

BBC... (continued from page 1)
on native trees at the May 20 meeting at Cylburn Park. Instead, the group did a collective pruning job on a big Blaauw's juniper slated to be the first tree to be donated by BBC to a Cylburn Park Bonsai Collection. The four-foot tree was pruned down to a height of approximately two-and-a-half feet. BBC president Cliff Pottberg is acting as temporary custodian of the Blaauw's.

On May 28 a light attendance of BBC members toured Pielke Landscaping Company area to view some of the stock material suitable for bonsai. The small number of members attending pointed up the general feeling that Saturday is a poor day for club meetings, and changes were decided upon. Starting with the June meeting, and continuing after the July 8 meeting, BBC will have its regularly scheduled meetings on Sundays.

JUNE... (continued from page 1)
will gather in the Brookside Gardens parking lot at 10 a. m. (NOTE: this is change from originally scheduled time of 2 p.m.) Destination is uncertain as the Newsletter goes to press; several candidate locations are under consideration. Final choice will be made based on accessibility and permission. Whichever is chosen will be within an hour or so drive

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

TO:

/FIRST CLASS/

BONSAI CONGRESS '72 - Learning Together

WANTED

2 PASSENGERS

I am willing to drive to Kansas City to attend Bonsai Congress '72, but would like to take two passengers willing to share expenses of trip.

1 ROOM MATE

I also would like to share expense of a double room with PBA or BBC member attending the Congress.

If interested, call

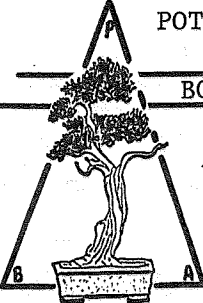
Richard Meszler

(Home) 301-356-5436
(Office) 301-528-7492

from Brookside. Viewing, or accent stones, as well as material suitable for plantings, are the targets for the trip.

A second workshop will be held at the Brookside Gardens on Friday, June 30, to do plantings on rocks collected the 24th. Some small plant material will be available at cost for members needing same. Soil, wire, and instructions will be provided.

see Show pictures, page 4

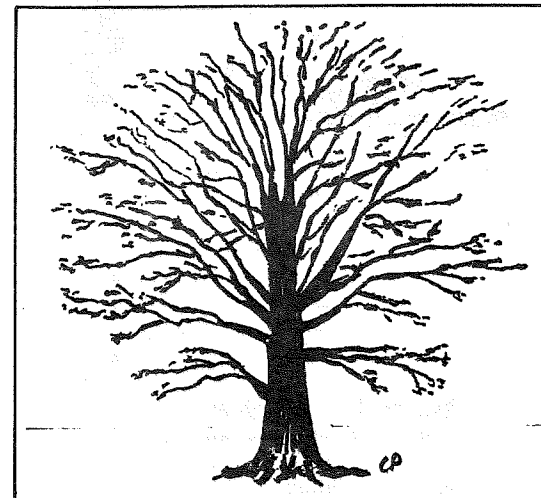


POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION

Member BONSAI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia

Newsletter

Vol 2, No 6
June 1972



TYPICAL WHITE OAK configuration. Note similarity of outline to style commonly associated with the Graybark Elm (Zelkova serrata). (Sketch by Pottberg)

Oaks Feasible Bonsai

by CLIFF POTTBERG

The Oak is little used for bonsai. This is a pity because many species would make excellent specimens.

The Oaks have not been used for bonsai because the Japanese do not have many to choose from, and most of those are large leafed. Also, the Oaks with the smallest leaves usually are not hardy through most of the country. Of course, many now are grown in California, and we can grow them indoors as well.

Some of the true evergreen Oaks that are available are: Holm Oak (Quercus ilex), California Live Oak (Q. agrifolia) (see OAKS..., page 6)

June Busy PBA Month; Three Events Set

Two workshops and a collecting trip are featured in one of the busiest months yet for PBA members.

A Beginners' Workshop starts off the month's activities on Friday evening, the 16th. Under general supervision of Jim Newton, several knowledgeable members will be present to advise and assist members in the various techniques and requirements involved in converting stock material to potted tree.

San Jose junipers will be available at small cost, or members preferring may bring their own starter stock to work on. Soil, wire, and training pots will be provided by the club, but bring your own tools if possible; a limited number of tools will be available for loan.

The workshop will start at 7:30 p. m. in the headroom (work room) of the Brookside Botanical Gardens.

