

PREXY AT WORK.
PBA President John Hreha styles a Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* San Jose) before Reston residents meeting in September to form a club in that Virginia area. Forest Glade Bonsai Club created fol-

lowing month has since joined ranks of PBA affiliates. John's styling demonstration was first of four meetings he and Past-President Jim Newton attended to help launch the new club. Forest Glade is fifth affiliate. (Photo by Newton)

WISTERIA...

late as October. It is at the base of the spurs of one-year-old wood that flowers appear.

Wisteria soil should contain a large proportion of clay. One suggested mix is $\frac{2}{3}$ sieved clay, $\frac{1}{4}$ leaf mold or humus, and $\frac{1}{4}$ sand by volume. The tree will thrive in this mix, plus plenty of moisture. In fact, the soil should never be permitted to dry out, especially in summer. Wisteria is one of several bonsai subjects that does well sitting in a tray of water two inches or so deep throughout the summer months.

Potting should be done in spring when the buds begin to swell. Wisteria roots tend to be rather heavy and not too fibrous, so care must be taken not to prune roots back too far.

Wisteria should be fed with a complete fertilizer from the start of the growing season to the hottest summer months. Then it is more important to insure sufficient moisture is retained in the soil, and feeding restarted towards fall and lasting until cold weather starts. Increased proportions of phosphorus and potash help keep the tree healthy through the winter and insure better blooms at the spring awakening.

Generally Wisteria looks and grows better in a deeper and larger pot than other tree varieties. This is because the size

TO:



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

NO STRETCHING HERE

Trees grow at the tips. They do not stretch like a rubber band. A branch that starts at a height of five inches on a bonsai will always be at this height; it will never be pulled higher.

(From page 5)

of flowers can make it look somewhat top-heavy in a shallower pot. But when in bloom, the disproportion of pot to tree is not apparent.

All in all, Wisteria makes a striking bonsai well worth the effort of developing and maintaining. One has only to view the glory of one in full bloom appreciate this tree.

