

Va. Club To Work On 'Impossible Trees'

Almost everyone who takes up bonsai as a hobby winds up with one or more trees that somehow just don't seem to have a basic styling potential. Branches grow at the wrong levels, internodal distances are too great, foliage grows one-sided, etc., etc.

A unique fun-workshop has been set for the April meeting of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society to see what can be done with these kinds of trees. Results are not expected to produce bonsai master-

pieces, but a better understanding of pruning, wiring, and shaping techniques should result, and - who knows? - some impossible trees may become at least more attractive to their owners.

While the workshop progresses, the Selection Committee will be choosing trees to be entered in the PBA Spring Show. Committee members are Club President Bill Merritt, Ruth Lamanna, and Bob Roland.

Also at the April 13 meeting, the White Pine (*Pinus strobus nana*) styled in February by Chase Rosade (cover photo, March Newsletter) will be auctioned off.

NOVABONSOC

Northern Virginia

(R) = Regular meetings, held at the Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, Va., (Note change of time and day of meetings, which will be on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.)

Apr 13 (R) Let's Style Your Impossible Tree Workshop; monitor will be Jim Newton; bring your least potential tree for styling tips and actual work; no potting; be prepared to have it pruned and shaped into most acceptable form possible; one tree per attendee please; Shoe Tree Selection while workshop going on; bring trees you wish to enter in PBA Spring Show; will auction Rosade-styled White Pine

Apr 27-28 Third Annual PBA Bonsai Show, National Arboretum Auditorium, 24th & R Sts., NE, Washington, D.C., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Bonsai Doodles

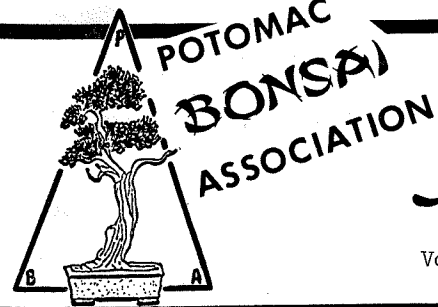
Many people have a penchant for doodling as they think. Bonsai nuts are no different. BONSAI DOODLES presents some examples. Yours will be welcome. Send to Newsletter editor - address is on page 2. Send yours today!



-Jim Newton



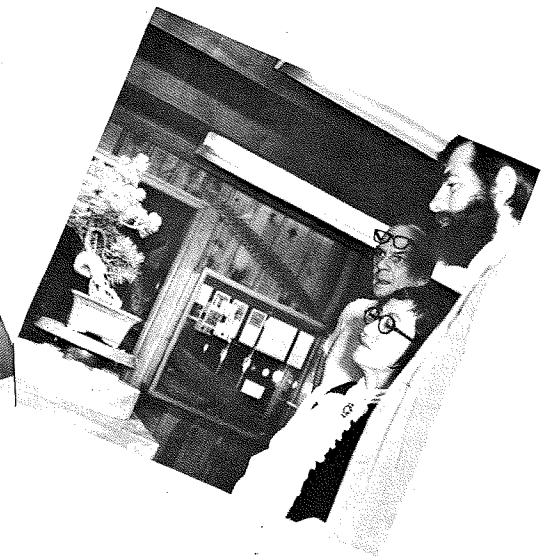
-John Hreha



Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 4

April 1974



Potomac Bonsai Association

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

TO:

FIRST CLASS



POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Published solely in the interests of the POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization, and its affiliate member clubs and societies, under the authority of its Board of Directors.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

c/o National Arboretum
24th & R Streets, NE
Washington, D.C. 20018

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Milton Kidd.....First Vice-President
John Hreha...Educational Vice-President
John Hinds.....Secretary
Molly Hersh.....Treasurer

Member, American Bonsai Society
Member, Bonsai Clubs International
* * *

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Potomac Bonsai Association

ANNAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB
BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB
BROOKSIDE GARDENS BONSAI
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY

the cover

Directors of the newest PBA affiliate, Brookside Gardens Bonsai, gather at the March 15 meeting. Left to right, back row, are: Ann Edwards, Milton Kidd, John (see COVER..., page 5)

Vol 4, No 4

president's message

PBA - More To Come

Another PBA year now draws to a close. It is appropriate to take time again to reflect on the aims of the Association.

As President, I devoted my term to increasing the number of clubs affiliated with PBA and to reverting PBA to its original purpose, that of an umbrella group supporting affiliates, while retaining and strengthening the other functions of PBA. In all but increasing total membership the year has been a successful venture. And I feel a 10% drop in total membership is not irreversible.

It appears to me, however, that the natural place for recruiting new members was with the clubs, and in an endeavor to get PBA out of the club business, membership drives seemed out of place.

