



KINGSVILLE

BOXWOOD

This *Buxus microphylla compacta nana* 'Kingsville' is only 7½" from pot base to tree apex, yet without straining the imagination too much it could be a normal sized tree in a field. (Suniewick photo)

Famous Names In PBA

A stranger perusing the rolls of PBA might be struck with the names of famous people appearing there.

For example, Elizabeth Taylor is a member of the Washington Bonsai Club. On the other side of the Potomac River lives Richard Burton, a member of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society. And some distance away, H. Kissinger lends his august presence to the Baltimore Bonsai Club.

Actually, the famous names belong to: Mrs. Elizabeth Clay Taylor of Dickerson, Md.; Richard D. Burton of Washington; and H. J. Kissinger of Baltimore, Md.

Well, all three names are in the news quite frequently. Why not in the pages of the PBA Newsletter?

don't forget... PBA Auction! Sept. 20

PBAers desiring to donate auction materials or to place items on consignment should bring them to Behnke's no later than 9 a.m. on Sept. 20 for recording. The auction starts at 10 a. m. and will last until 5 p. m.

Behnke's is located at 11300 Washington-Baltimore Blvd. (US Route 1), just 2 miles north of Exit 27 of the Capital Beltway (I-495) in Beltsville.

8

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

More Classes Set

More bonsai classes are being formed in the Washington metropolitan area by professionals who are PBA members.

In Bowie, Joyce Pelletier will teach:
• Beginning Bonsai, Bowie YMCA, 8 weekly 1½-hour sessions, 7:45 p.m.; start Sept 22; call 301-262-9622

In Baltimore, two BBC members will begin classes at the Pielke Landscaping Co, 7937 Belair Rd.; call 301-668-3965:

- Beginning Bonsai Helen Lauenstein, 4 wks, start Sept. 12, 1 - 3 p.m.
- Beginning Bonsai, Felix Ready, 4 wks, start Sept. 13, 10 a.m. - Noon



1

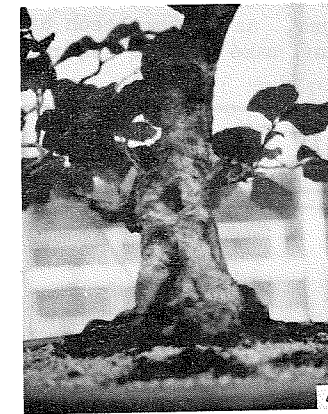


2



3

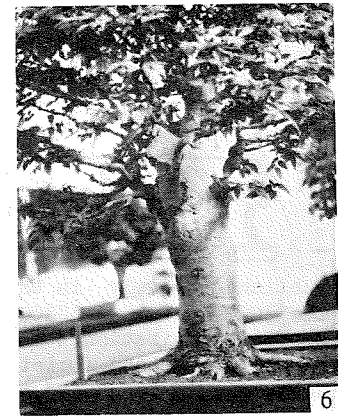
Trunk Line



4



5



6

Vol 5, No 9

September 1975



PBA Newsletter

Potomac

Bonsai

Association

September 1975 • PBA NEWSLETTER

The Cover

TRUNK LINE. Most often we tend to look at our bonsai in toto, seeing the whole composition as a single entity. But each tree is made up of component parts, and it is generally agreed that the trunk is what sets the overall stature of a tree. It is the trunk we look at when we discuss the element of age, real or estimated. The National Bonsai Collection is no different in that respect. This month's cover focuses on six patriarchs of the donated bonsai: (1) Red Pine (*Pinus densiflora* Sieb.); (2) Satsuki Azalea (*Rhododendron indicum* Sweet); (3) *Stewartia pseudocamellia* Maxim; (4) Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis japonica* Sieb.); (5) Kurume Azalea (*Rhododendron* sp.); and (6) Japanese Greybark Elm (*Zelkova serrata* Makino). (Photos by Newton)

Ideas, hints, suggestions about PBA and its activities? Call the Newsletter 703-256-3623

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
703-256-3623

In Baltimore-Annapolis, call
301-366-8844

ADVERTIZING RATES

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

letters

Dear Editor,

I noticed some incorrect statements in the August PBA Newsletter article, "The Narrow Edge," that should be corrected. (Aug. 75, pg 5 - Ed.) Almost all of the statements about the cambium were false or misleading.

