



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other Sharing with the community”

May

2003

HORST KREKELER LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION & WORKSHOP SATURDAY MAY 3, 2003 - 10:00 AM

Saturday, May 3 at 10 am, at the Bartlett Arboretum, *Horst Krekeler* will present a lecture demonstration for our membership. He prefers working on “uncivilized trees” and Jim Glatthaar has promised to find demonstration material that will provide the basis for illustrating *Horst’s* styling art and skills. Following a short lunch break, he will conduct a Bring-Your-Own plant workshop. Since the last newsletter, the Board decided that there will be no charge for the workshop, but please, only one tree for each member.

Horst has been here before! On two other occasions he presented at YAMA KI. He is a renowned author with several books to his credit and many articles in European bonsai journals and a noted teacher. He is the curator of the Bonsai Centrum in Heidelberg, Germany. *Horst’s* underlying bonsai philosophy is to have people enjoy working with bonsai; traditional styling guidelines are not important. His last lecture demonstration, in 1997, provoked intense reactions from our members including several articles in the NEWSLETTER.

CHRIS PETERSON’S REPOTTING DEMONSTRATION & WORKSHOP

APRIL 5, 2003

Jim Glatthaar

Chris Peterson, who gave an impressive re-potting demonstration in 2002, returned to YAMA KI for a re-potting workshop. *Chris* explained the importance of re-potting: to root-prune the tree to provide room for development of fine roots; to provide better drainage for the tree by replacing compacted soils with more coarse soils; to provide the tree with a more suitable pot; and, in the case of deciduous trees, to maintain small internodes (the distance between buds or leaves).

Chris then demonstrated his re-potting technique, using bamboo stakes to secure the tree firmly in place. It is important for the tree to be stabilized since fine roots can begin to grow 24-48 hours after re-potting. Those fine hair roots could be damaged by the tree shifting or rocking even slightly due to wind, vibration or unintended jostling. Firmly securing the tree in the pot, minimizes the aftershock associated with re-potting.

Chris provided a handout containing digital pictures of each step in the process. He stressed it is best to use fresh, green bamboo, cut chopsticks can be used if fresh bamboo is unavailable.

Several members then tried their hand at re-potting under *Chris’s* tutelage. *Chris* also proved quite adept at selecting the most appropriate pot for the members’ trees. *Kevin Goveia* was on hand with his own pots for those shareholders needing a new or different pot.

Members who could not attend missed a first-hand opportunity to experience *Chris’s* trees and to observe his fine detail work. We hope to have *Chris* returning to YAMA KI in the future for other events.

BACK TO BASICS WITH BERNI

Berni Gastrich

WHY WE REPOT

The reason for repotting was dramatically brought home to me today. We have all been taught to intentionally not water a bonsai for about 24 hours before repotting. This is to make things easier and less messy. Dry soil can be teased away from roots more easily than wet soil. This was especially true in the days when topsoil was mixed into bonsai soil.

I accidentally did water a bonsai but decided to repot anyway. What I found was very interesting. When I lifted the root/soil ball out of the pot, I found that only the outer perimeter of this mass was wet. The inner core (about 75 percent of this mass) was completely dry. The compaction of the soil here was so great that the water had not penetrated! There were so many roots that the soil was extremely compacted. The only way to get water or liquid fertilizer into this area would have been to plunge the entire bonsai pot into a large basin of water.

When I tried to tease the soil out of this center mass I found it very difficult and time-consuming. The best solution to the problem turned out to be to take the tree outdoors and blast the soil out from between the roots with a hose gun. I did not bare root the tree completely, but blasted out the classic pie shaped sections. This turned out to be a very safe way to make the sections. It prevented the possibility of cutting out an important root bundle accidentally. When the hose washed the soil away I could see the roots before cutting. We have always been told to repot because the old soil is "exhausted", whatever that means. We also knew that we must root prune to produce new young roots. The fact that the very center of the root ball did not get much water or nutrition was also intuitively known. The fact that this could be 75 percent of the whole soil/root combination came as a startling surprise.

