

Professional Profile Cochel Bonsai Studio

Arthur R. Cochel is a lithographer by profession, a bonsai grower by avocation. The former he likes, the latter he loves.

A longtime member of the Brookside Gardens Bonsai group, Art is a bonsai missionary. "I've always liked plants," he will tell you. "When I discovered bonsai several years ago, I knew I'd found the work I really want to do. Economics keeps me from going into bonsai fulltime. So I'm doing the next best thing."

That next best thing started as a modest investment in pre-bonsai stock of several varieties. Azaleas and Junipers are favorites, although Cypress and Pine also are in evidence.

"My idea," he explains, "is not to try and peddle finished bonsai. I initially shape and prune trees with bonsai potential. Offering a tree that's had its start toward becoming a bonsai will motivate the beginner who doesn't know how to begin with raw stock."

The idea works, for Art's bonsai business, operated from his Largo, Md. home, is flourishing. Bedded trees fill about 2/3 of his rear yard, and he just recently converted his garage into the first one-stop-shop bonsai studio in the Washington metropolitan area.

Here customers can find everything needed for creating bonsai from stock to pot. Even soil and bottom screen goes with each pot sold. Spirited discussion about miniaturizing trees is free. His specialty remains pre-bonsai that have been initially styled.

The Cochel Bonsai Studio is open most evenings and every weekend --- by appointment only. Call ahead at 301-249-5687.



(Photos by Newton)

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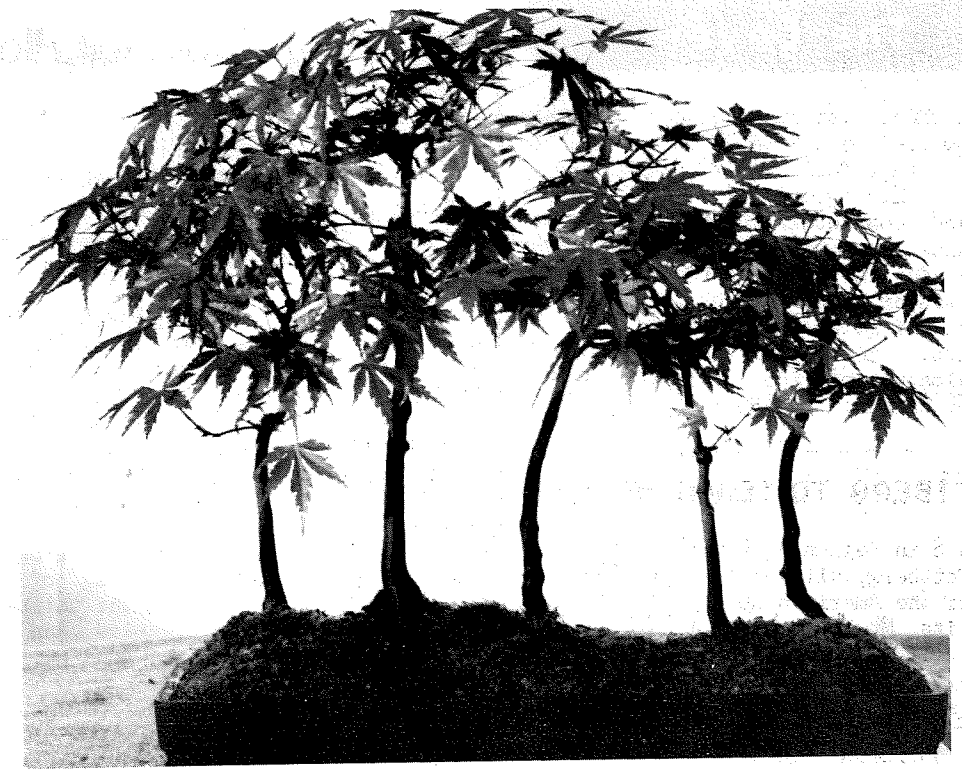
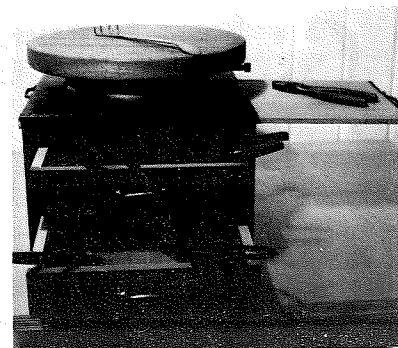
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WELL-STOCKED is the key description of Cochel Bonsai, as these photos show. At top right, looking through Art's indoor work area, shelves contain a variety of hard materials: pots, ceramic goods, and tools. A divided tray in primitive finish rests on one shelf, below left. A 2-drawer turntable, below right, with pull-out shelf, is new to this area. The tools are also available.



