

Classified

RATES

Free to paid-up PBA members; non-members: \$1 per line per issue; \$2.50 per line per three issues (same copy). Make check to Potomac Bonsai Association, mail copy and check to James R. Newton, Newsletter Editor, 5565 Columbia Pike, #802, Arlington, Virginia 22204.

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"BONSAI CONGRESS" - July '72 - K. C.

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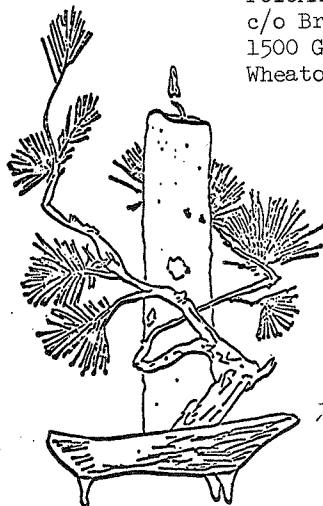
NEED COPPER WIRE? CALL YOUR ORDER NOW

Any bonsai grower knows how hard it is to find copper wire in the larger gauges (lower numbers). Now an alert PBA member has located what appears to be a good source for wire, available up to #8 gauge

Since purchase is by the pound, a consolidated buy would be the most feasible. PBA members wishing to stock up on these hard-to-get gauges, call Jim Newton at (703) 671-3290 and place your order.

●●●●●●PAID YOUR DUES?●●PLEASE DO!●●●●●●

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
c/o Brookside Botanical Gardens
1500 Glenallen Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland 20902



Season's Greetings

To:

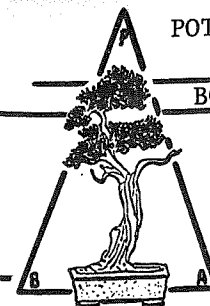
FIRST CLASS

POTOMAC

BONSAI

Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia

ASSOCIATION



Vol 1, No 8

December 1971

Newsletter

1972 Programs In Planning

Programs for the first four months of 1972 have been blocked out by PBA's Educational Vice-President, Bill Craig. Although not all details are completely firmed up at this time, the general theme for each month will remain as noted.

January 16*

Jim Newton will present a talk on Indoor bonsai. He and other volunteers will bring examples of plants suitable

Emblem Chosen; Symbols Strength

Shown in the new masthead above is the final selection of an insignia for PBA. It was chosen by 44% of members responding to the call in last month's Newsletter (as a matter of fact, this tree was the only one of the 15 to receive multiple votes).

The design is composed of a twisted-trunk juniper with shari superimposed on a triangle whose three corners symbolize the three geographical areas served by the Association - Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The fact that the triangle is isosceles, rather than equilateral, has no significance (an equal-sided figure made the design too squat). The letters, of course, are the initials of the Potomac Bonsai Association.

The simplicity of the design lends an element of strength to that already inherent in the ancient tree's proudly erect stature, with its gnarled trunk and shari attesting to the adversity it has

(see EMBLEM..., page 5)

for applying bonsai techniques and which can be kept inside all or part of the time.

Also on the same program will be a talk by Jim Early on making bonsai pots. He will have several examples on hand, which he will sell to interested members at the close of the evening's program.

February 16

Negotiations are underway to obtain a Department of Agriculture horticulturist to address the PBA on Plant Physiology. Bonsai techniques, particularly the ones which physically alter the plant (pruning and trimming, for example) can be most effectively and safely applied if the grower understands what effect his action

(see PROGRAMS..., page 2)

Full Evening Will Mark Gala December Meet

The December 16 meeting will be a program devoted to general bonsai topics and fellowship. As previously announced, the outstanding color film, "Bonsai, The Art of Training Dwarfed Potted Trees," will

● NOTICE ● NOTICE ● NOTICE ● NOTICE ●

Due to non-availability of the Brookside Nature Center on the third Wednesday of December, the PBA meeting is rescheduled for the following evening, Thursday, December 16. Time remains 7:30 p.m.

be featured, plus color slides of Omiya Village, near Tokyo, taken by member Pete Abresch. Cliff Pottberg will show slides of the famous bonsai collection at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

(see DECEMBER..., page 3)

PROGRAMS... (Continued from page 1) has on the plant itself. Name and specific topic will be announced as soon as known.

