



Volume 38, Number 3
May 2008

Leader Urgently Needed!

After 3 May, 2008, and 38 years in existence, the Potomac Bonsai Association will be in crisis. The term of our current president will have expired and no one has agreed to stand for election. Also, Betty (*Clippings* editor), has mentioned repeatedly that other positions in PBA remain unfilled. Our current president has been doing some of those jobs as well. But for now, **it is critical that someone volunteer to stand for nomination and election to the PBA presidency** at the annual meeting, Saturday, 3 May, at the Arboretum after the day's show events. There will be refreshments after business is concluded. Certainly the spirit, leadership, and organizational skills are abundant within the PBA membership. A person need not have extensive bonsai experience to lead PBA.

A member has volunteered to be treasurer, but vice president, educational VP, secretary, and webmaster remain unfilled.* If you are willing to accept any of the available positions, *PLEASE* contact your current club president, or at least one of these people, and do not be satisfied to simply send an e-mail. We love the Internet; but it doesn't *always* get the job done.

Judi Schwartz	703.751.3768
Jim Sullivan	301.262.633
Arschel Morell	410.340.5184
Michael Moses	301.599.1410
Ross Campbell	301.512.6550
Godfrey Trammell	301.645.3519
Stephen Ash	703.521.3825

Please do not let almost four decades of bonsai tradition expire!

~ Jim Sullivan for the PBA Board

*If you have volunteered for one of these jobs, it should not be listed. Please contact another member (or two) above to promote your willingness. Everyone gets busy and/or forgetful.



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Subscriptions: PBA Member Clubs/Societies: Annual subscription is included in the membership dues paid to the PBA club or society of your choice. Telephone numbers of points of contact for information about any member club or society and its annual dues, are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Non-Member Subscriptions: Individuals residing within the metropolitan areas of our clubs are encouraged to become members of a club to receive the newsletter. Annual subscription for 12 issues of the *PBA Clippings* only is US \$22.00 (US \$35 for international mail) which should be made payable to the Potomac Bonsai Association and sent to Ross Campbell, 728 Guilford Ct, Washington, D.C., 20901-3218

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Please send paper ad copy/articles to the editor:
Betty Yeapanis, 4228 Berritt St, Fairfax, VA 22030
E-mail contributions can be sent in Word, WP, PageMaker, MacWord, or Text documents to bittenhand@cox.net.

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President	Stephen Ash, NVBS sea02616@yahoo.com
President Elect & web team	Michael Moses KBS mike@mosesarts.com
Educ. Vice-President	Volunteer has come forward
Secretary	Volunteer needed
Webmaster	Volunteer needed
Membership Secretary	Volunteer has come forward
Treasurer	Volunteer has come forward
Newsletter Editor	Betty Yeapanis (M-SBS)

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Betty's bits ~

ed · i · to · ri · al [ed-i-tawr-ee-uhl, -tohr-]

- noun

an article in a newspaper or other periodical presenting the opinion of the Editor.

- adjective

of or pertaining to an editor or to editing; editorial policies; editorial techniques.

of, pertaining to, or involved in the preparation of an editorial or editorials: editorial page; editorial writer.

of or pertaining to the literary and artistic activities or contents of a publication, broadcasting organization, or the like, as distinguished from its business activities, advertisements, etc.: an editorial employee; an editorial decision, not an advertising one.

IF . . . you're wondering "what's going on with PBA?", you are not alone. The Board has not presented minutes of their meetings to Clippings for at least a year. Who will step forward to take minutes at these infrequent meetings so that the entire organization can be informed of controversial ideas, the decisions on which will affect us all?

Poetry Corner - Calm yourself

submitted by Bob Ulrich (LBS) If you bump into an haiku or other verse you feel your fellow members would enjoy, please contribute them (with illustrations, if possible) through Bob: bulrich51@excite.com.