In many ways, there was no loss at all. The number of people who have become able to style a fine tree has more than doubled, and the number of fine trees among us has increased far more than that. The number of clubs also has doubled. And more are yet to come: being considered are central D. C., Frederick, the Pentagon, Reston, Columbia, and southern Maryland.

Now, as an umbrella group in fact, PBA (see PBA..., page 4)

ADVERTIZING RATES

Due to rising printing costs, we find it necessary to increase PBA Newsletter advertising rates, effective March 1, 1974, or at the completion of currently contracted ads. We regret this necessity but pledge to continue providing quality work for our customers. New rates are:

- 1 column inch (before reduction)..... \$ 1.75
- 1/8 page..... \$ 2.25
- 1/4 page..... \$ 4.50
- 1/2 page..... \$ 7.75
- Full page..... \$15.00

Classified remains at 7¢ per word for a minimum of 10 words.

We will continue to offer a 10% discount for repeats of identical copy in three or more Newsletter issues, and still make no charge for display lay-out. Photo screening is extra; rates depend on the individual job desired.

For further information, write or call Advertising Director Tory Pottberg, 4412 Colmar Garden Dr., Baltimore, Md. 21211, 301-472-2664.

Demonstrations, Workshops Set Chase Rosade Felton Jones

Chase Rosade, bonsai grower and teacher from New Hope, Pa., will present a Bonsai styling demonstration on Friday, May 31, at Brookside Nature Center, Wheaton, Md. Sponsored by Brookside Gardens Bonsai, the demonstration is open to all PBA affiliate club members.

(BGB members note this event will take the place of the regularly scheduled third-Friday meeting date.)

On Saturday, Chase will conduct one or more bonsai workshops in the Baltimore area for BBC-ABC members. Other affiliate club members are welcome as well. For information and reservations, contact Cliff Pottberg, 301-472-2664 or 366-8844.

The following day, Sunday, June 2, Chase will conduct one or more workshops at the National Arboretum, 24th & R Sts., Washington, D. C., for BGB and NOVABONSOC members; other affiliate club members are welcome. Reservations will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Cost will be \$12.50 per person; furnish your own tree and materials. Make reservations with BGB President Molly Hersh, 301-589-3725, or Dave Flipse, NOVABONSOC Educational VP, 703-281-4524.

The date of the PBA Annual Business Meeting has been moved up one week, from April 19, as announced in the March Newsletter, to Friday, April 12. Brookside Nature Center remains the site, and the meeting will still be hosted by the new affiliate club, Brookside Gardens Bonsai.

In addition to acting on Association business, including proposed changes to the PBA constitution and election of new Directors, an educational program will showcase E. Felton Jones, well-known Atlanta bonsaist and Honorary PBA Member. He will perform a styling demonstration immediately following the Business Meeting.

Activities will be rounded off by an open Swap 'n Sell corner (bring those bonsai materials and stock you want to sell) and refreshments served by BGB volunteers.

Course Openings Still Available

Openings are still available in the recently announced 10-week "Introduction To Complete Bonsai" course being conducted by Croton Hill Farms (Cliff Pottberg) under the auspices of PBA.

Cost of the course is \$45, which includes three trees, three bonsai pots, soil, wire, and expert instruction. Content includes basic materials, esthetics, philosophy, horticulture, advanced techniques and styles, and working sessions, in which course trees are discussed, wired, pruned, potted, and critiqued.

To reserve your space in this course, call PBA Treasurer Molly Hersh, 301-589-3725, or send check to her at 102 Devon Court, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

Any member of any affiliate club is eligible to attend. Clubs desiring to have the course taught in their area should make bulk reservations and inform the PBA Treasurer of the site chosen for the course to be held.

PBA Meeting Moved Up

PBA Potomac Bonsai Association

Now that Brookside Gardens Bonsai is established as a separate operating group PBA will hold only business meetings as called by the President or as authorized by the PBA Constitution.

Apr 10	Board of Directors Meeting, at home of Molly Hersh, 7:30 p.m.
Apr 12	Annual PBA Business Meeting (NOTE: changed from previously announced April 19 date), hosts BGB; E. Felton Jones Styling Demonstration; Swap 'n Sell; refreshments courtesy BGB
Apr 27-28	Third Annual PBA Bonsai Show, National Arboretum Auditorium, 24th & R Sts., NE, Washington, D.C., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

PBA...

(Continued from page 2)

can indeed recruit new members for the individual clubs, especially during such activities as our Spring Show this month. The area in and between Baltimore and Washington, including Annapolis and Frederick, is the niche PBA has carved for itself. Our area is not only one of the most populous and richest in the country, it is one of the fastest growing as well. We need merely let people know we exist and are having fun; we shall prosper.

