

## THIS 'n THAT

This column welcomes any tip or short-cut Newsletter readers have found helpful in their bonsai work. Please keep the item short - sixty words or less if at all possible. Send to "This and That," PBA NEWSLETTER, c/o Brookside Botanical Gardens, 1500 Glenallan Rd., Wheaton, Md. 20902.

Young deciduous trees should not have side branches removed until the trunk has attained the thickness desired.

- Walter Schmidt

The best soil mixes combine both organic and inorganic ingredients. Peat moss, sawdust, ground bark, rice hulls, and shavings make the best organic constituents. Fine sand is the best of the inorganic ingredients.

("The U.C. System for Producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants")

If you use aluminum wire screen as hole covers in your bonsai pots, and are keeping the screen in place with copper wire, check periodically to see if any damage has been done to the screen by the local salts in the water. There have been some reports of rot.

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

TO:

FIRST CLASS

BONSAI CONGRESS '72 - Learning Together

## Sidewalk Exhibition Great Success

A unique method of recruiting would-be bonsai enthusiasts was tried recently by the Lighthouse Bonsai Society, a Florida club.

They held a sidewalk exhibition, and report it was an unqualified success. For seven hours, members manned tables set up near a busy location, each member participating staying with his own trees. Hundreds of people stopped to talk and to look. A club brochure was handed out, and invitations to attend meetings were extended.

Very little work was involved, the report says, and the whole event was a fun experience for those who participated in the project.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

presents

BONSAI IN WASHINGTON

National Arboretum  
24th & R Streets, NE

April 29-30, 1972

12 noon to 6 p.m.

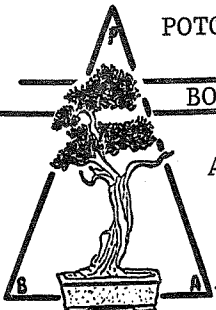
## PBA Loses In Bid For Kawamoto

The early bird catches the worm, goes the old saying. Only, PBA isn't an early bird.

Thus, we have lost out on the opportunity to schedule Toshio Kawamoto here for bonsai and saikei workshops following his appearance at Kansas City and Bonsai Congress '72.

Word reached PBA from Dorothy Young, ABS Director who is monitoring Kawamoto's bookings, that as of March 6 all bookings for his workshops have been filled and he will not be available for additional engagements. He will not be appearing in the Washington area.

Only four PBAers signed up. Sorry.



POTOMAC  
BONSAI  
ASSOCIATION

Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia

# Newsletter

Vol 2, No 3

March 1972

## Baltimore Forming 2nd Bonsai Society

by CLIFF POTTBERG

A group of Baltimore residents will meet on March 25 to discuss the possibility of forming a local bonsai society. The embryonic organization is tentatively being called the Baltimore Bonsai Society. Its architects have hopes it will become the first affiliate club of the Potomac Bonsai Association.

The March 25 meeting will be largely organizational in nature. The fine film

### Pre-Show Activities Set

All trees being entered in the show must be brought to the National Arboretum on Sunday, March 26, for the pre-show trial run. The selection committee composed of Ruth Lamanna, Dottie Warren, and Bob Roland, will give each entry the (See PRE-SHOW..., page 3)

Special pre-show trial run is a must for PBA members entering trees in, or participating in some activity related to the April show. Bring trees to the National Arboretum, 24th & R Sts., NE; meeting time is 2 p.m.

on bonsai produced by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden will be shown as a lead-in to discussion of organizational formation, to be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Clyburn Park mansion in Baltimore. Interested PBA members are invited to attend.

There is another bonsai group in the Baltimore area, the Maryland Bonsai Society, headed by Mrs. Jean Hallstead, a new PBA member, by the way. Because this group's membership rules permit only limited entry, the proposed Baltimore Bonsai Society is being planned to provide other Baltimore bonsai enthusiasts the opportunity to participate in all as- (See BALTIMORE..., page 2)

### Committee Helpers Set

Volunteers for show committee assignments came forward at the February meeting.

Assisting Bob Roland in the Entries and Staging Committee are Ruth Lamanna, Walter Schmidt, and Louise Branstead.

Dottie Warren's Education Committee job will be shared by Bill Craig.