March 19*

Negotiations are also underway to obtain John Naka for the March meeting. Those members not familiar with the name may wish to check the Fall 1971 issue of the American Bonsai Society's BONSAI JOURNAL (Vol 5, No 3), which features Mr. Naka on the cover. He is the California bonsai master who created the 11-tree forest planting at the feature demonstration during the ABS Norfolk Symposium in July. (A copy of the JOURNAL is available through the PBA Educational VP Bill Craig.)

A recognized expert in the bonsai art, Mr. Naka will be on the east coast during March. He will present his demonstration and workshop to a consortium of Florida clubs that month, and, hopefully, will be able to make a swing up to the Washington area. Details will be announced as they are firmed.

April 14-16

This is the first of what will become PBA's Annual Bonsai Show. To be held at the National Arboretum, the PBA Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the exhibit of members' trees. Director of the Show will be Ruth Lamanna, assisted by Dottie Warren and Molly Hersh.

Election of Directors and any other business matters will comprise the Annual Meeting program. Tasks associated with both Show and Annual Meeting will be assigned soon.

* (Dates so marked indicate tentative scheduling at this time. As arrangements are firmed, specific dates will be published in forthcoming Newsletters.)

Cutrate Subscriptions Open For N.Y. Club's BULLETIN

Corresponding memberships are available in the Bonsai Society of Greater New York for all interested PBA members. The cost is \$5 per year. This is a reduction from the normal individual corresponding membership fee of \$7 per year. (see CUTRATE..., page 3)

November Field Trip Very Successful Jaunt

A total of 17 PBA members joined the caravan which left the Brookside Gardens parking lot a little after 2 p.m. on November 21 for a field trip to Honorary Life Member Ulric Hutton's nursery in Brinklow, Md.

The cold, blustery day didn't dampen the eager enthusiasm of the searchers after bonsai stock. Particularly was this true when it was learned that Mrs. Hutton had hot coffee, cookies and brownies in the warmth of the Hutton home to take the chill out of cold PBAers. The warmth of the Hutton hospitality added a festive atmosphere to the trip that could have been found nowhere else.

A number of trees were taken despite the time of year. These were mostly of coniferous varieties. Some members, however, tagged material to be collected in the spring. Ulric's stock of mugho pine, Atlantic cedar, bristlecone pine, plus many others, in bonsai size, is outstanding. Several PBAers made plans to revisit Ulric in the spring to take advantage of his fine selection of deciduous materials, as well as conifers.

So successful was the visit to Ulric's nursery that the planned second part of the field trip, a visit to Behnke's, was not made.



"...The mechanical aspects of bonsai are simple enough to explain. There is no magic in bonsai culture. Its techniques are based on sound horticultural principles, experience, and patience. But the artistic side of these tiny trees is well nigh impossible to convey. Bonsai are planted in philosophy, shaped by art, grown with love. Without some grasp of this intangible artistic process, the bare technique of making bonsai amounts to nothing."

Claude Chidamian

BONSAI MINIATURE TREES, Van Nostrand, '65

CUTRATE... (Continued from page 2)

Corresponding members receive the quarterly publication, BONSAI BULLETIN, acknowledged as one of the most comprehensive bonsai magazines in the nation.

In order to take advantage of the reduced rate of \$5 per year per corresponding member, ten or more must apply. The BONSAI BULLETINS will be mailed in bulk to our mailing address at Brookside Gardens and will be distributed at the first meeting after receipt.

Membership dates run from March 1 of each year to the following February 28th. Our deadline for members interested in taking advantage of this opportunity will be the February 16 PBA meeting. Interested PBAers may give their money to our Secretary, Leo Meyer, at or before that time.

PBA members not familiar with the BONSAI BULLETIN may see samples of this fine publication at the December 16 meeting.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION Newsletter Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Vol 1, No 7 November 1971 Published solely in the interests of the POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization, under authority of the Board of Directors. Officers for 1971 President.....James R. Newton First Vice-President.....Leo Marcus Educational Vice-President.Wm. E. Craig Secretary.....Leo J. Meyer Treasurer.....Molly Hersh PBA holds regular meetings at BROOKSIDE BOTANICAL GARDENS 1500 Glenallan Avenue Wheaton, Maryland 20902 Member, Bonsai Clubs International Submissions may be addressed to James R. Newton, Editor 5565 Columbia Pike, #802 Arlington, Virginia 22204 (703) 671-3290

Open Invitation To PBA

The Silver Spring Garden Club cordially invites your members to the opening of Brookside Gardens Annual Christmas display on Thursday evening the sixteenth of December seven to 10 o'clock at Brookside Gardens Wheaton Regional Park 1500 Glenallen Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland

DECEMBER... (Continued from page 1)

In addition, selected members are being asked to bring a bonsai or two to serve as focal points for the inevitable discussions about this fascinating art, and to add a little atmosphere to the planned festivities.

