



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other Sharing with the community”

March

2002

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN PLACE AND DATE!

**CHRIS PETERSON REVEALS REPOTTING TIPS & TRICKS
AT THE GLENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER
MARCH 16, 2002 AT 12:30 PM**

Chris Peterson first encountered bonsai in 1987 at the National Arboretum and has been deeply involved with bonsai ever since. He will demonstrate both repotting and pot selection skills which he acquired while apprenticing during a prime repotting season at a nursery in Japan. *Chris* is classical in his approach to bonsai and will bring several trees to display at the meeting.

After his lecture demonstration, *Chris* has agreed to supervise the repotting of trees brought by members. Members should provide all materials necessary, especially if you intend to repot to a different container (e.g., wire, screening, bonsai soil, tools, etc.). *Chris* will demonstrate how he ties the screen into the pot and how to use bamboo stakes to secure the tree in the pot. *Jim Glatthaar* has seen *Chris* repot many trees at Chase Rosade's and assures us that it will be an educational experience.

**BERNI GASTRICH STYLES OUR SCOTS PINE TO ANOTHER LEVEL OF
REFINEMENT AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING**



Berni brought four bonsai to display and showed slides of these same trees at various stages of styling development, explaining what he did to achieve his results. He then discussed the selection of pre-bonsai material. Look for raw material that has the essentials for a bonsai – trunk and root base. Taper and surface roots add to the illusion of age. Styling over time then creates the “finished” bonsai.

He reviewed the two main methods of styling: reducing vs. building. Reduction styling is used with deciduous trees and broad-leaf evergreens (cut back on maples, elms, etc.) Cut back or remove branches and then selectively encourage new buds to grow where desired. No harm is done because the energy is in the roots. Therefore the best time for radical cutting is late winter to eliminate bleeding. Do not repot immediately after radical cutting.

Needle evergreens, however, store their energy in the foliage so styling is accomplished by “building”. Choose the “required” branches and cut off the rest. Then fertilize heavily to encourage growth.

For collected trees, use water blasting to remove the original soil and then prune the roots by pie cuts. *Berni* likes to place the tree in a larger container than the final size and which is also fairly shallow, so the roots will grow horizontally. He then fertilizes heavily and later repots using a finer soil mix. He advises that although we all want immediate gratification and instant bonsai, we should resist – “the process becomes a part of the pleasure”.



We had the opportunity to review the healing of the cuts required to create the dramatic change in the trunk direction of the Scots pine accomplished at a meeting exactly a year ago. He indicated the design elements he wanted to create at this time by pruning and wiring and then retired to the back of the room to actually complete the task, while many of us watched a new video tape from YAMA KI's lending library, “Kuromatsu – Black Pine”.

After the video we all marveled at the improvement and now clearly saw the makings of a prized bonsai.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

- ✓ The YAMA KI exhibit trees for the MidAtlantic Spring Festival will be contributed by *Berni Gastrich*, *Lucille Miller*, and *Gail Therrien*.
- ✓ At the invitation of the Bergen Bonsai Society, the board agreed to share costs to bring *Horst Krekler* to our area for club lecture/demonstrations later in the year.
- ✓ The board voted to gift the Scots pine demonstration tree to *Berni Gastrich* in appreciation of his care of the tree these past two years and for the lecture/demonstrations and workshops he has contributed to YAMA KI.
- ✓ The NY Botanical Garden this fall will present a sculpture exhibit in October and has asked YAMA KI to participate again with a bonsai exhibit. NYBG wants YAMA KI to extend our exhibit for a full two weeks (three weekends). Concern was expressed that winter hardy plants would not begin to hibernate in the very warm indoor conditions and would not be able to survive the sudden transfer to the outdoors at the end of October. The board voted to arrange for the two week exhibit, if it is held in early October.
- ✓ It was agreed to hold a beginner's course for new members. *Berni* agreed to teach the course on a series of evening weekday sessions, if there is enough interest.

BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI

Berni Gastrich

THE CENTER CORE

Most people, when root pruning and repotting, remove a percentage of the peripheral and bottom-most soil. The center core of soil is often untouched. When this is repeated over the years, this center core becomes almost rock hard. Water and fertilizer pass down through the new peripheral soil but never enter the central core. This can easily be verified by using a moisture gauge. If you water such a bonsai, the gauge will read wet throughout the entire periphery, but if you force the tip into this center core it will show a completely dry reading.

Our teacher *Yuji Yoshimura* taught us to make pie shaped cuts at several places in the soil mass. There is a tendency to not go deep enough with the tip of this pie shaped cut. If done properly, one can often cut right up to the trunk so that a percentage of new soil with its water and nutrient carrying ability is introduced right up to the center. This is a very safe procedure with all species including pines. Some trees such as maples can be completely bare rooted quite safely. Do this only if you are experienced or working under the guidance of an instructor.

MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES



Each of the past three newsletters has included a brief resume of an artist who will share their bonsai insights and unique techniques at the upcoming MidAtlantic Spring Festival 2002. This month we highlight *Mr. Dan Barton*, resident bonsai artist in Bristol, United Kingdom. As a featured artist at MidAtlantic's Festival, he will present two lecture/demonstrations, one each Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday in the late afternoon he will critique the Exhibit material, and on Sunday afternoon you may Bring-Your-Own material to his "Open Workshop" (if you pre-register).

