



# THE TWIG



Pauline Muth:

## SHITAKUSA AND KUSOMONO

**MARCH 25 at PFM Bonsai at Noon**

**BYO lunch for the meeting followed by the program and workshop**



Come and learn about accents to use with your bonsai and other plantings that can be displayed all on their own. Pauline will give a lesson on Shitakusa and Kusomono to be followed by an open workshop.

The workshop is free. The only costs are those of the plants and containers. Pauline has made a large variety of original containers for this event. You may also bring your own containers and plants. If you plan on participating bring your tools and an idea of which bonsai in your collection you would like to make an accent plant to accompany it. Consider bringing in the bonsai you want to match with an accent for the show table. Special raffle of a beautiful planting slab donated by Molly and some Shitakusa and Kusomono donated by Pauline. Remember bring a show tree and get a free raffle ticket!!

**MARCH 10TH IS THE LAST DAY TO ENTER**

**THE REGIONAL NEW TALENT CONTEST**

Applicants to the MABS-regional competition must be members of a MABS club and must have been involved in bonsai less than 10 years. Past competitors can participate unless they won the National Competition. To apply for the regional contest: Send photos of three bonsai designed by the applicant to Pauline Muth at [ABS@pfmbonsai.com](mailto:ABS@pfmbonsai.com).

On Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM, there will be a New Talent Competition sponsored by the American Bonsai Society. The winner will receive from MABS a prize of \$500 for expenses to participate in the National Competition at the ABS Convention which will be held in Denver on June 21-24, 2012. The winner is guaranteed acceptance to compete in the National Competition.

**ABS John Y Naka Design Awards** It is not too late to submit your best bonsai. See <http://absbonsai.org/latest-news/158-naka-design-award-ad>

## Azalea Tips from David Knittle's Presentation



If you missed the meeting and love azaleas, you missed much. Dave is a true time tested expert on them. He brought one of Mel Goldstein's collection along with its photographic history. ( Dave has worked with Mel on his collection for many years.)

Here are some highlights from his talk:

- Work on your azaleas before they bloom

rather than after....let the plant put its energy into new work rather than blooming.

- When starting with stock, work on the development of trunk first. Use sacrifice branches to help you develop a trunk.
- Always leave a stump of branches you remove to prevent die back. This will be removed a few months later and then sealed with a jell or paste.
- Do major pruning when 40 degree nights are assured...same with transplanting.
- You can cut 40 percent of the roots at transplanting.
- Use a three year cycle on developed azaleas:
  - **YEAR ONE**
    - Use Kamuna soil for the best development of fibrous roots
    - Use a chop stick to remove old soil
    - Remove one or more inches from each side of the root ball by cutting it off with a knife before using the chop stick to remove the other soil. Then re-plant with Kamuna Soil. Include spores for Mycorrhizyza
    - Add in your nutrients like iron, fertilizer, and micro-nutrients.
    - Use Yamgoke Moss (Mountain Moss) on the surface on the soil to keep plants moist and encourage nebari development ( David uses this on all his bonsai) Soak

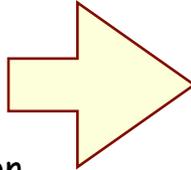


the moss and press it into the surface of the dry soil. Leave on all year unless using your tree in a soil.

- Water with one of the transplant solutions.
- Do not allow the tree to bloom...keep the energy for development instead.
- Use fish/algae fertilizer sprayed directly on the leaves once a week. Heavily fertilize the tree for maximum development.
- Provide fertilizer cakes...use more than you would normally.
- If you use a regular stone mix for soil remember that they do not hold fertilizer so you must push the fertilizer even more
- In late September carefully thin the foliage from 4 or 5 sets to 2 sets on each new growth stem.
- Using your finger nail, thin flower buds down to one per cluster.

#### • YEAR TWO

- Remove Mountain Moss and some surface soil.
- Clear small surface fibrous roots off to expose larger nebari ( surface roots) Use a plastic brush and scissors to do this.
- Add in small amount of replacement top soil and replace the moss.
- In spring cut each flower shoot and its leaves by 60% each.
- Fertilize as before all season.



#### • YEAR THREE

- Same, except if developed as you wish, you may allow it to flower BUT be sure to keep the amount of flowering under control.
  - Remove flowers immediately as they begin to wilt.
- Repeat this cycle every three years to create one of these:

This azalea is from the collection of Mel Goldstein >> Pauline won the raffle of Dave's demo tree and needs to work hard following Dave's directions!!

**DID YOU ENJOY DAVE'S INSTRUCTION?  
THERE ARE A COUPLE OF PLACES LEFT IN HIS TWO DAY  
CARVING WORKSHOP AT PFM BONSAI  
MARCH 2-3: 9 to 4 each day**



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**MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF MHBS**

President Tom called the meeting to order at 1:20 P.M.  
The minutes from the January Twig were accepted as published.

**Upcoming Events**

- March 25 kusamono workshop at PFM studio. Bring an assortment of pots and plants to use or share. Pauline will have a variety of pots and plants for purchase at cost. This is a fun way to learn about kusamono and display.
- April 20 -22 MABS at Grantville, PA. Brochures and information are available from Pauline. Remember that first time full registrants only pay half-price for registration. **Allison has asked if anyone would be willing to carpool, share a room, or camp at MABS. Contact information can be obtained from Pauline.**
- April 29 our club will feature an open workshop with Jim Doyle in the morning followed by a displaying bonsai workshop in the afternoon. Specific times to follow. What a great way to get ready for our spring show!
- May 5-6 Club show at Saratoga Art's Center. SET UP is May 4. Pauline and Molly will keep us well informed as to what we should be doing to prepare for the show. Remember that we want to display ALL levels and expertise of bonsai.

