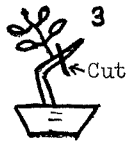
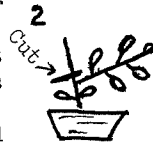


## Four-Step Bonsai

A very attractive small deciduous bonsai can be produced from seed in only four years by following four simple steps shown here (NOT suitable for Pines).



First-year growth will be as shown in sketch 1. When the second year growth starts, cut the first year's growth as in sketch 2.



When the third year arrives, cut the growth and force another side growth as indicated in the third sketch.



For the fourth year, allow extra side growth and force it by cutting out the center growth as in the fourth sketch. By the end of this fourth year, a nicely tapering tree will have been produced, as in the final sketch at left. (Adapted from the Bonsai Journal of Australia)



### Voila! New Branch!

Forcing a bud to develop into a branch more quickly than normal is possible.

Make a horizontal cut through the cambium BELOW the bud you want to enlarge into a branch. The sap rising through the inner specialized cells of the tree from the roots carries minerals in water solution to the leaves. This mineral solution is modified by chlorophyll in the foliage into acceptable tree food, then is sent back by way of phloem (cell tissue) to branches, trunk, and roots.

With a knife dipped in drafting solution, the horizontal cut interrupts the flow of nutriment, which forces the tree to divert the nutriment to the nearest place above the cut. In the case at hand that is the dormant bud we desire to grow more vigorously. Eventually this interruption will cease and the nutriment flow will return to normal.

Viola! A new branch!

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Potomac Bonsai Association

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

### LAUREL...

(from page 6)

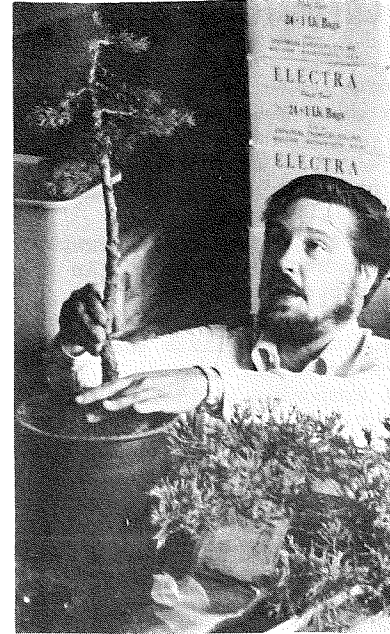
Eastern soil requires little improvement, beyond addition of some peat moss and an acid fertilizer when feeding is called for. Where soil tends toward alkalinity, conditioning with aluminum sulphate and a large quantity of acid humus (peat or leaf mold from oaks, pines, spruce, or hemlock) produce a mix the tree relishes.

Kalmia is a slow grower, but regenerates readily when cut back. Pruning, however, is necessary only to remove dead wood or correct shape. Cutting may be done after flowering. Like many plants that put up a clump of stems naturally (Azaleas and Andromeda are included in this group, too), Laurel may grow tall and leggy, losing its lowest branches as it ages. It can be rejuvenated by cutting back the top and sides. If done in early spring, substantial regrowth will occur before the following fall.

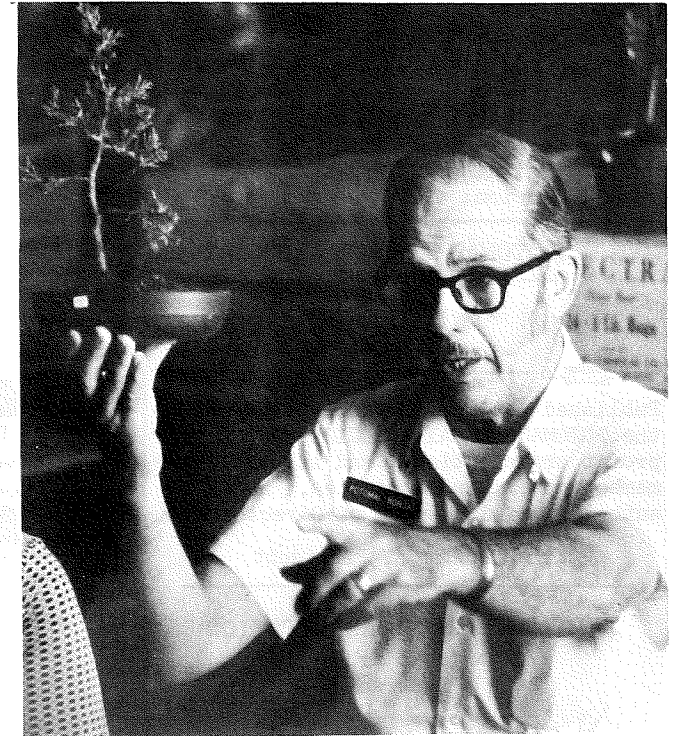
Although cold hardy throughout most of the U. S. and southeastern Canada, Kalmia is subject to foliage burn if exposed to winter wind and sun. A protected location or sun and wind shields will reduce these dangers. As eastern exposure is good.