(See COMMITTEE..., page 4)



## March Busy Bonsai Time

March is the variable month. Although many of us can "smell" spring just around the corner, bonsai growers will have to fit plans to the conditions of the trees and keep a sharp eye on the weather at the same time.

We should start thinking about potting, nevertheless. A firm schedule will help, but some species can be used for adjustment within your schedule. Pines, for example, can be held back in cool shade as long as growth is held back. When they do start to grow, be sure to give them full sun all the time until the needles are fully formed, if you want the shortest needles possible. Pines should be very well drained, and fed just enough to get good color.

Fruiting trees should be done before flowering trees to be sure the fruit are not lost. Then the flowering trees immediately, or soon, after flowering. If you have to, sacrifice a few blooms to make sure you repot them before they leaf out.

Next in sequence should be Fir, Spruce, deciduous, and Pine. Juniper, the toughest of the lot, can be done last.

One way to make your spring repotting schedule easy to follow is to tag every tree. Then you can go down the line by number. Be sure to mark the bonsai that must be repotted. Various tagging methods include plastic or metal labels, wooden or plastic stakes, masking or Scotch tape, or just paste-on numbers keyed to your records.

March is a good time to look closely at your trees' watering needs.

## Show Guidelines Told

Preparing bonsai for exhibition means attention to many small details. This is extremely important for those situations in which bonsai are entered in competition, since judging criteria invariably include more than just the most important features alone.

Although PBA generally opposes judging of bonsai aimed at producing place ranking and prizes, or recognition for "best" trees, the same criteria that are used for judging are excellent guides to follow in trying to achieve the most artistically and horticulturally acceptable bonsai possible.

Here are five elements in each of these two categories that will help any bonsai raiser.

### Artistic Effect

- Trunk - diameter, shape; lower portion exposure; taper; bark.
- Branches - position, spread, alternating aspect; treatment of lower branches; treatment of upper branches; terminal point.
- Outline and foliage - contour, masses; proportion and density of twigs, leaves, needles; effect of flowers, fruit; treatment of dead wood.
- Roots - exposure at base; soil slopes, underplanting harmony; effects of sand, rocks, etc.
- Display effect - position of tree in container; harmony of container to tree; container size, shape, color, texture; adequacy of base, table, mat.

### Horticultural Qualities

- Suitability of style, apparent maturity (See GUIDELINES..., page 5)

**BALTIMORE...** (Continued from page 1) pects of this art form. Future adjustments in organization of Baltimore bonsai activities are currently under study.

Still another bonsai group may be shaping up in Maryland, this one composed of bonsai fanciers living in the Columbia area. Initial planning is in progress by PBA Educational Vice-President Bill Craig and PBA member Dan Turner, both Columbia residents. Armed with a large number of names of interested Columbians, the likelihood is high that sufficient interest is there to support another club.

We wish them well!

**PRE-SHOW...** (Continued from page 1) benefit of their knowledge. Trees must be brought so that space can be planned. This pre-show meeting will also familiarize members with the show layout.


In addition to tips on-the-spot at the March 26 pre-show meeting, three workshops will be held during April for members to take care of any show trees needing repotting, moss added, or other work to ready them for display. Workshop dates and locations are:

- April 1 - at Bob Roland's house  
3216 Prince William Drive  
Fairfax, Virginia
- April 8 - also at Bob Roland's.
- April 15 - at Ruth Lamanna's house  
3812 North 37th Street  
Arlington, Virginia

Members should bring their own soil for repotting.

Entries will be accepted on the following dates and times:

- Friday, April 28 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, April 29 - until 10 a.m.

	POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION <h1 style="font-family: cursive;">Newsletter</h1>
Vol 2, No 3      March 1972	
<p>Published solely in the interests of the POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization, under authority of the <u>Board of Directors</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Officers for 1971</u></p> 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	

## Maples Excellent Bonsai

by CLIFF POTTBURG

One of the best of bonsai materials is the Trident maple (Acer Buergerianum). Because it has drawbacks as landscaping material, it has been somewhat difficult to find locally. Fortunately, some nurseries do carry it now, and it can be obtained from several mail-order nurseries, or through Croton Hill Farms (see ad this issue).

Leaves of the Trident maple are small and quite colorful in the spring and fall periods. While it does not attain too large a size naturally, it grows quite rapidly and hence attains a trainable size quickly.

