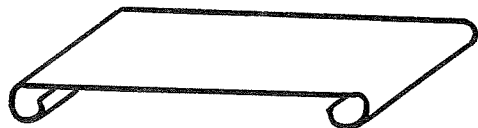


SHEET METAL DISPLAY STAND

An attractive and inexpensive bonsai display stand can be made from sheet metal - aluminum, steel, etc. Depending on available facilities, almost any sheet metal shop will shape any size sheet as shown in the sketch. The formed stand can then be finished by coating with a black enamel or flat paint developed for use on metal surfaces.



(Adapted from Kay Weid's idea as shown in Bonsai Newsletter, November 1966.)

The first plant to receive a patent was a new kind of rose. The United States law in 1930 recognized the breeder of new plants as an inventor. The first patented rose brought its originator royalties for 17 years.

* * * *

In ancient times, only about 200 kinds of plants were known. Modern botanists have names for and descriptions of about 400,000 species!

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

TO:

FIRST CLASS

BONSAI CONGRESS '72 - Learning Together

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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KANSAS CITY IN JULY

POTOMAC

BONSAI

Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia

ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Vol 2, No 1

January 1972

Several Program Changes Made

Regular Meeting Date Changed

At the December meeting, it was decided that the regular PBA meeting date would be the third Friday of each month rather than the present alternating Wednesdays and Sundays.

The new date will begin with the February meeting, Friday, February 18.

Some changes to previously announced programs have been made, according to the PBA Educational Vice-President.

January 16

The January meeting time has been reset for 10 a.m. instead of the usual 2:30 time. This was caused by nonavailability of meeting space at Brookside during the time it is normally open to the public, 1-5 p.m. Sundays.

Jim Newton, PBA President, will present a program on selecting and preparing indoor bonsai. Color slides will illustrate techniques and procedures. A list of some plant material suitable for in-

THREE MORE ADDED TO ROLLS

Three new paid-ups since the last Newsletter swell PBA membership to 47. They are:

- Anne F. Edwards
- John L. Elsbree
- Mrs. Bery Rand

Welcome!

NEXT MONTH

Special issue
on bonsai pots



鉢国

door bonsai will be handed out.

Also, the announced talk by Jim Early on making bonsai pots has been postponed until a later date to permit Jim adequate preparation. (see PROGRAM..., page 3)

Japanese Gardens Good Possibility At Brookside B G

The possibility of a Japanese garden being constructed at Brookside Botanical Gardens is a definite possibility, according to Carl Hahn, Gardens Director.

The possibility also exists that the PBA will be able to assist in the design planning. Mr. Hahn indicated that the inclusion of bonsai display and/or growing areas would certainly be a factor in overall design considerations.

Very preliminary thinking now is that the Japanese garden will be included in a 12-acre plot being cleared on the BBG grounds. In this area are three small ponds, roughly oval in shape, each on a descending level. In one pond is an island that seems ideal for the site of a Japanese garden.

The remainder of the 12 acres is being readied for, among other things, material donated to the Gardens from the Gude land recently sold to become a sanitary fill.

Further details will be reported as plans mature.

bonsai congress '72
learning together (see page 2) July 14, 15, 16

Bonsai Congress '72 Set; PBA Has Sales Table

All American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Clubs International members should be receiving their notices of the first combined annual meeting of the two groups in the near future.

Dates are July 14 through 16, 1972, at the Alameda Plaza Hotel in Kansas City, Mo. This momentous event is appropriately named BONSAI CONGRESS '72, and its theme is "Learning Together."

Guests of honor will be Toshio Kawamoto and Yuji Yoshimura, both well known names in the bonsai world. This will be the first time Mr. Kawamoto has visited the U.S. as the featured guest of an American bonsai organization.

The Potomac Bonsai Association will be represented at the Congress. President Jim Newton, who is PBA's officially appointed club delegate to BCI, was requested to contribute an article on "How To Form A Bonsai Club" for inclusion in a special commemorative magazine to be published in conjunction with the Congress.

In addition, a sales table has been reserved in the commercial section of the Congress for use by PBA. Several ideas for raising funds through sale of artifacts are under consideration at the present time. Preliminary discussion of the topic will be presented to club members at the January 16 meeting.