**Old Business**

- Pauline is in the process of contacting the hotel in Montreal for our trip. She is working on a group rate for approximately 7 rooms. **If you plan on going and haven't signed up yet, please contact Pauline.**

**New Business**

- Thanks to Larry our Website is looking better and better. It has come to our attention that some members feel that their permission is needed for posting their personal pictures and information. **Please bring your ideas about guidelines for posting information, photos and using the website to the March meeting.**

**Miscellaneous announcements**

- Thanks to Bill for drying and storing the fertilizer cakes. They will be available for purchase at the March meeting for \$4.00 a bag. They come in all shapes and sizes and are a great addition to your fertilization regiment. We have already sold many bags!!!
- Many thanks to David Knittle for an incredibly informative and useful demonstration and workshop on satsuki azaleas. His expertise, enthusiasm, and warm personality only added to the presentation and made the care and styling of azaleas something possible for all of us.

### MARCH BONSAI MADNESS

This winter leaves us all wondering about the condition of our bonsai. Normally we complain about the cold. Then there was this winter. The second warmest and driest winter on record. Hopefully you watched the watering of your bonsai in storage. Many people are seeing early budding out but remember we have months left of possible cold and snow. As I write there is a storm moving east that has dumped snow on the mid west. This will certainly be one of those springs that we find ourselves moving trees out during the days and in for night. Bless those who have their trees on wheeled shelving. Best advice: watch carefully, do not allow to dry out and do not rush to put trees out. May the luck of the Irish be with you!!

### BONSAI EVENTS FOR OUR CLUB AND BEYOND

- March 25 Kusamono Lesson and Workshop PFM Bonsai
- April 20 -22 MABS Grantville PA see <http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/> for details
- April 29 Displaying Bonsai workshop with Jim Doyle PM, Open WS AM PFM Bonsai
- May 5-6 Club Show at Saratoga Arts Center set up Friday night also
- May 12 Nature's Way 39th Spring Open House Harrisburg PA see <http://www.natureswaybonsai.com/> for more information
- May 27 Bill Valavanis WS/demo on shohin at PFM Bonsai
- June 8-19 Third National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester NY see [http://www.internationalbonsai.com/store/1708315/uploaded/2012\\_national\\_exhibition/index.html](http://www.internationalbonsai.com/store/1708315/uploaded/2012_national_exhibition/index.html)
- June 16-17 Wildwood BBQ Bonsai Weekend Charton OH
- June 21-24 ABS/BCI Convention in Denver CO  
see <http://www.bonsai2012.org/> for details
- June 30-July 1 Montreal Trip to David Easterbrook's & Montreal Gardens by vans...  
overnight stay at hotel...details to be sent in separate email once all is confirmed
- July 14-15 Frank Mihalic Workshops at PFM Bonsai
- July 29 Field Trip to NE Bonsai and Royal Gardens
- August 26 Annual Picnic with open WS with David Easterbrook bringing back trees from June trip PFM Bonsai
- Sept 30 TBA
- October 4-7 International Stone Appreciation Symposium Grantville PA
- October 20 Nature's Way Fall Open House in Harrisburg PA see <http://www.natureswaybonsai.com/> for more information
- October 28 John Romano WS/demo on shohin style PFM Bonsai
- November 18 Red Cedar Mame WS with Tom K. PLACE TBD
- Dec 2 Annual Christmas Dinner at Charlton Village Tavern



### Officers MHBS 2012

President Tom Kizkiel 845 687 9115 [Kiszclove00@aol.com](mailto:Kiszclove00@aol.com)

Vice President Programs Jon Staples 518 395 9174

[jstaples@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jstaples@nycap.rr.com)

Vice Presidents club show Molly Beverage 802-384-0310

[mbevera@gmail.com](mailto:mbevera@gmail.com)

Pauline Muth 518 882 1039 [Pauline@pfmbonsai.com](mailto:Pauline@pfmbonsai.com)

Treasurer Pieri Hayes 518 608-5128 [phayes422@aol.com](mailto:phayes422@aol.com)

Secretary Sandy Kizkiel 845 687 9115 [Kiszclove00@aol.com](mailto:Kiszclove00@aol.com)

Past President David Payton 518-356-3299 [dpayton@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dpayton@nycap.rr.com)

Newsletter Editor Pauline Muth 518 882 1039 [Pauline@pfmbonsai.com](mailto:Pauline@pfmbonsai.com)

Club Photographers Alan Tallman 914-980-5407 [Awtallman@aol.com](mailto:Awtallman@aol.com)

Pieri Hayes 518 608-5128 [phayes422@aol.com](mailto:phayes422@aol.com)

Webmaster Larry Mossey 518 368-7960 [LAMossey@gmail.com](mailto:LAMossey@gmail.com)

### WEB SITES OF INTEREST

American Bonsai Society - [www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org)

Bonsai Clubs International - [www.bonsai-bci.com](http://www.bonsai-bci.com)

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies - [www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com](http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com)

National Bonsai Foundation - [www.bonsai-nbf.org](http://www.bonsai-nbf.org)

**THE MHBS WEB SITE IS <http://mohawkhudsonbonsai.org>**

be sure to visit it and sign up for updates

**FOR THE FEW WHO HAVE NOT PAID DUES  
FOR 2012**

**SEND YOUR CHECKS TO PIERI...CHECKS TO MHBS**

**Pieri Hayes 550 Columbia St. Ex Cohoes NY 12047**