The bark is the smooth gray of many maples. This does not add particularly to the illusion of age, but is nonetheless attractive. There also is a rough-barked form which, unfortunately, is not available in this country.

The Trident's best attribute is its surface roots, which are generally numerous and enlarge easily. This is the landscaping drawback. In a bonsai container, however, its roots look buttressed quickly. For this reason, it is used extensively for exposed-root and root-over-rock styles. It also lends itself to most other deciduous tree styles as readily.

Maple materials which are similar and easier to find include our own red maple (A. Rubrum), the hedge maple (A. Camp-estrie), David maple (A. Davidii), Amur maple (A. Ginnala), paperback maple (A. Griseum), and, tentatively, our silver maple (A. Saccharinum).

The leaves of the last mentioned silver maple are much too large for an ideal bonsai, but for someone with patience, a rewarding experiment might be to graft a new system of branches on a good root systemed silver maple, using as grafting material branches from another maple with small leaves, such as the hedge maple.

"...Choosing the right containers for bonsai is as important as selecting the right plants ... They are to bonsai what frames are to paintings."

Claude Chidamian  
BONSAI MINIATURE TREES, Van Nostrand, '65

## COMMITTEE...

(Continued from page 1)

Publicity efforts under Jim Newton's direction will be aided by Cliff Pottberg.

Molly Hersh's assistant in her Entry Acceptance chores will be Leo Meyer. Dan Turner has volunteered to do the lettering for entry place cards.

Tree guards, assisting Evelyn Solf's Hostess Committee, will be owners of the exhibited trees, scheduled on a two-hour

rotating basis throughout the periods the show is open to the public.

Helping Lee Marcus in Clean-Up will be Leo Meyer, Phil Kurz, Jim Oliver, Charlene Olsson, Mary Jo O'Brien, and John Hreha.

No little credit for the success of the Show rests with these people and their generous contributions of time and effort on behalf of PBA.

## Starter Plants Available

by JOHN HREHA

I can personally recommend a nursery in Michigan as an excellent source for obtaining starter plants for bonsai. Its name is Emlong's Nursery. The address is Stevensville, Michigan 49127. A free catalog will be sent on request.

Another source I can vouch for is Clyde Robin, PO Box 2091, Castro Valley, California 94546. His catalog, which features both seeds and plants suitable for bonsai, costs 50 cents. Stock prices are about comparable to Emlong's. Mr. Robin is a well-known collector of wildflower and tree seeds.

Plants available in the 1972 Emlong's catalog include: Bristlecone Pine, Pinon Pine, Mugho Pine, White Pine, Japanese Yew, Scarlet Flowering Quince, Japanese Red Maple, Chinese Red Bud, Ginkgo Biloba, and the Amur Cork Bark Tree. Prices for two-to-three-year-old seedlings range from 28 to 80 cents each when purchased in lots of 10, except the Red Maples, which are slightly higher.

Especially recommended are the Ginkgos, which can be severely pruned. Mine easily survived last year's winter outdoors.

The Cork Tree is a vigorous, hardy grower that needs root pruning every year. The leaves are a bit large, but I have hopes that they will become smaller after a few years in a field bed to thicken the trunk before being potted.

The Red Maples are hardy, but need pinching at the proper time. George Hull's advice in his "Bonsai For Americans" should be followed closely.

The White Pine, Yew, and Quince make fine starters. My Quinces sprouted in the middle of January, so I dug them up from the field bed, potted them, and put them in a cool spot in a greenhouse. What a winter!

The Robin catalog offers mostly comparable materials, although I don't find many seedlings of flowering trees offered for sale. The catalog lists many seedlings, ranging from 3-5 inches to 10-16 inch sizes, of species not usually contained in publications aimed at bonsai fanciers. For example, Black Hills Spruce (slow-growing compact with light bluish-green leaves), Limber Pine (slow-growing five-needle tree from Rocky Mountain area, with short, stiff needles), and European Larch (light green leaves that turn yellow in autumn). Most can be bought separately, or in lots of three.

For those of you interested more in growing bonsai from seed, Clyde Robin offers an unlimited variety. His 1970-72 catalog has 63 different pines, 29 firs, 21 junipers, and many, many more.

He has seeds for such bonsai stock as Azalea Kaempferi, Sargent's Chinese Juniper, Hinoki Cypress, Judas Tree, Cotton-easter Divaricata, Ilex Serrata (Siebold Holly), Yeddo Spruce, Japanese Red and White Pines, Zelkova Serrata, Japanese Flowering Cherry, and Chinese Elm.

