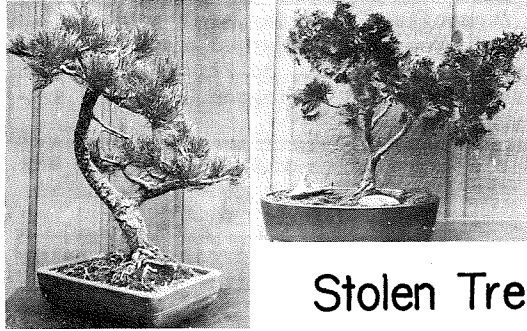


Reward For



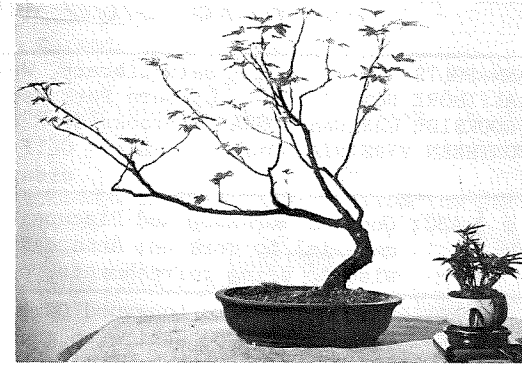
Stolen Trees

A bonsai grower, a new BCB member, has had two trees stolen. He asks that all bonsaiists keep on the alert for anyone displaying or offering for sale either of the two bonsai shown above.

The Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) on the left is 22" high and is in a rectangular pot 12 3/4" x 9", unglazed earthen color. The Hinoki Cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa nana gracilis*) is about 11" high and in a 10" x 6" oval pot 2 1/4" deep, which is glazed in matte black.

The owner, Nathan K. Bales, is understandably unhappy, particularly since, as he puts it "My Pine will not live long in unexpert hands. It is badly potbound and can hold very little water. The Hinoki has no roots to speak of on the righthand side of the trunk and could easily be uprooted by rough handling."

Anyone having information about these trees should immediately contact the owner at 340-9152, 227-1817, or 227-1692. A reward is being offered.



The Whole Thing...

OOPS! A slip in communication resulted in cropping this photo more than was intended for last month's Newsletter cover. Several sharp-eyed PBAers noted the caption mentioned an accent planting of Dwarf Bamboo (*Sasa pygmaea*) which did not appear. Herewith is the total photo as it should have been displayed. Now the Sweetgum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*) and the accent can be seen together. (Photo by Newton)

SEXY...

(from page 7)

Contrary to some theories, fertilizing does not stimulate berry production of male Holly plants, nor do chemical sprays do any good. The fact is that for American Holly to produce berries, it needs to be female, and she must have a male companion.

Ah, sex!