To pluck it is a pity,
To leave it is a pity,
Ah, this violet
~ Naojo

Thanks to the blossoms!
On ground that they've shaded
No one's a stranger.
~ Issa

Surely this is the moon,
surely this spring's
the spring of years past -
or am I the only one
the same as before?
~ Ariwara No Narihira



Calendar of Events *compiled by Arschel Morell (BBC)*

Send your club's input to Arschel via e-: ajmorellsr514@aol.com; or
snail mail to: 9 Six Notches Court, Baltimore, MD 21228

MAY

PBA SPRING SHOW/USNA BONSAI FESTIVAL

2-4 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Free demonstrations by Shinichi Nakajima from Japan & Cheryl Manning from California will be sponsored by the arboretum. A wksp is scheduled but is tentative as of this date. Set-up for the bonsai display is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, 1 May. Volunteers are welcomed and will speed the job. We have a good time and it's a good way to get involved with your organization. You don't need an appointment ~ just show up.

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

10 9:00 a.m. Azalea cuttings – Pete Jones

10:00 a.m. BYOT wksp

Lancaster Bonsai Society

3 or 4 Tentative bus trip to Bonsai Festival

10 (Saturday) Tentative Collecting trip to Frey's Evergreen Plantation

14 Tentative wksp with trees collected at Frey's

? Tentative club trip to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens

17 Bonsai tour - Gardens of: Roger, Ken, and Frank

Washington Bonsai Club

17 2:00 p.m. Program TBA

Baltimore Bonsai Club

18 1:00 p.m. Presentation on Shohin bonsai

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

24 (Saturday) collecting trip-Azalea Trace

Contact on Back Page:

Bonsai Society of the Eastern Shore

Mid-Shore Bonsai society

Chesapeake Bonsai society

Potomac Viewing Stone Group

Rappahanock Bonsai Society

No Meeting. Plan to attend the Bonsai Festival at the Arboretum

Events at The NB&PM:

Spring Kusamono Exhibit

10-18 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Special Exhibits Wing/lecture-Demo (May 10 – 1:00 p.m.) This exhibit features (potted arrangements of wild grasses and flowers in unique pots or trays which accompany formal displays of bonsai or viewing stones) by Kusamono artist Young Choe, who will give a free lecture/demo on Sat., 10 May, 1:00 p.m. A wksp follows on Sat., 31 May.

Wksp: Introduction to Bonsai

17 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Yoshimura Center. This class will introduce students to the horticultural and aesthetic elements of creating a bonsai. Plant, pot, and soil are all provided. Student should have outdoor space available to grow the creation after the wksp. BYO lunch. Fee: \$119 (FONA/NBF \$95)

Azalea Bonsai Exhibit

24-June 8 10:00a.m.-4:00 p.m. Special Exhibits Wing ~ Kurume and Satsuki azaleas trained as bonsai are featured in this colorful exhibition. Free

Workshop: Kusamono

31 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Young Choe will teach this introductory wksp. Ceramic container and all materials will be provided. Fee \$49 (FONA/NBF \$40)

JUNERappahanock Bonsai Society

7 10:00 a.m. Satsuki azalea & tropical bonsai wksp

Lancaster Bonsai Society

7 or 8 Demuth garden tour - Helen Dunlap

12 (Thursday) Annual picnic at Conestoga House - auction & raffle

Potomac Viewing Stone Group

8 1:00 p.m. Special presentation by Tom Elias on Lingbi stones – Photos of collecting areas in China, history and examples of stones. There will be a Lingbi stone door prize

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

14 9:00 a.m. Young Choe – Kusamono

10:00 a.m. Kusamono wksp

Brookside Bonsai Society

17 7:30 p.m. Program TBA

Washington Bonsai Club

21 2:00 p.m. Program TBA

Baltimore Bonsai Club

22 1:00 p.m. Azalea wksp at Mike Ramina's

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

22 2:00 p.m. Open wksp-BYOT

Contacts on Back Page:

Bonsai Society of the Eastern Shore

Mid-Shore Bonsai Society

Chesapeake Bonsai Society

Events at the NB&PM

Curator's Tour: Bonsai Museum

7 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Learn the history of the museum and the individual trees on this staff-led tour.

Exhibit: Chesapeake Bonsai Society

21-29 10:00 a.m.-4:00p.m., Special Exhibits Wing

Trees from the private collections of this organization's members will be shown. Free demonstration on Sunday, 29 June, 1:00 p.m.