There is another side to PBA, and in my mind the most important. PBA is a group of clubs banded together to offer reciprocal membership privileges, a common-to-all newsletter, and other mutual functions. Inherent in these is PBA's true purpose: to function as an educational group. Its aim is to help every member of each club have the opportunity to learn more about bonsai than each club could teach them acting alone. In the future I expect not just more clubs to come under the PBA umbrella, but specialized groups of people wishing to act in concert as well, such as, for example, a bonsai potter's guild, or a Mame group, or perhaps a viewing stone society. I also expect study groups to form, small groups of people devoted to studying all aspects of bonsai to a yet faster and greater degree than general hobby club activities.

PBA has not been just waiting for such things to happen. Undertaking the BCI National Convention in 1976, the Bicentennial year, is highly ambitious and offers huge potential for our education and growth, as well as fun. Other plans under consideration include increasing the

size and scope of the PBA Library, expanding our Newsletter, and participating in establishment and maintenance of the proposed National Collection.

As I retire from the Presidency of PBA, I foresee inevitable but surmountable problems. The larger view excites me greatly because of the tremendous number of opportunities awaiting us all.

BGB

Brookside Gardens Bonsai

(R) = Regular meetings, held at Brookside Nature Center, 1500 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, Md., on the third Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

- Apr 12 (R) Hosts for PBA Annual Business Meeting (NOTE: changed from Apr 19), including election of new PBA Directors; program highlight E. Felton Jones Styling Demonstration; Swap 'n Sell; refreshments
- Apr 27-28 Third Annual PBA Bonsai Show, National Arboretum Auditorium, 24th & R Sts., NE, Washington D.C., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- May 31 (R) Chase Rosade Demonstration; NOTE: date changed from 3rd Friday to 5th (see story)
- Jun 2 Bonsai Workshop by Chase Rosade, National Arboretum, 24th & R Sts., Washington, D.C., 10 a.m.-Noon, 1-3 p.m.; \$12.50 per person, furnish own materials; see article this issue for reservation instructions

Yoshimura Classes

Yuji Yoshimura has announced his schedule of all-day practice sessions for the Spring 1974 season. Being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all classes run from 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. All are held at the Yoshimura Bonsai Company, Inc., 10-

BBC

Baltimore

(R) = Regular meetings, held at Cylburn Park Mansion, Cylburn Park, Baltimore, at 3 p. m.

Due to the current fuel crisis and nonavailability of gasoline on Sundays in the Baltimore area, BBC meetings have been moved to Saturdays.

- Apr 13 Styling Workshop, conducted by E. Felton Jones, to be on style demonstrated at PBA meeting the previous evening; fee \$15.00; Cylburn Park, 3 p.m.
- Apr 20 (R) All-Day Spring Tree Workshop at BBC President's home; sandwiches and beer provided; this is opportunity to work on Show trees; for further info, call Richard Meszler at 301-833-9559.
- Apr 27-28 Third Annual PBA Bonsai Show, National Arboretum Auditorium, 24th & R Sts., NE, Washington, D.C., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- May 18 (R) Lecture on Mosses by Dr. Elmer Worthley, President of Maryland Horticultural Society; problem tree session


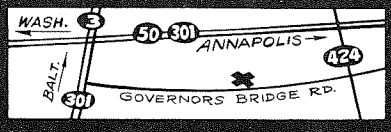
cated in Briarcliff Manor, New York.

The fee is \$32.50 per person per class, and individuals may reserve as many sessions as desired. Reservations must be requested in writing one week before the date(s) desired and must be accompanied by a deposit for 30% of the full amount (not refundable unless the Company cancels the day's session). No space will be reserved without the deposit. Maximum number of students per class will be limited to 12. Classes will be held through Tuesday, June 25, and Thursday, June 27. Request reservations from, and make checks payable to, Yoshimura Bonsai Co. Inc., PO Box 265, Scarborough Station, Briarcliff Manor, N. Y. 10510. The company's telephone number is 914-762-2717.

COVER...

(Continued from page 2)

Hreha; front row: Mary Ishino, Keith Kaneshiro, Molly Hersh (BGB President), and John Hinds. Following a short business meeting, member Friar Jerry Hovanek, lower left, talked about pottery as it relates to bonsai, illustrating his discussion with samples from his own kiln. While the pros and cons of the pottery craft were being expounded, the Show Tree Selection Committee picked the bonsai which will represent BGB at the Third Annual PBA Bonsai Show April 27 and 28. John Hreha, Mary Ishino, and Bill Craig (nearest camera) study the points of a horai style Japanese White Pine (Pinus pentaphylla) in the outer room of the Brookside Nature Center. The Tree was selected.

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tree of the month

Wax Myrtle

by CLIFF POTTBERG

If you found a plant with smooth grey bark, relatively small leaves, a spreading root system, and small blue aromatic berries, that transplants easily and buds back readily to form a compact mass of foliage, would you use it for bonsai?