Symposium Schedule... page 4

Vol 5, No 10

October 1975



PBA Newsletter

Potomac

Bonsai

Association

The Cover

MAPLE GROVE, started almost 20 years ago from seed by a NOVABONSOC member, reminds us that fall colors soon will be with us. This grove will don scarlet dress and completely change its outward appearance preparatory to putting away gayness for the bare somberness of the coming winter season. Each season can be a source of great satisfaction for the bonsaist. Trees such as this group of Acer palmatum provide a diverse aspect in every season. (Photo by Suniewick)

POTTBERG TO TEACH AT AHS

A class in Beginning Bonsai, taught by Cliff Pottberg, will begin under the auspices of the American Horticultural Society at its Mt Vernon, Va. location. The course will last for 10 weeks, and begins Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m. to Noon. For registration, call 703-768-5700.

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
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Washington, D.C. 20018

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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)

Enriching Poor Soil Plots

by JIM NEWTON

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

Bonsaists who want trunks of selected trees to fatten rapidly plant them in the ground. This is standard bonsai technique.

But PBAers may not be doing their trees a big favor by this method, if they live in housing areas of relatively recent development. The reason: many garden plots have only an inch or so of good top soil overlaying heavy clay or hardpan. This is quite often the case where developers had to grade lots to comply with drainage regulations.

Thus, trees placed into the ground in such condition may be deprived of vital nutrients needed to speed the thickening process. Tilling in organics can help produce a normal layer of good soil, but that takes time.

There is a quicker cure for such poor soil conditions. Dig a series of post-holes in the area to be used. Dig the holes between tree positions or where you plan to put the trees next season. Use regular two-bladed, stab-type digger, or, easier on the back and arms, an auger. Make the holes a foot or more deep and space them about two feet apart. Save the dug soil.

Now begin filling the holes with what now is called organics, but used to be called garbage. Use kitchen wastes or anything else that is organic. This can include fish debris, meat scraps, coffee grounds, and egg shells. If available, dehydrated cow manure can be added as well.

The last layer should be shredded tree leaves, followed by the soil taken from the holes. Do not tamp, for at least some of the filling material should be soft and moist. When this dries and rots the pile will shrink and level itself.

Bacterial action will now produce very fine fertilizer. And by digging the holes down beyond the topsoil layer you are injecting bacteria colonies deep into the clay or hardpan where they will start the

(next page)

Nat'l Collection Album - \$55

PBA has managed to obtain a limited number of the Kodansha Ltd edition of the USA BICENTENNIAL BONSAI ALBUM for resale to Association members at a greatly reduced price. This is the album on display at the BCI Convention in Miami for which orders were being taken at \$80.

The special PBA price will be \$55 each, with an option to obtain a second limited supply if the demand is great enough.

PBA Founding Members

For newer members of the PBA family, a listing of the Founding Members is cited below. These are the people who were in the initial group meeting in April and May 1971. Those followed by * are no longer active.

Mrs. Louise Branstead
Ms Rita Connors *
William Craig
James Early
Mr & Mrs John Everson *
Ms Josephine Finneyfrock
Ms Phyllis Hendon *
Ms Molly Hersh
John Hreha
Ulric O Hutton *
Mr & Mrs Leo Marcus
James R. Newton
Mr & Mrs James Oliver
Ms Charlene Olsson *
Mrs Bert Rand
Mr & Mrs Robert Roland
Mrs W. E. Solf
Mrs Charles Warren

The album is 14½" x 10½", cloth-covered and in a cloth-covered carrying case. It contains 59 full-color plates of the 53 trees and 6 suiseki presented to the U.S. by the Nippon Bonsai Association and the Government of Japan in honor of America's 200th Birthday. These are the National Arboretum Bonsai Collection which will be officially dedicated during our hosting of BCI '76 next July.

Tree identifications appear in English, along with the age and height of each tree.

Members of PBA affiliate clubs may order this magnificent album through John Hinds, PBA Educational VP. His number is 301-292-2914.

ENRICHING...


(from preceding page)

miraculous transformation of otherwise worthless dirt into richer, tastier (for the trees) soil.