On Saturday, June 24, members wishing to participate in a rock collecting trip (see JUNE..., page 8)

BBC Active In May

A busy month of May featured three programs of wide variety for members of the Baltimore Bonsai Club.

Those attending the collection trip on May 13 found Hornbeams and Wile Azalea plentiful at Petapsco State Park in Maryland. Everyone obtained some good bonsai material.

Dottie Warren (PBA) was unable to conduct her planned talk and demonstration (see BBC..., page 8)

Old Gumpo Favorite

by JUD HARDY

My introduction to bonsai was in 1954 when the Brooklyn Botanic Garden handbook on dwarfed potted trees arrived in the mail. I visited their bonsai collection two years later and met their resident expert, Mr. Frank Okamura. He was pushing a lawn mower. It was a hot day and he seemed glad to stop mowing and talk about bonsai for nearly an hour.

In the interim I had begun working with a three-year azalea (*Rhododendron gumpo recidivus*) retrieved from azalea border, and with several seedling alpine rhododendrons. The latter plants showed great promise for a few years, but then proved unable to cope with our hot summers. The gumpo is still around, having survived many traumatic encounters with neighborhood dogs and children, as well as my clumsy plantsmanship.

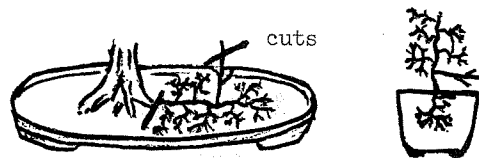
There were periods of several months to more than a year when the gumpo was exiled back to the border while other obsessions took over -- deciduous azalea species and hybrids, Satsuki azaleas, camellias, and the superb Yerkes-Pryor dwarf azaleas. But each time I ultimately rescued old gumpo, and after drastic pruning, put her back in the same old pot.

This little shrub is now about 20 years old and exuberantly healthy. Although violating most of the rules for classic bonsai, she is my favorite plant among the several hundred ornamentals accumulated over the years.

My bonsai fever recurs each year with the first premature warm days of April. Inspected, winter damage repaired, and repotted, gumpo and her companions are placed on their bench on the patio under the elm which later will shade the rear of our remodeled farmhouse. May finds me roaming through supermarket plantations and the higher-toned nurseries looking for prospective bonsai. In June I have ransacked my own propagation beds and nearby woodland patches. By late August I have determined that in my hands bonsai cultivation is an ecological disaster. The fever begins to subside; but come next April, here we go again!

The net result of all this labor and travail is a dozen or so reasonably nice little pseudo bonsai and a garden that is more attractive because bonsai principles of pruning and placement can improve almost any ornamental plant, whether in a pot or not.

Tree Made From Root



One technique for developing a small bonsai with a gnarled trunk involves a sucker and roots.

Watch for a tree in the ground with a stout sucker not too close to the trunk. Trees that put up this kind of sucker include quince, zelkova, and other trees that sprout buds readily to make new branches.

Cut the sucker from the "mother tree" between the tree and the sucker so it has a strong root attached, as indicated in the accompanying sketch. Dig it up with care. Generally, the root from the sucker to the tips of the root system will have an attractively bent and twisted form.

Trim off side roots from the sucker to the branch roots at the end. Plant just the necessary tip end of the root system so the interesting main root stands vertically above the ground, thus forming a new "tree" with a beautifully gnarled trunk.

Leave enough of the sucker to supply leaves, and wire its juncture with the root to be pleasing, not too bulgy. Support and protect and feed the new tree, and train the branches as with any other bonsai

This technique lends itself especially well to creation of mame bonsai, and is a common source of the Zelkova miniatures seen from time to time among imported mame.

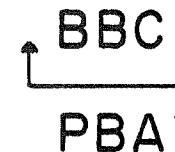
(Permission of BONSAI Magazine)

BBC Calendar

Date	Program, Time, Place, Special Instructions
Sunday August 20	Discussion of crabapples as bonsai by Richard Meszler; Cylburn Park, 3 p.m.
Sunday Sept 17	Tour of the facilities of J. Norman High; meet at his place; members will be called individually with instructions and time.

Date of the F. Chase Rosade demonstration, announced as Saturday, June 17, in last month's PBA Newsletter, should be Sunday, June 18. Time and place remain the same.

Calendar Corrections



Meeting time for PBA members going on the rock collecting trip on Saturday, June 24, should be 10 a. m. rather than 2 p.m. as announced in the May PBA Newsletter. Rally point remains the parking lot of Brookside Botanical Gardens.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Vol 2, No 6 June 1972

Published solely in the interests of the POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization, under authority of the Board of Directors.

