

AZALEAS... (Continued from page 4)

watering the plant for a day in advance of wiring. Considerable care must still be taken in wiring, however.

If you consider yourself a beginner, or have never worked with azaleas, a good project would be to pick out a small, inexpensive azalea, preferably one with small leaves and flowers, from your nearest nursery. Pruning and wiring time is about now. Work on the plant, using caution, but do not be afraid of bending the branches. The worst that can happen is that you will lose a small investment. But even this is unlikely, since azaleas bud readily from old wood when their branches have been heavily pruned or broken.

The worst pest of the azalea is the lace bug, which does great damage and stains the leaves, especially their undersides, a varied gray. The lace bug can be brought under control by the proper use of the insecticide Malathion.

A word about feeding azaleas --- do! Like all flowering and fruiting plants, azaleas have need for extra nutrition. Feed with a dilute natural fertilizer right after flowering to start the new vegetative growth, and in the fall and early spring to aid the flowering.

Trunk Tourniquet Trick

Australian bonsaist V. Koreshoff, reports that a grower can increase the diameter of a bonsai's trunk just above the soil level by partial strangulation.

To obtain this increase, tie a piece of wire around the main trunk just below the soil level. This can be done either at repotting time or any time during spring or summer when the tree grows vigorously. The tourniquet of wire should be applied firmly but without cutting into the bark of the root-trunk junction.

This tourniquet will retard the downward flow of sap in the cambium, which will swell considerably above the restricting wire, thus improving the trunk appearance.

A word of caution, however - the process has to be watched carefully to make sure the wire does not completely strangle and stop the sap movement, thus killing the tree.

Also, increasing a tree's girth by this method precludes any possibility of exposing the upper surfaces of radial roots as a means of adding an aged appearance.

(Adapted permission of BONSAI Magazine)

Educational Committee Seeks Members' Desires

by CLIFF POTTBERG
Educational Vice-President

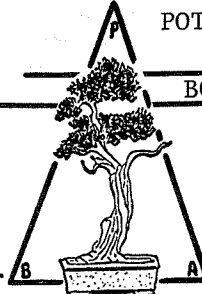
In order to do the kind of job PBA members deserve, we of the Educational Committee need to know what you, the members, want. PBA programming can take any of several directions, but we need your help in aiming our activities in the direction that best suits the needs of PBA.

What is your pleasure? Collecting ex-

peditions? Lectures on various subjects Workshops? How often? Where? When? No matter how unusual your idea for topics or activities, we will schedule it if enough members want it. Does this give you ideas? Good! We want to know about them.

A questionnaire is included with this issue of the PBA Newsletter. Please fill (See EDUCATIONAL..., page 2)

POTOMAC
Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia



BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Vol 2, No 5
May 1972

New Directors Elected At Annual Meeting

Board Sets Higher Dues

A meeting of the PBA Board of Directors convened at the National Arboretum on April 30 prior to opening the second day of the Association's first Annual Bonsai Show. All seven Directors were present.

Election of PBA officers was the first order of business. Incumbents in the First Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions were unanimously re-elected.

Although the PBA constitution prohibits the President from succeeding himself, in accordance with agreement reached at the August meeting to the effect that 1971 was to be considered as only a partial year, incumbent President Jim Newton was nominated and unanimously elected to fill the first full term for the 1972-73 year.

Cliff Pottberg was elected to the position of Educational Vice-President, vice Bill Craig.

Chairman Jim Newton announced progress on arranging manufacture of bonsai jewelry to be sold by PBA at their sales ta-

(See BOARD..., page 6)

Olsson Resignation Creates Fourth Vacancy To Fill

Thirteen members showed up for the Annual Meeting held prior to the opening of PBA's first Bonsai Show on April 29.

The election of three Directors headed the business session. From the six names provided by the Nominating Committee, Jim Early and John Hreha were elected to fill the two At-Large Director positions formerly held by Ruth Lamanna and Dottie Warren. Molly Hersh was re-elected to fill her position as Maryland representative on the Board.

