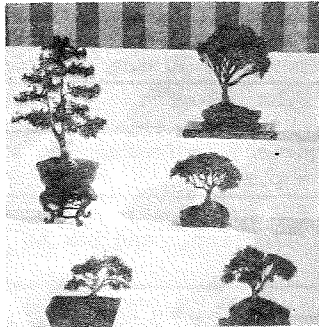
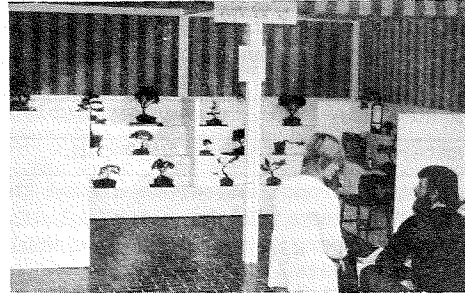


Columbia Club Shows



COLUMBIA BONSAI CLUB Program Director Bill Craig and wife Gretchen (top) discuss arrangement of club's March 22 show at Columbia Mall. Trees included (bottom, upper level) False Cypress (Pisifera squarosa); (mid - level) Hinoki Cypress (Chamaecyparis obtusa) and Kingsville Boxwood (Buxus microphylla compacta nana 'Kingsville'); and (lower level) two more Kingsville Boxwoods. (Photos by Remsberg)

PBA \$\$\$\$ Report

April 26, 1975

BALANCE ON HAND (Jan 17) \$212.89

Receipts \$1,280.80

Expenditures \$1,338.61

BALANCE ON HAND (Apr 26) \$155.08

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

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Potomac Bonsai Association

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

Training Display



TORY POTTBERG rests from labors of setting up Bonsai Training Display at PBA Fourth Annual Bonsai Show in April. Display traced development of trees from nursery can to bonsai pot.

(Photo by Kaneshiro)

June 1975 • PBA NEWSLETTER



June 1975 Volume 5, Number 6



PBA Newsletter

Potomac Bonsai Association

The Cover

RED PINE (*Pinus densiflora Sieboldi*), well over 100 years old and one of the 53 master bonsai recently donated by the Nippon Bonsai Association to the United States, holds PBA Immediate Past-President John Hreha spellbound. Size of trees in the Collection surprised everyone, including Dr. John Creech, National Arboretum Director. This magnificent Red Pine, plus pot, stands taller than the onlooker who tops six feet. (Photo by Newton)

IBC '75 INTERNATIONAL

Countries expected to be represented at IBC '75 in Miami include, beside the U. S.: Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Philip-pines, New Zealand, Canada, Argentina, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Mexico, South Africa.

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.

PETER ABRESCH, President

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

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

Editorial Office

6394 Eighth Circle
Alexandria, Virginia 22312
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In Baltimore-Annapolis, call
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ADVERTIZING RATES

For advertizing rates, write or call the Editorial Office (see left column)

Laurel Area Bonsai

Under the urging of Walter Schmidt, long one of PBA's most active members, the Laurel Area Bonsai group was formed at a meeting in the Laurel, Md. City Hall on May 22.

In addition to PBAer Schmidt, who is a member of the Brookside Gardens Bonsai, Joyce Pelletier, President of the Annapolis Bonsai Club, and John Hreha, PBA Membership Chairman, were also present. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden film "Bonsai" was shown and both Schmidt and Hreha exhibited a number of trees from their private collections.

The Laurel Area Bonsai will meet again on June 19, once more at the City Hall, at 7 p.m.

ABC At AFAF

Members of the Annapolis Bonsai Club will man a display at the Annapolis Fine Arts Festival on June 20-22. The annual affair is held in the city's municipal dock area. Hours are: Friday, Noon to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ABS members will conduct two bonsai demonstrations a day: on Friday at 3 and 6 p.m.; and on Saturday and Sunday at Noon and 3 p.m.

LOST Freeform mat, 5½" x 9½", loaned to PBA for use during show April 26-27. Mat inadvertently picked up when breaking show down. If you have an extra mat of this description, call Mary Ishino at 301-589-8591.

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June 1975 • PBA NEWSLETTER

5,000 See PBA Show

Some 5,000 visitors filed through the National Arboretum's auditorium on April 26 and 27 to view 94 trees, 33 of them mama bonsai, displayed from PBA affiliate clubs. At times the line waiting to enter stretched almost to the opposite end of the lobby.