The Bonsai Journal of Australia (if adapted from correctly) (it was - Ed.), is giving too much credit to the vascular cambium. It does not contain "all the life of a bonsai," and it does not "contain all the growing power of the tree," or the only power of making new bark.

Credit should also be given to the cortex and cork cambium, two living and cell dividing layers of bark not made by the vascular cambium. The cortex is a protective layer that all trees have. The cork cambium, however, does not live in all trees, but in those where it does, it can be a thin layer, as in the beech and Cherry. Or it can make a thick layer of

(to page 3)

Croton Hill Farms, Inc.

- more new pots

- wire - \$3.50 per pound, in 50-foot rolls, gauges 8 - 22

- and everything else for bonsai, as usual

We are open: call 301-472-2664

for an appointment

Think Winter - Now

by WALTER SCHMIDT
Laurel Bonsai Club

It is not too early to think about the coming winter season. While there is a lull in bonsai activity, we should find time for preparation to provide suitable winter storage for our trees.

Observations I have made over the last three winters (in Laurel, Md.) have proved that many so-called tender plants can withstand lower temperatures than generally assumed - provided that certain precautions are taken. It is not so much the cold temperatures that bonsai can succumb to, but cold winds that can kill even a hardy young tree. Thus, shelter for tender bonsai must be provided, mainly to keep cold drafts off. Any light, unheated room, be it home, garage, attic, or veranda, will do.

The following plants, generally considered tender, have overwintered in my unheated greenhouse during the last three winters and proved resistant to temperatures as low as 27° F: *Ardisia crenata*, *Ficus benjamina*, *Serissa foetida*, *Pittosporum tobira*, *Acacia farnesiana*, *Myrtus communis*, *Myrsine africana*, *Araucaria bidwellii*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Bougainvillea* sp., *Jacaranda* sp., and many varieties of *Geranium*.

For the hardy bonsai, I built a frame on the ground. The outside was of thick boards,, measuring 4' x 5' x 12" high and filled with quite small gravel (blue chips) and sand. The bonsai were set in this mixture up to the rims of the con-

tainers. A second layer was then added; it can be excelsior, oak leaves, or any other material that does not compact but permits roots to get air and moisture from rain and melting snow. Drainage and moisture retention were excellent. I had to water these bonsai during the winter.

I also had to keep in mind not to pack the trees into the box before the weather really got cold. A windbreak made of reed mats, or any other material, I found to be essential to protect them from the north winds. But no frost damage occurred on the many plants protected in this manner. I found the method simpler than a cold frame which is sunk in the ground and covered with window sash that has to be opened and closed at intervals.

Furthermore, it should be pointed out that some fruiting trees will not blossom if not exposed to frost at some time during the winter.

LETTERS...

(from page 2)

cork, as in the thick - barked or corky-barked Black Pines.

Trees also have no "circulation system" as stated in the article. This is why they have such a demand for water.

Thank you,

Brian Campbell

(Member, Washington Bonsai Club)

(You failed to quote your source or sources, Brian. Anyone else care to comment on either the original article or Brian's refutation? - Ed.)

Ginza THINGS JAPANESE

TANE S. YOSHIDA

will be pleased to serve

PBA members at her shop

- bonsai books

- bonsai stands

- bonsai pots

• oriental gifts •

- Japanese dolls
- kimonos
- new zori sox
- lacquer ware
- lacquer ware
- brushes
- happi coats
- jewelry
- parasols
- fans
- chinaware
- zori
- tabi

1006 20th Street, NW (near K Street)

Washington, D.C. 20036

telephone 202-331-7991

Jin Bleach Mixture

by TERRY DAVIS
Gainesville (FL) Bonsai Society
(Reprinted from FLORIDA BONSAI)

Sulfur-lime jin bleach is a concentrated form of a preparation often used as an insecticide. Technically, it is a solution of calcium polysulfide which in use breaks down to calcium carbonate (limestone), hydrogen sulfide, calcium sulfide and colloidal sulfur. Its value for application to deadwood far exceeds its "whitening" action. The hydrogen sulfide it releases is an excellent fumigant, the sulfur deposit it leaves is a good long-lasting fungicide, and the preparation overall acts to harden and seal deadwood. It prevents rot, cracking due to desiccation, and the hardened layer in itself is more resistant to insect and microbial attack.