Wksp: Pruning Bonsai

28 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Yoshimura Lecture Demonstration Center - Basic pruning concepts will be discussed and attention will be given to each tree that the student brings in. (limit 2 lg. or 3 sm. trees per student) Fee: \$29 (FONA/NBF \$24)

yes, it's also THAT time of year again . . . On 16 March I killed the first

mosquito of my '08 season. It was flying about my kitchen, tiger species, with its long stripey legs looking to grab my forearm. In Fairfax, we have 17 species. What are you up against?

Remember, if you must have standing water in the yard, pay careful attention. Manage the birdbath, scrubbing the bowl and changing the water weekly. If you have wisteria sitting in water, dump and replace it often. Water basins in the bonsai ara should have Mosquito Dunks (or the like). Put a screen over the downspout water barrel. Check your stacked pot collection to be sure they are not catching and holding water you don't see.

Mosquitoes only need a teaspoon in which to lay their egg rafts.

**YOUR
AD
HERE**

Contact John Ruth,
shipsquartersfarm@msn.com,
if you are an honest business
or service provider and wish to
tell some nice people about
your kite shop, tattoo parlor,
nursery (babies/bonsai, heck,
a lot of us need both), dog
grooming, auto repair. [get the
idea?]

Commune with Sensei Sam *by Jim Sullivan (Bowie)*

Sensei invites questions, or contrary experiences, methods, or information. Send your thoughts to Sensei Sam at jvsullivan@aol.com. Your questions or responses can appear in *Clippings* anonymously if you prefer.

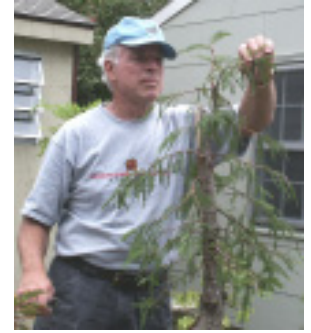


photo by Jane Ashley-Fennel

Mugo Pine, Friend or Foe?

Sensei joined the Baltimore Bonsai Club on a collecting trip 30 March to Nature's Way Nursery & Bonsai Studio in

Harrisburg, Pa. Even though I returned with only a bag of Akadama soil and a tick bite, I had a good time. I seem to be a tick magnet, and was foolish not to have used an insect repellent. I especially enjoyed the bumpy, open-bed truck ride to and from the collecting site, and the abundant wildlife. I startled a deer (a fellow tick magnet), red fox, a woodcock (fairly rare), and a large owl that soared just above my head. I think the others in our group had an equally good time and returned with bargain collected material and/or bonsai supplies. Nature's Way owners, Jim Doyle and his wife, Mary Kay, were gracious and informative hosts. Carol Schroeder, a Baltimore club member, posed a question for Sensei while we were scouting for yamadori. Carol said that she has had little luck with Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo*) as bonsai and asked my opinion. I said I would give it some thought and address the subject in *Clippings*.

Mugo Pine are native to alpine Europe, but are common as nursery stock here. There are many cultivars (varieties), including several dwarfs. I had grown a few for a short time, but gave them away either because they had languished or because I didn't care for their spindly branches and bush-like habit. I was also told (as was Carol) that "they don't do well as bonsai and will die in a few years" and I had not seen any displayed locally that inspired me. There are many masterpieces in Europe and I expect there are some in the U. S.

Being hardy from zones 2 to 7, they should do well here if given proper care. That care should include full sun (but try to protect the pot from high temperatures) and well-draining growing media. But the requirement for a well-drained potting mix means frequent watering because Mugos respond poorly to dry conditions. Why not just use a finer mix and water less? An extended rain will saturate the mix and the limited drainage, evaporation, and transpiration could doom your pine. This is especially true in winter or early spring. Later repotting than other conifers (even August) has been suggested for this pine. If repotting in summer, place in light shade for about 2 weeks to aid recovery. When repotting, remove most of the old soil if it has decomposed; but preserve a little to reincorporate in the new mix to reestablish the mycorrhizae, a beneficial fungus. The species seems to do better as bonsai than the dwarf cultivars.

For inspiration and information about an award winning Mugo by Hans Van Meer of the Netherlands, visit the web site: <http://www.knowledgeofbonsai.org/progressions/meer07.php>. In addition, you could visit Nature's Way on 9 & 10 May when Marco Invernizzi, a European bonsai pro, will be visiting. You might be able to pull him aside and ask about his native tree, the Mugo Pine. But if you go, don't forget the insect repellent.