An outstanding display of bonsai tools and starter materials, prepared by Torry Pottberg, set the stage for the miniatures inside.

Two demonstrations were held each day outside on the broad patio. John Hreha and Peter Abresch performed Saturday, and Richard Meszler and Marion Gyllenswan did plantings on Sunday. The weather co-operated beautifully both days.

If there were any visitor preferences shown - no attempt was made to obtain specific indications, as was done last year - they may have been the delicate orange-pink petals of Dorothy Warren's Japanese Quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*) or the rugged-barked trunk of Jim Newton's Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) or the tall slenderness of Bob Roland's Hinoki Cypress (*Chaemacyparis obtusa*) or the bright red blooms of Evelyn Solf's two Hinogegiri Azaleas (*Rhododendron kurume*) or the tremendous impact of Cliff Pottberg's huge saikei of Blauuw's Junipers (*Juniperus chinensis blauwi*) and other plants or John Hreha's brilliant green-foliaged Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*).

The six stones from Japan included in the National Arboretum Bonsai Collection also brought many comments. Their size alone made them unusual for most American eyes. They include a Kikkasaki (Chrysanthemum Stone), Sajigawa - Mizutamari (Saji River Puddle Stone), Ibigawa-Yamagata Ishi (Ibi River Mountain - Shaped Stone), Kifune-Keiryu-Seki (Noble Brook Mountain Stream Stone), Hokkaisen - Yamagata-Ishi (Mountain - Shaped Stone, and Seigakuseki (Quiet Mountain Stone). Two stone arrangements (with locally obtained

(Page 6)

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PBA NEWSLETTER • June 1975

Abresch PBA President

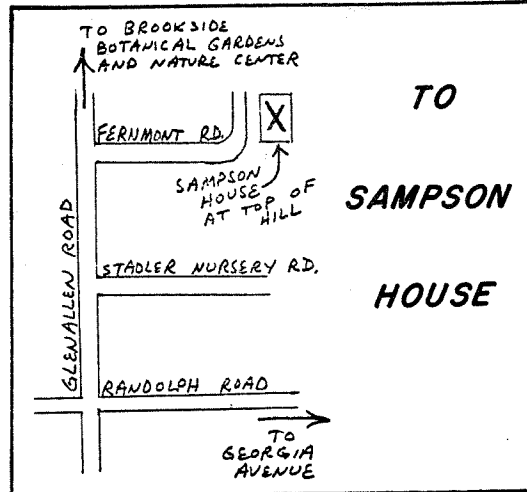
VP BALLOTING CLOSE

The PBA Board of Directors, meeting on April 27, unanimously voted in Peter Abresch for PBA President, Molly Hersh for Treasurer, and Joyce Pelletier for Secretary.

It took three ballots to break a tie for the position of Educational Vice-President between Richard Meszler, recommended by the Nominating Committee, and John Hinds, nominated from the floor. On the third ballot, a single vote change threw the election to Hinds.

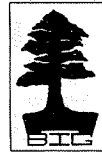
In another surprise development, Bill Merritt of Northern Virginia, the Nominating Committee's choice, lost by one vote to floor-nominated Richard Meszler for the position of First Vice-President.

In accepting the leadership of PBA,



President Abresch pledged to personally visit every affiliate club to see how the Association can help with club problems and initiate programs desired by the general membership. Among topics discussed by the Board were:

- Development of educational standards for teaching bonsai throughout the Association.
- Appointment of John Hreha as Chairman of a new Membership Committee.



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Tree of the Month

by JIM NEWTON
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

The "stately Elm" has long been a fixture in rural northeastern America. Many streets, mostly in small towns, are still cool and shadowy byways beneath the leafy spread of towering Elm crowns.

The Japanese bonsaiist also appreciates

Zelkova

the grandeur of the Elm, so much that the Japanese Greybark Elm (*Zelkova serrata*) is the most popular deciduous bonsai in that country. They call it Keyaki.

Zelkova is grown easily from seed, and raising from cuttings is reasonably easy. From seed, they should be grown in open ground and shaped as they grow. A very good small bonsai can be produced in about three years. A medium size Keyaki takes from six to seven years of ground growing. Seed-grown Zelkova can be raised in flats, but vigor, strength, and the rapidity of growth is better when they are ground-grown.