HELP!

If, on looking through this issue of Newsletter, some of you sharp-eyed members note the large number of articles attributed to the Bonsai Newsletter of the Bonsai Clubs Association (the forerunner of Bonsai Clubs International, of which PBA is a member club), you should know a couple of facts.

First, you're absolutely right. I have drawn heavily from this very valuable and authoritative source.

Second, the reason I have done so is because, to date, the PBA Newsletter has been, with few exceptions, a one-man operation. I'm not complaining, for it's a labor of love.

But I am concerned that after some nine months of publication (May '71--Jan. '72) it is still a one-man operation. Now that's not right.

Neither PBA, nor its Newsletter, belongs to any one individual. Both belong to all its members. And because this is so, all (or most) of its members ought to be contributing to both the Association and the Newsletter. Why?

Because if you don't contribute something of yourself -- your ideas, your desires, your criticism...something -- then the Association and the Newsletter are not really performing the functions for which we organized.

The breath of life for a volunteer organization is exchange of knowledge, idea material, thoughts. Learning -- the main

President's Report

objective of PBA -- is essentially a matter of communicating. If communication ceases or is nonexistent, then learning ceases or is nonexistent in the same proportion.

What I'm leading up to is a strong appeal to every PBA member to participate. Attend meetings, offer your services in some capacity (and there are many jobs that need to be done), ask questions, do research and present it to the group -- you learn by doing.

This eight-page Newsletter contains about 152 inches of space for copy. If only one-fifth of our 46 paid-up members had each written 9½ inches of copy (the length of this single column), almost two thirds (95 inches) of the copy needed for this issue would have been done.

More important, it would constitute, not my thoughts, but yours. And if this is supposed to be your Newsletter, then shouldn't you exercise your right to be heard?

Don't say you're too busy. Everybody, including your editor, is. That's not a valid excuse anyway, for if you'll call me at (202) Oxford 5-9662 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or at (702) 671-3290 after 6 p.m. weekdays or anytime Saturdays or Sundays with ideas, suggestions, criticisms, information, or anything at all you'd like to tell other PBAers, I'll do the writing for you.

What more do you want?

Treasurer's Report	January 5, 1972
Balance on Hand (Start)	\$176.43
<u>Receipts</u>	
Dues	\$25.00
Raffle & Auction	29.50
	\$ 54.50
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Jim Newton (News-letter, postage)	\$40.70
Dottie Warren (Show materials)	15.60
Brooklyn BG (Film rental)	15.00
A.E.Allgrove (Jan. program material)	35.00
BCI (Library subscription for Brookside BG)	4.50
	\$110.80

Balance on Hand (End) \$120.13
Respectfully Submitted
Molly Hersh, Treasurer

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

PROGRAM... (continued from page 1)
quate time to arrange for transporting a potter's wheel and necessary paraphernalia to actually "throw" a pot.

February 18

Carl Hahn, Director of the Brookside Botanical Gardens, will be the featured speaker at the February meeting, to be held in the Nature Center auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

His topic, "Plant Physiology," will cover such aspects of tree growing as facts about cuttings, potbound roots, the effects of too little and too much water, how fertilizer affects growth, and others. A question and answer session will follow his presentation.

Note that the meeting date has been changed from Wednesday, the 16th, to Friday, the 18th.

March 17

Mr. John Naka, well known California bonsai master, will not be available for a March date, it was learned recently. The only dates open would be May 2, 3, or 4. Since this would be only days after the annual PBA Bonsai Exhibit at the National Arboretum, and since these dates are week days, it was decided to regretfully cancel efforts to obtain Mr. Naka this year. The Educational VP will begin negotiations to obtain Mr. Naka during his eastcoast visit circuit next year, at a time when we may make an all-day program of his unique talents.

A substitute program will be announced in a subsequent issue of the Newsletter.

Note the meeting date has been changed from Sunday, the 19th, to Friday, the 17th.

April 28-30

The dates announced in the December issue of the Newsletter were incorrect. Correct dates are shown above. The annual election of officers will be held in conjunction with the Exhibit.

If the trunk of your tree has a bulge, always place the bulge to the back or to the side in your design, but never to the front. Trees are like people; it is not good manners to stick your stomach toward someone.