All in all, Mountain Laurel makes an attractive bonsai. It lends itself to informal, sinuous trunk styles, and will repay the grower with years of beauty.

July 1975 • PBA NEWSLETTER



*Developing...*



*Auctioning...*

July 1975

Volume 5, Number 7



# PBA Newsletter

Potomac

Bonsai

Association

## Pelletier, Everett Elected Directors

In an action-packed Annual Meeting, PBA members elected two At-Large Directors: Joyce Pelletier of Annapolis and Harvey Everett of Brookside. The election and other PBA business followed a demonstration of bonsai styling by Marion Gyllenswan of Nanuet, N.Y., who shaped a Colorado Spruce (*Picea pungens glauca Thune*)

After short reports on Association financial status, Newsletter costs, and BCI '76 planning, plus the election of At-Large Directors, the constitutional amendments which set the stage for applying for non-profit status for PBA was passed. This was followed by presentation of a 5-point declaration from the Baltimore Club. The points aired - and actions taken - included:

- Establishing and implementing a PBA budget. (Action: will be done)

### 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)

- Trying to reduce Newsletter costs by a variety of means. (Action: will study and implement every feasible cost-cutting method)
- Urged each club to set up a buddy system so that new members get personal advice and help.
- Arrange lectures for beginners; prepare guidelines for use by club experts in arranging and presenting programs.
- List all professionals who are PBA members; provide clubs with lists that tell what each does or sells.
- Set up fall symposium to include demonstrations, lectures, bazaar, etc.
- Reducing pro - rata affiliate club dues to PBA. (Action: cannot implement except by constitutional change; will present to Constitutional Committee)
- Preparing Annual Meeting Agenda and publishing in time for members to digest. (Action: will be done)
- Establishing system for proxy votes by all PBA members on Annual Meeting agenda

(DIRECTORS, next page)

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## The Cover

DEVELOPING/AUCTIONING describe the two main activities at Benkhe's Nursery in Beltsville as PBA held a mammoth bonsai auction interspersed with educational demonstrations of how nanization is done. Our cover this month shows two PBAers at work: Cliff Pottberg, in the upper left, talks about the importance of the trunk in determining style, as the Chinese Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* var. *Robusta Green*) is transformed from a nursery can to a splendid *literati* or *bunjin* style under Cliff's able fingers. Jim Newton, at lower right, coaxes further bidding from a receptive audience on Saturday, June 7, first of the two-day sale. More than 450 individual pieces went on the block, as did the Chinese Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* var. *San Jose*) he holds here. Both men are Founding Members of PBA and past-presidents of the Association. PBA realized more than \$600 profit from the event. (Photos by Epps)

## DIRECTORS...

(from page 2)

items. (Action: will be done)

The meeting closed with the President outlining his plans for making PBA serve the needs of all affiliate clubs and members:

- Personal visits to all clubs to hear suggestions, gripes, etc.
- Set up workshop teams to help present bonsai to clubs wanting same.

## Nippon Assoc. Directors Here

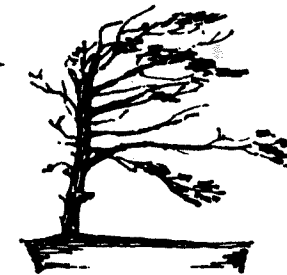
Three distinguished visitors from the Nippon Bonsai Association visited the Washington area to confer with National Arboretum staff on the 53 trees recently donated to the United States. They were Nobukiche Koide, Chairman of the Nippon Bonsai Association's Board of Directors, and Directors Hideo Chugun and Kyuzo Murata. Mrs. Junko Arima, an Association horticulturist, accompanied the three men as translator.

