



MARYLAND BONSAI SUPPLIER is Croton Hill Farms. Part of 5,000+ stock materials sit in holding area beneath stately Elms (photo 1); the greenhouse (2) nestles between garage and old stables, containing, among other plants, a magnificent old Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichicum*) in a bunjin style (3); while outside on a rail retaining wall (4), against the clutter of heavily forested hillside, rest several bonsai, including a California Juniper (*Juniperus californica*) at left. The varieties to be found make every turn a new discovery. (Photos by Newton)

Story on page 4



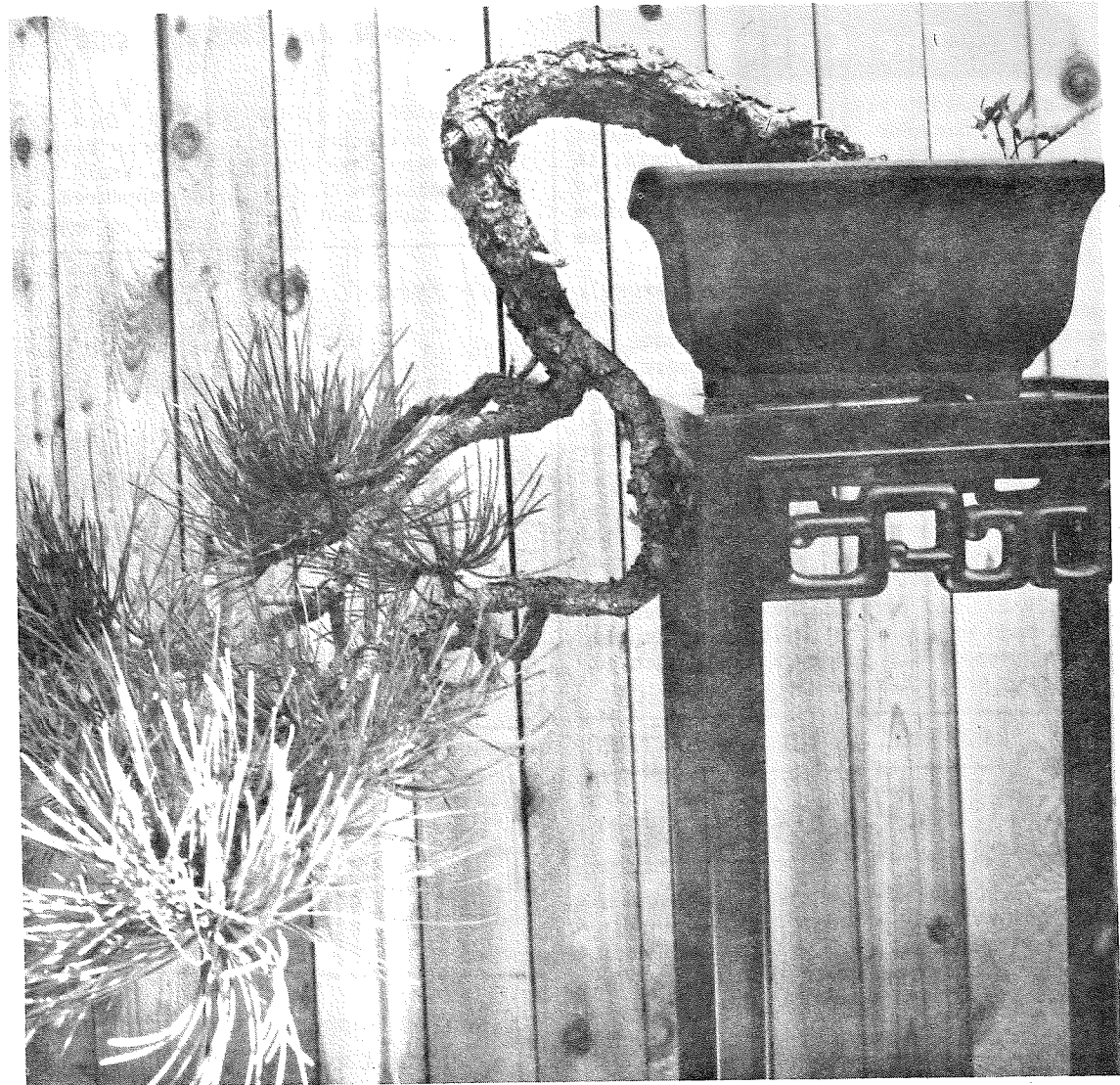
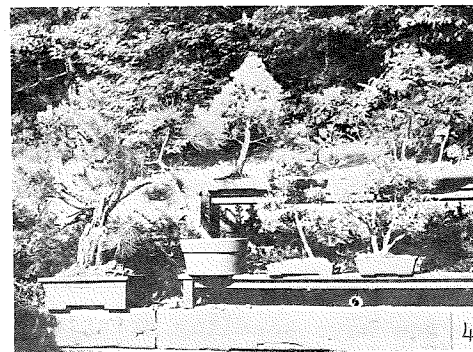
TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Potomac Bonsai Association