The preparation is available commercially as Orthorix (use undiluted). Its preparation by an amateur is strongly inadvisable due to the copious evolution of highly toxic and foul-smelling gas, but if you are stuck, a half-pint lot can be prepared OUTDOORS without undue hazard. Under no circumstances should larger quantities be attempted without laboratory facilities.

Combine $4\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons of flowers of sulfur (drugstores usually have it) with $2\frac{1}{2}$ of lime (slaked or unslaked). Break up the lumps and mix thoroughly. Add the powder mixture slowly to $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint of simmering water in a quart container (NOT ALUMINUM). Continue simmering one hour, stirring well. Watch it carefully, as it

tends to boil over. Use a hot plate for this, as the gas evolved is flammable!

The sulfur-lime so obtained is a red-orange or green solution, depending on the amount of suspended and dissolved sulfur. If it settles out, shake it before using. Store the solution in a cool place out of strong light. It is strongly alkaline and should not be splashed on soil, leaves, or people. A 1-to-5 dilution may be used as a fungicide for smuts and mildew, and as an insecticide.

Sulfur-lime, as mentioned before, evolves hydrogen sulfide (rotten egg gas) during its preparation and in use. This is more than a foul-smelling gas: you can quickly become used to the stench and so unknowingly receive a toxic dose. USE IT ONLY OUTDOORS.

Wood to be treated should be scraped clean and, if green, allowed to cure for a year, as it is undesirable to seal sap-wood within deadwood. Apply the bleach

(to page 7)

remember HIM/HER

with a gift of

BONSAI JEWELRY

cufflinks
earrings \$4.95 - \$8.95
tie tack
pin



ALL PROCEEDS TO PBA

contact JIM NEWTON
Oxford 5-9662 (during the day)
256-3623 (evenings and weekends)

Tale Of An Ilex

by JOHN HREHA
Brookside Gardens Bonsai

A question that inevitably arises when performing before audiences of people who know little about bonsai is: how hard can a plant be pruned? After answering the query with information about various species, I tell the tale of an Ilex.

Five years ago, while scouring the dark corners of a nursery, I came across an

Ilex crenata helleri that stood 40 inches tall. The trunk measured $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and the tree had nice surface roots. The top was immediately pruned to 22 inches and the rootball examined. After raking through two different layers of burlap, the roots were pruned and the tree planted in the ground.


In the spring I pruned top and bottom, and attempted some styling. With four almost perpendicular trunks, the tree presented quite a challenge. Down came the height to 17 inches. Off came one trunk, then another, and finally the third one. Since a *helleri* buds easily on old wood, there was no problem in securing lower branches, but by no stretch of anyone's imagination could it be called a bonsai.

In 1972 the height was further reduced to 14 inches. The roots were quite shallow, so it was placed in a training pot, and in late fall I buried the tree, pot and all, in the ground. The chosen location was beneath a large Virginia Pine which I figured would provide protection from the winter sun.

However, later in the winter, the Pine took over the pruning job from me. A freezing rain coated that Pine and bent a lower branch to the ground, right on top of the *helleri*, snapping it off 5 inches above the rim of the pot. Now the pruning was complete; one twig with five leaves remained.

Would the *Ilex* live?

The following spring I examined it ev-
(to page 6)



BONSAI
INFORMATION
GUILD, INC.

"Your need is our service."


Annealed copper wire 10' coils
#8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22
individually priced
PACKAGE SPECIAL
10' coils of all 8 gauges \$5.88

NEW!

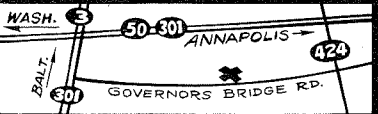
BONSAI CREATION AND DESIGN
USING PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES
by William N. Valavanis
40 pages \$3.95

Post Office Box 6140 Shirlington Station
Arlington, Virginia 22206
703-256-3384 — Member Bonsai Artists League —

... think **BIG**



Rt. 424 2 GOVERNORS BRIDGE RD.
DAVIDSONVILLE, MD.



