



Thirty-eight Years of Bonsai Education and Volunteerism - 1970 - 2008

Volume 38 No. 4 October 2008

President's Corner - Chuck Croft

It has been six months since the last issue of the *PBA Clippings* was published and a great deal has happened. Your Board has met twice and has established new publication and editorial policies for not only the *PBA Clippings* but all PBA publications intended for public distribution. These policies will be presented to you in detail in the article immediately following my comments.

We have begun to plan our next Spring Bonsai Festival in conjunction with the US National Arboretum. This is an ongoing effort which promises to yield a great Spring Festival. It is anticipated that the Spring Festival will follow the general outline of this year's Festival. It will include at least one speaker and some workshops. In addition, we are exploring the feasibility of sponsoring a regional juried exhibit in conjunction with our Spring Festival. This would be an exciting addition to the Festival and I look forward to the possibility of holding it. More details will come out in the next edition of the *PBA Clippings*.

We are also in the process of revisiting and reconstituting our web site. The father of one of the NVBS members has agreed to take on this task for both NVBS and PBA in addition to his regular job. We owe him a big debt of gratitude.

Finally, it is my intent to visit each member club over the next year in an effort to meet club members and answer any questions or concerns you may have. I am also very interested in any ideas club members have regarding PBA activities and what PBA can do for you. You do not need to wait for my visit though, please feel free to send me email if you would like. My email address is in this newsletter as part of the list of PBA officers.

PBA Clippings New Publication Policies - Chuck Croft

Our review of the *PBA Clippings* covered several areas of concern. We looked at our organizational by-laws for guidance and then examined our goals, publication frequency, publication costs, editorial policies, other communication alternatives, etc.

- 1) Goals: Our goals are to report on member club activities and schedules, publish educational articles on bonsai, provide educational opportunities for bonsai enthusiasts and the public, help members find bonsai related materials, provide contact information for member clubs and PBA officers, and publish information related to PBA ongoing activities and deliberations. It is not the intent of the *PBA Clippings* to duplicate club newsletters, but to complement them.
- 2) Publication Frequency: We have decided that at this time, PBA membership can be best served by publishing the *PBA Clippings* on a quarterly basis. The main underlying consideration for this is the relative paucity of articles being submitted for publication. It is important, therefore, that all member clubs provide meeting information far enough ahead that the quarterly publication can inform all PBA members. The quarterly issues of the *PBA Clippings* will be published in January, April, July, and October. It will be possible to revisit this schedule should circumstances require it.
- 3) Publication Costs: The costs of publishing the *PBA Clippings* have become nearly prohibitive. We have decided that we need to rely nearly exclusively on email to publish the *PBA Clippings*. We can no longer afford to print and send mass mailings through the Post Office. In order to get the mailing costs down on a per copy basis, we were printing more copies of the *PBA Clippings* than were needed. For those individual members that do not have email access, however, we will continue to mail out individual

copies. We will no longer take orders from non-PBA members that require us to mail print copies of the newsletter. Finally, by receiving the newsletter via email, you will get the benefit of seeing the pictures in color. Any issues printed will be only in black and white.

Commercial bonsai related advertising will be permitted and encouraged. Our advertising rates are listed toward the end of each issue of the PBA Clippings.

4) Editorial Policies: We have established an editorial board that will be responsible for reviewing each PBA publication that may be publicly distributed prior to its publication. They will be looking for not only editorial corrections, but will also be enforcing the editorial policies. These policies include the following: a) no political agendas, b) no personal agendas, c) bonsai educational or schedule content only, d) and content must support PBA or bonsai related activities. Finally, the newsletter editor has the authority to reject articles that have nothing to do with bonsai or bonsai related activities. The only authority to reject bonsai related articles will rest with the editorial review board.

5) Articles: We encourage everyone to submit articles for publication. This is the best way to expand the dissemination of information and lessons learned to the overall membership, not just the members of a local club. Articles about club meetings (both past and future) are also encouraged.