CLARIFICATION RE: GLAZED POTS

Berni Gastrich

Last month's Newsletter included a "Gleanings" which stated that glazed containers hold water longer than unglazed ones. The implication is that the unglazed pot would absorb and transfer water to its outer surface for evaporation. This absolutely does not happen in any decent quality bonsai pot whether it is glazed or unglazed. The only exceptions are clay flowerpots or the very cheapest low fired bonsai pots. The way you can recognize these is as follows. Take the sharp point of a knife or other steel object and scratch the bottom of the pot. If it is low fired there will be a definite scratch in the pot. High fired pots may show a line like a pencil mark but will not scratch unless extreme force is used.

BONSAI SECURITY - BONSAI, ET AL

Jim Brant

I saw an article in one of the Philadelphia papers today that prompted me to send this alert. Bonsai theft has become an increasing threat in recent years. This article outlined a procedure where someone who knows your phone number can obtain your address and even a map to your home. Try this out for yourself.

Go to Google search: <http://www.google.com>: Enter your phone number with area code (ex. 555-555-5555 be sure to use dashes). If you have a listed number, you will see your name and address, web page links, along with links to Yahoo maps and Mapquest. Clicking on either of the latter links will bring up a map with your location centered, along with links for directions to your home.

If you are concerned with the security of your bonsai collection, you can remove your name from the Google database by following these steps. Click on the phone icon to the right of your name. This will open a page titled "Google Web Search Features". Look for the PhoneBook link and click on it. The last line of the PhoneBook section provides a link to removing your number from the database. Fill out the information and click on "Submit".

MORE ON SECURITY

Steven D. Ittel

That is not the only source of related information. I actually prefer ANYWHO which is ATT. <http://www.anywho.com/> It also comes with maps and, directions. For a small fee, one can also look up public records which include your real estate records, lien filings, business entity filings (such as bonsai businesses), lawsuit information and court dockets, court decisions and death records.

Any expectations of privacy are long gone. Criss-cross or reverse look-up capability has been available for at least 20-30 years. My wife was using it in paper format back when she was in real estate. One could buy the reverse books even then.

Internet phone number capabilities is not limited to just the US. I have looked up Ittels in Germany France, UK, through ANYWHO.

REMINDER: BERNI GASTRICH'S MASTER CLASS AT SHANTI-BITHI

This all day class for intermediate-level bonsai enthusiasts is limited to seven participants. Call *Shanti Bithi Nursery* (203) 329-0768 to check on availability. Large starter material, soil, wire, and screens will be provided. Bring tools and a light lunch. The cost per participant is \$225 plus tax and includes a 30% discount on your chosen container.

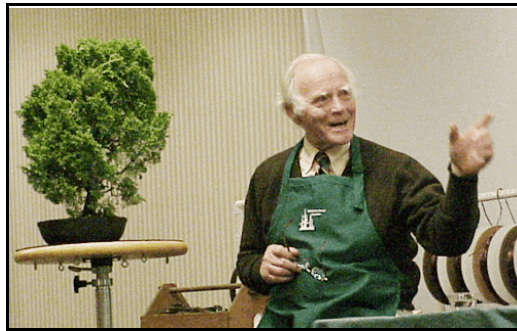
MIDATLANTIC BONSAI SOCIETIES' 2003 SPRING FESTIVAL UPDATE

Over the next few months, check the NEWSLETTER for gleanings. The six artists who presented at MidAtlantic's 20th Anniversary Spring Festival shared many techniques as they styled bonsai, chatted with registrants during free time, and at mealtimes. Your editors will pass along these tips as space permits.

Friday night's triple-header, featuring three American artists who were at the first Spring Festival, was a tour-de-force with talent and wit competing for attention with the skillfulness of the presenters. The evening's raconteur was *Dr. David Andrews* who demonstrated that the passage of time need not dull either the ability to create bonsai or the ability to charm an audience. *Chase Rosade* and *William Valavanis* took valuable spring time from their nurseries to participate in the weekend. Shimpaku juniper starred as the medium for the presentations – three very similar trees – which resulted in bonsai which illuminated the notion that bonsai is an art created within guidelines, not rules. The Hospitality Suite which had opened about 6:30 pm stayed busy until a while before midnight.