A plant fitting this description is any of the several species of Wax Myrtle (*Myrica*), also known as Bayberry. While little used for bonsai, it offers splendid potential.

Best known for the wax on its fruits, used in making candles, the Wax Myrtle not only has fruit, but also flowers and foliage which are aromatic as well. And all are in scale for bonsai.

Of the four species native to the east coast of the U. S., *Myrica pennsylvanica* is the most aromatic, and most used in candles. *M. cerifera* has smaller leaves and berries, but grows faster and taller than the others. *M. pusilla* is a dwarf with yet smaller leaves, spreading suckers from the roots, and frequently found forming natural bonsai-sized groves. *M. gale* is a bog plant, known as Sweet Gale, and is hardy almost up to the Arctic Circle, but not found much south of Washington, D.C. There is an Asian species occasionally cultivated, *M. rubra*, with red berries, which deserves use as bonsai also.

All have alternate lance-shaped leaves

toothed toward the apical end. Sizes range from 2" - 4" in *M. pennsylvanica*, up to 2½" - 3" in *M. cerifera*, and only 1½" - 2" in *M. pusilla*. The leaves of all these will dwarf with bonsai techniques.

With its slender branches, the plant can be adapted for use in a variety of bonsai styles: formal and, especially, informal upright; slanting; stump; multiple trunk; raft; and groves, particularly *M. pusilla*.

Naturally, the greatest use of these trees for miniaturization is as fruiting bonsai. They flower and fruit at an early age. The only caution is to make sure a female plant is used, since *Myrica* is dioecious (male and female reproductive organs in different plants). The fruit is tiny, not more than 3/8" in diameter in any species and is usually found in short spikes over much of the plant.

All but *M. gale* normally grow in dry sandy soil. Thus, their potting soil should have low water retention qualities but contain all the nutrients needed in a soil for typical fruiting bonsai. Soil suited for Azaleas should do well for *M. gale*.

Myrica is easily pruned and pinched. Prune in spring and pinch as necessary from spring to summer. Its wood is not very flexible, however. While this makes wiring strenuous, it is not nearly as dangerous as with Azaleas, for instance. Care should be taken, as with most smooth barked trees, to avoid wounding the bark during wiring.

All *Myrica* species like full sun, but (see WAX..., page 7)

BONSAI - Consumer Corner

SUPER GIANT GARDEN CENTER
Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland
Reported by JOHN HREHA

For a number of years I have been visiting the Super Giant Garden Center as a source of garden supplies and possible bonsai plant materials. Recently I received a surprise when I found they now carry a large supply of bonsai pots.

Their selection of dark brown clay pots is quite wide, with various sizes up to 12" trays in stock. Also available is a number of dark blue glazed containers. Prices are reasonable.

WAX...

(Continued from page 6)

M. gale could use some protection from intense summer heat, and *M. pusilla* may need some winter protection.

Wax Myrtle also needs protection from the onslaught of ants, which seem to like the plant's smell as much as humans do. Expect them to be attracted, and they are quite easily dealt with. They may even try to make a nest in the plant itself, burrowing in through a wound. Thus, pruning cuts should be treated and covered with special attention to preventing such entrance.

Considering *Myrica*'s many assets and only occasional drawbacks, the consensus must be that yet another excellent material is available, just waiting to be made into famous bonsai.

Another collection of pots, although not made for bonsai, includes glazed white containers, the lower half of which depicts an oriental scene in dark blue.

Bonsaiists seeking an odd-sized pot may just find it at Super Giant. As these stocks of pots are usually once-a-year shipments, PBA members might want to take a look before the supply runs out.

The Garden Center is located on Rockville Pike (Route 355) in the huge Super Giant shopping center on the east side of the Pike. It is a few hundred yards north of Montrose Rd. (which becomes Randolph Rd. after it crosses the Pike).

ABC - Annapolis

(R) = Regular meetings, held at William Paca House, 5 Martin St., Annapolis, Md., the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Sites of other meetings specified below



Apr 20	Tour of Annapolis area nurseries; meet at Main Library parking lot, 10 a.m.; no other meet this month
Apr 27-28	Third Annual PBA Bonsai Show, National Arboretum Auditorium, 24th & R Sts., NE, Washington, D.C., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
May 10	(R) To be announced

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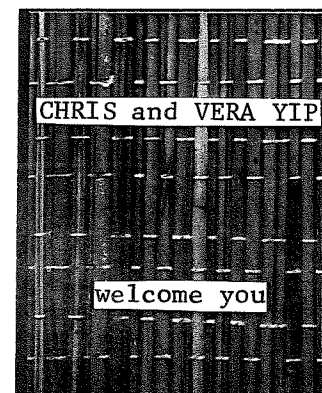
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