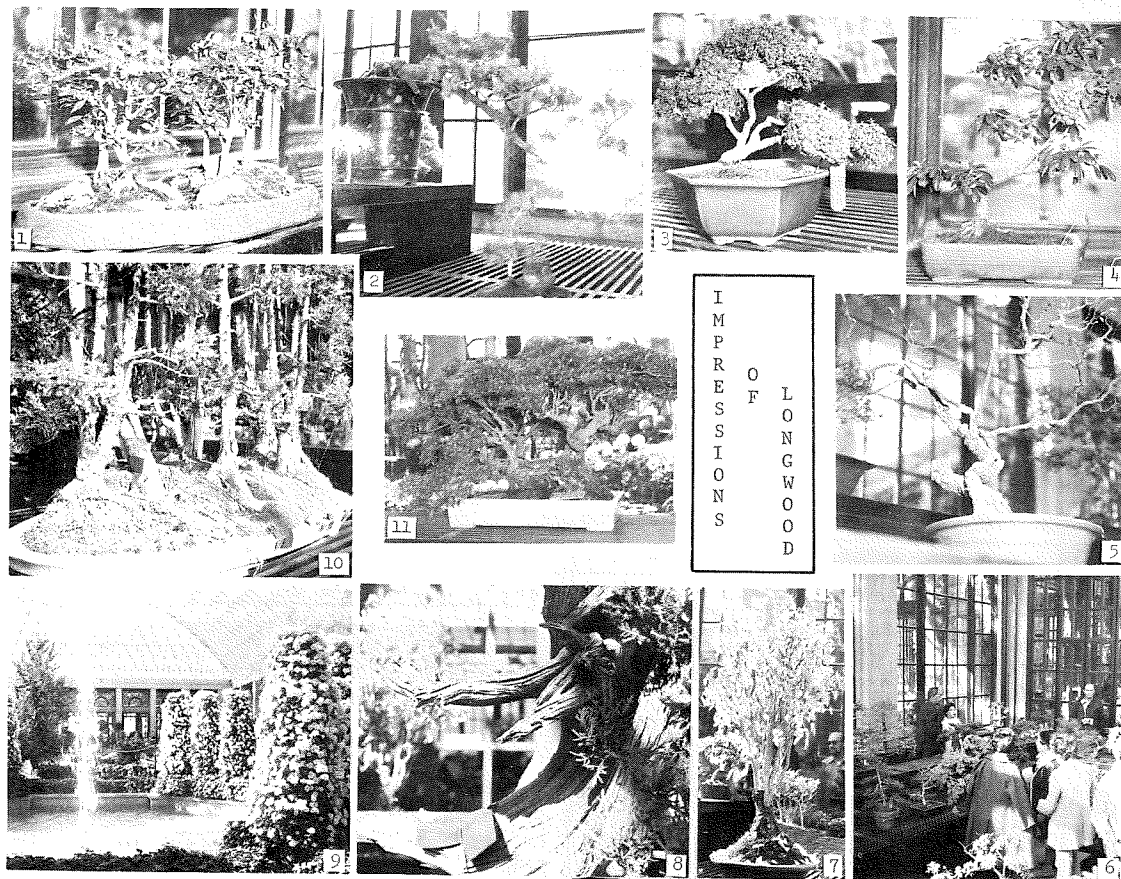




BCI '76

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(1) Red Maple (*Acer palmatum*); (2) Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*); (3) Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* Kingsville); (4) Firethorn (*Pyracantha subhirtella*); (5) Hornbeam (*Carpinus laxifolia*); (6) PBAers in bonsai house; (7) Maidenhair (*Gingko biloba*); (8) detail of California Juniper (*Juniperus californicus*); (9) Chrysanthemum display inside conservatory; (10)

detail of forest planting of Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodarus*) - note all branch shaping being done by tie-down wires and tray, which is handmade of teak wood sections glued together; and (11) Azalea (*Rhododendron chinsayi*) on rock - oldest of Longwood bonsai, training begun in 1892.

(All photos by Newton)



Potomac Bonsai Association

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

Happy New Year

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Volume 5, Number 1



PBA Newsletter

Potomac

Bonsai

Association



1975 International Bonsai Convention
 DEAUVILLE HOTEL
 MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA
 JULY 2-6, 1975

New
 Bonsai
 Horizons

by JORGE LUCERO
 1975 IBC Publicity Chairman

The 1975 International Bonsai Convention is shaping up, and an overview indicates that the Convention program will cover all aspects of the art. A partial list includes:

- Beginner and advanced workshops on bonsai and saikei
- Lectures, demonstrations, chalk talks and panel discussions will cover not only bonsai as a main subject, but other themes as well: indoor bonsai, bonsai and the oriental arts, club activities and workshops, study of bonsai in east and west, designing Japanese gardens, collecting native trees, nursery stock, suiseki, and more

The Convention is already taking on an international flavor, as indicated by inquiries received to date from places as near, as far and in between as Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, England, France, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. With every indication of a big Convention planning to attend should begin now.