Hosted by Dr. John Creech, Arboretum Director, and Sylvester "Skip" March, the Arboretum's Chief Horticulturist, the Japanese experts conferred with Robert Drechsler, Acting Bonsai Curator for the National Collection. Advice, counsel, discussion of techniques, and special requirements of the 53 trees were covered. Mr. Koide expressed his pleasure at the obvious care and attention the masterpiece bonsai are receiving. He also declared that health and vigor of the trees was more than satisfactory.

The visitors' itinerary included some Washington sightseeing (the Tidal Basin Cherry trees were tops on their list), a tour of the National Arboretum, and socializing, including a dinner at the Holiday Inn near the Arboretum on Saturday evening, May 3, attended by PBA officials and members Mr. & Mrs. Peter Abresch, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Flipse, Dr. & Mrs. Takuma Tanada, John Hinds, and Jim Newton.

The party departed Tuesday, May 6, from Washington National Airport for New York.

for  
membership  
information  
in the



American  
Bonsai  
Society

write:

Membership Secretary-PB  
464 South Shore Drive  
Lake Waukomis  
Parkville, Missouri 64151

## 788 Join PBA

The seventh and eighth affiliate clubs have swelled the ranks of the Potomac Bonsai Association within the past month.

The Washington Bonsai Club became the seventh early in June when members voted to join the PBA group. Austin T. Graves, Jr. is the President. The Club meets at varying locations, including the Chevy Chase Community Center and the National

Arboretum; check Affiliated Club Activity Schedule each week in the Newsletter.

The newest affiliate is the Laurel Area Bonsai Club, which met on June 18 and made the decision to come under the PBA umbrella. Walter Schmidt is Acting President. Check the Affiliated Club Activity Schedule for place and time. A permanent meeting place is being sought.

## Number 9?

The Potomac Bonsai Association will host a meeting of persons interested in forming a bonsai club at the Clearwater Nature Center in Cosca Regional Park, Clinton, Md. on Sunday, July 20, at 1 p.m., according to John Hinds, PBA Educational Vice-President.

"The Clearwater Nature Center is located in one of the nicest parks in the greater Washington area," John declared, "and should prove to be an ideal home for a bonsai club. It has a large auditorium and a fine work room for working on bonsai. Best of all, there is a greenhouse, a portion of which will be available for club use."

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden film BONSAI will be shown at the July 20th meeting and there will be some trees on display. Discussion will center on formation of a club and fundamental requirements to be a successful bonsai hobbyist.

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## Bonsaiologists Arise!

by DR. RICHARD M. MESZLER  
Baltimore Bonsai Club

It occurs to me that the art/science of bonsai and the people associated with it lack a concise descriptive name. Several terms have been offered and have met with varying degrees of acceptance. These include: bonsaist, bonsai enthusiast, bonsai culturist, etc.

I suggest that we follow a common form for such terms and incorporate the suffix -logy. According to the Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, 25th Edition, W. B. Sanders Co., Philadelphia, p. 188 (1974), -logy is derived from the Greek logos and is "...a word termination meaning the science or study of, or a treatise on, the subject designated by the stem to which it is affixed."

Thus, the science or study of bonsai is properly BONSAIOLGY, and one who carries out this study is a BONSAIOLGIST.

The term may be a bit of a mouthful, but it is accurate, descriptive, and no harder to say than anesthesiology, or anthropology, or even oenology.

Let's drink to it!

## NO. 9?...

(from page 4)

5). Drive 3.4 miles to Woodyard Rd., State Route 223; turn right. At the first traffic light (Old Branch Ave. to the north of Woodyard and Brandywine Rd. to the south), turn left and proceed 1.5 miles to Thrift Rd., bearing right, and continue to Louise Cosca Regional Park. The Clearwater Nature Center is on the right, well into the Park.

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## Sold! For \$616!

by JOHN HINDS  
Auction Coordinator

The first Annual PBA Bonsai Auction, held June 7 and 8 at Benkhe's Nursery in Beltsville, Md. netted \$616.28 for Association use. Total receipts amounted to an impressive \$2,152.40, with some 450 individual pieces of material being auctioned during the two-day event.

Jim Newton, Northern Virginia Society, was the auctioneer. Assistants included John Hreha, Dave and Floy Flipse, Bob Roland, Richard Meszler, Jim Oliver, Milt Kidd, and Dottie Warren.