As a further attraction, other selected members will provide items which will be raffled off. Four to six bonsai-oriented prizes will be included.

Still more activity to mark the holiday season is planned. Each attending member is asked to bring a small gift of not more than \$2 value which will be exchanged with another member, chosen by drawing. Gifts selected should be something associated with the bonsai art: a tool, wire, small pot, package of soil, or other item (limited only by imagination). Wrapped appropriately, these will undoubtedly spark a great deal of fun for all.

Finally, to cap off a memorable evening will be refreshments consisting of punch, plus other edibles being arranged for by our Hospitality Chairman, Evelyn Solf.

MEET YOUR BOARD-----

MOLLY HERSH

Born in New York City, Molly graduated from high school and attended college there. But after three years she gave up the College of the City of New York, where she majored in economics, for the vicissitudes of the working world.

Her first job in what was to be a career spanning 33 years of government service, brought her, in 1936, to the Washington area and the Office of Indian Affairs as a secretary. She's been here ever since. In 1940 Molly began working with the Air Corps as an aircraft accident analyst. And here began one of the most interesting periods of her professional career.

Since her job required analyzing aircraft accidents, it was felt the more familiarity she had with the systems involved, the better she could perform. Accordingly, she earned her private pilot license, flying out of the Warrenton, Va. field. While doing so, she and the group of fellow pilots organized the first civilian flying club in the U.S., which became the nucleus of the now-extensive and valued Civil Air Patrol. And she it was who coined the club's motto, "Keep "Em Flying," a motto that later found its way into usage as the Air Corps official motto. Nor did this end her association with aeronautics, for she was present at the gathering where the well-known Air Force song was composed and written.

During the war, Molly was caught in a job freeze while working for the War Production Board. She couldn't break loose until 1948, when she finally transferred to the Army Quartermaster Corps. She remained with the Army until her 1969 retirement from the Army Materiel Command as a requirements specialist.

"That's when I got busy," Molly laughs. Now she could take the courses she always wanted to but never could sandwich in between government training and schools. Thus, the Smithsonian's educational program picked up an enrollment in Molly's name in both anthropology and archeology. At times she finds it necessary to juggle bonsai activities and archeology "digs."

In addition, Montgomery County's adult education program also finds Molly's name

on the sewing class roster.

Bonsai cropped up for Molly about the 1940s, but fizzled out after one of those bonsai-from-seed ads produced no "beautiful miniature tree right in your own home." But in 1958 a friend-of-a-friend who was leaving this area and couldn't take his trees along gave Molly the six bonsai that were a nucleus of her present "18-or-so" collection.

With characteristic positive action, Molly went after all the bonsai information she could find. Books gave her the rudimentary knowledge, and the American Bonsai Society, which was just getting started, provided her with more contacts, more information, and more experience. She was among ABS's earliest members. She is a Founding Member of PBA, was elected a member of its Board of Directors in August, and was elected Treasurer shortly thereafter.

Other activities include membership in Sligo Park Hills Garden Club, of which she was president for two years, raising azaleas, and dabbling in orchid raising. For many years she was active in training dogs and dog trainers in the intricacies of dog obedience trials, but has since foregone the canine breed for the feline; two Siamese cats, to be exact, and now shares the Devon Court home with the cats and long-time friend and companion, Jo Finneyfrock, also a PBA Founding Member, whom she met 26 years ago over a poker table (but that's a story in itself!).

Molly's unflagging interest, energy and willingness to serve and participate are wonderfully complemented by her unfailing humor, charm and warmth. Though this may sound schmaltzy, it all becomes crystal clear the moment you meet this delightful member of the Potomac Bonsai Association.

BROOKSIDE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Hours of Operation

Monday thru Saturday.....9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday.....1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Evenings, holidays.....By appointment

KANSAS CITY IN JULY

Board Meeting Covers Variety of PBA Topics

A meeting of the Board of Directors and officers was held at the home of President Jim Newton on November 14. Matters discussed included:

• The roster of paid-up PBA members was reconciled and will be published in the Newsletter at least quarterly (see list on page).

o First VP Lee Marcus announced that Bob Roland has accepted chairmanship of the Membership Committee. His first project will be to contact members on PBA rolls who have not paid their dues.