- Sensei Sam

PBA SPRING SHOW AT THE US NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Usually we have more promotional material for our PBA Spring Show. There should be a “pop ‘n Post” poster for all you members to take to your local garden centers, book stores, libraries, coffee shops, and many other frequented places. I have never been turned down when I have presented my supply of ten or so posters to ten or so businesses every year. I say a few words about our clubs and the art of Bonsai, and my request is always granted.

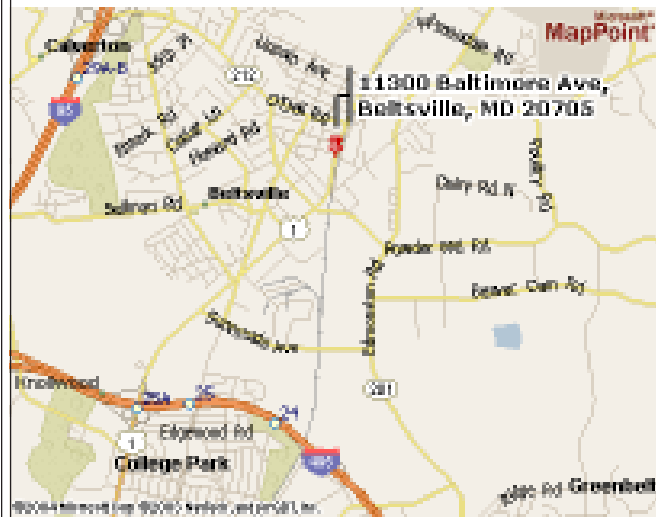
It’s curious, though. Perhaps you all think it’s a stupid idea. You might think we don’t need to promote our club activities. You all must have all the active members you can use. We must get all the show attendees we can possibly handle . . . because I have never seen a poster hanging that was not hung by me . . . but then I don’t go everywhere. Dot Martin of NVBS told me she always found a public place to hang one.

If you happen to see our show mentioned publicly, please notify the editor, saying where and when it was spotted. It could be very helpful if there’s a next year for us. We really need to know where to focus our energies for a better future. Also, it would be very helpful to hear of places where a “showlet” would be welcomed. Two volunteers to do such a thing would be splendid, too. Jim Reiden was very good about setting up an educational table or three in his neck of the woods, but right now drawing members from the Philippines seems unlikely (do I remember one of his missives mentioning a new friend from his temporary home moving to Maryland ~ perhaps). Dear Bill and Norma Merritt went by themselves to staff a booth at the Japan-America Society festival. I don’t think we’ve lifted a finger to have a presence there in 10 years. How silly is that!

PBA ANNUAL AUCTION AT BEHNKE’S

Usually we have more promotional material for our spring auction held at Behnke’s.

Here’s a map for the forgetful or the never-beens who’ll pay attention to the wise old-timers saying, “show up! You’ll not regret it.”



As always, it is very important for us to shop for at least one item from the Nursery’s many plant selections and tell the cashier or any manager types you run into that the bonsai auction brought you there and how grateful we are to be given that space to hold our auction. GIVEN anything these days is pretty rare. Space for an auction is golden.

Alternative possibilities for the PBA Spring Show would be welcomed, too. Suggestions come up yearly, but so far have not passed muster. We need to be prepared. Hmm, would the Japan~America Society Festival be a place for our beautiful show? SEND YOUR COMMENTS ~ for or agin ~ to the Editor. As long as they’re clean, constructive, and respectful, they will be shared with the entire club.

STOLEN BONSAI

Sad Degenerate on the Loose ~ of course, this is a generously kind, positive description of a THIEF !

A quote from Ed Trout of the Gold Coast Bonsai Society who lives in Pembroke Pines, Florida: "Last night (14 April), some low-life stole my (Gold Coast's) logo buttonwood from my backyard. It was no more than 8 feet from my back door. I am sad & sick, and feel like someone has kidnapped a family member. Please help me get the word out."



The tree is 53 inches tall.

If you catch sight of this tree as in the photo, or see a tree that could be this one redesigned, *please*, e-mail Ed at figus@aol.com.