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



Ryo Heiga Matsu

Volume 5, Number 11 November 1975



PBA Newsletter

Potomac

Bonsai

Association

The Cover

During their visit to Washington, the Japanese Emperor and Empress viewed at least one American bonsai. Fittingly, it was a Pine, symbol of longevity, that was made available to the Smithsonian Castle to grace the office of Dr. Ripley, the Institute's Secretary.

The Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), shown on this month's cover in profile against the board fence of its home, is the property of Jim Newton, Northern Virginia Bonsai Society. In honor of the unique occasion, Jim has named the venerable cascade Ryo Heiga Matsu, "Emperor and Empress Pine."

Arranged through Dennis Cory Interiors, Inc., in charge of decor for the Imperial visit, the Ponderosa was delivered and in place on Oct. 3. Mr. Cory's thank-you note said in part: "The rare tree was very much enjoyed by the beaming Emperor and Empress. Its presence was much admired by the other guests as well."

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

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Washington, D.C. 20018

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301-366-8844

ADVERTIZING RATES

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

Emperor and Empress Pine

Estimated age of the tree is 75 - 100. It is a collected Pine, formerly belonging to Mary Case of New York, sold thru Yuji Yoshimura to Jim. It appeared in the PBA Show last April. (Photo by Newton)

don't forget...

Fall Symposium

Nov. 8

PBA Founding Members

Inadvertently left off last month's list of Founding Members were the following two (our apologies - Ed.)

Mrs. Carl Lamanna
Clifton Pottberg



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November 1975 • PBA NEWSLETTER

Don't Bug Me!

(This is the first in a 5-part series on measures that can be taken to help keep pests away from bonsai growing areas without resorting to dangerous insecticides. The series is based in part on a Johnny Horizon Program Information Sheet (No. 8) published by the Interior Dept in January 1975 - Ed.)

INTERPLANTING

Bonsai are subject to attack by insect pests whenever and wherever they are kept out of doors. Trees in containers, off the ground, may have a slight edge in avoiding some insect encroachment, even if only because they are more closely watched than those in the ground.

Yet, our ancestors raised bountiful ground-grown plants without recourse to the wide range of pesticide chemicals we now have access to. We could take a lesson from our forefathers and, instead of running to the nearest garden shop for liquid and dry insect killers, aid Mother Nature by using some of her natural resources.

Border planting and interplanting with different plants in specific combinations can help eliminate many varieties of insect pests. The following suggestions, relating to ground areas in which you are growing trees to thicken or enlarge into more finished bonsai, are offered:

- Marigolds will rid the soil of nematodes when grown where you plan to put a tree for a season or so of growing. The factor that kills the nematode worms is produced slowly in the roots of the Marigolds and gradually released into the soil, so the good effect of interplanting

may not show the first year.

- Nasturtiums deter aphids. Grow them between rows where trees are planted and around fruit trees.
- Chives keep Japanese Beetles at a distance from vine-plants bonsai that are being ground-trained.
- Onions deter most pests.
- Mint discourages ants. Plant alongside broadleaf trees.

(to page 6)

- Superthrive
- Q-Rock
- Potting Soil
- Copper Wire

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- Bottom Screen
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- Plants
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PBA NEWSLETTER • November 1975

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

His mother's Maryland birthplace name, the hill below which the house sits, and the rolling farmland northeast of Baltimore were combined to explain the name Croton Hill Farms, Inc. The founder is Clifton Pottberg, PBA Founding Member, PBA Past-President, and current President of the Baltimore Bonsai Club. His byline appears frequently on educational material in the PBA Newsletter.