John Naka
(adapted from Bonsai, September 1967)

Ingredients, Requirements Make Mixes

What makes a "good" soil mix? Probably you'd get as many answers as there are answerers to this question. The following discussion is not intended to be all-inclusive, but merely talks about 12 ingredients that can be used in combination to make what experience has shown will be quite adequate bonsai soil; that is, mixes will meet the 5 basic requirements of bonsai growing.

First, definitions of the bonsai soil ingredients we'll be talking about (there are other ingredients that may enter into your calculations, but in most cases each will be for a more or less "special" purpose, like using charcoal to sweeten a soil).

- **COMPOST** - decomposed plant material such as leaves, grass clippings, dead plants and vegetable trimmings. Although there are several ways to prepare it, most common way is to place the constituents in a heap and leave to decompose.
- **GRAVEL** - small pieces of stone or crushed stone about quarter-inch size used for the bottom drainage level in bonsai pots.
- **HUMUS** - dark, loose, porous, absorbent material found in forests and woods, where leaves, plants and animal materials have naturally decayed. It contains food elements, loosens soil, admits air and holds water. Bacterial organisms within it help break down insoluble chemical combinations, converting them into simpler, soluble ones readily usable by the trees. Before field collecting, the upper layer of debris should be removed.
- **INORGANIC FERTILIZER** - plant food made from materials and chemicals found in the earth, most importantly nitrogen, phosphorus and potash.
- **LOAM (or SOIL)** - the top layer of soil, immediately under a surface layer of litter, twigs and leaves, often called topsoil. May be black to brown in color, depending on the amount of organic matter found in it. (In most Japanese descriptions of bonsai soil will be found references to subsoil,

reddish brown to yellowish layer that lies some 12 to 36 inches below the surface. Since this is not readily available unless personally dug, our discussion here lumps all soil used for potting bonsai as loam, or topsoil. The actual mix of top and subsoil has to be a personal preference of individual American bonsai growers, based on personal experience.)

- **ORGANIC FERTILIZER** - plant food made from materials once living organisms, such as fish, bones, blood, animal and poultry waste, seaweed, sewage sludge. It is considered to be safer than inorganic fertilizers because of less tendency to burn plants.
- **PEAT MOSS** - underground accumulation of partially decomposed plants and mosses laid down thousands of years ago. There are two types: Michigan peat, darker, more decomposed and more acid than other peat moss (Canadian, German, Swedish). Of low food value, it absorbs and retains moisture.
- **PERLITE (or PERLOAM)** - volcanic ash. Used to loosen soil and provide for drainage. Excellent medium for rooting cuttings.
- **SAND** - ultimate rock particles formed from erosion and water action. River or bank (builders) sand should be used - never beach sand, which contains harmful salts. Also, "sharp" sand should be used rather than that having rounded, blunt edges. Sand is useful in bonsai soil mixes as promoter of drainage and encouragement (because of sharp edges) for roots to branch and form the fibrous root system desired.
- **SPHAGNUM MOSS** - dried and shredded moss which has not decomposed. Spongy and holds moisture.
- **TERRA GREEN (or TURFACE)** - baked clay broken into coarse chips. Will not dissolve, but retains moisture well. Also, excellent as substitute for sand in bonsai soil mixes, and as drainage layer in the bottom of bonsai pots. Sharp edges promote root branching. Some brands of cat-box

material are also made of baked clay and can be used in the same way. But since some kinds are not thoroughly baked, only those known to be suitable should be used. Kitty Litter, for example, works well.

- **VERMICULITE** - prepared material made from mineral silicates crystallized into very thin flakes (mica), then chopped into small pieces. In use they expand and hold moisture, yet provide good drainage because of the coarse particle size.

When mixing the ingredients in the proportions desired, the requirements which a potting medium must meet should be kept in mind. There are five requirements:

- **DRAINAGE** - necessary because roots tend to decay in water-logged soil.
- **MOISTURE RETENTION** - to hold small amounts of water for short periods.
- **AERATION** - to allow circulation of oxygen in the soil for healthy growth. Air is needed for development of beneficial bacterial growth, necessary for converting fertilizers in soil to more useful forms.
- **FOOD** - to supply the tree with elements essential for growth.
- **TEXTURE** - aids aeration, drainage and moisture retention. Texture is important because plants thrive in a soil that is loose and spongy rather than one hard and compact.