President Jim Newton then announced Director Charlene Olsson had regretfully been forced to tender her resignation for personal reasons. She will remain a PBA member, but must forego the level of activity she felt the position needs. Her decision was accepted, effective May 1.

Inasmuch as newly elected Board member Jim Early lives in Washington, D. C., the President directed that Jim assume representation for Washington, and under provisions of the PBA By-Laws, appointed Leo

(See DIRECTORS..., page 3)

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

TO:

FIRST CLASS

BONSAI CONGRESS '72 - Learning Together

First Show Tremendous Success president's message

Any PBA member who did not visit the First Annual Bonsai Show on April 29 and 30 missed one of the finest cooperative group efforts I've been privileged to witness.

The amount of energy and effort put out by the Show director and her crew was not only prodigious, it was freely given. The result far exceeded our most optimistic hopes. Design, layout, placement, handling and care of the 54 trees and 10 accent viewing stones was superbly done. Credit is due the hard-working people who made the event such a success. They include:

Ruth Lamanna, Show director, who remained on the spot for three days.

Molly Hersh and Jo Finneyfrock, who manned the reception desk and unceasingly answered questions, obtained visitor signatures and generally took care of the administrative details needed during the Show.

Bob and Clyde Roland, without whose trees and expert host and hostess work the whole event would have been the poorer. Clyde's knowledgeable hand and eye were invaluable in achieving the smoothly flowing design of the whole display. The Rolands also came early and stayed late each of the three days.

Leo Meyer and John Hreha also were two stalwarts who were always there - and ready without question - whenever a chore needed doing, whether helping lay out the burlap table covers or changing some 24 light bulbs in the 20-foot-high ceiling. They were in evidence for the full three days, and also answered questions by the hundreds.

Leo Marcus, Phil Kurz, Evelyn Solf, Cliff Pottberg, Tori Moore, Horst Keundel and Walter Schmidt contributed time and

Chairman Praises Helpers

I can't tell you how much Bob Roland and I appreciated everyone's participation in our first show. Everything went beautifully and I think we all enjoyed it. We thank you all. The committee chairmen were very efficient, and to all of you a big thank you.

Ruth Lamanna

their presence as hosts and clean-up.

Others I may have missed mentioning in the press of preparing this are equally deserving of thanks.

To all these people, I personally say **WELL DONE!**

Whatever any of us did was accomplished because all the others were equally as willing. All that remains now is to take the lessons we learned from this First Bonsai Show and apply them to make the Second Bonsai Show in 1973 even bigger and better.

But I know I speak for those of us who lived with this one for three days, none will ever have quite the flavor, quite the feel of 1972. That's what any PBA member who didn't participate will never have a chance to feel now.

EDUCATIONAL... (Continued from page 1)

it out and bring it to the next meeting, or mail to:

Potomac Bonsai Association
c/o Brookside Botanical Gardens
1500 Glenallen Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

Remember, all the experts in the world will make for a dull program if you mem-

In large part thanks to Bill Craig's thoughtful research and careful overseeing of the programming over PBA's first year, we can look back to much achievement. Thankfully, Bill remains on the Educational Committee, now heading up formation of a lending library for our members.

It will be quite a job to improve on his record.

--Members of the Educational Committee

bers don't want to hear them. Your comments and suggestions will be gratefully received and carefully considered.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONNAIRE TODAY!

In the meantime, we have blocked out a tentative schedule of programs and activities through December. Feel free to include comments on these in your response to the questionnaire. Thank you.

Kansas City, Mo. - let's go!

DIRECTORS... (Continued from page 1)

Meyer to fill the At-Large vacancy thus created. A complete roster of the PBA Board of Directors is as follows:

- Virginia: Jim Newton (Chairman), 1971-73
- Maryland: Molly Hersh, 1972-74
- Baltimore: Cliff Pottberg, 1971-73
- D. C.: Jim Early, 1972-74
- At-Large: Bill Craig, 1971-73
- At-Large: John Hreha, 1972-74
- At-Large: Leo Meyer, 1972-73

A discussion was held on cost of operating club activities and the need for increasing dues. A motion was made and carried that it be recommended to the Board of Directors (who set dues amount) that an increase be considered, plus a cutoff age for young applicants to permit them to pay a smaller fee. Amount for additional members from the same family would remain at the current rate. (See story of Board meeting elsewhere in this issue - Ed.)