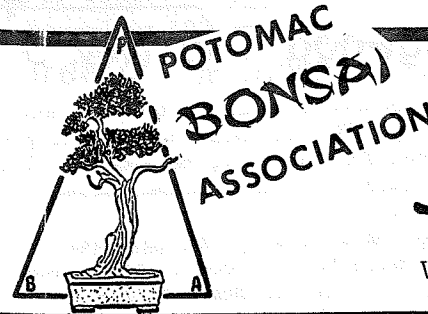


Potomac Bonsai Association

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

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Newsletter

Vol. 4, No. 11

November 1974



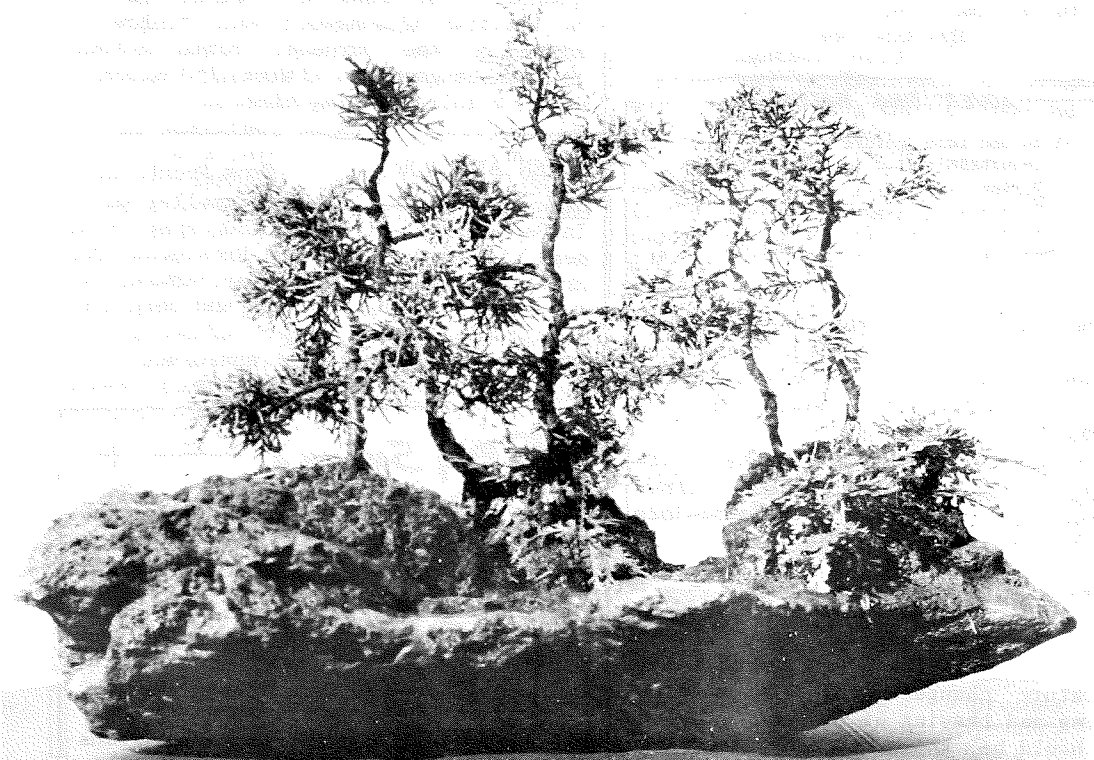
THEN

WHEN MARION GYLLENSWAN, Past-President of the Bonsai Society of Greater New York and long-time associate of Yuji Yoshimura, visited the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society last year, she did a five-tree rock planting using Blauwi Junipers (*Juniperus chinensis*)

and

rock planting using Blauwi Junipers (*Juniperus chinensis*) (continued, page 2)

NOW



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.

JOHN C. HREHA, President

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

c/o National Arboretum
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did you know...

Snow, sometimes called "the poor man's mulch," protects tree roots from sudden temperature changes and intermittent freezing and thawing of the soil, a fact that should be known by bonsaiists who winter their trees in the ground.

Vol 4, No 11

Longwood Trip Nov. 9

The NOVABONSOC-sponsored trip to Longwood Gardens to view their bonsai collection is set for Saturday, November 9. All PBA affiliate club members are invited to participate.

The fee for a tour of the collection is \$2.50 (payable to Longwood), and a limit of 20 persons is set for a single tour. A second tour will have to be set up, if more than 20 decide to attend.

PBAers desiring to attend MUST contact Dave Flipse, 703-281-4524, to make a reservation. At the same time, transportation requirements can be set. Those with room to take others are asked to so indicate.

Attendees will rendezvous at the tour office on the Longwood grounds no later than 10:45 a.m. The tour begins at 11:00 a.m. If a second tour group is to be set an earlier tour begins at 10:00 a.m.

To reach Longwood Gardens, take I-95 north to Wilmington, Del., where you pick up State Route 52. Follow 52 north to the town of Longwood and follow the signs to the Gardens. Total distance from Washington is within 150 miles, or 1½ to 2 hours driving time.