LIKE A FEATHER

The Japanese name for the Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) is RAKU-USHO. Literally translated, this means "feather-falling Pine," a poetic way to describe the foliage-losing characteristic of this popular bonsai subject.

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Consumers' Corner THREE-
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ONE

by JOHN HINDS

As the old song goes, there may be kicks on Route 66, but most PBA members will find a 2-mile stretch just off the Beltway (I-495) more satisfying. Where U. S. Route 1 (Baltimore Blvd.) crosses I-495 at Exit 27 three firms offer materials bonsai growers are always seeking. These include sterile, sharp sand for propagation and potting mixes; hard-to-find copper wire in large gauges; and a nursery with a wide variety of potential bonsai stock.

Heading off the Beltway at Exit 27 North (towards Beltsville and Laurel) for .9 miles will bring you to the stop light at Ewing Rd., which is the entrance to the Beltsville Industrial Park. Turning right onto Ewing will bring the Shurfire Corp. into view. This firm is the source of sharp sand.

Called Quartz Rock (Q Rock) this man-made sand is sold in 100 lb. bags for slightly more than \$2. Each grade is uniform in size and requires no sieving. No. 4 is the size most commonly used for potting mixes, while No. 2 is excellent for propagating (this size is used by the National Arboretum, mixed with equal by-volume parts of sifted Canadian Peat). Shurfire also sells Michigan and Canadian Peat, as well as other horticultural supplies. Telephone is 837-0100, and they

(Continued on page 6)

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
 24th & R Streets, NE
 Washington, D.C. 20018

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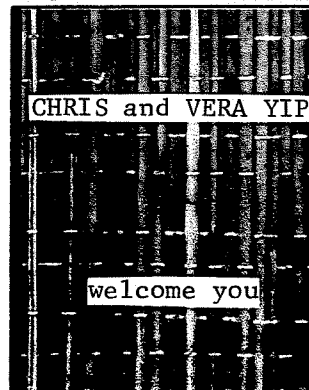
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BOOK REVIEW

TIMBERLINE ANCIENTS Photographs by David Muench; text by Darwin Lambert. Published by Charles H. Belding, 1972. Reviewed by Jim Newton

This is an awful book. Before you jump to conclusions from that statement, understand I use awful in its correct connotation: inspiring awe; worthy of reverence and solemn respect" (Webster's New World Dictionary, College Edition, 1966). How else can one contemplate the idea of a living thing older than anything else on Earth?

Think of it: before recorded human history some of the individual plants pictured in color by noted photographer David Muench were already mature before the Egyptians of the Mayans built their famous pyramids, before Moses led his people to the Promised Land, before the Chinese erected their Great Wall. The concept should inspire awe.

Certainly it has for Darwin Lambert. His words, woven throughout the spectacular layout of Muench photography, are lyrical, clearly prompted by an almost mystical love of the antiquity evident in the book's subject. What tree are we talking about?

Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*).

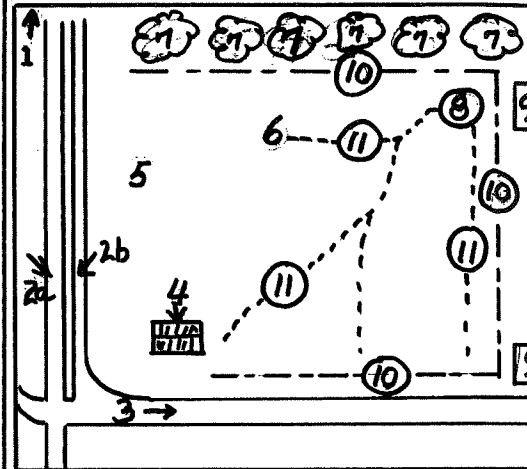
These Methuselahs of the plant world excite esthetic emotions and stir feelings for links with the mystery-shrouded mists of antiquity. No one with any feeling can contemplate a living thing whose age is counted, not in the puny four-score-and-ten of humans, but literally in mil-

(Continued next page)

BULLETIN

Still Digging...