PLAN NOW FOR THE BONSAI CONGRESS IN K.C.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

Vol 2, No 5 May 1972

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 Glenallen 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

Informal Exhibit, Election At 2nd BBC Meeting

The Baltimore Bonsai Club held its second regularly scheduled meeting at Cylburn Park on April 15. Feature of that day's program was an informal exhibit of members' trees, including several from the recent successful BBC workshops.

Following a discussion of the trees, several items of business were dealt with by members present. The name Baltimore Bonsai Club was officially chosen. After discussion of a submitted constitution, it was ratified. Copies will be made available to any BBC member desiring one. Dues of \$10 per year were decided upon.

Pending a report by the Nominations Committee for selection of Board or Directors candidates, a set of temporary officers were elected. They are: Cliff Pottberg, president, Bill Kuhl, secretary and Kirk Cylus, treasurer.

After the business portion, Dr. Richard Mezler discussed preparations for the coming collection trip.

Sake, Beer Have Bonsai Uses

In a follow-on tidbit about beer for trees (PBA Newsletter, Jan 1972), Dan Buckley reports from Sacramento that he once asked an elderly Japanese grower about tales of sake (Japanese rice wine) being used to assist in the dwarfing process. The oldster reported: "The trees get water and I get the sake."

On another beer front, Department of Agriculture scientists at Beltsville, Md. have discovered that slugs like beer. And stale beer, left over from a party, is as effective as fresh beer.

In a four-day greenhouse test, shallow pans of stale beer attracted more than 300 slugs. In contrast, metaldehyde, a common slug bait, drew only 28. The pests attracted to the beer crawled into the pans and drowned, happily, it is to be sincerely hoped.

(adapted from BONSAI Magazine)

Azaleas Readily Make Excellent Bonsai

by CLIFF POTTBERG

With the azaleas at the height of their season, now is an appropriate time to devote a discussion to this lovely species of plant. Seasonally spectacular, they are attractive all year, with their interesting branching patterns and dark green foliage. While the leaves of these azaleas frequently turn to colors of purple or bronze in winter, they remain healthy, which is the reason they are classified as evergreens. There are many varieties of deciduous azaleas as well, but they are not used as much for bonsai. This writer's opinion is that they should be used more, and a future article will deal with them.

Azaleas are usually considered to be a small-leaved member of the rhododendron genus. Some classify them separately, as we will here, merely to avoid confusion. The name azalea is from the Greek word for dry, since it was long thought they liked dry sites. This is wrong, however, since they thrive best in humus-rich, acid, moist, even boggy areas. As a result, they are easy to cultivate as long as their soil is kept rich and moist.

The type azalea most used for bonsai in Japan is the Satsuki (Azalea lateritia varieties), although the Kurume (A. obtusa varieties) is very similar. Both have small leaves, and while the Satsuki is the better of the two (having been bred for bonsai), it is not as hardy as the Kurume. Some work is being done to

create hardier Satsuki, and some varieties are now becoming available.

Azaleas should be root pruned right after flowering and top pruned sometime after flowering, but no later than July. The flower buds begin forming then or next spring's blooms. Later pruning thus results in no flowers the next year.

In their natural habitat, azaleas have no need for height, since they do not mind shade and could not outgrow their larger neighbors to reach the sun anyway. As a result, they easily become thick-trunked, gnarled and twisted, for they have no need for straightness. Thus, the azaleas generally are best suited to the less formal styles, that is, slanted, twisted, rock planting, saikei, cascade, etc. They also are numerous branched, which helps in training.