Chase Rosade



Dr. David Andrews



William Valavanis

Saturday's programming started at 8:30 am and ended at the close of the banquet-auction. The programming presented all of the international artists on Saturday: *Patrizia Cappellaro DeMartino* from Italy, working with a collected Rocky Mountain juniper, *Colin Lewis* from England, now U.S. based, designing a Hornbeam tree planting, and *Kunio Kobayashi* from Tokyo, working marathon pace on two Shimpaku junipers and a Yew. *Solita Tafur Rosade* (herself an accomplished bonsai stylist and teacher) understands French and was able to translate for *Ms. DeMartino*, who spoke in French for her, rather than in her native Italian. *Mieko Kubato*, also a bonsai practitioner, translated for *Mr. Kobayashi*. The excellence of the translations underscored the need to have translators who are familiar with bonsai's culture. Silent auction material was available throughout the day; unexpected raffle drawings brought lively interest. The evening concluded with our traditional banquet and dynamic auction – attended by thirteen YAMA KI members.



Patrizia DeMartino & Solita Rosade



Colin Lewis

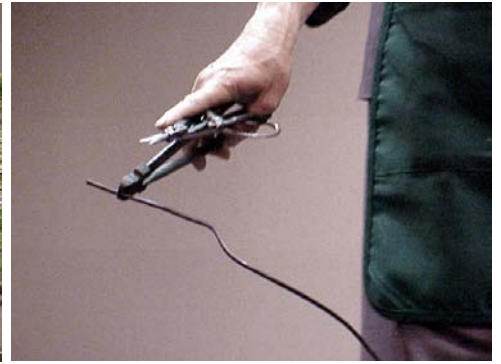
In some future issues we will illustrate some of the presentations from the raw material through styling stages to the "finished" bonsai. You can see more about the presentations as well as the exhibit trees on MidAtlantic's website: <http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com>.

And much to everyone's surprise there were even some moist-eye moments. Of particular interest to YAMA KI members was *David Andrew's* auctioning and purchasing a Kingsville boxwood. Speaking of the need to encourage young people to pursue an interest in bonsai, he presented the Kingsville to "young *Josh Dannett* who's grandfather I knew well."



Kunio Kobayashi

Try this trick! Mr. Kobayashi uses three tools simultaneously in one hand to save time.



Sunday's early start gave no quarter to Saturday night revelers. *Mr. Kobayashi* opened with a slide show to increase our understanding of his aesthetic philosophy and the environment in which he creates and teaches. He then styled another Shimpaku, this time using electric tools as well as classic ones. *Ms. DeMartino* gave us the only literati styled during the weekend and on the only Scots pine for demonstration material.

The Exhibit rooms have been upgraded with new backdrops for uniformity and adequate height for all trees. With the availability of an extra room, the thirty-three bonsai from the member societies each had more space to be seen to greater advantage. In addition, a new small exhibit room held displays by four of the member societies. One presented a formal tokonoma, one an exhibit of shohin bonsai, and the other two exhibited Japanese art objects.

Our nineteen vendors had varied and distinctive materials, many stunning with some bargain prices and some in upper ranges.

Eighteen workshop participants worked with the three international artists, and as many observers studied on the sidelines. When they left the hotel, MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' 20th Anniversary Spring Festival came to a formal close – “and a great time was had by all.”

If you were among the YAMA KI members who attended, whether as registrants or walk-ins for the Exhibit and Vendors, and have ideas for future Festivals, please call *Gail Therrien* (914-244-1320), *Lucille Miller* (914-934-0613), or *Rhoda Kleiman* (212-724-7840) Any one of them will communicate your ideas to the MABS Board.



Mr. Kobayashi styled three trees simultaneously with *Pauline Muth* and *Martin Schmalenberg* helping with the detailed wiring.

OFFICERS

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Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

- May 3 *Horst Krekeler*: Lecture/Demonstration & BYO Workshop
- June 14 *George LeBolt*: Lecture/Demonstration & Tropical Trees Workshop
- July 12 Annual Meeting & Auction

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