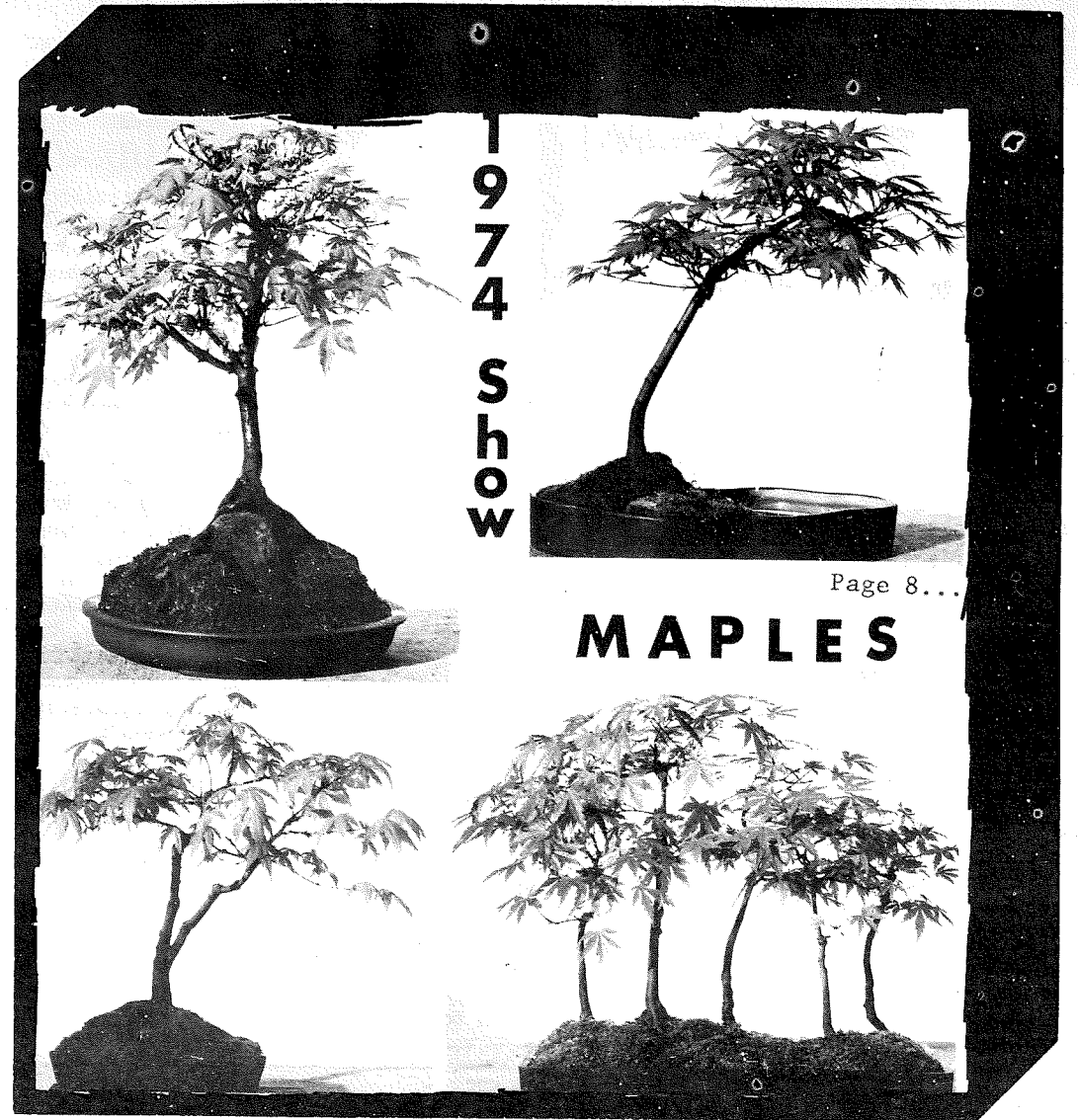
The Cover

The four Maples, all *Acer palmatum*, and all on display a year ago this coming April remind us that Show time is almost on us again.

Clubs should have plans for selection of Show trees ready to implement.

A fifth Show Maple, Bob Roland's *Acer palmatum dissectum*, which was the cover of the June 1974 Newsletter, won the popular preference vote of visitors to the 1974 Show.

Selection of best trees should be made in late March or early April so that tree owners will have time to groom and finish exhibit preparations in time for the 1975 PBA Show, which will be held on April 26 and 27 at the National Arboretum. Next month's Newsletter will carry further details. (Cover photos all by Suniewick)



Page 8...

MAPLES



PBA Newsletter

Potomac

Bonsai

Association

New Members

BROOKSIDE

David Haven, Silver Spring

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

John W. Simpson, Falls Church
Frank & Susan Wilson, Arlington

CARE WITH ORGANICS

Organic fertilizers, such as manure and compost, diluted for use, are slow-acting and include humus, which greatly improves the texture of soil. However, care must be taken to insure that the concentration does not "burn" the tender feeder roots.

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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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Bonsai- Taught and Learned

by KHAN KOMAI

(Reprinted permission of the California Bonsai Society)

The past decade has seen the growth in the number of bonsai hobbyists, bonsai classes and bonsai societies throughout the country. All are eager to learn or to teach the "how" of making a better bonsai.

But just what is involved in teaching and learning the art of making bonsai?

What is taught in the many bonsai classes springing up everywhere is the techniques required in shaping a good bonsai tree. The student is taught how to wire, how to select branches, how to prune, how to pot, and he is also taught the different basic styles of bonsai. He is cautioned against some of the cardinal sins in making a bonsai such as bar branches, one-sided roots, arched branches, upright growth from a horizontal branch, crossing branches, pigeon breast-trunks and dozens of other don'ts.

The average student is so overwhelmed by a multitude of rules that the first trees are without feeling, without character. Until the techniques have been mastered it is difficult to put feeling into a tree. An instructor may tell the new pupil which branches to wire and which branches to cut in making a bonsai, but the novice's tree looks like the work of a novice until the instructor puts his touch to the wired branches and, sudden-

(Continued page 4)

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UMOD əpisdŋ Retardant

Landscape engineers sometimes want to retard the general growth of fast-growing varieties so that the plants will not have to be changed so frequently when proportions of the composition is threatened. They use an operation that might be applicable to young, vigorously growing bonsai, although no report of actual use has been made public by any bonsai growers.

Two circular cuts are made through the bark parallel to each other and 3 to 4 inches apart (perhaps less for nanized trees). Another cut is made vertically between the two circular ones and the bark carefully removed. The strip is inverted so that the bottom portion becomes the top. The strip is carefully replaced, tied with raffia or other soft binding, and covered with grafting wax.