Very few specimens have the perfect radial root distribution so desired to help give the impression of age. Air layering quite frequently can rectify that defect, if needed. If grown from cuttings, attention to root distribution when repotting will permit arranging roots in the best possible configuration.

When selecting Zelkova stock material, look for the variety that has a reddish tinge to the new spring foliage; these specimens have smaller leaves and will produce better fall color. The reddish tinge disappears as branches harden, and the color reverts to the normal green of other varieties.

Because the Greybark Elm sprouts back vigorously from old wood, the much desired broom-style can be achieved quite readily by letting the tree grow in the

(Next page)

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ZELKOVA...

(From page 5)

ground until a large trunk diameter is obtained. For a three - inch trunk, the tree may have shot up 10 or 15 feet. In the spring, cut back severely, making a flat horizontal cut. Then allow as many new shoots as possible to develop. Do not pinch for one full growing season.

The next winter, select three or five vigorous branches that have developed close to the edge of last year's horizontal cut. Take off all the others. Now start gradually carving out segments from the main trunk between the branches. The effect sought is that of each branch coming out of, yet blending into, its portion of the trunk.

Start the carving from the center of the main trunk, deepening the cutting between branches and continuing downward. The carving becomes shallower until the branch blends with the circumference of the main trunk. After a few years the branches will look as if they had grown naturally from a tapering trunk.

All carving should be done in winter. Start with a small incision and a small amount of carving. Continue the following winter. Go slowly. Too much carving in one season can weaken the developing branches. The callouses that form will gradually become natural looking and signs of the carving will disappear in about five years.

Zelkovas prefer a moderately rich black loamy soil with good drainage. They like moisture, but not "wet feet." Adding one part humus to two parts sieved black loam and two parts sharp sand will insure a good mixture for Keyaki.

Repotting should be done in late March

or early April, or when leaf buds are full and ready to burst. As with most deciduous trees, which can stand more root pruning than evergreens, up to one-half the roots can be safely taken off. Young trees should be repotted every spring, but older bonsai - more than 15 years - can be done every other year, all other factors being suitable. This is quite desirable, for biannual repotting tends to produce smaller leaves and excellent fall colors.

Slightly different techniques for raising broom-style Zelkova can be found in a number of publications. One good account appeared in the American Bonsai Society's BONSAI JOURNAL for Summer 1973 (Vol 7, No 2), titled "Broom Style Zelkova in Three Years" by Morihiko Tomita. Another appears in John Naka's BONSAI TECHNIQUES on page 138.

5,000... (From page 3)

materials) by Jim Newton and a small Chrysanthemum Stone belonging to Molly Hersh provided additional contrast.

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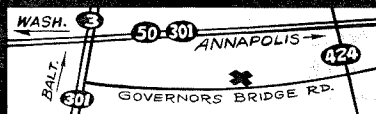
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PBA Affiliate Club

Activity Schedule

7-8	PBA - Bonsai Auction at Benkhe's Nursery, 2 miles north of Exit 27 of Washington Beltway (I-495); demonstrations both days; Jim Newton, auctioneer; bring donated/consignment items early for recording; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days
10	Columbia - Wiring Workshop; practice branches and twigs will be made available
13	Annapolis - Workshop; bring your own trees, materials to work on; 6:30 p.m.
15	Baltimore - Slides of Collecting Trips, showing trees and areas around the country; collected pieces of various members will be shown and discussed; Bonsai Critique by Cliff Pottberg; bring trees you would like help with (no untrained material, please)
20-22	Annapolis - Display and Demonstrations of Bonsai at Annapolis Fine Arts Festival; two demonstrations per day
21	Brookside - All-Day Workshop, Sampson House (see map, page 4); bring your own materials and food; beverages will be provided; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
21	Northern Virginia - All-Day Workshop at home of John Simpson, 3617 Ridgeway Terrace, Falls Church; bring your own materials to work on; beginners section will be conducted; refreshments served, bring your own food; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
27	Forest Glade - Slides/Lecture by Peter Abresch, PBA President; subjects will include Omiya Village, John Naka collection, and how to induce taper

ANNAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB - Main Library, West St., Annapolis, Md., 2d 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.

See you at, and/or



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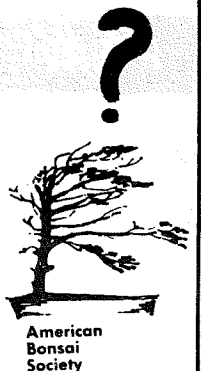
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