PBA affiliate club members have been given permission by Mr. Samuel T. Wood, 4801 Auth Place, Silver Hill, Md. to dig on 14 acres of property located at the junction of Maryland Route 210 (Indianhead Highway) and Livingston Ave. The map below shows the layout.



After leaving the Washington Beltway (I-495) at Exit 37-S (Indianhead Hwy) (numbered 1 in map), go 5.3 miles on Md. Rte 210 (2a) to Livingston Ave. (3) Turn left into the access road (2b) in front of Lyles Steak House (4) and drive across the open red-dirt field (5). Park at (6)

and proceed along paths (11).

The area of permitted dig is within lines marked (10). High woods are shown as (7) and houses outside the dig perimeter are coded (9). Spot (8) contains some especially nice small trees. Also available are Sweet Gum, Red Maple, Wild Cherry, Willow Oak, Red Cedar, White Birch, and Virginia Pine seedlings.

On November 30, at least one member of all five affiliate PBA clubs gathered at this dig bonanza. Materials taken ranged from Sweet Gum with three-inch trunk to Red Cedar seedlings under eight inches.

Joyce Pelletier took a two-inch White Birch, while Jim Newton found a Willow Oak perfectly shaped but only 22 inches high. Clumps, twin trunks, and singles abound.

PBA is indebted to John Hinds, who located this tract and thereupon sought out owner Samuel T. Wood for permission. The property is due to be razed for construction next spring. Meanwhile, there are many fine potential bonsai there. PBAers desiring to dig may go any time. It is suggested each carry a copy of this Newsletter as authority to dig, should anyone question your presence. Mr. Wood's phone number is 423-5588.

Good digging!

TIMBERLINE ANCIENTS...

(Continued from preceding page)

lenia. And these are available for most of us to see: in the White Mountains and the Panamint Range of California; in Cedar Brakes and Bryce Canyon in Utah; on Mount Evans in Colorado; and on the San Francisco Peaks in Arizona. Living century after century in an environment of thin air (many as high as 13,000'), battered by storm, windblown, sandblasted to gleaming bare wood, the life that continues to flourish in these giants affords glimpses of eternity.

But their attraction is not only esthetic. Scientists have begun to gain a better understanding of the Earth-man relationship, thanks to priceless information outdating any man-written history gleaned from Bristlecones, already ancient when they died two thousand and more years ago. Their undecayed corpses have helped perfect the techniques of carbon dating and establish the chronology of Stone Age cultures in Europe and of ancient peoples around the world.

If I sound somewhat lyrical myself about the Bristlecone, I can only say, so will you when the magic of these living patriarchs of the plant world catches up with you. TIMBERLINE ANCIENTS is must reading for all persons interested in achieving greater rapport with the reality of the tree world from which the inspirations for bonsai spring. You cannot read this book without being affected.

(NOTE: TIMBERLINE ANCIENTS is available for loan to BCI members through that organization's excellent library program; details are contained in every issue of Bonsai - Ed.)

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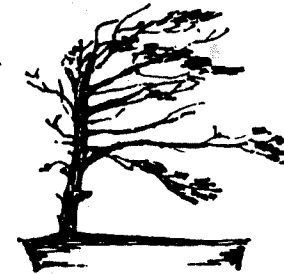
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FREE-JAPAN CALENDAR

A 1975 calendar featuring Japan scenes is available free by writing to Fujitsu Ltd., a Japanese communications and electronics firm. Their address is: 6-1 Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 Japan. An airmail (26¢) letter is suggested; the firm will airmail the calendar back in about two weeks. Advertising

is unobtrusive, and each 15 x 18 inch color scene is guaranteed to give viewers a yen for a tour of Japan.

tree of the month

...will return next

month with WISTERIA

THREE-IN-ONE ...

(Continued from page 3)

are open Monday thru Friday, 8 to 5.

For large - gauge copper wire, return to the intersection of Ewing Rd. and Route 1. Turn right and go about a half-mile to the stop light at Powder Mill Rd. Turn right, cross a bridge over the B&O RR, then take the first left, which is Cook Rd. At the next stop sign, turn right onto Old Baltimore Pike and go two-tenths of a mile and turn left between a parallel row of warehouse businesses. United Electrical Supply is at the far end of the buildings on your right.

United has bare copper wire in those hard-to-find large gauges from #2 to #8. Prices by the foot are: #2 @ 44¢; #4 @ 29¢; #6 @ 19¢; and #8 @ 13¢. They also carry 1 lb containers of Miracle Patching Cement, a product being used quite successfully by many bonsai people to anchor stabilizing wires in place for group plantings. It sets hard in about 20 minutes. United Electric's phone number is 937-5830, and they are open 7:30 to 5 Monday thru Friday and 7:30 to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

From the front door of United Electric you can see the Behnke Nurseries Co. across the B&O tracks. Retrace your route to the intersection of Powder Mill Rd.

and Route 1, then turn right to Behnke's.