• Treasurer's Report November 14, 1971

Balance on Hand (Start) \$181.04

Receipts

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows: E. Felton Jones Workshop \$165.00, Dues 27.00, Total \$192.00

Expenditures

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows: E. Felton Jones (fee & travel) \$149.00, Cliff Pottberg (expenses re Jones visit) 17.74, Jim Newton (Newsletter, postage) 29.87, Total \$196.61

Balance on Hand (End) \$176.43

Respectfully Submitted Molly Hersh, Treasurer

• PBA fiscal year was determined to run from April through March to coincide with the anniversary of our founding. It was also determined that officers and Directors would be elected (when due) and their office begin in April.

• In order to provide continuity over the initial organization and programming period, the Board decided to consider the first full PBA year to be April 1972 thru March 1973. This amounts to a one-time exception to the rule that the President may not succeed himself. It also means that a regular election will be held at the Annual Meeting next April.

Clay Dust Can Be Useful

Terra Green or Turface, inert clay products, have been suggested as a substitute for the sand called for in many recommended bonsai soil mixes. Abrasive actions take place within the bulk mass, producing a certain amount of dust. Most such dust is usually thought of as a nuisance, but in the case of Terra Green or Turface the material, being clay dust, is useful.

Many bonsai growers use a ground cover to help conserve moisture and keep the soil surface on bonsai undisturbed. Moss is a great favorite in this respect. Most moss flourishes in clayey soil. The connection is obvious, but needs to be emphasised anyway:

Terra Green/Turface dust can be used effectively as a base (dusted over the soil surface) on which to grow moss.

Terra Green/Turface dust also makes excellent moss food and revitalizer when dusted lightly over moss beginning to lose its vigor.

- Dottie Warren

Pulverize clay soil by grating through a very fine screen to produce material on which moss will grow readily. Dried, it also makes a good moss food when dusted lightly over the surface of moss already established.

- Cliff Pottberg

EMBLEM... (Continued from page 1)

met and conquered. The tree is superimposed over the triangle, itself one of the most stable of geometric designs, to signify the spiritual ascendancy of a living creation over the inanimate.

Although a relatively few members were instrumental in choosing this emblem, and although other opinions were as valid and meaningful, I think the choice is a good one.

"...Bonsai are not for careless gardeners. One day without water, one month without light, one season without food can destroy a lifetime of work."

Claude Chidamian

BONSAI MINIATURE TREES, Van Nostrand, '65

Problems Maintaining Healthy Potted Trees

(Editor's Note: This is the third of a series based on and discussing implications to bonsai growers of data contained in "The U.C. System For Producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants," published by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of California Division of Agricultural Services.)

SOIL AND SOIL MIXES

One of the commonest erroneous ideas in growing practice, including that of bonsai growing, is that special soil resembling as much as possible the soil of its native habitat, is required for each type of plant. This involves the fallacious assumption that distribution of wilding trees is determined by soil type, whereas actually the temperature, rainfall, day length, light intensity, soil salinity, the point of origin, as well as other factors, are at least as important in determining where trees grow. It may even be misleading to assume that the best soil for a tree is that of its native habitat, since the tree may have had to "tolerate" that soil because another factor, such as frost, may have limited it to that particular area. Most plants, including bonsai trees, must of necessity have a wide tolerance to soil types in order to survive.

Soil Functions

Any growing medium must provide for the basic requirements of the tree in it. Since all green plants have the same basic requirements, the growing medium supplies only the following functions:

• Support. Trees require some means of physical support. Unless artificially provided, this is a function of the growing medium, particularly where the plant is large and the growing medium of lightweight material. Tying or wiring is common in bonsai to provide artificial support until the potted tree's root system develops sufficiently to take over.