6) Membership Dues: The savings realized by using email and not printing and mailing so many copies of the newsletter will cut down on the losses experienced by the PBA and will allow us to organize better, Spring Festivals that contain more educational opportunities, and possibly other educational activities.

7) Alternatives to PBA Clippings: We found no viable alternative to the *PBA Clippings*. We considered a web site, other publications with much broader distribution, simple email notifications within clubs and total elimination of the PBA Clippings. None of these were found to be acceptable, though the use of articles in other publications is on the table as a form of information dissemination in addition to the PBA Clippings.

8) *PBA Clippings* Editor: This is a non-elected, appointed position and the newsletter editor is a member of the PBA Board. We will be having a new newslet-

ter editor. After this issue of the PBA Clippings, our editor will be Thomas Kodiak. Thomas has studied in Japan for three years and is enthusiastic about taking on the job.

Thanks to Betty Yeapanis for her long service

The Potomac Bonsai Association officers and club representatives wish to express their sincere thanks to Betty Yeapanis for her many years of service to the members of the PBA.

For more than 10 years, Betty was the assistant editor, editor, and publisher of the PBA's Clippings newsletter. Every month, working with Jules Koetsch when he was the editor and then largely on her own, Betty made sure that Clippings was written, assembled, and delivered. This has not been an easy task; countless hours and energy were required to accomplish it over those many years.

For most of us, however, Clippings has been an integral part of the PBA that we could always count on, knowing that it would arrive in our mail with information about club activities, PBA events such as the Spring Festival, and features about bonsai care and styling tips. In fact, without Clippings, the PBA would not be the organization that it is today.

Again, we give our thanks to Betty, and hope that she will continue to contribute to the art of bonsai.

Member Club Dues

It is time for all PBA members to be thinking about renewing their memberships in their local clubs. Remember that all memberships are up in the new year and without your membership dues your clubs will not be able to bring you their programs and bonsai opportunities.

Bonsai 2008 National Exhibition, Rochester, NY 11-12 October 2008 - Article by Stephen Moran, BBS

Wow! I feel as though I've died and gone to bonsai heaven. I am sitting here in my hotel room in Rochester, New York where I just attended America's first Bonsai national exhibition organized by the great William Valavanis. Just for clarity, the exhibition was held October 11-12, 2008 in Rochester, New York. While I didn't personally have any trees on exhibition, my teacher and mentor Colin Lewis had three entered – all of which I have gotten to know since beginning



Julian Adams receiving the Centre's Most Effective Bonsai and Tree Combination Award. The tree is a Scots Pine.



Kathy Shaner closing a demonstration on a Prostrata Juniper.

my studies with him. If you don't already know, I am fairly new to the bonsai world, but as some of my club members will tell you – I am obsessed with all things bonsai. My obsession with bonsai over the last several years has introduced me to some of the top American artists, most of whom were represented in this show -- this exhibition proved without a doubt America has TALENT! If you read the Colin Lewis interview in the September-October Bonsai Focus magazine, Colin says America is 10-12 years behind Europe – this show challenges that notion (sorry boss).

There were 194 bonsai trees on exhibit and represented 90 exhibitors from around the Continental US and Puerto Rico. In fact, some of the artists travelled more than 6000 miles round trip to showcase their talent. David Kreutz picked up trees in CA, OR, and WA, traveling more than 8000 miles round trip. There were



Jim Gremel was not at the Exhibition, but his Sargents Juniper won the National Bonsai Award at the banquet.

over 1,100 visitors from across the country, Canada, Japan, Puerto Rico, and England.

Since I am a photographer, I should also mention right up front, no photography was allowed in the exhibition area...so you will have to settle for cheesy banquet photos (Chuck will probably throw in some demonstration photos too). What I found so interesting and inspiring was the variety of species represented at this exhibition, from Louisiana's own Guy Guidry's Bald Cypress named "Twister" to Californian Jim Grimble's incredible Cedars (Blue and Green Atlas).