In 1989 he published THE BONSAI BOOK which has been printed worldwide. *Dan* founded an education "Service in Bonsai" organization in 1990 to spread the art of bonsai. His many artistic and educational efforts were rewarded when he became a member of the British Bonsai Roll of Honour.

Are you still pondering registering for this exciting weekend - or some part of it? Early registrations pay less than those registering after April 1st. The Spring Festival 2002 will be held Friday, April 19th through Sunday, April 21st in nearby East Hanover, New Jersey (a little over an hour away from Stamford).

Each Spring MidAtlantic's member clubs have responsibility for some aspect of the Festival. For several years YAMA KI has done the Registration packets and helped at the Registration Desk. In addition, volunteers are needed at some activities. Each club takes a one hour turn as docents at the Exhibit with two people covering. This year YAMA KI has been assigned 2-3 pm on Saturday, April 20. We are also helping at the Registration Desk the entire weekend, in two hour shifts. Please volunteer time (non-registered volunteers do get passes for the Exhibit and the Vendor Area). Call *Rhoda Kleiman* (212) 724-7840.

DOROTHY ETKIN

It is with great sadness that we bring you the news that *Dorothy Etkin*, a long-time member, died in January. She had been ill for some time, but kept her strength up to help *Nardi*, her husband. *Doti* brought a vivacious dynamism to all her activities, travels, and interests. She found the bright side of all events, even in adversity, as when she broke a leg on the first segment of a China trip and returned home with a smile. To YAMA KI she brought her bubbling sense of humor and always a tasty dish for the Holiday Party. We extend our condolences to her children *Ellen* and *Robert*.

BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP

If you are interested in participating in a workshop which will cover the basics of bonsai selection, styling, and maintenance, call *Berni Gastrich* at (914) 764-5022 or by email: GASTRICHBA@juno.com. If there is sufficient interest, the classes will be held weekday evenings at the Bartlett Arboretum with dates selected by the class. The classes usually consist of three sessions. The cost of the workshop will be the actual cost of the materials used (anywhere between \$15 to \$40). Yama Ki has tools for loan to some new member participants, if reserved in advanced. Your newly created bonsai is your graduation prize!

BONSAI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL 2002 CONVENTION IN USA JULY 4TH – JULY 7TH IN ORLANDO FLORIDA

The Bonsai Societies of Florida is hosting the BCI 2002 Convention at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando, Florida this coming July. Special hotel convention rates are available for the convention and for the days before and after the convention. Take advantage!

Bonsai masters participating are: *Kunio Kobayashi* from Japan, *Ben Oki* from California, *Chase Rosade* from Pennsylvania, *Boon Manakitivipart* from California, *Sean Smith* from Pennsylvania, *Qingquan Zhao* from China, *Pedro Morales* from Puerto Rico, *Guy Guidry* from Louisiana, *Terry Ward* from Texas, *Mike Cartrett* and *Jim Vanlandingham* from Florida.

Call (561) 466-0054 or email: bsfbci2002@yahoo.com for details.

DIRECTIONS TO THE GLENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER

The Glenbrook Community Center is at 35 Crescent Street in Stamford, telephone: (203) 324-1301. The meeting room we will be using is on the second floor (an elevator is available). If you are coming from I-95, take exit 9, to Route 1 (one right turn from 95 south, 2 left turns from I-95 north.) Take the first right turn onto Courtland Avenue. At the second traffic light, at the foot of a bridge, turn left. Follow the road around to take the first right, which is Crescent St. The Community Center is an old school halfway down the street on the left. If you get to the railroad tracks, you've gone too far.

If you are coming from the Merritt Parkway, take exit 36, Route 106, and turn right onto route 106 from either north or south, towards Darien/Stamford. Follow the road approximately 3 miles until you come to an all-way stop and turn right onto Glenbrook Road. At the next light, turn left until Courtland Avenue, (you are following Rte. 106 so far). At the next light, turn right, and then take the first right onto Crescent Street. The Community Center is an old school halfway down the street on the left. If you get to the railroad tracks, you've gone too far.

KATHY SHANER BYO WORKSHOP

APRIL 27, 2002 – 1:00 PM

Kathy Shaner will act as interpreter for *Yasuo Mitsuya* during his lecture/demonstration the morning of April 27th. After lunch *Kathy* will conduct a "Bring-Your-Own" workshop. Members may bring their own plants or purchase one of the Tsukuomo false cypress trees which YAMA KI purchased from *Arthur Sklnik*.

Yama Ki Bonsai Society, Inc.
165 West End Avenue - 12D
New York, NY 10023

Date: _____

Q Please enroll me in the Bring-Your-Own Workshop to be conducted by *Kathy Shaner* Saturday, April 27, 2002 at 1:00 PM @ cost of \$30.

Q Yes, I wish to purchase a Tsukuomo false cypress @ \$30.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____.

I understand that registration is limited and will be accepted in the order of checks received; and in the event I am accepted and can't attend, I will be responsible to find a substitute participant or forfeit the fee.

Signed: _____

OFFICERS

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165 West End Avenue - 12D
New York, NY 10023

<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

Mar. 16 *Chris Peterson: Repotting*
Apr 27 *Mitsuya & Shaner: Lecture/Demo & BYO Workshop*
May 18 TBA
Jun 8 Nick Lenz: Lecture & BYO Workshop

WEATHER HOTLINES

Connecticut *Nicki Wallhofer* (203) 359-9229
New York City *Rhoda Kleiman* (212) 724-7840
Westchester *Selma Bernstein* (914) 633-8338