This inversion does not kill the tree, but slows growth almost to a standstill for the ensuing 4 or 5 years. The operation reverses the polarity of the cells, which reduces the flow of nutriment to the roots, thereby retarding growth until cells gradually realign their polarity to fully normal status once more.

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New Bonsai Horizons



Full JOURNAL Set

A complete set of the American Bonsai Society's BONSAI JOURNAL was donated to the National Arboretum in December 1974.

In the letter of proffer, Ms Dorothy S. Young, ABS President, told Dr. John L. Creech, Arboretum Director, the gift was "in recognition of your outstanding contribution in furthering knowledge of and interest in bonsai throughout the United States..."

The gift may be the last available complete set of JOURNALS, from the spring of 1967 through the fall of 1974, according to Ms Young.

The Arboretum Library is open to all persons interested in reading and studying subjects contained in the many horticultural and related volumes. However, there is no loan program; all reading must be done in the Library, located in the main administration building on the Arboretum grounds, 24th & R Streets, NE.



-Jim Newton

Bonsai Doodles

Many people have a penchant for doodling as they think. Here is an example. Yours will be welcome. Send to the Newsletter Editor, 6394 Eighth Circle, Alexandria, Va., 22312. Send yours today!

PBA \$\$\$\$ Report

January 17, 1975

BALANCE ON HAND (Sept. 13, 1974)	\$612.09
Receipts	\$1,549.52
Expenditures	\$1,948.72
BALANCE ON HAND (Jan. 17)	\$212.89

Complete listing of receipts and expenditures available from PBA Treasurer Molly Hersh.

BONSAI - TAUGHT AND LEARNED

(From page 2)

ly, the tree comes to life.

This intangible of being able to breath life and feeling into a tree comes with practice and time. To some it comes sooner, to others later or, maybe, never. But unlike other forms of art, creating a bonsai is four dimensional, the fourth dimension being time. Time is your ally, and with reasonable care most bonsai will improve with age.

In visiting the many bonsai shows, it is surprising how few really good trees are displayed. In the classes students are taught how a tree should be shaped, but nature rarely cooperates by giving the student a plant that has all the right sized branches in the right places. Consequently, the shaped tree is a compromise between what might be considered ideal and what the plant has to offer. And it is in making these compromises that an experienced hobbyist generally shows the result of his study.

From the many classes, many technicians are produced, but very few true artists.

If instructors could impart a feeling for trees to the pupils, most student's bonsai will be improved. But man reacts differently to nature and this difference appears in the tree. To the more observant, when certain styles are taught in class, the pupil can in his mind's eye, picture a tree in nature that grew that way. The style being taught becomes real, he is recreating in miniature what the elements have done in nature over the years.

If the student has never observed such a tree in nature, the lesson becomes an exercise in wiring and pruning and does not hold any reality. Being able to relate to a plant is a long step towards making a better bonsai.

TO BE CONTINUED

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Tree of the Month

by JIM NEWTON

Mature Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) is seldom found in a nursery. Ones with thick trunks are more likely to be found in old gardens and abandoned homesites.

It is possible to get good results by taking cuttings from old branches, with success quite possible with a cutting as large as 1½ inches diameter. This should be taken after leaves have fallen, that is, at the start of cool weather. Place it in a deep pot of sand - no soil - with at least one-third of the cutting length below the sand surface, which is kept moist at all times. Keep in a sheltered sunny place until leaves and branches develop. Do not be alarmed if the first flush of foliage produced from stored-up sap in the wood dies off; when new shoots start to grow, the roots are also developing.

Another method of propagating Wisteria is to wire a long supple cutting into an ideal Wisteria shape and put in a sand-filled pot for a year or so until the trunk shape has set. Then remove the wire and plant in the ground in a moist area in heavy (clayey) soil. Concentrate on thickening the trunk for the next few years, disregarding flowering. Encourage growth by lifting each spring, cutting roots, and pruning branches back to one or two buds. The trunk will have thickened amazingly in two years or so.

Length of the flower racemes must be kept in mind when styling Wisteria. Thus, any low branch should extend out over the

Wisteria

edge of the pot where branch reticulation can begin and the flowers grow as long as possible. Also, branching should be so shaped that flowers do not obscure too much of the lower trunk.

Cascade and semi-cascade styles are most suitable for Wisteria, although informal upright and slanted styles can be used as long as their heights are sufficiently tall to carry the length of the flowers (here, a thick trunk will permit more height without destroying proportion of the overall composition).