## Bonsai Test

Here is a self-test about bonsai which is presented solely to remind everyone, "old-timer" and novice alike, that bonsai is, after all, rooted (if you'll pardon the unintended pun) in Japanese culture. Thus, we should be familiar with the Japanese terms for the many facets of this most fascinating of the arts.

How many of the following terms do you know? Test yourself. Write down your answers, then check page 7 for correct answers.

Mame-Bonsai	Shakon	Kabomono
Ko-Bonsai	Hankon	Ne-tsuranari
Chiu-Bonsai	Kengai	Ishi-tsuki
Dai-Bonsai	Yose-ue	Bonkai
Chokkan		Saikai

GUIDELINES... (Continued from page 2)

of tree.

- General health; condition of buds, leaves, needles, flowers, fruit; signs of disease.

- Soil and underplanting health; health of moss, lichen, ground cover; evidence of good or poor drainage.

- Adequacy of pruning; absence of stumps; proper dressing of wounds.

- Proper wiring techniques; absence of scars, wire cutting; color of wire.

Each tree selected for showing must be analyzed by these points before entering it. Each detail of the guides should be checked and corrections made as needed. The day of the show is much too late to make up for deficiencies not noticed in pre-show preparations.

(Adapted from "Guidelines for Bonsai Exhibitors" by Marcial Rodriguez, BONSAI BULLETIN, by permission.)

## PBA Program Schedule

March 26

The pre-Show trial run at the Arboretum (see lead story, front page) on March 26 will take the place of the regular March meeting.

April 29-30

Annual Bonsai Show, National Arboretum.

May 19

Subject will be propagation. Details are being worked out and will be announced as they are firmed.

June 16

Ruth Lamanna will demonstrate and conduct a workshop on azalea bonsai.

July 28

Meeting date will be slipped one week to permit compilation of a report to the PBA membership on activities and happenings at the Bonsai Congress '72. Dottie Warren will follow with a demonstration of techniques of leaf-cutting (defoliating) bonsai.

## Algae Eradicator Identified

by WALTER SCHMIDT

Green algae on bonsai pots can be easily removed for about the price of a can of beer. That's what a few ounces of potassium permanganate will cost at most drug stores. Add ½ teaspoon of the crystals to a gallon of water and use this solution to scrub the algae from pots. It is also an excellent disinfectant for bonsai tools. Caution: don't get the crystals on wet hands; staining will result.

## Kansas City, Mo. - let's go!

### 8" BONSAI BRANCH CUTTER

Japanese import. Finest tool steel.  
Cuts flush for professional pruning.

\$9.75 + \$0.50 for packing & postage.  
(Md. residents add \$0.39 sales tax.)

THE LOTUS, 519 Wyngate Rd., Lutherville, Md. 21093

### PERSONALIZED BONSAI CLINICS

for one or two persons

\$5 ea.

Make individual  
arrangements with

**DOTTIE WARREN**

(301) 384-9292

# Raising Bonsai From Seed

by MRS. HARUKO KAWASOYE

(This is the second in a series of articles on bonsai philosophy and techniques by one of PBA's Founding Members, herself a teacher of bonsai and saikei.)

## RAISING BONSAI

It is important to learn from the beginning the various ways of raising bonsai. Horticultural principles involved in starting and raising trees are helpful in other areas of bonsai culture as well. By learning well early, you will be better able to create a fine tree as your artistic abilities increase. In the meantime, starting trees is fun.

There are seven basic ways to start bonsai: seeds, grafting, layering, cuttings, dividing, inarching, and pruning of nursery stock or collected trees. This article deals with raising trees from seed.

Start with a nursery flat or other flat wooden box which has drainage. You might want to make these yourself out of redwood or eypress. It is easy, and later the flats can be used as training pots or finished bonsai containers.

Into the flat or box several layers of soil should be placed. First, put approximately one inch of large granular soil or pebbles in the bottom for drainage. Next, a layer of main potting soil made of small sharp granular soil is added. Some red subsoils are among the best, being richer in nutrients than other subsoils, and because they stay more granular, with sharp edges that cause roots to branch profusely. These must be clay-like soil in order to granu-

late well; silty soils are no good. Finally, the top layer should be one inch of small granulated topsoil. The powder of all these soils should be sifted out and discarded.