THEN AND NOW... (from Front Cover)

Blauwi), as seen in the smaller photo. In September, when NOVABONSOC Past-President Jim Newton and PBA President John Hreha visited Marion at her Nanuet, N.Y. home the planting was lush and beautiful. Additional ground cover of small ferns and sparkling moss has transformed it into a miniature world. (Photos by Newton)

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tree of the month

Spruce

by CLIFF POTTBURG

President, Baltimore Bonsai Club

The Spruce, genus *Picea*, is a familiar face in any crowd of the best bonsai materials. It achieves prominence not only because it is such a fine material to style, but because it is so versatile. And it has become known in a relatively short period of time.

Surprisingly, the Spruce was little used as bonsai until recently. No one really knows how long it will live as a bonsai. It probably will live as long as a Pine, since their lives are quite comparable as adult giants, and they are closely related. Unlike Pine, Spruce has been used only since about the time of the Japanese explosion in bonsai, after the time of the ascendance of the Emperor Meiji, in 1869. Perhaps because of that explosion, people were forced to look ever further for collectable materials, to the northernmost islands of Japan, to Hokkaido, and even the Kurile Islands, now a part of Russia. There they found the Sakhalin Spruce (*Picea glehnii*), and it quickly became known through many fine collected pieces.

There is hardly a style into which the Spruce cannot be styled. Obviously impossible is the deciduous broom style, and old, naturally dwarfed Spruce in the driftwood style are not to be found. But Spruce lend themselves to just about anything else.

Spruce needles are usually short and rarely exceed 1". They are frequently as short as ½", and in some dwarfed varieties are as small as ¼". Whatever their length, they can be dwarfed further by proper horticultural techniques. Bark, too, is fine for bonsai with a ruggedness developed early. This ruggedness also is in small proportion. The plates of bark which develop in various patterns depend on the species, but they all are tiny. This excellently suits the Spruce not only to most styles, but to most sizes of bonsai as well. Characteristically, Spruce is quite flexible and easy to wire and train. These are only a few of the characteristics of *Picea* which make it so adaptable to use as bonsai.

Some precautions need to be taken in pruning Spruce and preparing its potting soil, however. In pruning, all the new growth of the spring should not be taken off. Rather, the Spruce should be allowed to grow slowly, though this growth can be limited to as little as ¼" a year. Pinching should be done after the buds have elongated. Needles are visible after the bud scales come off the bud in early spring, as a compact mass addressed to the twig. Most of the new growth must be removed just as the needles start to spread outward from the twig. Leave a little growth, however, with as few as two or three needles remaining. This limits the annual growth and also insures that many new buds will form at the end of each twig. Good potting soil for most species of Spruce has excellent drainage and very low water retention, such as a

(see SPRUCE..., page 6)

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150-Year-Old Tops

The Third Annual Baltimore Fall Exhibit was held on October 18 at Cylburn Park. Forty-eight trees owned by 14 members comprised the display.

A 150-year-old tree, a Japanese White Pine (*Pinus parviflora*), was the judges' unanimous choice for first prize. Owner of the venerable tree is Felix Ready.

All members were either asked to enter trees in the invitational section or were welcomed to enter their bonsai in the open or judged sections. A panel of four performed the judging. They were Bill Craig, Columbia; Joyce Pelletier, Annapolis; and Helen Lauenstein and Cliff Pottberg, both of Baltimore.

BBC Styling Workshop

A styling workshop is scheduled for the Baltimore Bonsai Club's November meeting, on the 17th. Good bonsai material will be available for members.

Those attending should bring their own wire and tools, but some will be available if any new members need them.

The workshop will be an excellent opportunity for beginners to style a bonsai under experienced tutelage. On hand to assist will be several of the more experienced members, including Helen Lauenstein, Richard Meszler, John Malcomb, Joyce Pelletier, and Cliff Pottberg.

A Chinese Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* Robusta Green) will be raffled off for those members attending. The tree is being donated by Cliff Pottberg.

Forest Glade In PBA

The third meeting of the newly forming Reston, Va. group resulted in selection of a name: Forest Glade Bonsai Club. Mrs. James S. Jackson, Interim President said, "Since Reston is located in well-forested land and we meet at the Glade Room, the name we've selected seems natural."