This company has a large stock of bonsai materials, including several varieties of Azaleas, Hemlock, Cotoneaster, Pine, and Fir. The three Colorado Spruce that Bonsai Master John Naka styled into the magnificent group planting during his

Behnke's is generously permitting PBA to hold a two-day auction at their place on June 6 and 7. Plan on consigning or donating materials for that event. Proceeds will go toward expenses of BCI '76, the Bonsai Clubs International convention we are hosting in 1976. PBA members will demonstrate the art of bonsai at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. of each day of the auction.

October visit (and which was featured on last month's Newsletter cover - Ed.) came from Behnke's. John Naka also commented favorably on the Mugo Pines at Behnke's.

Last spring a really nice, albeit small Sawara Cypress was on sale for \$2.95. Although prices are generally above this sale price, the emphasis is on top quality stock.

You'll find the staff most helpful. Plan on at least two hours to tour this nursery, for their supply is large and interesting.

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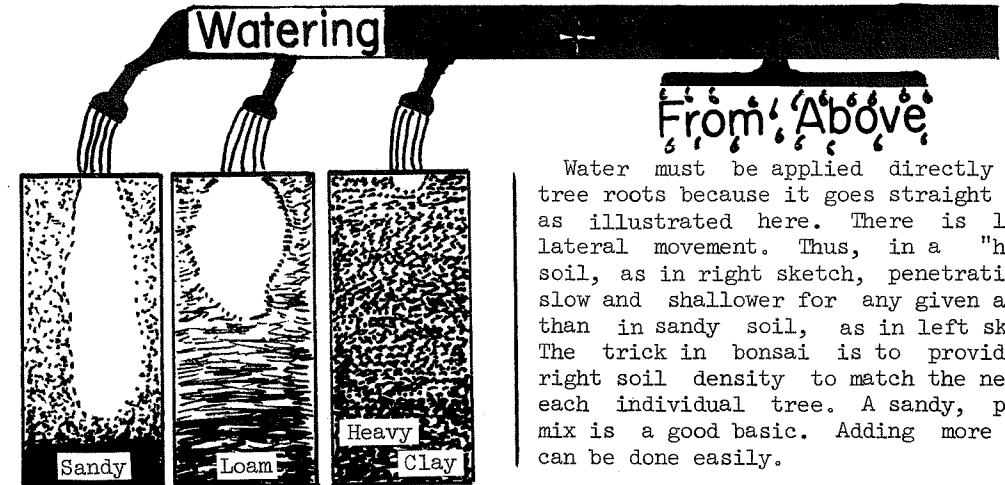
We now have seedling Bristlecone Pine, Small Pots & Bonsai Dishes
Japanese Black Pine for growing on - for Bonsai

Affiliate Club Activities Schedule

ANNAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB - Main Library, West St., Annapolis, 2d Friday, 7 p.m. regular meetings; 6:30 p.m. workshops
BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB - Cylburn Park Mansion, Baltimore, 3d Saturday, 3 p.m.
BROOKSIDE GARDENS BONSAI - Brookside Nature Center, Wheaton, 3d Friday, 7:30 p.m.
FOREST GLADE BONSAI CLUB - Glade Room, 11550 Glade Dr. in Hunter's Woods, Reston, 4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY - Gulf Branch Nature Center, Arlington, 2d Saturday, 10 a.m.

JANUARY

10	ABC - Indoor Bonsai, by Joyce Pelletier; also Wiring Workshop, bring your own trees to work on
11	NOVABONSOC - Slides of Longwood Gardens, Dr. David Andrews and Marion Fyllenswan (of New York) by John Hreha; more (to be announced)
17	BGB - Slides of Chinese Bonsai, Dr. John Creech, Director, National Arboretum, taken on recent trip to Red China
18	BBC - Indoor Bonsai, Richard Meszler
24	FGBC - Indoor Bonsai, Glade Krivoy, assisted by Jim Newton



Water must be applied directly above tree roots because it goes straight down, as illustrated here. There is little lateral movement. Thus, in a "heavy" soil, as in right sketch, penetration is slow and shallower for any given amount than in sandy soil, as in left sketch. The trick in bonsai is to provide the right soil density to match the need of each individual tree. A sandy, porous mix is a good basic. Adding more loam can be done easily.

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