8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
seven days a week
Phone (301) 798-0231

Dwarf Rhododendrons Japanese Maples, all sizes and varieties


Dwarf Pomegranate Cotoneasters Secondary Planting Materials

Dwarf Conifers Azaleas 13 varieties of Junipers

We now have seedling Bristlecone Pine, Small Pots & Bonsai Dishes

Japanese Black Pine for growing on - for Bonsai

for
membership
information
in the



**American
Bonsai
Society**

write: _____

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

Tree of the Month

by CLIFF POTTBERG
Baltimore Bonsai Club

The whole Olive family deserves consideration as bonsai. Almost every cultivated genus is potentially very useful in bonsai, easy to train and grow.

Olive itself, in general, and the *Olea europaea* in particular, are fine bonsai materials and will be discussed separately in a later article. So will Lilac. Most of the 30 or so species of Lilac in the world are in cultivation in this country and are becoming obtainable as gardeners discover the potential of the *Syringa*. Hybridizing work is proceeding rapidly in this generally fragrant genus.

Many other genera in the *Oleaceae* family have been used to make fine bonsai. *Osmanthus*, *Forsythia*, and *Jasminum* are well known. All have representatives that are hardy here and easy to grow. Other members of the family are available and being worked with: *Chionanthus* and *Fon-tanesia*, and even *Fraxinus* (Ash). Remember, each of these is a different genus with several species representing it. Often many are useful to us.

Ilex...

(from page 5)

ery day, anxiously looking for signs of new growth. The lone twig budded! One by one, new buds appeared on the trunk. Not having the nerve to do anything to the tree in its pitiful condition, I left it alone until the next year, except for carving out the trunk damage in early autumn.

Last spring I did some snipping on the new twigs, wired a branch, and repotted it. A number of dead surface roots were removed, which increased the height to eight inches.

Some day my little *Ilex* may deserve a bonsai pot, and if it is ever worthy to be selected for the annual PBA Show, I'll be tempted to ask that its identification card read:

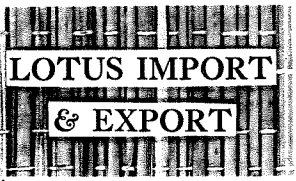
"I am an *Ilex*; I was once 40 inches tall!"

Olive Family

The most intriguing fact about the Olive family is which plants are not being used, rather than which are. Worlds of opportunity exist for anyone willing to research a little. Among the plants of *Oleaceae*, discovery of a totally new, heretofore unused but excellent bonsai material is probable. Within the genera now being used for bonsai are many species unused but deserving in potential. And there are so many genera still to be explored. Consider: *Parasyringa*, which looks like a *Ligustrum*, with dark green leathery leaves and small flowers in numerous graceful panicles. Or *Phillyrea*, with several interesting species, most of which have small glossy dark green leaves and fragrant flowers, and resembling *Quercus Ilex*.

The list is long. There are *Abellio-phyllum*, whose species, *distichum*, seems a natural for bonsai; so does *Osmarea*, a

(to page 7)



**LOTUS IMPORT
& EXPORT**

PARKINGTON SHOPPING CENTER
4210 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22203 USA