The September 27 meeting's time was mostly taken up with a workshop conducted by PBA President John Hreha, assisted by Past-President Jim Newton. Eight Forest Gladers styled San Jose Junipers (*Juniperus chinensis* San Jose).

The fifth affiliate club joined the PBA ranks October 18 as members of the newly formed Forest Glade Bonsai Club of Reston voted unanimously to become Association members.

The evening's meeting also included election of officers: Esther Berg, President; Glade Krivoy, Educational Vice-President; Marion Moore, Secretary-Treasurer; and Alan Berg, PBA Regional Director. The club's regular meeting date is set as the fourth Friday of each month at the Glade Room, located on Glade Ave. in the Hunter's Woods area.

Present were PBA President John Hreha and Past-President Jim Newton. They presented the Brooklyn Botanic film "Bonsai" and answered questions about PBA operation and procedures.

Next Forest Glade meeting is November 22.

Got ideas, hints, suggestions about our activities? Don't keep them to yourself. Call the Newsletter editor!

PBA Board Meets

The PBA Board of Directors met recently in the Sampson House on the Brookside Botanical Garden grounds. PBA President John Hreha presided over the discussion of items which included assistance to a senior citizens group, care of National Arboretum Bonsai Collection trees, Association correspondence, programming, and the Christmas Banquet.

A request from the Rockville Senior Citizens group for volunteer bonsai instructors and plant material was referred to BGB. Any member interested in volunteering to teach beginning bonsai to senior citizens from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. on Wednesdays, please get in touch with BGB Educational Vice-President Milt Kidd. At least four instructors are needed to share classes, teaching one day per month at a minimum. Two BGBers, Walter Schmidt and Mrs. Bobbie Cooke, have already volunteered. More are needed.

Board Chairman John Hreha distributed PBA stationery to Board members and asked that copies of all correspondence be sent to PBA Secretary Joyce Pelletier.

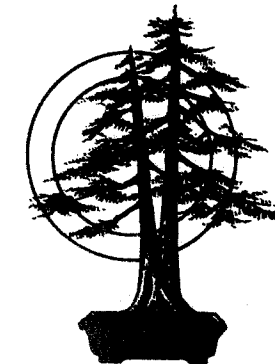
At the Chairman's request, the Board considered approval for the arrangement for the pictures of the 1974 PBA Bonsai Show to be paid for by the Bonsai Information Guild, with Guild and PBA holding mutual rights to the pictures. Approval was given.

PBA Educational Vice-President Richard Meszler reported on programming he has developed for the remainder of his term. The Board unanimously approved the plan,

which included a proposal for PBA to pay all expenses for visits of bonsai professionals, including last month and the Spring program, which will be Marion Gyllenswan from New York.

In a change of tradition, the Board voted to use a PBA-owned tree as the door prize for the Christmas Banquet, to be held December 15 at the Sakura Restaurant in Silver Spring (see insert in this issue). PBA owns three trees styled by visiting experts Felton Jones, John Naka, and Chase Rosade.


In other program areas, an all-day workshop in May will be held in lieu of the previously scheduled field trip. PBA members from any affiliate club are urged to bring trees to be worked on, with advice and assistance provided by the more experienced members. Also, John Hinds reported to the Board on plans for a PBA auction at Benekhe's Nursery in Silver Spring in late spring.



Sunny

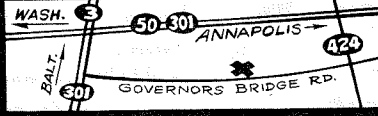
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Pronouncing Guide

CAMBIUM
kam' bee-um - growing tissue under bark

CAMELIA
kah-meel' ee-ah; -meel' ya - evergreen flowering shrub

CAMPESTRIS
kam-press' triss - of the fields or plains

CANADENSIS
kan-ah-den' sis - from Canada

CARISSA
kah-riss' ah - tropical hedge plants;

SPRUCE...

(From page 3)

mix of 3 parts of soil and 7 parts sand. The best time to wire Spruce is fall or winter after the new shoots have hardened off and are no longer fragile. The worst time is when the buds are breaking in the spring, and are most damageable. But with extreme care Spruce can be wired even then.