California bonsai artist Kathy Shaner and Massachusetts artist Suthin Sukosolvisit conducted demonstrations both days, one tree each per day. They skillfully transformed OLD Prostrata Junipers from California. They did not disappoint the audience; in fact the material used could easily be compared to top European material. This was my first time seeing these two talents in action...I was not disappointed.

Here's a quick rundown of the winners.

National Bonsai Award:

Sargents Juniper by James Gremel of Occidental, California

Best Tropical Bonsai:

Royal Purple Bougainvillea by Erik Wigert of Bokeelia, Florida

Yoshimura Award for Finest Classical Bonsai:

Japanese Black Pine by Mike Page of South San Francisco, California

(Cont. Pg. 5)



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

This column 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.

Stress

“Everything in moderation ...” was the way Aristotle was said to have philosophized. Since I am not quite old enough to have been there, I will accept the quote. I think most would agree that moderation in most things reduces mental and physical stress.

I will leave it to the philosophers, clergy, and physicians to address the emotional and physical stresses that bedevil us, but I will try to address the stresses we, and nature, cause in our bonsai and how to moderate or eliminate those detrimental forces.

Moisture: Too much or too little can present similar symptoms, but too much has surely killed more bonsai than the latter. Just because the ‘soil’ surface appears dry, that is not a sure indication that the subsurface is dry also. No plant (in a bonsai pot) can tolerate saturation indefinitely. First of all, use a planting mix that drains adequately and be a good observer.

Fertilizer: Too much or too little is harmful, but too much can cause the most harm. That goes for both macro and micro nutrients. Many water soluble fertilizers contain micronutrients, so if you use those regularly, there should be no need to add micronutrients. I have found that dilute amounts applied frequently are tolerated better than infrequent concentrated doses.

Light: As much as your location can provide for most conifers and filtered light for deciduous trees and hemlocks. But for all trees, avoid excessive heating, especially of the pots. High temps usually only damage leaves, but can kill roots. Avoid placing trees against walls or fences where reflected heat and poor air circulation can be lethal. If you must move the conifers into partial shade to avoid high summer temperatures, by all means do so. Return them to a sunny location in mid-September as temps moderate.

Insects/Diseases: The culprits causing damage are sometimes obvious, such as aphids or caterpillars, but can be confounding, such as the many leaf spot and root rot diseases. Usually a fairly benign spray such as insecticidal soap will solve the insect problems, but sometimes a chemical fungicide is needed such as with needle cast on pines and spruces. Again, be a good observer and treat at the first signs of infection or infestation. And don’t frequently water the foliage of your bonsai. That is a sure way to promote disease on some species such as pines, spruces, and red maples (*Acer rubrum*).

A way to moderate conditions such as moisture and temperature is to sink the bonsai pot to its rim in soil in a well drained spot. The earth will insulate against temperature extremes and also wick away excess moisture. I believe this is a sound practice for winter storage also.

Growing trees in pots is stressful, but has been done successfully for centuries by bonsai professionals and hobbyists and more recently by the nursery trade as an alternative to the field growing of nursery stock. Understanding and moderating environmental conditions have made the nursery business a booming industry and can make us better bonsai growers. - Sensei Sam



Suthin Sukosolvisit finishing a demonstration on a Prostrata Juniper.



The finished product.

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(First National Bonsai Exhibit (Cont.))

Centre' Most Effective Bonsai Tree and Pot Combination:

Scots Pine by Julian Adams of Lynchburg, Virginia

Custom Oriental Finest Shohin Bonsai:

Shohin Bonsai Composition, Mixed Species by Suthin Sukosolvisit of Stoughton, Massachusetts

Yoshi Bonsai Tool Finest Deciduous Bonsai:

Trident Maple by Martin Schmalenberg of Stillwater, New Jersey

Ho Yoku Finest Creative Formal Display:

Blaauw Juniper by Michael Pollock of Pound Ridge, New Jersey

Ho Yoku 2nd Finest Creative Formal Display

Robusta Green Juniper by Ron Lang of Reedsville, Pennsylvania

Kirku's Finest Evergreen:

Western Hemlock by Scott Elser of Portland, Oregon

The main reason photography was not allowed is the organizers are going to publish a commemorative al-

bum that will show every exhibit in all their glory, more on that later.