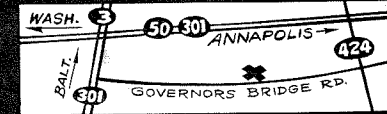
Wisteria flowers usually begin to open about the middle of March, and are produced on spurs. Terminal shoots may produce a second, weaker crop of flowers. The first pinching back should be done after the flowers have withered and new shoots are elongating. This is the time to cut back drastically if the plant is out of desired shape, so that it will not affect the following year's flowers, which form around the base of the spring-growing shoots. A second pinching comes about June and all new growth can be shortened back to one or two buds.

The third, and most important, pruning period is in August, when all long growth must be cut back to a couple of inches only of the current year's growth. DO NOT CUT INTO LAST YEAR'S WOOD, as this will remove the flowering wood. After this third reduction, weak growth will continue until winter, but will not produce flowers and can be pinched back as

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GARDENING WITH BONSAI by Rex E. Mabe, with illustrations by Rebecca Gabriel. Potpourri Press, Greensboro, NC, 1974. 47 pp. \$1.50. Reviewed by JIM NEWTON

This small (5 1/4 x 8 1/2) soft cover book manages to cover a wide range of information about bonsai in a minimum of words. Yet it has a clarity that is refreshing, for little superfluous material is there.



Aiding in keeping the cost down is no photos at all (except one of the author; not in the text, however). Ms Gabriel's line drawings are meticulous, though.

Sections include where to find trainable plants, style, container, soil, pruning potting, feeding, pests, and several common-sense commentaries on how to have fun with your bonsai, understanding what you buy when you purchase one, and more. The section on greenhouse material includes a quite comprehensive listing of plants suitable as indoor bonsai, an aspect of bonsai growing rapidly in this day and age of apartments.

All in all, GARDENING WITH BONSAI (one of a series of "Gardening With..." books put out by Potpourri Press), while perhaps of little use to intermediate or advanced students of bonsai, nevertheless could serve well as an introductory book to this living art form.

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PBA Affiliate Club

Activity Schedule

FEBRUARY

8	Northern Virginia - "Indoor Bonsai" by Jim Newton and Tom Rozzell of NOVABONSOC
11	Columbia - "Indoor Bonsai" by Jim Newton and Tom Rozzell of NOVABONSOC
14	Annapolis - Slides on Omiya (Bonsai Village), Japan, and John Naka Bonsai Garden Display, taken by Pete Abresch
15	Baltimore - "History of Bonsai," research report by Kirk Cylus
28	Brookside - "Azalea Propagation and Care," talk and slides by Arthur Frazer, recognized area Azalea grower and expert (NOTE: meeting changed to fourth Friday for this month only)
28	Forest Glade - Will not meet in regular session; members urged to take advantage of Brookside program on "Azalea Propagation and Care" by Arthur Frazer; if interested in car pooling, call Glade Krivoy, 860-0733; alternate program will be called if weather interferes

ANNAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB - Main Library, West St., Annapolis, Md., 3d Friday, 7 p.m. regular meetings; 6:30 p.m. workshops
BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB - Cylburn Park Mansion, Baltimore, Md., 3d Saturday, 3 p.m.
BROOKSIDE GARDENS BONSAI - Brookside Nature Center, 1500 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, Md., 3d Friday, 7:30 p.m.
COLUMBIA BONSAI CLUB - Jeffers Hill Neighborhood Center, Old Montgomery Rd. and Tamar Dr., Columbia, 2d Tuesday, 8 p.m.
FOREST GLADE BONSAI CLUB - Glade Room, 11550 Glade Dr. in Hunter's Woods, Reston, Va., 4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY - Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, Va., 2d Saturday, 10 a.m.

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Red Bonsai In "Picture Trip"

Well over 60 Brookside Gardens Bonsai and other PBA affiliate club members met January 17 to hear Dr. John Creech, the National Arboretum Director, talk about and show slides of Red Chinese and Japanese bonsai. The slides were taken last September during Dr. John's trip to the Peoples Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Japan for "plant exploration."

Stops at Mr. Wu Yee-sun's collection in Hong Kong and the Katayama Bonsai Nursery in Omiya (Bonsai Village) in Japan made a unique picture trip of oriental bonsai. Alan Thompson followed Dr. Creech with a slide presentation of Longwood Garden trees, taken while he was a student there and worked with the fine bonsai collection. Alan is a BGB member.

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