Photos on page 8

Croton Hill Farms is the one-stop-shop bonsai firm in the Baltimore area. Services and materials available read like a bonsai catalog:

- Lectures & demonstrations
- Collecting trips
- Soil components
- Custom styling
- Finished trees
- Custom propagation
- Containers
- Photography
- Stock plants
- Any other facet of the bonsai art.
- Workshops
- Tools
- Classes
- Stands
- Boarding
- Wire
- Sieves
- Repotting
- Advice

For all these, call Croton Hill Farms at 301-472-2664. Hours are flexible, and service is rapid.

After study as a chemistry major at Columbia University, Cliff worked briefly for a paint company. A peek at the Sunset book, "BONSAI," sparked his interest in this art. His first attempt was a Norway Maple, dug in July, tap root snapped off, the tree cramed into a holeless tin can - which lived anyway, he exclaimed.

Hooked, Cliff applied for work at the Pielke Landscaping Co., where he became a landscape designer, later sales manager. While so engaged, he undertook a self-teaching program in horticulture and botany, consuming all the texts he could find on these subjects as well as bonsai.

SMITH ELECTED IN LAUREL

Tom Smith, of Savage, Md., was elected President of the Laurel Area Bonsai Club at their regular meeting on October 16. Other officers assuming positions are Mrs. Robert A. Newkirk, Laurel - Secretary, and Mrs. Joseph Klein, Harmons, Treasurer.

Croton Hill Farms, Inc.

When landscaping began to cut into bonsai efforts Cliff decided to take up the latter full time.

Croton Hill Farms was established in early 1971, and became a full time operation in late 1972. Business is growing, Cliff reports. Currently Croton Hill Farms stock includes 5,000 or so varieties of plants (not all for sale), and more than 200 different styles of bonsai containers. What he doesn't have on hand he'll order.

Future plans include starting a wholesale nursery on family land in Florida near Tampa. This venture will supply Croton Hill Farms with hard-to-get materials. In time, bonsaiists across the country will benefit.

Cliff married the former Victoria Moore of Arlington, Va. in 1973. Together they are making Croton Hill Farms a name in the American Bonsai Scene.

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— AT THE PBA SYMPOSIUM —

Cliff Pottberg will be bringing a multitude of Croton Hill Farms stock, pre-bonsai, and supplies for bonsai

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Bertha's Bonsai (Judy Johnson) 301-657-4644
Boarding; finished bonsai; general refurbishing; house calls; pre-finished bonsai; private instruction.

Bittersweet Hill Nurseries (Hildreth K. Morton) 301-798-0231
Route 424 & Governor's Bridge Road, Davidsonville, Md. 21035
Finished bonsai; ground covers; nursery stock; pots; publications; secondary planting materials.

Bonsai Information Guild(BIG) (Jim Newton, Dave Flipse, John Hreha)
703-256-3384; 703-281-4524; 301-253-4167; Box 6140 Shirlington Sta.
Arlington, Virginia 22206

Boarding; classes; copper wire; custom styling; finished bonsai; grooming; house calls; indoor bonsai instruction; lecture-demonstrations; pots and suiban; private instruction; publications; refurbishing; research; sharp sand; soil sieves; repotting; tools; turntables; watering cans.

Campbell, Brian 202-363-7492, 5530 Broad Branch Rd., Wash., D. C.
Finished bonsai; mame bonsai; nursery stock; pots; pre-finished bonsai; private instruction.

Cochel Bonsai Studio(Arthur Cochel) 301-249-5687, by appointment only. Four miles east of Beltway (495) Exit #33, Largo, Maryland.
Finished bonsai; nursery stock; oriental ceramics; pots; pre-finished bonsai; tools.

Croton Hill Farms (Clifton Pottberg) 301-472-2664; 301-366-8844
4412 Colmar, Baltimore, Maryland 21211.
Boarding; bonsai photography service; bonsai training and repotting; classes; collected plants; collecting trips; copper wire; custom propagation; fertilizers and other horticultural supplies; finished bonsai; house calls; lining out stock; mixed soils and components; moss; nursery and training pots; nursery stock; pots; pre-finished bonsai; private instruction; publications; research; rocks for viewing stones, stands or rock plantings; sieving screen; stands; suiban; superthrive; tools; turntables; workshops, lectures and demonstrations.