A caution: azalea branches are stiff, and a trick is necessary to help wire them. When a plant's water requirements are met, the cells are filled with water, and the plant's structure becomes less flexible, in much the same way an air mattress does when inflated. This condition is known as turgor, or turgidity. When water, and thus turgidity, is lost, the plant becomes more flexible and finally limp. This is why the first sign of too little water is usually leaves wilting; they have lost their turgor. This phenomenon can be used to make azalea branches more workable by simply not

(See AZALEAS..., page 8)

BBC Calendar

Date	Program, Time, Place, Special Instructions
Saturday May 20	Talk and demonstration by Dorothy Warren (PBA) on native trees, especially those collected on the May 13 collecting trip; <u>Cylburn Park; 3 p.m.</u>
Sunday May 28	Workshop for recently collected trees or any others desired to be worked on; <u>Pielke Landscaping Co. work room; 2 p.m.</u>
Saturday June 17	Demonstration by F. Chase Rosade, well-known bonsai lecturer, teacher, and grower from New Hope, Pa.; <u>Cylburn Park; 3 p.m.</u>
Saturday July 8	Viewing of Johnson bonsai collection; one of the best in the Baltimore area; <u>meet at home of Mrs. Gerald Johnson, 217 Bolton Place; 2 p.m.</u>
Saturday July 22	Report on Bonsai Congress '72 in Kansas City; meeting date slipped one week; <u>Cylburn Park; 3 p.m.</u>

Haiku

Here, in the form of Haiku (Japanese poetry style consisting of seventeen syllables) are some thoughts about our first Bonsai Show from a "not completely innocent bystander."

Unformed ranks, they stand;
Tall, mute, proud.
Each alone --
The very cause of beauty.

-Anonymous



When preparing pots for planting, cover with screen, but not copper. Galvanized screen, about 1/8", is good. Anchor it in place by pushing a U-shaped piece of galvanized wire (still not copper) through the screen and bending the ends under the pot.

John Naka

(adapted from Bonsai, September 1967)

PBA Calendar

Date	Program, Time, Place, Special Instructions
Friday May 19	*Lecture, discussion on various aspects of propagation by Dr. Baker, Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Md.; <u>Brookside Nature Center, 7:30 p.m.</u>
Friday June 16	*Previously scheduled azalea workshop cancelled (see article on azaleas this issue-Ed.). In place, Beginner's Workshop; trees available for sale; soil, wire, training pots will be provided; bring tools, if you have them; limited number available for use; <u>Brookside Gardens, 7:30 p.m.</u>
Saturday June 24	Rock collecting trip; meet at <u>Brookside Gardens; 2 p.m.</u>
Friday June 30	Workshop for planting on rocks collected June 24; some small plant material available at cost; <u>Brookside Gardens, 7:30 p.m.</u>
Friday July 28	*Report on Bonsai Congress '72 (meeting slipped one week); auction of a professionally finished bonsai, selected by PBA members attending the Congress; problem tree session; <u>Brookside Nature Center; 7:30 p.m.</u>
Friday August 18	*Demonstration and discussion on various plant materials suitable for bonsai; Dan Turner on maples; Bill Kuhl on hollies; problem tree session conducted by Ruth Lamanna (bring yours); <u>Brookside Gardens, 7:30 p.m.</u>
Friday Sept 15	*Short lecture on moss, followed by lecture-demonstration of planting, by bonsai expert (to be announced); <u>Brookside Nature Center; 7:30 p.m.</u>
Saturday Sept 16	One or two workshops (depending on member interest) by the visiting bonsai professional; <u>(Place and time to be announced)</u>
Friday Oct 20	*Pot making, lecture-demonstration; Jim Early, John Hreha; <u>Brookside Nature Center; 7:30 p.m.</u>
Friday Nov 3	Workshop for making pots, flats, trays; <u>Brookside Gardens, 7:30 p.m.</u>
Friday Nov 16	*Indoor bonsai under lights; presenter to be announced; <u>Brookside Gardens; 7:30 p.m.</u>
Friday Nov 24	Workshop on preparing plant material for indoor bonsai; <u>Brookside Gardens; 7:30 p.m.</u>
Friday Dec 16	*PBA Banquet; restaurant, time to be announced; feature: raffle of a professionally finished bonsai; pinking lots of drunch.

*Indicates regularly scheduled meeting; others optional

BOARD...