Bob Ulrich sent along this nugget from *National Geographic*: The world's oldest known living tree, a [conifer that first took root at the end of the last Ice Age](#), has been discovered in Sweden, researchers say. The visible portion of the 13-foot-tall "Christmas tree" isn't ancient, but its root system has been growing for *9,550 years*, according to a team led by Leif Kullman, professor at Umea University's Department of Ecology and Environmental Science in Sweden.

* * * * *

We hope to have the last installment of

BONSAI POTTING MIXES . . . or *The Real Dirt by Don Waitkus*

next month.

Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc.
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Potomac Bonsai Association Membership Application

Welcome! PBA is composed of the clubs listed here. Join one and be eligible to attend any club's meeting, in addition to receiving *PBA Clippings* monthly. We conduct a Spring Show and an annual auction, as well as other events. Residents of club communities are expected to join a club to receive all membership benefits, including *PBA Clippings*.

To become a member, call the contact person of the club convenient to your needs for current rate and where to send this application and dues amount. **(Please make check payable to the club joined.)**

Individuals residing beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to *PBA Clippings*. For a subscription only (no entitlement to participation in club events), complete application and mail with a check payable to PBA for \$22.00 (see below for an international subscription) to: Ross Campbell, 728 Guilford Ct, Washington, D.C., 20901-3218. Check for Beginners' Hour, and other special functions. Meeting locations, times, and club contact numbers (for additional information) are subject to change. **Call first!**

Events are listed monthly in the Calendar section of *PBA Clippings*.

How did you learn of us? (media, exhibit, garden center, friend, etc) _____

Chosen "home club" (club best meshing with your life): _____

- Individual club membership (Includes *PBA Clippings*)
- Family club membership (One subscription to *PBA Clippings* per household)
- PBA Clippings* subscription only, US \$15 (does not include club activities)
- PBA Clippings*, international subscription, US \$35 (E-mail version, US\$15)

Circle one of the following Association activities with which you can help:

Membership	Club Library	Exhibit Planning	Newsletter Staff
Publicity	Raffle table	Exhibit Construction	
Hospitality	Meeting Clean-up	OTHER _____	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ +4 _____

Nation _____

Telephone: Home: (____) _____ or Office: (____) _____

Baltimore Bonsai Club, 4th Sunday, 1 pm
 Towson Br of Baltimore Public Library
 Arschel Morell, 410.744.6478,
 ajmorellsr514@aol.com

Bonsai Society of the Eastern Shore
 1st Wednesday, 7 pm
 Talbot Hospice, Easton
 Susan Jones-Amari, 410.943.9886,
 susanja@bcctv.com

Brookside Bonsai Society, 3rd Thursday, 7:30 pm
 No. Chevy Chase Rec Center, Bethesda, MD
 Stephen Moran, 202.722.7191,
framor@starpower.net

Chesapeake Bonsai Society
 Call for meeting time and location
 Sharon Katz, 410.263.3307 sharonkatz@excite.com

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club, 4th Sunday, 2 pm
 Clearwater Nature Ctr, 11000 Thrift Road,
 Clinton, MD
 Essie Wilson, 301.839.2471 wilsone@howrey.com

Lancaster Bonsai Society, 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm
 Conestoga House, 1608 Marietta Pike,
 Lancaster, PA
 Bob Ulrich, 717.468.6458,
LancasterBonsai@yahoo.com

Mid-Shore Bonsai Society, Saturday meetings TBA
 Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, MD
 Kris Doherty, 410.778.6662

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society,
 2nd Saturday, 9 am
 Walter Reed Community Center,
 2909 16th St South, Arlington, VA
 Judith Schwartz, 703.751.3768
jmschwartz1@comcast.net

Potomac Viewing Stone Group
 Meets irregularly (~ 6 times per year)
 Glenn Reusch, Ghreusch@aol.com, 540.672.5699

Rappahanock Bonsai Society
 Call for meeting time and location
 Todd Stewart, 804.448.4499

Washington Bonsai Club, 3rd Saturday, 2 pm
 Call first. (no July or August meetings)
 U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
 Ross Campbell, 301.587.6898

Also visit www.potomacbonsai.com
www.bonsai-nbf.org