Four demonstrations held audiences attention between auctioning sessions. On Saturday, Cliff Pottberg styled a Chinese Juniper (see cover, this issue) in the morning. I did a different variety of Juniper (*J. pfitscheriana*) that p.m. The following day Joyce Pelletier, Annapolis, worked up a second Robusta Green Juniper, and was followed in the afternoon by Bill Craig of Columbia, who styled a fine old Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo mughus*).

## Solzhenitsyn Bonsai

Nobel Prize Winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn is a recognized philosophical intellectual. Although the following quote, taken from a Nobel Lecture, is directed elsewhere, the philosophical principle he enunciates seems to apply to bonsai, in the opinion of Dr. Richard Meszler, PBA Vice-President, who submitted it to the Newsletter:

"Perhaps then the old trinity of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty is not simply the dressed-up, worn-out formula we thought it in our presumptuous, materialistic youth? If the crowns of these three trees meet, as scholars have asserted, and if the too obvious, two straight sprouts of Truth and Goodness have been knocked down, cut off, not let grow, perhaps the whimsical, unpredictable, unexpected branches of Beauty will work their way through, rise up TO THAT VERY PLACE, and thus complete the work of all three?"

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## Tree of the Month

KALMIA LATIFOLIA

by JIM NEWTON

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

This American native is a broadleaved evergreen tree with elliptical leaves and large clusters of cup-shaped flowers. Its natural range covers most states east of the Mississippi.

Although the Laurel's optimal natural site is in eastern mountains - hence, its common designation - it adapts well to other locations. The glossy green foliage is handsome all year, and the natural leaf size - up to five inches long - will reduce under container growth conditions.

Blooms appear from late May to early June. Flowers may be white or any shade from pale to rose-pink; usually white and pale pink predominate, borne in large terminal corymbs. Before opening, the oddly fluted buds are attractive in their own right. In bloom, massed in banks of color, the tree is striking. In the Blue Ridge Mountains, for example, where the Kalmia grows in large numbers as undergrowth of deciduous shade trees, the brilliant white blossoms from a distance look like patches of late-remaining snow against the forest's shadowy depths.

Like rhododendrons, Laurel puts out its best foliage in considerable shade, yet requires mostly sunny conditions for maximum flowering. It tolerates full sun well if ground cover, or mulch, is ample and its gets plenty of water. In hot windy conditions - like Washington area

## Mountain Laurel

summers - afternoon shade is advisable. Kalmia will grow in deep shade, but won't bloom there.

Soil requirements are few. Like all ericaceous plants, the Laurel demands an acid growing medium, a plentiful supply of organic matter, and constant moisture.

(LAUREL, page 8)



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## PBA Affiliate Club

- |    |  |
|----|--|
|    | Baltimore - Traditionally, no meeting in July to permit members to attend the national bonsai conventions; full report during August meeting   |
| 8  | Columbia - Summer Bonsai Care and Activities by Peter Abresch, PBA President<br>NOTE: for July and August only - meeting place changed to Phelps Luck Community Center, Phelps Luck Dr., Columbia  |
| 11 | Annapolis - Bonsai Overview - talks by various club members, including bonsai history, club activities, styling, collecting, etc.; some slides as well   |
| 12 | Northern Virginia - Beginners Styling Workshop conducted by Ruth Lamanna and Dave Flipse; first 10 members only; must make reservation with Bud Ricucci, 323-1331; all must obtain Robusta Green Juniper (Bud will tell where), bring own tools; fee \$5 |
| 17 | Laurel Area - General Discussion on Bonsai Styles and Suitable Tree Types by Acting President Walter Schmidt; at the Schmidt home, 9272 Old Scaggsville Rd., Laurel; call 725-2580 for more detailed instructions on location; 7 p.m.                    |
| 18 | Brookside - Impossible Tree Clinic by Jim Newton, PBA Past-President; bring your worst tree (only one per member, please) for advice and on-the-spot styling, if desired (no potting)  |
| 25 | Forest Glade - Bonsai Slides and Discussion Session, at home of Glade Krivoy, 2111 Thomas View Rd., Reston (call 860-0733 if more detailed location explanation desired)   |

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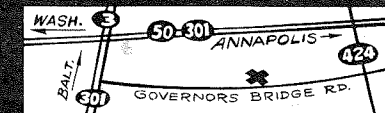
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- 26 Washington - Lectures: Saikel by Joyce Pelletier, Annapolis Club President, and Water-Tolerant Trees by Austin Graves; Chevy Chase Community Center, Connecticut & McKinley NW, Washington 2 p.m.

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