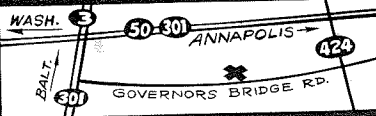
Rainfall will help distribute the nutrients from one hole to the next and outward in all other directions. Additional spreading action can take place if you manually or mechanically till the plot.

Except where the topsoil is so thin as to be almost totally useless, one such posthole composting usually does the job.

So, the thickening of bonsai trunks can be speeded by insuring the most fertile soil possible under your specific conditions. Your trees will thank you, and, of course, so will any other plants you might like to use this system for.



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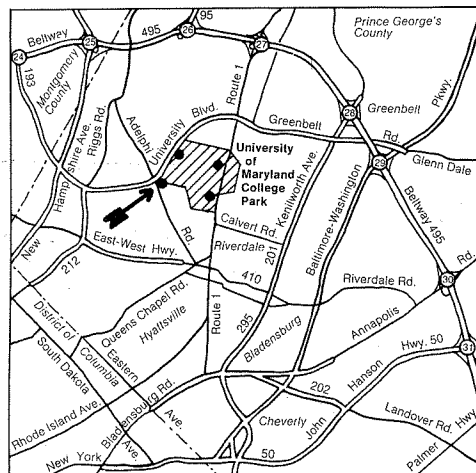
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Symposium Has Something For Everyone

Preparations for the First PBA Fall Symposium are in full swing, according to the event's Chairperson, Bill Merritt. The innovative event will be held in the Center for Adult Education, University College, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. The site is easily accessible from the Capital Beltway (see map). It is located on the western edge of the College Park campus at the intersection



● = Main Entrances
○ = Beltway interchanges

From Washington:
Drive out Rhode Island Ave. to Route 1. Drive North on Route 1 to College Park. Enter the University by making a left turn off Route 1 at the University's South Gate.

From Baltimore:
Take 95 or the B/W Pkwy to 495, the Beltway. Take Beltway exit 27, following Route 1 to the University's North Gate, a right turn off of Route 1.

of Adelphi Rd., University Blvd. (Md Rte 193), and Campus Dr. From the Beltway (I-495), take either Exit 27 South to US Rte 1 and University Blvd., or, from the other direction, take Exit 24 South (this is University Blvd.).

A full line-up of activities and personalities will provide a uniquely wide-range of learning and experience for beginner and advanced bonsaiist alike. The program is as follows:

- a.m.**
- 8:00-9:00 Registration - advance registration for PBA affiliate members, \$5; at the door for PBA members and non-members, \$7.50; advance should be paid NOW to your club's designated person (check your club president)
- 9:00-10:00 Question and Answer Panel - chaired by Bill Merritt, with panelists: Keith Scott (Ohio), Marion Gyllenswan (NY), Chase Rosade (Pa), Pete Abresch (Annapolis), Cliff Pottberg (Baltimore), John Hreha (Brookside) and Jim Newton (Northern Va). Audience questions invited, on any bonsai subject.
- 10:00-11:00 Insect Identification and Control, program arranged by Bob Roland, Northern Va.; specific guests to be announced.
- 11:00-Noon Demonstration of Cascade Planting by Keith Scott
- p.m.**
- Noon-1:30 Lunch - eat on site in well-stocked, reasonably-priced cafeteria
- 1:30-3:30 Workshops - two sections, one Beginners, one Advanced; each section will be divided into two 50-minute sessions, at the (next page)

FLIPSE JOINS BIG

Effective Sept. 18, David E. Flipse, a member of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society, joined BIG (the Bonsai Information Guild, Inc.) as a full partner. The firm's ad appears on page 6.

SYMPOSIUM... (from preceding page)

end of which audiences will switch to the other, so that all will hear both topics:

Beginners - 1st Session - soils potting, and fertilizing by Jim Newton; 2nd Session - wiring and shaping by John Hreha

Advanced - 1st Session - rock planting techniques by Marion Gyllenswan; 2nd Session - special styling techniques by Cliff Pottberg

- 3:30-5:30 Development of Deciduous Material by Chase Rosade
- 5:30 Symposium close

A bazaar will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tools, pots, some materials will be for sale.

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Fifteen PBAers brought some 300 pieces of material for sale at the PBA Auction held Sept. 20 at Behnke's Nursery. These materials netted \$1,097.25, of which the PBA portion amounted to \$413.72.

Displaying a wide range of species, the stock, cuttings, pre- and in-training bonsai sold at prices ranging from 50¢ to \$50.

