Board meeting, the Directors planned for the 20th Festival to be held the weekend of April 11-13, 2003. An effort will be made to have three presenters from the first Festival do a program together and a fourth member of the original program do something in the exhibit room. Unfortunately, *Yuji Yoshimura* who was active in the formation of MABS and who participated in the first program is deceased. Special activities, gifts, and exhibits will be part of the weekend. Headliners will be from

Japan and England. Mark your calendars now!

YAMA KI must consider how we will participate in the Exhibit. In the past each club submitted three "super" bonsai for display. MABS is considering several options:

- 1 - continuing as in the past (2-3 trees per club with MABS committee setting up the display)
- 2 - allotting each club a six foot table on which it may set up any kind of bonsai display (non-commercial) with as few/many bonsai as it wishes; it may set up a tokonoma; or . . .

At YAMA KI'S July business meeting we will explore all ideas and *Rhoda*, as MABS representative, will convey our preference at the September Board meeting.

Incidentally, each club is entitled to two voting representatives and an alternate. Won't someone volunteer to be a MABS representative or alternate? Free continental breakfast is a 4-times a year perk with free lunch at the meeting following the Festival, and you have the pleasure of helping to shape one of the bonsai's best festivals. The superlative comes from artists, vendors, and participants who attend several festivals around the world.

BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI

Berni Gastrich

TRIMMING DECIDUOUS TREES

The recent heavy rains and otherwise ideal growing conditions have produced rampant new growth on all deciduous trees, most especially on maples. If this new growth is not controlled we lose the esthetic design of our tree and end up with a silhouette of leaves. Trunk and branch structure of our tree becomes completely hidden. We also end up with a tree which has all its foliage at its periphery. All inner leaves become shaded out.

The rule of thumb which says, "grow five, cut three", is an over simplification. In order to get light to the inner parts of the branches we start by removing all new twigs which grow vertically upward or downward from the primary or secondary branches. This "makes room for the birds to fly through." It also lets light in, of course. Next we trim the ends of all the twigs. This produces "bud back" and nice dense branches, instead of long leggy branches.

Another trimming method which applies especially to maples is the total removal of all except the weakest leaves. The timing for this is right now. The tree will then produce a second crop of leaves which will be smaller than the original ones and also produce better autumn color. Immediately after foliage removal, while the structure of tree is visible is a good time for branch pruning. This time of year the amount of "bleeding" is minimal. Since the tree is now naked it is also an excellent time to remove old wires and apply new ones.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Membership dues were due May 1st. There are still many members who have not sent in their renewal check (still \$20 for singles and \$30 for families). Where can you attend lectures, demonstrations, and workshops by many of the world's most famous bonsai artists at this price? Please check your address label: if there is a "5" in the upper right corner, you are way past due. Please send your check payable to Yama Ki Bonsai Society, Inc., 165 West End Avenue - 12D, New York, NY 10023.

BONSAI BAEDEKER - 2002

July 4-7	Bonsai Clubs International, Orlando FLA - Bonsai in the Sun
July 13 & 14	West Michigan Bonsai Club, Grand Rapids, MI
July 27-Aug 28	Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection Special Exhibit, "Artful Environment" www.weyerhaeuser.com/bonsai
Sept. 20-22	Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention, Portland, OR Asigourney@aol.com
Sept. 6-8	International Bonsai, Rochester, NY - Deciduous Bonsai Symposium
Oct. 3-5	International Stone Appreciation Symposium, Hershey, PA (E-mail: STONESHOW2002@aol.com)
Oct. 17-20	Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention, Sacramento, CA www.gsbfbonsai.org
Oct. 12-27	U.S. National Arboretum/s National Bonsai and Penjin Museum: "Bonsai inSites: Collaborations Between Tree and Container"
Nov. 15-17	Texas State Bonsai Convention, New Braunfels, TX Sheila@airmail.net

SEPTEMBER 14TH WALTER PALL WORKSHOP SURVEY

Walter Pall, one of Europe's outstanding bonsai artists, will conduct a workshop for YAMA KI members at the Bartlett Arboretum on Saturday, September 14, 2002. The potential workshop material has been selected from *Jim Doyle's* nursery, Nature's Way. We have a choice from which up to 12 participants may select. They are:

1 Alpine fir	collected trees, 75 - 120 years old, in mica pots	\$100
2 English yew	dwarf, shoin, 15 - 18 years old, in mica pots	\$65
3 Mugo pin	1" trunk, in bonsai container	\$65
4 Bird's nest spruce	1/2" - 3/4" trunk, in bonsai container	\$65

Please indicate your choice at the July meeting. If you can't make the meeting, send a note to *Jim Glatthaar*, 9 Brandywine Drive, White Plains, NY, 10605 or email at jwg@bpslaw.com. The workshop will use only one of the four listed, based on a majority vote.

COMING EVENTS

July	13	Election of Officers & Auction
Aug	10	House Visit: <i>Gail Therrien</i>
Sept	14	<i>Walter Pall</i> : Lecture, Demo & maybe Workshop

OFFICERS

Melba Grieshaber	President
Jim Glatthaar	Vice-President
Irv Kleiman	Treasurer
Veronica Cunningham	Corresponding Secretary
Gail Therrien	Recording Secretary

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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