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 First Vice-President.....Leo Marcus
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PBA holds regular meetings at
 BROOKSIDE BOTANICAL GARDENS
 1500 Glenallan Avenue
 Wheaton, Maryland 20902

Member, Bonsai Clubs International

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 5565 Columbia Pike, #802
 Arlington, Virginia 22204
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'Instant' Bonsai Useful For Beginner's Tree

It is normal for the beginner in bonsai to expect "instant" results. If such instantaneous results are obtainable, he then becomes involved deeper and deeper in the finer points of the bonsai art.

But if "instant" results are not obtainable, or he thinks they are not, he can quickly lose the desire to pursue the subject further.

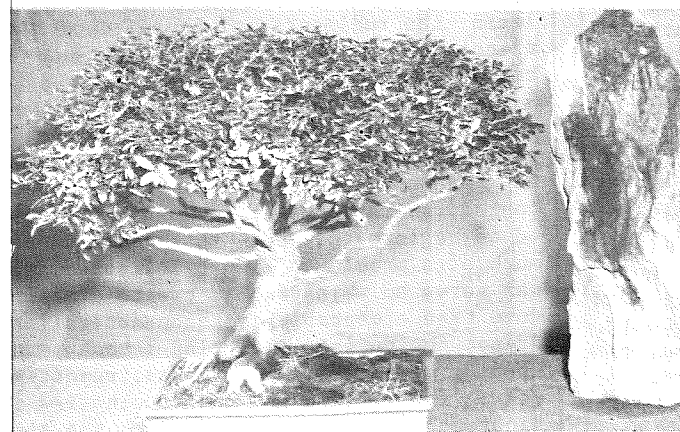
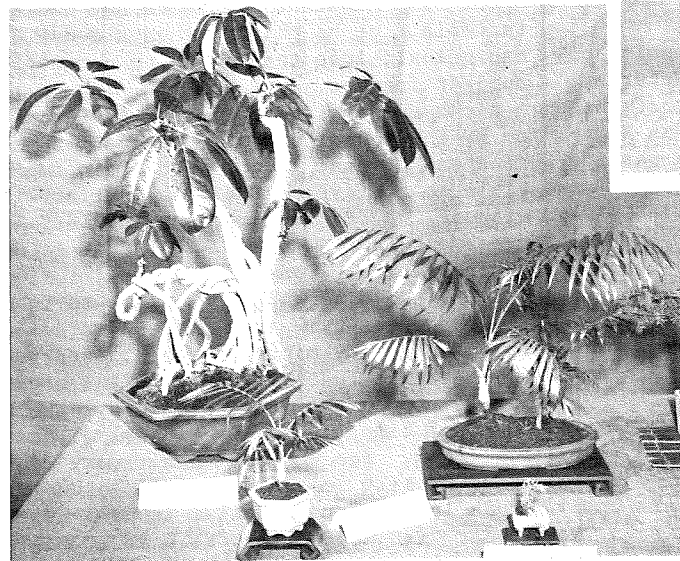
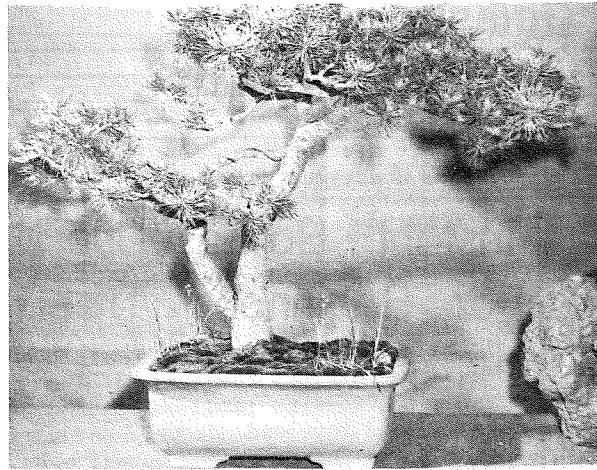
Although "instant" results are frowned on by the bonsai purist, the fact is that "instant" bonsai is not altogether impossible to achieve. Oh, the purist will without doubt declare such "instant" treatment is fraudulent. But that is not entirely true. Consider --

Starting in bonsai, one needs to realize that patience is a prime ingredient in raising any miniature tree. Starting from seed is fascinating, but the beginner is too often discouraged by the amount of time involved. The slow, tedious, and, for the beginner, very dull wait usually means initial enthusiasm wanes long before a bonsai is achieved.

