

FOUR SEASONS

BONSAI CLUB OF MICHIGAN

May, 2010

Issue No. 5

Todd's Yamadori Shimpaku Workshop

Sunday, May 23, 2:00 p.m.

Telly's Greenhouse, Troy

Meet in the barn on the far side of the parking lot.

- 1:45 p.m. - Meeting setup and socializing
- 2:05 p.m. - Club business and announcements
- 2:20 p.m. - Workshop
- 3:00 p.m. - How to get your trees ready for the show
- 3:30 p.m. - Expert help with your bonsai

Using tiny shimpaku junipers, we'll give them twists & turns so they look like they were mountain grown. This is a special technique that I (Todd) learned from a bonsai convention featuring Jim Gremel. (Really, it's his technique, so we should call this program "Jim Gremel's Yamadori Shimpaku Workshop.") You may have seen a similar process in magazines like *Bonsai Focus*; branches are wrapped in raffia, wired, then bent into some extreme shapes. This will be very similar, but on a much smaller scale. You will not leave the workshop with a "finished" bonsai in the usual sense, but this is a valuable technique to learn & given a few years, the results can be spectacular. If you master this technique, you can apply it to larger plants.

The junipers offered for this workshop are very tiny, but they're also inexpensive. Cost for this workshop is \$8 per person. Supplies are limited, so e-mail or call Todd early to reserve a spot; webmaster@mababonsai.org Or 248-585-9916. Even if you don't decide to purchase a workshop tree, I hope you'll come to this meeting & see this special technique in action.

In addition, once the workshop is in progress, Jimmy Whiteley will give valuable pointers regarding the upcoming show. New members will definitely want to hear Jimmy's advice getting bonsai ready for display in the exhibit. (And we DO expect all our members, regardless of skill level to bring their bonsai for exhibit. Beginning bonsai have an important role in our show as well as our educational mission.) Jimmy will address tree, pot and soil preparation for display. He will also address bonsai accents like bonsai stands & accent plants, as well preparation for display. He will also address bonsai accents like bonsai stands and accent plants, as well as answer questions.



President's Message

Hello everybody!

The annual show is only a month away. We're entering (what feels to me like) the homestretch on all the planning and preliminary work. But things will only get busier from now until the show tear-down is complete. If you've already read the rest of the newsletter, you know that we're asking for lots of volunteer help. Please understand that a huge amount of work happens even prior to the beginning of the show; the publicity, securing the demo trees, figuring out the layout, signing up the vendors and about a million other little tasks. I hope you'll see that volunteering for a shift or two is a small (but very much appreciated) thing you can do for your club. If you're new to the club, and new to the art of bonsai, don't feel like you can't make an important contribution. But enough "arm twisting"!

Did anyone happen to catch the CBS Sunday morning show about a month ago?

Continued on page 2

Presidents Message

They had a great feature on bonsai. I tried to find a video for it, but CBS doesn't apparently archive anything from Sunday Morning. (What's wrong with them?) I found an imperfect YouTube video recorded by "a guy". It cut off some of the segment, but it's all I could find:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCJyGSK88y8>

(If you don't want to type all that in, just go to YouTube and search for *bonsai CBS sun morning*.)

On another subject, I'd like to thank Jimmy and Bill for their compelling presentations at last month's "Focus on Advanced Techniques" meeting. For those that attended, did you like what you saw? Did you find the tips worthwhile? And did we manage to surprise you with some ideas you hadn't seen before? Let us know and we'll be sure to schedule more programs like that ... unless you hated it. :)

Let me tell you what happened with the raffle at the last meeting too. Bill had framed the Michael Corbeille Christmas poster that was hanging at Telly's over the holidays. We raffled it off. That poster, along with the other raffle items, generated \$105 for the club. Although Mike Jennings won the poster, during a convoluted bout of trading, Bill ended up owning the poster in exchange for \$40. Mike then donated his \$40 profit back to the club. So kudos and a big "thank you" goes out to Bill, Mike and especially Michael for making it all possible.

I hope to see you all at this month's meeting. I can't promise the raffle will be as entertaining, but we'll do what we can.

Todd

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (BADLY)

Operation Growing Bed Relocation

As mentioned at the last meeting and over subsequent e-mails, the club needs to move its stock of demo and workshop trees planted on the Whiteley's property this Saturday at 10 a.m. To do so, we need volunteers, lots of them. So far, the response has been pitiful. If you've ever benefited from one of the club's low cost workshops, I hope you'll consider helping out. (Likewise if you ever PLAN to take a workshop.) The club growing bed is one of the reasons we can offer workshops at reasonable prices. Unfortunately, it does take some effort to offset that benefit. If you can help us out, e-mail or call Todd; webmaster@mababonsai.org or 248-585-9916. Please, we need a lot more people to step up.

Happy Anniversary, Four Seasons!

Up to now, we haven't made a big deal out of the fact that this year is the club's 40th anniversary. But with the annual show nearly upon us, we'd like to reveal a couple of goodies that will be available for sale at the show. Come to this meeting to see more and to place your orders.

ANNUAL SHOW

We only have a month until the annual show & our sign-up sheets are still pretty empty. We need a lot more people to sign up for the show setup on Friday & the tear-down on Sunday. In addition, we have several jobs that need doing during the show itself. These are usually broken into 2 hour shifts. If you can help out by taking any of these, I think you'll find it a rewarding experience. (With many jobs, you get to talk to the public, answer their questions & have a bit of fun at the same time.) Open shifts are:

Show Setup - declutter the barn, sweep floor, setup demo area tables/chairs & exhibit area tables, backer screens & burlap. Shift is Fri. 10-5ish.

Tree Sitters - water trees when necessary, answer questions, ask people not to touch the trees. Shifts available: Sat. 7:30-9:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, 3:30-5:30, 5:30-7:30, Sun. 8:30-10:30, 10:30-12:30, 12:30-2:30, 2:30-4:30.

Registration Desk - logs exhibit trees in on Friday or out on Sunday, welcomes attendees, hands everyone a ticket & people's choice ballot. Shifts available: Fri. 4-7, Sat. 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-7, Sun. 9-11, 11-1, 1-4.

MABA Convention

The MABA convention in Grand Rapids is the week after our own annual show. If you're interested in going, you can save a few bucks on the full registration price by sending your registration in before the end of this month. From what I hear, most of the Kathy Shaner workshops are either full or nearly full. If you're interested in any of the other workshops, there's probably still room for you, if you act soon. If you can't do the full weekend, I encourage you to at least go for a single-day registration. The demonstrations, bonsai masters, exhibit & vendors will undoubtedly be fantastic. More information at mababonsai.org or www.wmbonsai.org.