Dave Flipse and Jim Newton, both of the Northern Virginia club, demonstrated at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., respectively. Each styled a San Jose Juniper, one wind-swept and the other semi-cascade.

John Hinds, auction chairman, expressed his thanks to all those PBA members who supported the organization with donations and consignment items. Money realized will go to partially subsidize the Nov. 8 First PBA Bonsai Symposium (see story and schedule on page 4).

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Tree of the Month

by JIM NEWTON

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

Nandina domestica as bonsai is not much in evidence in the Washington metropolitan area. It's too bad this is so, for the plant has a definite charm and several characteristics that make it quite suitable.

Reed-like unbranching stems give rise to the common name of Heavenly Bamboo. It is most noticeable in winter when its scarlet foliage splashes color in the otherwise generally drab "off season." In spring, new growth is delicately tinted light red, but this changes to a soft green as it develops.

Terminal white flowers, appearing in June, are not very conspicuous, but do make some little show against the darker green foliage. Leaves generally remain evergreen when given some protection, and trunks are usually winter hardy in this area down to about zero. Even if severe winter conditions cause die-back, the Nandina will put up new growth in the spring.

Relatively slow-growing, it does best in a lightly shaded location or in an eastern exposure, but will grow in full sun. An early spring feeding is desirable, with a second a month or so later. Thereafter feed about twice a month, except in mid-summer, with a mild liquid fertilizer.

Nandina likes a 60/40 soil-sand mix and plenty of water. Keep the soil moist, making sure it receives plenty of moisture when the flowers are opening. Soil mix should be slightly on the acid side, which can be accomplished by adding a small amount of oak leaf compost or peat moss. Spring potting is recommended.

One apparent drawback to Nandina as bonsai is the lack of foliage along the reed-like trunk. This can be overcome by simply removing the shell-like husks that

how about that...

Ordinary lumber and plywood are not recommended for planter boxes because these materials rapidly rot, lose their shape, are difficult to make waterproof, and need frequent replacement.

Heavenly Bamboo

enclose buds along the trunk. Remove by pulling off, preferably in late summer or early fall, which permits the leaf buds to develop. Leaf size also can be reduced quite dramatically by stripping the foliage completely about the end of June. Replacement leaves will be very small. All shaping of the Heavenly Bamboo must be accomplished by pruning; the nature of this tree precludes use of wiring.

Nandina may become a little leggy after several years. Cutting back heavily will cause new growth, as noted earlier, although it also will destroy the original bonsai form, and you will have to start over again with the new growth as a basic beginning. Also, branch pieces root quite easily should new or additional plants be desired. Fruit are long-lasting berries, which birds usually pass by.

Nandina is notably free from insect and disease problems, a clinching argument for choosing a Heavenly Bamboo for the next addition to your bonsai collection.



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PBA Affiliate Club

Activity Schedule

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10 | Annapolis - Slides and Discussion of Basic Bonsai Styles, by John Hinds, PBA Ed VP, plus slides of Show at IBC '75 in Miami |
| 11 | Northern Virginia - General Workshop; bring any trees for advice, help in any aspect of bonsai; members encouraged to wear nametags |
| 14 | Columbia - Root-Over-Rock Demonstration by Dan Turner; meeting again held at the Phelps Luck Community Center, Phelps Luck Dr. |
| 16 | Laurel - Workshop; trees available for shaping, \$5; pots, other accessories also available at reasonable cost; City Hall, 7:30 p.m. |
| 17 | Brookside - Talk on Indoor Bonsai by Jim Newton, NOVABONSOC, with samples to illustrate; also Problem Tree Clinic; bring trees you want advice on |
| 18-19 | Baltimore - Dr. David Andrews of New York - talk on advanced bonsai styling techniques on 18th; next day, Styling Workshop, fee \$5; make reservations by calling 366-8844 |
| 24 | Forest Glade - Lecture and Slides of Basic Bonsai Styles by John Hinds, PBA Ed VP (rescheduled from last month) |
| 25 | Washington - Winter Care & Styling Advice Workshop at Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave, NW, just south of Chevy Chase Circle, at 2 p.m. |
| 26 | Baltimore - Annual Fall Show, Cylburn Park, 1 - 5 p.m.; volunteers needed to help, call Helen Lauenstein, 256-5612, or Tory Pottberg, 366-8844 |
| 26 | Kiyomizu - Beginners Workshop, Part 2, to do bottom of trees styled last month; bring your trees to work on |

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