What is needed for the sake of making the beginner take heart long enough to learn the rudiments of bonsai-type patience is "instant" bonsai success. It can be done.

By purchasing a semi-advanced tree, one native to the area and readily available from local nursery stock, one can create an "instant" bonsai in a few hours. Of course, suitable material must be selected to begin with, but that is not too much of a problem. Even a collected tree can serve to "instantly" create a miniature tree acceptable by the practicalist, if not the purist. Cutting back and shaping may take a few hours; repotting only a few moments. The result is an "instant" bonsai that is fuel to the fire

(see 'INSTANT'..., page 7)



Bonsai Bibliography

by BILL CRAIG
PBA Librarian

For the benefit of PBA members, the following Selected Reading List has been prepared as an indication of a wide range of reading in the bonsai field. We hope in time to have most of these books in the PBA Library and available to members. We have one hardback, indicated by (*). The rest will come.

As you run across other books covering bonsai and allied subjects, please forward the information to me so that we may add them to our bibliography and want-list.

- Ballard, Ernesta. The Art of Training Bonsai, Harper, 1942.
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Bonsai--Special Techniques.
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Handbook of Dwarf Potted Trees.
- Cooper, W. & J. Stowell. Indoor Bonsai. Bonsai Society of Greater New York, 1967.
- Hull, George. Bonsai For Americans. Doubleday, 1964.
- Japan Bonsai Association. The Masters' Book of Bonsai. Kodansha Int'l, 1967.
- Kawamoto, Toshio. Saikei: Living Landscapes in Miniature. Kodansha Int'l, 1967.
- *Kawasumi, Masakuni. Introductory Bonsai and the Care and Use of Bonsai Tools.

SHOW STARS. Just a few of the more than 50 bonsai exhibited during PBA's First Annual Bonsai Show April 29-30 at the National Arboretum indicate the high quality that marked the entire event. These stars are: (top, l) Limber Pine (Pinus flexilis), owned by Bob Roland; (top, r) Japanese Maple (Acer palmatum), also Bob Roland's; (center, l) Brassia, property of Bill Craig, Bella Palms, both owned by Jim Newton, and Japanese Cypress (Chamaecyparis obtusa) in mame style, the property of Walter Schmidt; (center, r) Karume Azalea (Rhododendron obtusum), the property of Evelyn Self; (bottom, l) Holly (Ilex heleri), owned by Bob Roland; and (bottom, r) show director Ruth Laman and assistant Bob Roland smile congratulations at each other after last visitor has left. (Photos by Sherman)

Japan Publications, Inc., 1971.

- Kobayashi, Norio. Bonsai: Miniature Potted Trees. Japan Travel Bureau, 1961.
- Murata, Keiji & Tokenchi Takuma. Bonsai For Pleasure. Japan Publications Trading Co., 1964.
- Murata, Kenji. Practical Bonsai For Beginners. Japan Publications Trading Co., 1964.
- Murata, Kyuzo. Bonsai: Miniature Potted Trees. Japan Publications Trading Co., 1964.
- Onuki, Chuzo. Bonsai. Jitsugyo-no-Nihonsha.
- Perry, Lynn [Alstadt]. Bonsai: Trees and Shrubs. Ronald Press Co., 1964.
- Pipe, Ann. Bonsai: The Art of Dwarfing Trees. Appleton-Century, 1964.
- Stowell, Jerald. Bonsai: Indoors and Out. Van Nostrand, 1966.
- Sunset Editorial Staff. Bonsai - Culture and Care of Miniature Trees. Lane Books, 1969.
- Yashiroda, Kan. Bonsai: Japanese Miniature Trees. Branford, 1961.
- Yoshimura, Yuji & Giovanna Halford. The Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes. Tuttle, 1957.

Open Letter Praises President

We will long remember the sense of satisfaction and exhilaration on producing our first show.

I lived with the show only two days and am very proud I contributed at least this time to an endeavor that had been planned and exhibited so very well.

We must also remember it was just a year ago that PBA was founded by Jim Newton, our president. The praise he has given us on our "First Show," should be given Jim many-fold, as I am sure his leadership and enthusiasm in promoting the art of bonsai has rubbed off on us, thus giving PBA the ability and opportunity to introduce to Washington "one of the finest cooperative group efforts I've been privileged to witness."

Well done, Jim, and thank you.

Jo Finneyfrock

Kansas City, Mo. - let's go!

