

The Cover

A 350 - year - old Japanese White Pine (*Pinus parviflora*) submits to close inspection of Robert F. Drechsler, Acting Curator of the National Arboretum Bonsai Collection. This venerable dai - bonsai is one of 53 trees recently presented to the United States by the Japan Bonsai Association and the Government of Japan as a gift in honor of our Nation's 200th Birthday. Attendees at BCI '76 in July next year will see this tree, along with all the others, during the official dedication ceremonies at the Arboretum. In the meantime, the trees will remain at the Department of Agriculture's quarantine station in Glen Dale, Md.

(USDA Photo)

Club News Notes

The Baltimore Bonsai Club elected new officers at the April 4 Board of Directors meeting. They are:

Cliff Pottberg, President
(Yet to be named), First VP
Felix Ready, Educational VP
Helen Lauenstein, Librarian & Recording Secretary
Kirk Cylus, Treasurer & Membership Secretary

* * *

The Northern Virginia Bonsai Society re-elected Jim Newton as that group's Regional Representative to the PBA Board of Directors. The vote, taken at the April 12 meeting, was unanimous.

* * *

Mary Jean Gears and Judy Johnson, BGB members, and Dave Flipse, of NOVABONSOC, have been accepted as part-time instructors with the Bonsai Information (Guild, Inc.), and have started supervised teaching assignments.

* * *

Richard Meszler, PBA Educational VP, injured when a garage door blew down and hit his head during the early April high wind storm, is home from the hospital and recovering nicely. He expressed his thanks for the good wishes so many PBA affiliate club members extended.

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Potomac Bonsai Association

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

Strangle It

Partial strangulation is one method of increasing the girth of a bonsai trunk at soil level. This can give the needed impression of buttressed trunk indicating solidity and age. It is quite easy.

Tie a wire around the trunk just below the soil level, either at repotting time or any time during spring and summer when the tree is growing vigorously. Apply this tourniquet firmly but without cutting into bark at the root-trunk junction with the soil surface.

Sap flow in the cambium will be retarded and the cambium will swell considerably above the wire. Watch the process carefully to make sure complete strangulation does not take place and actually stop all sap movement; this will kill the tree.

When swelling is sufficient, cut and remove the wire.

FLORIDA...

(from page 5)

with the list.

In any area listed, the visitor must show proof of registration in IBC '75 before the contact will proceed further.

Do not circulate the list, in order to protect bonsaiists who have agreed to participate in this project.



PBA Newsletter

Potomac

Bonsai

Association

Baltimore Scene For Annual PBA Meeting May 24

GYLLENSWAN WORKSHOP SET IN D.C. MAY 25

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Potomac Bonsai Association will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 24, in Cylburn Mansion, Cylburn Park, Baltimore, Md. It will precede a demonstration of bonsai styling and planting by Marion Gyllenswan of Nanuet, N. Y., past-president of the Bonsai Society of Greater New York and American Bonsai Society Director. The agenda for membership business will include election of two At-Large Directors, a vote on PBA constitutional amendments, and committee reports.

The following day, Sunday, May 25, Marion will conduct a bonsai workshop at the National Arboretum, starting at 1


p.m. The fee will be \$15 per person, and the workshop is limited to 10 people - BEGINNERS ARE URGED TO APPLY. Call John Hreha, 301-253-4167, for reservations. Observers may attend (no questions permitted during workshop) for \$3.

TAKE THIS ROUTE...

The route to Cylburn Park for the PBA Membership Meeting is not difficult to follow, but a map of the Baltimore area will help persons not familiar with the locality to attend the May 24 event:

- Take US Route 1 north from the Washington Beltway, taking Alternate Route 1 just prior to reaching the Baltimore Beltway (I-695); this is Washington Blvd.
- Follow Washington Blvd. into downtown Baltimore to Paca St. (about 8 miles after crossing I-695).
- Turn left on Paca St. and go north about 1 1/4 miles to Monument St.
- Turn right on Monument St. and go about 1/2 mile to Calvert St. (State Route 2).
- Go north on Calvert for a mile to the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83).
- Head north on I-83 for 8 1/2 miles to Northern Parkway.
- Turn east on Northern Pky and go nearly 2 miles to Green Springs Ave.
- Turn left onto Green Springs Ave. to Cylburn Ave.
- Turn left again onto Cylburn and proceed up the hill to Cylburn Park Mansion.