To better visualize which ingredients provide the requirements for good soil mix, the accompanying table may help.

Taiwan Tree 4,100 Years Old

Bonsai fanciers the world over are always interested in age of trees, their beloved miniatures first, then the giant sister species growing naturally. One candidate for the oldest of natural trees was talked about in a small item appearing in the Evening Star for January 4:

"TAIPEH - A giant cedar tree discovered in the Alishan forest in Central Taiwan has been officially estimated to be 4,100 years old. It is 140 feet tall and 67 feet in circumference."

HOW INGREDIENTS MEET REQUIREMENTS IN SOIL MIXES

Ingredients	Requirements				
	Drainage	Moisture Retention	Aeration	Food	Texture
Compost		X	X	X	X
Gravel	X				
Humus		X	X	X	X
Inorganic Fertilizer				X	
Loam (or Soil)					X
Organic Fertilizer				X	
Peat Moss		X	X		X
Perlite	X		X		X
Sand	X		X		X
Sphagnum Moss		X			
Terra Green /Turface	X	X	X		X
Vermiculite	X	X	X		X

Note that several ingredients meet more than one requirement. Substitutions from column to column may be made, depending on which ingredients are preferred and available. With experimentation, a combination that suits individual needs can be found.

Smear moist soil over pruning scars for quicker darkening of exposed wood.

Frank Okamura

MEET YOUR BOARD-----

WILLIAM E. CRAIG

Born in Norristown, Pa., Bill Craig moved at an early age to Newark, Ohio. He attended school there, graduating from high school in 1958. Four years later, in 1962, he received his Bachelor of Arts from Ohio Wesleyan University. His major was psychology.

Bill took up teaching almost at once, spending three years in the junior high school level in Cleveland. Wanting to broaden his experience, he accepted a one year stint in the school system of the Virgin Islands. Bill taught -- and still teaches -- mathematics.

The Virgin Islands also produced a more lasting experience in 1965 -- Bill met the girl who would become Mrs. Craig, the then-Gretchen Goering. They were married in August 1966.

After the Virgin Islands, Bill returned to the States for two years of teaching in Abington, Pa. This was followed by a year in Hawaii schools, then back to the Mainland and the Hammond Middle School in Columbia, Md., where the Craigs presently live.

Bill's first exposure to bonsai came about in Hawaii, where there are several clubs. A Japanese secretary who worked at the school where Bill taught brought trees on several occasions. They attracted Bill's eye at once, and he became quickly hooked on the what and how of this fascinating oriental art.

Bonsai is high on Bill's list of relaxing pleasures, but not his only leisure activity. Beside tennis, basketball, and jogging (5 times a week, 1-3 miles), he is an avid antique car buff, owning a '37 Plymouth coupe and a '31 Model A roadster. All this in addition to some 25 tropical (and thus indoor) trees (including a fabulous *Brassaia* from Hawaii, which he will bring to the January meeting) and about 35 outdoor trees. This impressive collection is almost all starters, for Bill, like many PBAers, is a relative newcomer to the art of bonsai.

Nor is this the end of his activities. Two dogs and two cats come in for their share of attention as well. But, he explains, a really large chunk of time

is devoted to duties as the Chairman of the Oakland Mills Village (part of Columbia, Md.) Educational Committee.

By now it must be obvious that Bill's selection as PBA's Educational VP was a natural one. A Founding Member, Bill has been active in Association activities since the first organizational meeting in April last year. He was appointed to the VP post in August.

Dec. Meeting

Twenty-five PBA members and two guests gathered at the Brookside Nature Center on December 16. They:

- Drank delicious orange delight punch (with and without) prepared by Hospitality Chairman Evelyn Solf.

- Ate a wide and tasteful selection of cookies, brownies, and other equally fattening goodies.

- Drank punch.

- Watched the superbly done color film on Bonsai produced for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

- Drank more punch.

- Saw color slides of trees in the BBG magnificent selection, courtesy of Cliff Pottberg.