In closing, I encourage all those interested in our art to consider attending this event when it comes around again in two years – you will not be disappointed.

Tea with Stanley Chinn - Jim Rieden

It usually began with a phone call, "Jim, come on over and have some tea." And several hours later after solving the world's problems, feeding peanuts to the semi tame rat in his back yard, and innumerable cups of tea, we got around to a tour of the collection. There was generally a comment on what needed to be done on each of the trees that he was developing, how it had been started or where it had been collected.

Stanley was proudest of his fantastic trident maples trained in the root over rock style. You may still see four of five of these magnificent specimens in the collection at the National Arboretum. Look for the one that has his name carved in the rock over which the roots entwined.

No visit to his collection was ever complete until you had the lecture on the difference between bonsai (Japanese), and Penjing

(Chinese), styling, and that the Penjing was much older and pre-dated the art moving from China to Japan. He had a rather extensive collection of books that illustrated and compared the differences in the two styles of treatment. I several times hinted at wanting to borrow one or two of the books and take them home to look at the pictures. "Oh, you do not read Chinese, so it wouldn't be very useful to take them with you!"

I once prevailed upon Stanley to visit my home and give me an evaluation of the trees that I was beginning to amass. So around nine AM on a beautiful Saturday morning he arrived, and after several comments on the quality of my Lipton vs. his blend of imported tea, we began the critique. I didn't want to, or didn't have the heart to accompany him on his rounds between my benches. We agreed that after he was finished we would review the collection together.

I had given him a handful of red chopsticks and asked him to place one in each of the trees that would not make it as a bonsai. After an agonizing fifteen or twenty minutes he came back to the porch, and I asked if he was finished. "Oh no, just need some more red chopsticks!" When at last he returned to the porch to call me out to the benches we looked over what seemed to me a forest planting of red chopsticks. One in almost every pot! Stanley then took each tree and explained what he saw as the problem, and I had to admit that with every tree he of course was right. "But, you can plant it in your big backyard, and you will have a nice garden here, but it will never be a bonsai." And so that fall many of the dormant trees were put into the yard and only a few were again dug up after several years, and redesigned.



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

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

November

Baltimore Bonsai Club

9 10:00 a.m. Collecting trip to "the hill"- more later

Rappahanock Bonsai Society

11:00 a.m. Conifer wksp-Cost \$35 + materials

Bonsai Society of the Eastern Shore

5 7:00 p.m. Program TBA

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

8 9:00 a.m. Lecture-Soil mixes

10:00 a.m. Demonstration-Pete Jones

Lancaster Bonsai Society

12 7:00 p.m. Preparing for winter-Different methods and ideas on protecting your trees in winter

Washington Bonsai Club

15 2:00 p.m. Program TBA

Brookside Bonsai Society

20 7:30 p.m. Lecture by Ked (Kathleen Emerson-Dell), Assistant Curator at the NB&P Museum

Baltimore Bonsai Club

23 1:00 p.m. Roundtable discussion - recently collected trees and other collected trees. Skills refreshers- Caring for pines-needle plucking and candle pruning
Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
No meeting scheduled due to Thanksgiving

Chesapeake Bonsai Society- Sharon Katz 410-263-3307
Mid-Shore Bonsai Society – Kris Doherty 410-778-6662
Potomac Viewing Stone Group – Glenn Reisch 540-672-5699