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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PBA Auction June 7-8

PBA will hold a Bonsai Auction on June 7 and 8 at Behnke's Nursery, on US Route 1, 2 miles north of Exit 27 of the Washington Beltway (I-495). Members of all PBA affiliate clubs are urged to participate and attend this gigantic event. All proceeds will be used by PBA to further its services to affiliate clubs. The public is invited. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Items for auction may be donated by members, organizations, or commercial firms. Members wishing to auction items on a concession basis may do so by agreeing to donate 20 percent of the going price to the auction's treasury. Materials acceptable for auction include: finished bonsai, bonsai in-training, stock materials, pots, seeds, trays, books, tools, rocks, moss, sieves, flats, wire, saikei, seedlings, soil mixes, gravel, etc. Auctioneer will be Jim Newton of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society.

Demonstrations of bonsai techniques will be conducted each day at 1 p.m.

Auction items should be brought to Behnke's by 9 a.m. for recording and display prior to start of the sale.

For further information, contact John Hinds, 301-292-2914.

DUES DUE! SEE YOUR TREASURER

THE ART OF TRAINING PLANTS

book
review

Ernesta Drinker Ballard. Barnes & Noble, by arrangement with Harper & Row, New York, 1962 (B&N printing 1972), 122 pp. \$2.15

Reviewed by JIM NEWTON

The title of this small 5 x 8 inches softcover book is apt to be deceptive for most bonsai enthusiasts. Unless you are drawn by Ms Ballard's name, as I was, the cover doesn't mention miniature trees at all. Yet it contains a wealth of information about a subject dear to every urban hobbyist - INDOOR BONSAI. That makes it a welcome addition to my personal library, having never seen the earlier hardcover edition.

Ms Ballard's thesis is that with application of familiar horticultural principles of indoor gardening, objects of art from living plants can easily be made for indoors. She does cover traditional (i.e., outdoor) bonsai, but her discussion of tropical bonsai for indoor growing will be of great interest to the increasing number of wee tree devotees who live in apartments and other situations where outdoor space is restricted for one reason or another.

She applies the word bonsai - despite recognition that some growers will object to it being applied to tropical plants - to all plants having the characteristics of controlled size and shape, maturity, and decorativeness, regardless of their

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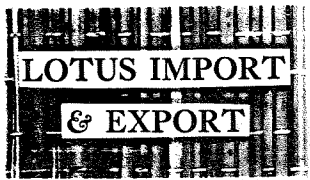
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Tree of the Month

by JIM NEWTON

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

"Willow" has long been an adjective used to describe grace and charm. To most tree lovers the word evokes an image of *Salix babylonica*, the Weeping Willow. Bonsaiists desiring variety in their collections may want to try this tree. It's



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Weeping Willow

quite easy.

Although perhaps not considered traditional bonsai material, the Willow can provide a rapid lesson in tree growth for bonsai beginners. Careful selection of a mature *Salix* cutting in the fall will be transformed into an impressive bonsai by the end of the following summer.

Because Willow cuttings strike readily, choose a branch two inches or more in diameter from an old tree. Select one with good taper and well reticulated branches. Shape it initially by removing unwanted branchlets. Here attention to design is paramount.

Now remove the selected cutting with a clean, sharp, slanting cut. Plant deeply in sand and keep it moist at all times. Weekly feeding can start in late winter and continue for three or four weeks.

Leafing should begin at about this time but the cutting should not be disturbed until late spring. Roots forming concurrently with the leaves will be tender and easily broken if disturbed. Another three to four weeks should give them time to harden.

Use half-and-half sand and soil for the first repotting in early summer. Willows need another repotting at the end of summer, and this is as important as the spring one. By summer-end the roots will have exhausted the soil. Unless repotted, branch die-back is likely to occur. One alternative is to move the tree to a size

(to page 6)

Florida Collections Open To IBC Visitors

Private and commercial bonsai collections may be visited on the drive down to or back from the International Bonsai Convention '75 in Miami Beach, FL, under a program announced recently.

If you have registered already, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Florida Bonsai Sources, PO Box 19111, Tampa, FL 33686. A list of bonsai contacts in the twelve major cities of that state will be sent.

You must be registered for IBC '75 before the list will be mailed. Directions on getting in touch with a local bonsai-ist in each of the areas will be included

(to page 8)



JULY
2-6

New
Bonsai
Horizons

1975 International
Bonsai Convention

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA


Murata, Kawasumi To Visit IBC

Special guests at the 1975 International Bonsai Convention in Miami Beach this year will be Kyuzo Murata and Masakuni Kawasumi, the Bonsai Societies of Florida announced recently.

Mr. Murata is probably best known to Americans as an author and international authority in bonsai. He also operates a famous bonsai garden in Japan, and teaches the living art form.

Mr. Kawasumi's name is fast becoming a household word among American bonsaiists because of the popularity of the Kawasumi bonsai tools, which he manufactures. In addition, he also is an author, and has collaborated with Mr. Murata in writing about bonsai.