Gears, Mary Jean 301-340-2574
Boarding, finished bonsai; general refurbishing; house calls.

(Please see reverse side)

Hornbeam House (Milton Kidd) 301-972-8458
Diagnosis; nursery stock (limited); pre-finished bonsai (limited); private instruction (limited).

Lamana, Mrs. Carl (Ruth) 703-525-8669
House calls (Northern Virginia only); pre-finished bonsai; private instruction.

Lauenstein, Helen 301-256-5612
Nursery stock; plants for indoor bonsai; pre-finished bonsai.

Liberty Nursery (David Oschrein) 301-655-4600
8001 Liberty Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21207
Nursery stock; pots; publications.

Meszler, Richard 301-833-9559
Boarding; finished bonsai; pre-finished bonsai; private instruction.

Roland, Robert 703-273-1360
Boarding; finished bonsai.

Shields, Albina M. 301-384-6234
Handmade bonsai pots.

Warren, Dorothy 301-598-5353
2902 Aquarius Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906
Finished bonsai; pre-finished bonsai; private instruction; styling sessions (individual).

Yuki-no Bonsai (Joyce Pelletier) 301-262-8578
Boarding; classes; finished bonsai; grooming; pre-finished bonsai; private instruction; repotting.

Tree of the Month

by HELEN LAUENSTEIN
Baltimore Bonsai Club

Almost everyone is familiar with the fruit of the Pomegranate, Punica granatum L. It is in season now, and should be in local supermarkets.

My first memory of this fruit goes back to the Greek myth that blames winter's replacement of summer on the taste of the Pomegranate fruit. Persephone, daughter of the Greek Goddess of Agriculture, was taken off to the Underworld by Pluto. Told she could eat nothing, she nevertheless did eat a few Pomegranate seeds. For each one she ate she had to stay one month each year in the Underworld; these are the winter months.

There are many other stories. The fruit has long been a symbol of fertility in mythology. The Greeks believed it came from the blood of Dionipius, God of Life Force and Energy. Famous kings cultivated the Pomegranate. King Solomon had an or-

Pomegranate

chard, said to have grown in the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

The Punica granatum L. is a small tree, about 10 - 20 ft. tall, with bright green opposite leaves and orange-red flowers. The fruit, about the size of an orange, has a leathery skin. The flesh is red with a pleasantly acid taste and many seeds. These are used in salads and eaten plain from the fruit.

Grenadine, a sirup used in cooking and for flavoring some alcoholic drinks, is made from Pomegranate juices and roots, and the fruit is used in medicine.

The Japanese call the tree Zakuro. Its botanical name comes from the early Roman malum punicum, meaning Apple of Carthage, and partly from malum granatum, meaning Apple of Many Seeds. The Pomegranate is indigenous to Persia, but has been grown all along the Mediterranean where a mild climate prevails. Thus, since the middle of the 18th Century, when it was introduced into this country, it has been most successfully grown in California and some Gulf states.

Pomegranate blossoms were in great vogue in Japan about 50 years ago, and bonsai were made from garden varieties. Today they are not so popular, and those remaining are relics of those days.

These lovely trees are beguiling. As subjects for bonsai they are fascinating, showing age very early and taking unusual forms. They also can be styled in many of the standard bonsai shapes. The bark is rough and old-looking, forming a hard trunk even the first season. Leaves dwarf satisfactorily, and in the dwarf varieties may even blossom the first year.

Cultivation of the Pomegranate as a bonsai is not difficult if a few precautions are taken. Remember, the tree is originally from a mild climate so must not be subjected to freezes or drying winds. It may be kept outdoors in summer in full sun, but must be kept evenly moist. In winter, protect it from those drying winds and temperatures below 45°. Some of mine have tolerated a Maryland winter in the ground, but do not experiment with older specimens in pots.

(next page)

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Use Slow Drill

When trying the technique of drilling small holes at the base of a bonsai to induce new root growth, be careful what kind of drill you use.

Bill Merritt, of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society, reports a failure whose cause he traced to using a high-speed hobby drill. The 25,000 RPM produced so much friction that the wood smoked. His conclusion was that it in effect cauterized the sides of the hole as he drilled.