(Continued from page 1)

ble in Kansas City in July. Unit cost will be approximately \$2.50 per piece. A minimum of \$1,000 will be needed to acquire an initial inventory, this money to come from volunteer no-profit loans made by PBA members. Three \$300 amounts have already been pledged. Other members will be personally contacted and offered the opportunity to assist in this venture. All profits realized by jewelry sales will accrue to the PBA treasury.

As recommended by the members at the Annual Meeting, the question of dues was discussed at some length. The Board finally reached the following four-part decision:

- Members on the PBA rolls as of April 30 will pay \$5 dues for 1972 (must be paid on or before June 30); thereafter \$10 per year.
- New members joining on or after April 29 will be charged annual dues of \$10.
- Youth and Student membership, with cut-off age 21, will be \$5 annually.
- Family membership remains at \$2 for each additional member of the same household.

A spirited discussion concerning the amount and method of payment of member club dues to PBA ensued. After several

All PBA members are reminded that to be eligible for dues under the old rate of \$5 per year, the money must be paid not later than June 30. After that date the new rate becomes effective for all PBA members except Youth and Student.

New members signing up on or after April 29 are charged the new rate of \$10 per year, except Youth and Student at \$5.

heated exchanges of opinion and thoughts, it was unanimously agreed that affiliate member clubs would be assessed \$1.50 per member per year. Services for member clubs which this amount will help finance include distribution of PBA Newsletter to each PBA member (each member or an affiliate club is automatically a PBA member); access to the PBA Lending Library; benefits from all PBA-subsidized guest lecturers; field trips, etc.; and inclusion in regional bonsai events and shows.

Candle Pruning Directs Growth As Desired

It's candle-pruning time again. There's no mystery about how to do it. The operation is performed simply to direct the developing shoots in the right direction. If the secondary or the leading candle are required for production of a new and longer branch, they should not be pruned. Pruning is done by taking the candle between two fingers and snapping it in half or closer to the base, as required. Scissors should be used on shoots that have already opened their needles.

If the spring candles are left to develop into new shoots during the current growing season, they can be pruned at the end of the summer. This will result in later needle development, and thus needles will be shorter and more beautiful.

This second pruning procedure is different. Needles on the developed shoots must be pulled out, leaving only three or

(See CANDLE..., page 7)

BONSAI-SAIKEI INSTITUTE write or call

bonsai & saikei lessons

bonsai stock — Japanese tools

bonsai — imported containers

Haruko Kawasoye

217 Hollyberry Rd. — Severna Park, Md. — (301) 647-1942 —

CANDLE...

(Continued from page 6)

Figure 1 shows four tufts of needles at the end where the cut is to be made, as shown in accompanying sketches.

Potting tips - After preparing pot with screen over drain holes, addition of coarse gravel and layer of dry main soil, wet the roots of the tree. Hold it upside down and sprinkle dry soil into the root base. Syringe water over roots, add more dry soil, syringe again. Turn tree right side up, holding hand over root ball, and position in container. Add dry soil around roots in the pot, layer it, and add layer of dry soil on top. Now work soil around roots with chopstick. To avoid buildup of moist soil on chopstick, always add a thin layer of dry soil before pushing soil around roots.

Frank Okamura

BONSAI CONGRESS '72
learning together

PERSONALIZED BONSAI CLINICS

for one or two persons \$5 ea.

Make individual arrangements with

DOTTIE WARREN (301) 384-9292

Figure 1 shows the fully developed candle in its sheathed state before being pinched. Point A is the terminal growth. If left alone, this growing point develops into new terminal buds when elongation of the unpinched candle reaches the stage of new bud production.

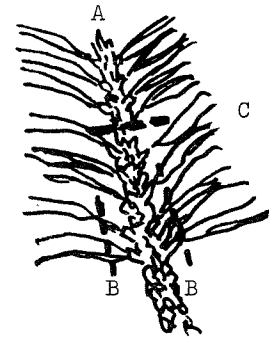


Fig. 1

To prune at this stage, the needles at point B should be cut short, slightly above the needle tuft sheath. The branch itself is shortened at Point C, and will look as at Point D in Figure 2 after the completed operation. New candles will develop either at the periphery at Point D of the cut branch or close to the cut needles at positions around Point E.