OAKS...

(continued from page 1)

Florida Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*), and Cork Oak (*Q. suber*). This last is an especially valuable tree. The Cork Oak has a very thick bark in age, and is in fact the major source of the world's cork.

All of the above trees have small leaves and will grow indoors. Others to be tried are: Evergreen White Oak (*Q. engelmanni*), Canyon Live Oak or Golden Cup Oak (*Q. chrysolepis*), and California Scrub Oak (*Q. dumosa*). Most of the evergreen varieties' leaves can be dwarfed to an inch or less. Their growth habit is stately, and their branch pattern is easy to adapt, and fascinating.

All the hardy deciduous Oaks, even when the leaves are much too large, should make excellent winter-viewing bonsai. Some should also make good summer bonsai by leaf dwarfing procedures such as care in watering and soil mixes, and leaf cutting techniques. The smaller leafed deciduous varieties include: Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*), Willow Oak (*Q. phellos*), Water Oak (*Q. nigra*), and Turkey Oak (*Q. cerris*).

Interestingly, even the deciduous Oaks try to be evergreen, as witnessed by the fact that their brown leaves hang on through the winter. Also, in the southern part of some deciduous species range, the Water Oak for example, green leaves do remain through a full second year.

While not too fast a grower, the Oak is very robust, and very few special precautions need be taken with it. The worst Oak disease, "Wilt," is transmitted by a fungus only through the roots from an infected plant, so isolating an Oak in a bonsai pot eliminates the problem.

Oaks prefer a rich moist loam, but will grow in a variety of conditions. A normal potting soil, or slightly richer, can be used for deciduous Oaks.

Obviously the strength of the Oak's appearance would cause them to be used for the more upright styles, but there is a relaxation to confident strength, so Oak is most used in the informal styles. There is no reason it cannot be adapted to other styles, however, and the normal open-field growth habit of the majestic White Oak is a good example. With a very thick tapering trunk, the tree has its branches becoming more and more upright the higher in the tree they originate. About two-thirds of the way to the top, there is finally no differentiation between trunk and main branches, and the branches ramify into a very broad rounded head. The shape is similar to the Zelkova Elm broom style, but not the same.

I have never seen a bonsai in this style. If they exist at all, they are certainly rare. But just as certainly, this would be a valid and interesting shape. Designs dependent upon much branch ramification usually take longer to complete, but the inevitable grandeur would be well worth it. Perhaps here is an area where we east coastalites can make a lasting contribution to the art of bonsai.

did you know---

The grandest tree memorial is the 300-year-old, 40-mile-long Cryptomeria Avenue at Nikko, Japan. Some of the trees are almost solid trunk-to-trunk, with five-foot diameters.

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'INSTANT'...

(continued from page 3)

of beginning enthusiasm.

To the more experienced bonsaist, the "instant" tree will obviously be a skeleton of a future bonsai, not a truly finished work of art. But the attractive part of this "instant" system is that as it fires the enthusiasm of the beginner, working on the semi-advanced stock can emphasize the beauty inherent in the tree to a noticeable degree. Rough and unfinished though it may be to the experienced eye, to the beginner the beauty is magnified.

And he learns. Now he will know that by drastic cutting back and forming the framework of the design, he is working toward the perfection he instinctively desires. He can begin to see the pattern of the finished tree. He sees how time can be saved by using nursery stock.

Furthermore, he will certainly begin to understand that his "instant" bonsai is actually not all that can be done to improve it. He is prompted to start shaping his tree by controlling new growth, becoming more and more fascinated with

the art as he learns by doing. He collects a few more "instant" trees, finding the variety that is characteristic of trees even as it is of people. No two are alike. His fascination grows.

He's hooked now. The bonsai bug bites harder and harder. He starts to think of creating masterpieces, now that confidence is growing with his trees. He sows seed. He experiments with mame bonsai, with large bonsai. He is saddened by his failures, elated with his successes. His "instant" bonsai develop into permanence, even achieving, in many cases, exhibit quality.

And if he's normal, that first bonsai, created in an "instant," remains first in his heart. There's something about that first tree that is never quite captured in any other.

Yes, "instant" bonsai have a place in the art after all. So much a place that I'm going out and create one in the very next "instant."

How about you?

BONSAI CONGRESS '72 *learning together*

Show Album

PBA members who have not yet had the opportunity to see the pictures taken at the Annual Show will have a chance at the June 16 meeting. President Jim Newton will have the photo album present for viewing and ordering of prints if desired.

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