Both these visitors will lecture at IBC '75 on Thursday evening, July 3.

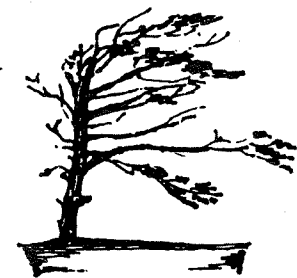



JULY
10-12

American
Bonsai
Society

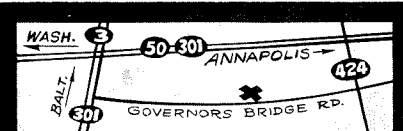
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Kansas City, MO

<p>for membership information in the</p>	 <p>American Bonsai Society</p>
<p>write: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Membership Secretary-PB 464 South Shore Drive Lake Waukomis Parkville, Missouri 64151</p>	



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WILLOW...

(from page 4)

larger pot at this late summer point to provide the needed space and fresh soil. Do not cut any branches back now. Adjust soil mixture as needed, if needed.

Unlike most bonsai, where tip growth is nipped in order to maintain shape, a Willow's beauty is in the length and vitality of its drooping branches. Tips are not cut back during the growing season. Once the places where branches are desired have been selected, all other shoots are removed. At the following spring repotting, these are cut back to within an inch or so from the trunk. The following season's growth is then encouraged only from these branches. Continue this practice year after year and the branch will thicken nicely.

If the selected shape extends beyond that desired, growth can be safely cut back into old wood. Usually a Willow bonsai shape looks best with the arching, drooping branchlets originating from short, thick, stubby branches.

New Willow growth does not weep, however. Until weight of leaves and branch become great enough, growth is upward. To force it into the desired drooping design flex the base of each branch several times in a vertical plane. Repeat this from the branch base to about half the length of the branch. This will cause it to droop acutely without much outward spread. Flexing should be done only to young branches.

Trees require more water on bright days than on dull days, even in winter.

GEORGE F. HULL
Bonsai For Americans, 1964

If soil used in spring and fall repottings is of good nutritional quality, watering is much more important than fertilizing a *Salix* bonsai. Allowing the soil to become dry can cause severe die-back. In summer use a tray filled with water in which to set the bonsai pot. In any case, keep soil moist at all times.

If properly attended to, *Salix* bonsai will reward the owner with continuing "willow" beauty for years to come.



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PBA Affiliate Club

Activity Schedule

- | | |
|----|--|
| 9 | Annapolis - Workshop; bring your own trees and materials; short discussion about plans for club participation in Annapolis Fine Arts Festival in June |
| 10 | Northern Virginia - Slides: Bonsai Village (Omiya), Japan; John Haka's Personal Bonsai Collection; and Reducing Wilding Sizes - by Peter Abresch, Annapolis Club Director |
| 13 | Columbia - Discussion on Indigenous Trees and Easily Accessible Nursery Trees Suitable For Beginners by Bill Craig and Jim Oliver; bring a tree for constructive suggestions |
| 18 | Baltimore - All-Day Workshop at home of Ellen Ross, 17 W. Seminary Ave, Lutherville; bring own tree and materials; bring own food; beverage will be provided; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| 18 | Annapolis - All-Day Workshop at home of Stephen Morse, 123 Kuthne Dr.; bring your own trees, materials; bring your own food; beverage provided; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. |
| 23 | Forest Glade - Demonstration Planting of three Colorado Spruce (<i>Picea pungens</i>) by Hal and Glade Krivoy (Hal also constructed the redwood tray being used) |
| 24 | PBA - Demonstration Planting by Marion Gyllenswan of New York; Annual PBA Membership Meeting; Cylburn Park Mansion, Baltimore (see pg. 8), 1 p.m. |
| 25 | PBA - Bonsai Workshop conducted by Marion Gyllenswan; beginners and advanced welcome; fee \$15; call John Hreha, 301-253-4167, for reservations; observers \$3; National Arboretum, 24th & R Sts. NE, Washington; 1 p.m. |
| | Brookside - No regular meeting; April activities are participation with PBA |

ANNAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB - Main Library, West St., Annapolis, Md., 1st 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, 1100 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, Md., 1st Friday, 7:30 p.m.

COLUMBIA BONSAI CLUB - Jeffers Hill Nature Orchard Center, Old Mountmary Rd. and Baker Dr., Columbia, Md. Tuesday, 9 p.m.

FOREST GLADE BONSAI CLUB - Glade Room, 11700 Glade Dr. in Hunter's Woods, Reston, Va., 4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY - Oak Branch Nature Center, 3600 Military Rd., Arlington, Va., 1st Saturday, 10 a.m.

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