December

Rappahanock Bonsai Society
No meeting scheduled
Bonsai Society of the Eastern Shore
No meeting scheduled
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
12 Annual NVBS dinner, Time and place TBA
Lancaster Bonsai Society
No meeting scheduled
Washington Bonsai Club
12 TBA
Brookside Bonsai Society
Holiday dinner, Date and time TBA
Baltimore Bonsai Club
12 1:00 p.m. Holiday Party- Bring your favorite tree to discuss- Discussion of styling the PBA Shimpaku
Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
6 3:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner-Dues collection and 2009 calendar planning

No meeting Scheduled:
Chesapeake Bonsai Society
Mid- Shore Bonsai Society
Potomac Viewing Stone Group

January

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
10 Evaluating Your Trees - Introduction followed by Know Your Tools, Tool Care and Tool Sharpening
Lancaster Bonsai Society
14 Virtual redesign of existing bonsai with the use of blown-up photos of existing bonsai. We will show different options for redesigning trees
Baltimore Bonsai Club
25 1:00 p.m. Bring a container to talk about- Skills Refresher: Bonsai record keeping

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
25 2:00 p.m. Open Discussion

Meetings not yet planned for 2009:
Rappahanock Bonsai Society
Bonsai Society of the Eastern Shore
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
Washington Bonsai Club
Brookside Bonsai Society
Potomac Viewing Stone Group



PBA members Ron Lang and Verna Croft at the First National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, New York. Ron won the Ho Yoku 2nd Finest Creative Formal Display award.



Yuji Yoshimura's daughters address the banquet attendees at the First National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, New York.

Potomac Bonsai Association Membership Application

Welcome! PBA is composed of the clubs listed to the right. Join one and be eligible to attend any club's meeting in addition to receiving the *PBA Clippings* on a quarterly basis. We present a Spring Bonsai Festival 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 location for the current rate and where to send this application and the dues (Please make the check payable to the club you are joining). Individual clubs set their own dues. Check for Beginner's hour and other functions. Meeting locations, times and club contact numbers (for additional information) are subject to change. We suggest that you call before sending in your membership application.

Individuals residing beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to *PBA Clippings*. For a subscription only (does not include entitlement to participate in club events), complete this application and mail with a check payable to PBA to Ross Campbell, 728 Guilford Ct., Washington, D.C., 20901-3218.

Type of Membership:

- Individual club membership (includes *PBS Clippings*)
- Family club membership (One *PBA Clippings* subscription per household)
- PBA Clippings* only, US \$20.00 (does not include club activities)
- PBS Clippings*, International subscription, US \$35.00 (E-mail version, \$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
Web Page	Meeting Clean-up	OTHER _____	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Nation _____

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

How did you find out about PBA? _____

PBA Member Clubs

Baltimore Bonsai Club, 4th Sunday, 1 pm, Towson Branch of Baltimore Public Library; Arschel Morell, (410)744-6478, ajmorellsr14@aol.com

Bonsai Society of the Eastern Shore, 1st Wednesday, 7 pm, Talbot Hospice, Easton, Susan Jones-Armari, (410)943-9886, susanja@bectv.com

Brookside Bonsai Society, 3rd Thursday, 7:30 pm, North Chevy Chase Rec Ctr, 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 Center, 11000 Thrift Rd, Clinton, MD, Essie Wilson, (301)839-2471, wilson@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, Ridgley, 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,

jmschwartz@comcast.net

Potomac Viewing Stone Group, Meets irregularly (~ 6 times per year), Glenn Reusch, (540)672-5699, Ghreusch@aol.com,

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

PBA Clippings

Newsletter of the Potomac Bonsai Association

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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 above.

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 4 Quarterly issues of the PBA Clippings only is US \$20.00 (US \$35.00 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.

Advertising Rates: Annual rates: 1/4 page, \$100.00; Larger than 1/4 page are accepted. Direct inquiries/payment (make checks payable to Potomac Bonsai Association) to Thomas Kodiak, see below. Please send paper ad copy or articles to the editor:

Thomas Kodiak. E-mail contributions are preferred and can be sent in Word, WordPerfect, or text documents to Thomas Kodiak. Pictures need to be in jpg format.