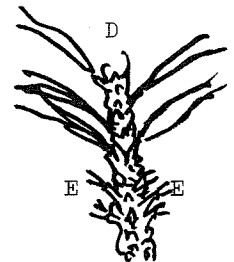


Fig. 2

When this type of pinching is done, no central candle will develop. Only side candles at the points noted will be produced. However, if they are left alone, one of them will take over and elongate faster than the others, thus taking dominance and producing the leading branch.

— Cliff Pottberg —

I can get almost any bonsai you want.

Croton Hill Farms

- Japanese white pine
- Trident maple
- Flowering cherries
- Chinese elm
- Junipers: San Jose, Blaauw & Shimpaku
- Etc.

BOX 83 BELFAST ROAD • SPARKS, MARYLAND 21152

Call me and let's talk about your needs.

Or just call and we'll chat. (301) 366-8844

SURVEY OF PBA MEMBERS' PROGRAM PREFERENCES

Instructions: In each box for statements 1 through 6 place the number that indicates your order of preference for that item. Use the number "1" for first choice, number "2" for second choice, and so on. Use a "0" (zero) for an item you do not think should be included. Use the same number for two or more items you rate equally. Please do not leave any boxes blank. When completed, bring the survey form to the next meeting, or mail it to:

Educational Committee
Potomac Bonsai Association
c/o Brookside Botanical Gardens
1500 Glenallen Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

Thank you.

1. The program methods I feel would be helpful in increasing my bonsai knowledge are (number in order of preference):

- a. Lectures.....
- b. Demonstrations.....
- c. Lectures and demonstrations combined.....
- d. Field trips.....
- e. Visits to view bonsai.....
- f. Workshops.....
- g. Impromptu discussions about bonsai.....
- h. Other (specify and include in order of preferences)

2. The kinds of topics I would like to see included in PBA programs are (number in order of preference):

- a. Informal discussions on general bonsai topics.....
- b. Kinds of plants suitable for bonsai.....
- c. Styling bonsai.....
- d. Showing and displaying bonsai.....
- e. Allied topics (horticulture, botany, Ikebana, etc.).....
- f. Other (specify and include in order of preferences)

3. The kinds of demonstrations I feel would be helpful to me are (number in order of preference):

- a. Potting.....
- b. Styling.....
- c. Soil preparation.....
- d. Moss planting and uses.....
- e. Pot making.....
- f. Pruning:
 - (1) roots.....
 - (2) branches.....
- g. Propagation techniques.....
- h. Other (specify and include in order of preferences)

(more on other side)

4. The kinds of field trips I feel would be helpful in furthering my bonsai knowledge and experience are (number in order of preference):

- a. Collecting:
 - (1) Wild trees.....
 - (2) Rocks.....
- b. Visits to:
 - (1) Nurseries.....
 - (2) Garden centers.....
 - (3) Bonsai collections.....
 - (4) Arboretums.....
 - (5) Botanical gardens.....
- c. Other (specify and include in order of preferences)

5. Days and times I feel would be suitable for workshops and field trips are (number "a" and "b" separately in order of preference):

- a. Workshop (1) Days b. Field Trip
-Weekday.....
-Friday.....
-Saturday.....
-Sunday.....
- (2) Times
-Morning.....
-Afternoon.....
-Evening.....

6. The kinds of other activities I feel it would be suitable to include in PBA programs include (number in order of preference):

- a. Raffle.....
- b. Auction.....
- c. Award of club-provided door prize.....
- d. Social hour.....
- e. Refreshments:
 - (1) provided by club.....
 - (2) donated by members.....
- f. Other (specify and include in order of preferences)

7. Ideas and suggestions about areas of bonsai interest not covered in the above. Your comments and constructive criticisms are welcome. Use additional sheet of paper if needed.

Optional - Signature _____

If you elect not to sign,
please check whether you are:

Male.....
Female.....