CHRIS
and
VERA
YIP

- jewelry
- jade
- silk
- chinaware
- antiques
- gift items
- other orientalia

BONSAI POTS • TRAYS • STANDS

10% discount to
PBA and affiliated club members

PBA Affiliate Club


9	Columbia - Styling Workshop; bring your own materials to work on; NOTE: meeting again to be held at Phelps Luck Community Center, Phelps Luck Dr.
12	Annapolis - Beginners Workshop; bring your own trees to work on; 6:30 p.m.
13	Northern Virginia - Slides and Discussion of Basic Bonsai Styles, plus slides of show trees at IBC '75 in Miami, by John Hinds, PBA Ed VP
18	Laurel - Lecture and Slides on Basic Bonsai Styles by John Hinds, PBA Ed VP; at City Hall, C St., Laurel; 7:30 p.m.
19	Brookside - Beginners Workshop; bring your own trees; some stock available for those without materials
21	Baltimore - Styling Workshop and Potting of Conifers; reinstating Tree-of-Month talk - this month on Pomegranate by Helen Lauenstein (NOTE: meeting date changed back to Sundays, 3 p.m.)
26	Forest Glade - Workshop on Boxwoods and Holly; details by calling 860-0733
28	Kiyomizu - Beginners Workshop, directed by John Hinds; bring your own trees, or stock will be available (San Jose Juniper) at about \$4.50
28	Washington - Short Bonsai Clinic; Overview and Philosophy of Bonsai by Cliff Pottberg; Indoor Bonsai by Richard Meszler; meeting in McGovern Room, Sidwell Friends School, 3825 Wisconsin Ave, NW; 2 p.m.

EPSOM SALTS FOR SOIL

Soil in the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia areas is deficient in magnesium. One remedy for this deficiency is to sprinkle a small amount of Epsom salts monthly during growing season on the surface of the soil and water it in.

Epsom is a form of the chemical magnesium sulfate, and is a readily available source of magnesium. Epsom salts is commonly available at drug stores.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



IMPORTERS OF ORIENTAL ARTS AND GIFTS

We have • bonsai pots • kenzans
• ikebana vases • mini garden sets
• flower pot hanger

specially priced only \$1.49 each

all PBA members 10% discount

FREE STATE MALL

15568 ANNAPOLIS ROAD
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20715
(301) 464-2208

Activity Schedule

how about that...

Adding a tablespoon of vinegar to one gallon of water will help reduce excess salts and alkali in bonsai soil balls.

OLIVE...

(from page 6)

bi-generic hybrid with superb apparent characteristics. *Siphonosmanthus* and *Forestiera* deserve trying as well.

So, if you ever feel the need to experiment with a totally new plant for bonsai, consider *Oleaceae*. Here you can pioneer, even a beginner in horticulture or bonsai. The plants are waiting.

JIN...

(from page 4)

in the shade with a brush. The longer it sits in the shade the deeper it will penetrate. Additional applications and time to soak in will be necessary for bulky deadwood. When it is judged to have penetrated deeply enough, put it out in the full sun. The sickening green will turn to a white coating of colloidal sulfur -- don't wash it off: the sulfur is part of the bargain. The treatment may be repeated several times a year as necessary. The smell fading in a day or so.

SATSUKI AZALEA

"Beni Kirishima" (2 yr) to first 100 customers during our

LE

Autum Sale

30 to 50% off our regular low plant prices

partial listing

of BONSAI BARGAINS

	<u>were</u>	<u>now</u>
JUNIPER		
ni, lg, in 10 x 10 training flat	12.50	8.00
ni, lg, in 2 gal container	7.50	5.00
mbens nana, 4 yrs bedded	4.00	2.00

CYPRESS

ecyparis obtusa torulosa, 1 gal, 4 yrs	4.00	2.00
Chamaecyparis pisifera cyano viridis, bedded	10.00	6.00
i dwarf, Chamaecyparis obtusa nana gracilis, 1 gal, 4 yrs	4.00	2.00

PODOCARPUS

is, 2 yrs, dwarf, 4 x 4 pot, indoor-outdoor, deep green, short needles	1.50	1.00
--	------	------

BOXWOOD

ville, Buxus microphylla compacta nana, 4 x 4 pot	2.50	1.50
---	------	------

MAPLE

ese, 4 yrs bedded, 8" to 24"	4.00	2.00
------------------------------	------	------

AZALEA

ki, 12 yrs, 10 x 10 flat	6.00	4.00
ki, 12 yrs, 5 x 7 flat	4.50	2.00

TOOLS

Masakuni, KVN, and American-made

POTS

Imported stoneware, many sizes and shapes

(our modest prices include bottom screen and soil)

ALSO -- MANY UNUSUAL HANDMADE CERAMIC GIFT ITEMS

Dawn to Dark most weekends BUT PLEASE do phone ahead
5 to 10 p.m. most evenings

THE BONSAI

CLUB DELIVERIES ARRANGED WHEN POSSIBLE
Largo, Md. - near Capitol Center (301) 249-5687