• Moisture. Living plants are composed of a large amount of water, which must be obtained from the soil in which it grows. A good growing medium should have a reasonable ability to hold moisture in sufficient supply for tree requirements be-

tween irrigations. High salinity may make soil water virtually unavailable to the tree because dissolved salts increase osmotic pressure in the soil solution. If the concentrations outside the root approach those within it, owing to dissolved salts, water movement into the tree is restricted. Since containers have limited depth, a boundary exists at the bottom in contrast to a continuous soil column in the field. This constitutes a restriction to free drainage, so that soil in a container tends to retain more moisture available to trees after an irrigation than it would in a training bed. Large quantities of water are lost by the tree through transpiration. Wilted leaves indicate that loss is greater than the supply from the roots. Although this is the major plant use of water, that liquid is also the solvent in which

(see PROBLEMS..., page 7)

Dormancy Not Quite Quiet

Dormancy is not the complete cessation of activity, as is commonly stated. Although few outward signs show, buds and possibly the cambium layer continue to grow minutely. Tree roots also grow whenever soil temperature is right and moisture sufficient. Further, the tree's everyday physiological activities - photosynthesis, respiration, transpiration and other phenomena - continue whenever the temperature is above freezing.

from "Dormancy of Trees in Winter" by Katherine Grant, in BONSAI October 1971 (BCI Magazine)

* * *

And yet, deciduous trees, since their leaves have fallen, do not need light, for their photosynthetic "factories" were shut down by the loss of leaves. Therefore, bare trees can be kept in darkened storage over the winter, even, if temperatures are not low enough to maintain dormancy, in the refrigerator. Pines and needle trees should not be deprived completely of light, although requirements are drastically reduced.

Dottie Warren
PBA Member

43 Paid-Up Members On PBA Rolls By November

Peter E. Abresch
Mrs. H. H. Almond, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Robt. Branstead
Rita V. Connors
William E. Craig
Nadine B. Drucher
James E. Early
Capt. & Mrs. J. K. Everson
Josephine Finneyfrock
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Hadley
Phyllis Hendon
Molly Hersh

Anne R. Hinds
John Hreha
Ulric Hutton
Mrs. Haruko Kawasoye
Milton R. Kidd
William N. Kuhl
Mr. & Mrs. P. E. Kurz
Mrs. Carl Lamanna
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Marcus
Clinton H. Maag
Leo J. Meyer

James R. Newton
Mary Jo O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. James Oliver
Charlene Olsson
Clifton Pottberg
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Roland
Walter Schmidt
Albert F. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Solf
Dan Turner
Mrs. Charles Warren
Mrs. Robt. Westbrook

PROBLEMS...

(Continued from page 6)

minerals are taken into and transpired through the tree. The two elements of water, hydrogen and oxygen, play individually important roles in plant metabolism, and all organic materials of trees contain large quantities of each. The fact that plants can be grown in water (culture-solution growing) indicates that there is no such thing as excessive water where the other basic requirements are met. This may seem a startling statement to bonsai growers who are used to thinking in terms of sufficient water only. However, the above is theoretically a possibility, and, in fact, becomes quite real when the bald cypress, for one, is considered. Another tree that seems to suffer no ill effect from apparently excess water is the water elm (*Planera aquatica*) (see an interesting article in the October 1971 issue of BONSAI, the Bonsai Clubs International magazine.) On the other hand, tree growth unquestionably can be restricted by conditions that subject the tree to increasingly deficient moisture.

• Aeration. For roots to function normally, they must be supplied with a source of energy and an environment favorable for utilizing it. The top of the tree provides the sugars and other carbohydrates, which are transported down to the roots where, through respiration, they supply the necessary energy for roots to function. Respiration, as in the case of animals, requires oxygen and produces carbon dioxide and water. Oxygen is also required for respiration in other parts of the tree, but supply there is nearly always adequate. But because of the

tiny pore spaces in soil through which the gases move, aeration (oxygen supply and carbon dioxide removal) of the roots can easily become limiting. A good soil mix, therefore, must insure the best possible aeration consistent with other requirements. The additional moisture retained by soil in a container reduces the air space, making it important that container soils have a maximum porosity. Although applications of water can be effective in displacing soil air, diffusion is the primary force that moves gases into and out of a soil. If the soil pores are very small, water will fill them and reduce aeration until the water content has been lowered by evaporation or transpiration.

• Mineral Nutrients. Most green plants, including trees, are known to require at least twelve chemical elements that are obtained from the growing medium by the roots. These are: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, boron, and molybdenum. In some cases, foliar feeding may be used to supplement root absorption. A fertile soil is one in which all these elements are present in adequate but not excessive amounts. Thus, the soil mix must contain them or the growing procedures must provide for their supply during tree growth. As with moisture, it is important that the supply of these minerals be continuous rather than intermittent. The greatest problem in this regard is maintaining proper nitrogen supply (which will be discussed in a subsequent part of this series - Ed.)

Next: Soil Mixing