His advice: the technique is sound, but use a hand drill.

DON'T BUG ME! (from page 3)

• Garlic repels aphids; particularly effective when the cloves are planted near fruit trees and broadleaf plants.

(Next: Homemade Insecticides)

POMEGRANATE

(from preceding page)

Pomegranates appreciate a 1/3 loam, 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 sand soil mixture. Fertilize once a week in the spring and then twice monthly through October. At that time the tree will drop its leaves for several months, but it also is attractive in the dormant stage. When spring arrives the bud renewal is a marvelous spirit-lifter.

This bonsai requires an annual transplanting. Repot and prune just as the buds are ready to burst early in the spring. Cut back the shoots, leaving about two buds. This will give heavy foliage on older trees.

Watering At Night


Noting that it may be "horticultural heresy," Jean Waldberg, writing as editor of the Bonsai Societies of Florida Newsletter, August 1974, says she waters her bonsai, seedlings, and the entire garden either in the evenings - 6 p. m. to midnight - or all night by means of an overhead sprinkler system. She originated the practice as a precaution against low temperatures and occasional frost, when the sprinklers are left on all night and well into mid-morning. So far, she says problems with disease have not occurred, and very tender tropicals have survived.

"My rationale is," she writes, "rain comes at all hours - why not artificial watering? Either my rationale has some sound basis or my plants (as well as husband and dogs) have adapted to the peculiarities of their caretaker."

When wiring the Pomegranate, take care. It may even be wise to wrap the branches first. They are prone to bruising quite easily.

Propagation is very easy. Seeds may be planted anytime as long as you provide heated containers. Cuttings root easily as well with just average care. I discovered this quite accidentally. While pruning one spring, some shoots were dropped in gravel. Just weeks later I found the cuttings had rooted without any special care at all.

All in all, the Pomegranate is a marvelous bonsai. I recommend you try it.

for membership information in the		write: _____ Membership Secretary-PB 228 Rosemont Avenue Erie, Pennsylvania 16505
American Bonsai Society		

PBA Affiliate Club

Activity Schedule


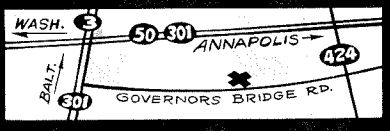
8	Columbia - PBA Symposium to take place of regular meeting this month
8	Northern Virginia - PBA Symposium; members urged to attend; this is program on regular meeting date this month
14	Annapolis - Mame Bonsai, plus Mame Workshop by Tory Pottberg, Baltimore Bonsai Club; bring small plant materials for advice and shaping
15	Baltimore - Collecting Trip, place to be announced; bring lunch; 10:30 a.m.
21	Brookside - Lecture/Demonstration on Wiring Techniques by John Hinds; also, bring problem trees for advice and counsel
21	Forest Glade - Cooperative Workshop on Sargent Juniper; come prepared to advise and work on tree (NOTE: <u>third</u> Friday this month only)
22	Washington - Indoor Bonsai, Part 2, by Richard Meszler, Baltimore Bonsai Club; Basics of Collecting Wild Materials; plus Styling Workshop; National Arboretum, 24th & R Sts, NE; 2 p.m.
23	Kiyomizu - Collecting Trip to Indianhead Highway site (near Lyle's Steak House) 2 p.m.
	Annapolis - Nursery Hopping Trip to Eastern Shore; date to be announced
	Laurel - No meeting this month; members will be notified of next meeting date and subject

Make It A Double

It sometimes happens that bonsai growers end up with trees having branches unevenly developed, or well developed on one side and not on the other. If there are two such trees that otherwise would make an effective grouping, all is not lost. Consider making a twin-trunk bonsai. The procedure is simple:

1. Check the composition by placing the two trees together with badly developed sides facing each other. If the composition is good, the problem is solved; proceed to step 2.

2. Cut the lower portions of the facing trunks from about two or three inches above the soil surface right down through the roots. These cuts should be of the same size and shape. Tie the trees together as a simple graft, treating it as any other graft. In a year or so the graft will form a rather unusual joint. However, this will not disfigure the overall effect, since the connection will be mostly hidden rather than protruding, and after several years will look natural and pleasing.

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