- Drank still more punch.

- Saw color slides taken by Pete Abresch at Omiya (Bonsai) Village in Japan.

- Imbibed yet another libation of punch.

- Heard announcement of tentative plans for Brookside development of a 12-acre area within the grounds in which PBA may have some part (see article, page 1).

- Gargled still more delightful orange.

- Participated in a raffle of eight different prizes.

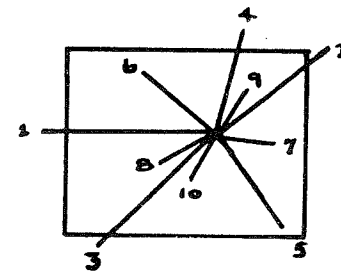
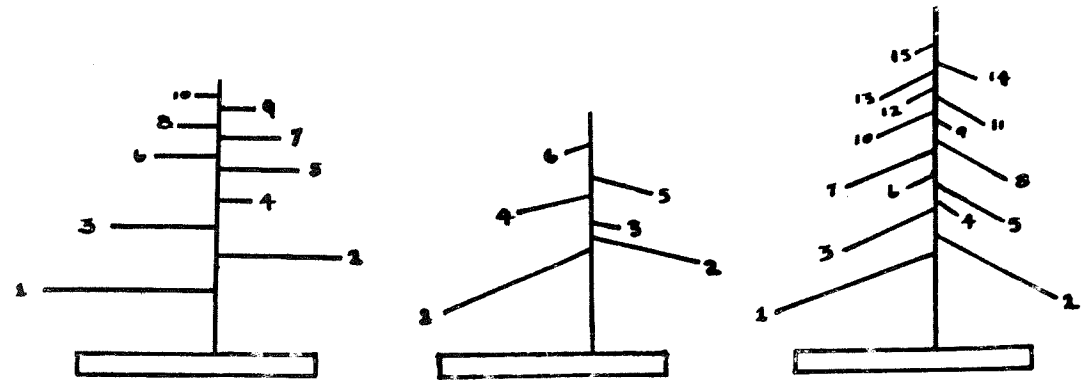
- Prank more drunch.

- Had fun bidding on four stock trees (2 tortulosa willows and 2 San Jose junipers generously provided by Cliff Pottberg).

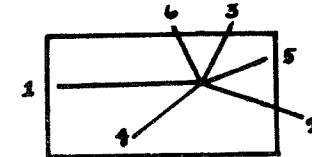
- Drunch more prank.

- Dispersed far and wide to dream of sug-arplum faries dancing under the juniperus procumbens while the little toy soldier fell down in the zelkova grove chasing a reindeer.

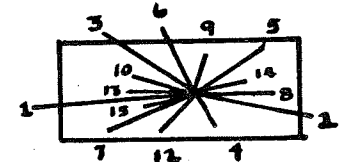
That was the goodest dinch I ever prunk!



from
Nokoto-to-Engei
a magazine



from
Miniature Trees
Yoshimura & Halford



from
Bonsai-Saikei
Toshio Kawamoto

Interpretations Of Design Show Slight Variations

Probably the most difficult portion of onsai is that of artistic design. Even among authorities on the subject some differences show up in individual approaches to the mechanics of design.

An example is shown in the three layouts depicted, which show different limb arrangements for the formal upright style as seen by three sources. Close examination of the layouts will show that the main difference is the back limb and how far up the trunk should continue bare below the first branches. All seem to agree that most of the forward side of the trunk should be bare of any limb of any size or consequence.

from "Bonsai Design" by Dan Buckley, in onsai, May 1966.)

Whiffenpoof Bonsai?

Elimination of practically all algae growth from pots, benches, floors and the medium used for bonsai can be accomplished, according to reliable reports, by the use of beer!

Also reported to be used successfully in orchid growing, some success has been achieved in getting rid of the unsightly greenish-black algae.

In addition, better blooming has been reported for some bonsai when beer fertilizer formula was used every five days, alternating with normal fertilizer. The formula is: 4 ounces of beer to 3 quarts of water, or 2 ounces beer to 1½ ounces water.

We have no report of one brand of beer producing better results than another.

Oh, happy tree with blooms so true,
How high will you grow on 3.2?