In general, tree seeds should be planted deeper than flower or shrub seeds, up to one-half inch deep. A good rule of thumb is to plant the seed as deep as the diameter of that particular seed. Keep the flat well watered after planting, but water gently so as not to disturb soil or seeds. The soil should be kept moist, but never wet.

After at least one year, remove the seedlings gently in the spring and cut off overlong roots, especially any that are developing into taproots. After careful root pruning, put the seedlings immediately into training pots with the main potting soil and prune the top of the plant.

Make sure that all air pockets are out of the soil. Do this by shaking the pot and by gently jabbing with a small blunt instrument like a chopstick. Then water well and place in the shade for two weeks until the plant starts growing again and has recovered from the transplanting shock. After that period, the plant can be moved to normal culture conditions.

(Next: Raising Cuttings)

Local terrazzo dealers are good sources for gravels of different colors to accent saikei plantings and suiseki. They also are excellent sources for decorative rock and stone materials suitable for outdoor bases and stands for tree display.

~~- bonsai & saikei lessons~~

~~- bonsai stock - Japanese tools~~

~~- bonsai - imported containers~~

~~write or call -~~

~~Haruko Kawasoye -~~

~~207 Hollyberry Rd. -~~

~~- Baltimore, Md. -~~

~~-(301) 647-1942 -~~

**BONSAI-SAIKEI INSTITUTE**

# President's Report

Two rather surprising things have happened to me this month. Both involve bonsai outside PBA, yet were undertaken with a certainty that PBA will also derive some benefits in the long run.

The first happening concerns the American Bonsai Society. ABS members will by now have received the first issues of a new publication, BONSAI FORUM, a newsletter format designed to supplement the BONSAI JOURNAL with news and items of less permanent interest.

Beginning with the May issue, I will edit the BONSAI FORUM.

The second happening concerns Bonsai Clubs International. In early March I received a totally unexpected letter from BCI asking permission to put my name in nomination as a Director.

I agreed to the nomination.

What degree of success I may achieve remains to be seen. I shall try my best to contribute something positive to the realization of the objectives and goals of both bonsai organizations. In doing so, I feel that PBA will also benefit, and that's a goal I'm pledged to as your current President and as a Founding Member of PBA. That will continue to be a personal objective.

A small town in Missouri, St. James, is believed to have the highest ratio of trees to people for any city in the U.S., according to the American Forests magazine. The town has 2,700 population and about 27,000 trees!

(from Nations Cities, Dec 1971)

## TEST ANSWERS

Here are the answers to questions posed on page 5. Check your answers and rate yourself on the following scale:

- Perfect score - Bonsai Master
- 10-12 correct - Expert
- 7-9 correct - Advanced Student
- 4-6 correct - Student
- Less than 4 correct - get out the bonsai books!

MAME-BONSAI - "baby" bonsai, never taller than 5-6 inches, grown in tiny sake-cup size pottery (about the size of an egg cup).

KO-BONSAI - most popular size for bonsai, 6-12 inches.

CHIU-BONSAI - up to 2 feet in height, preferred by more and more growers as the variety of containers available continues to increase; an easy size to train.

DAI-BONSAI - over 2 feet in height; "dai" means "large."

CHOKKAN - formal upright style.

SHAKON - slanting trunk style.

HANKON - gnarled trunk style.

KENGAI - drooping trunk; cascade style.

YOSE-UE - small group of trees.

KABUMONO - two or more trunks from one stump.

NE-TSURANARI - several trunks from one root.

ISHI-TSUKI - trunk growing from a stone clasped by the roots; root-over-rock.

BONKAI or SAIKEI - miniature garden or landscape using living plant material.

As a rule of thumb, when choosing a pot for medium and large bonsai, its depth should approximately equal the widest diameter of the trunk. (John Naka, at the ABS Symposium, July 1971)

I am a new company. \_\_\_\_\_ Goyo-matsu?

My new name is... \_\_\_\_\_ Aka-ezo-mitsu?

**Croton Hill Farms**

I can get any bonsai material you may want. Momiji?

Call me and let's talk about your needs. Keaki?

**Cliff Pottberg**

Or just call and we'll chat.

**(301) 366-8844**