Slow growing, Spruce generally needs to be repotted only every other year, or even less frequently. Give it full sun and mist often during the heat of summer.

Deciding what species of Spruce is best for your bonsai depends in part upon what style of bonsai you wish to create. All Spruce species are fine for bonsai, but some have special properties which suit them most to one or several styles. The dwarf Spruce, P. glauca var. conica is best used for forests, while P. abies and P. orientalis, available at many nurseries, are good for large single tree

karanda; also, Natal Plum

CAROLINENSIS

kah-row-lee-nen' sis - growing in the Carolinas

CAROLINIANUS

kah-row-lin-ee-ay' nus - from the Carolinas

CARPINUS

kar-pie' nus - Hornbeams

CEDRUS

see' druss - true Cedars

CELTIS

sell' tiss - Hackberries

bonsai. Most used in Japan, but generally hard to get in this country, are P. glehnii, P. jezoensis, and P. jezoensis var. hondoensis. Of these, P. glehnii and P. jezoensis var. hondoensis are the best. Both have beautiful buds which when opening look as though the tree were covered with tiny blooms. P. glehnii also has an outstandingly attractive orange-brown bark.

Many dwarf varieties of various species also abound. A few names among the best for bonsai are: P. abies vars. Gregoryana, Maxwelli, pygmaea, pumilla, remontii; P. glauca vars. conica and densata; P. ororika var. nana; P. orientalis var. nana; and P. pungens vars. R. H. Montgomery and Moerheimii.

Whatever your choice of Spruce for bonsai, you can look forward to using one of the very best materials with as much potential and any conifer anywhere.

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Affiliate Club Activities Schedule

ANNAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB - Main Library, West St., Annapolis, 2d Friday, 7:30 p.m.
BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB - Cylburn Park Mansion, Baltimore, 3d Saturday, 3 p.m.
BROOKSIDE GARDENS BONSAI - Brookside Nature Center, Wheaton, Md., 3d Friday, 7:30 p.m.
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY - Gulf Branch Nature Center, Arlington, Va., 2d Saturday, 10 a.m.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | ABC: General Workshop and Discussion on Winter Protection of Bonsai; bring any material to work on; Annapolis Public Library, 6:30 - 10 p.m. (Persons who wish to bring refreshments, coordinate with Polly Walker, 261-4387) |
| 9 | NOVABONSOC: Visit to Longwood Gardens to view bonsai collection; car pools being formed; if you desire to go, or can take passengers, contact Dave Flipse, 703-281-4524; other affiliate club members invited; fee \$2.50 (see page 2) |
| 15 | BGB: Question & Answer Session on Wintering Bonsai; slides of Yoshimura, Andrews and Gyllenswan bonsai collections (in New York); talk "All You Ever Wanted to Know About Pines" by Cliff Pottberg |
| 17 | BBC: Styling Workshop; materials available; experienced members will help anyone needing; Cylburn Park, Sunday, 3 p.m. (note change) |
| 22 | FOREST GLADE: Styling, Pruning Workshop (no potting) to begin initial shaping, styling of conifers; bring your own trees; Glade Room, 11550 Glade Dr., (in Hunter's Woods area of Reston); PBA helpers will be present, 7:30 p.m. |

Sexy Bonsai?

Few bonsai hobbyists think of sex as a factor in raising their trees. Yet sex has to be considered in relation to some species. The Holly (Ilex sp.) is one.

A Holly without berries is a common problem, and one which can be solved only by replacing the tree with a female of the species or by making sure a male plant is nearby to insure pollination of the female flowers. Since only the female plant produces berries, a male must be within 500 feet to insure the neces-

sary (you should pardon the term) sexual union takes place.

Thus, if you have a Holly bonsai with attractive foliage but no berries, the most likely reason is that it is a male tree. In which case, you'll get no berries at all. If you have a Holly that produces only a limited number of berries it probably is a female plant pining for male companionship. In which case, get her a lover!

(See SEXY..., page 8)



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