



CLOSE UP is the best way to observe the fine details of a masterpiece bonsai. Chase Rosade, well-known bonsai grower, teacher, and owner of Rosade Bonsai Studio of New Hope, Pa. does just that with a Trident Maple (*Acer buergerianum*) at the Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station where the Japanese trees are undergoing quarantine. The tree is one of the 53 presented by the Japanese to commemorate the American Bicentennial. This root-clasping tree (see cover for full portrait) was cultivated for bonsai from a seedling, and is 60 years old. (Photo by Hinds)

the year of



BICENTENNIAL BONSAI

## Correction

## Workshop & Meeting

The announcement of the PBA Annual Meeting carried in both the January and February issues of the Newsletter specified the right date, but the wrong day of the week. The Annual Meeting will be held on SATURDAY, April 24, at 10 a.m. in the National Arboretum auditorium.

The same mistake was made in the article announcing the Barrett Catlin Elm Workshop in the January Newsletter, which also should read that the spring demonstration will take place on SATURDAY, April 24, at 2 p.m., also in the Arboretum's auditorium.

The Barrett Workshop will take place the following day, Sunday, April 25. (See article this issue announcing a second Barrett workshop for April 26 - Ed.)

### BGB Annual Meeting

Brookside Gardens Bonsai will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 21, at 2 p.m. (just prior to the special workshop) at the National Arboretum auditorium. All BGB members are urged to attend and stay for the workshop.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION  
c/o National Arboretum  
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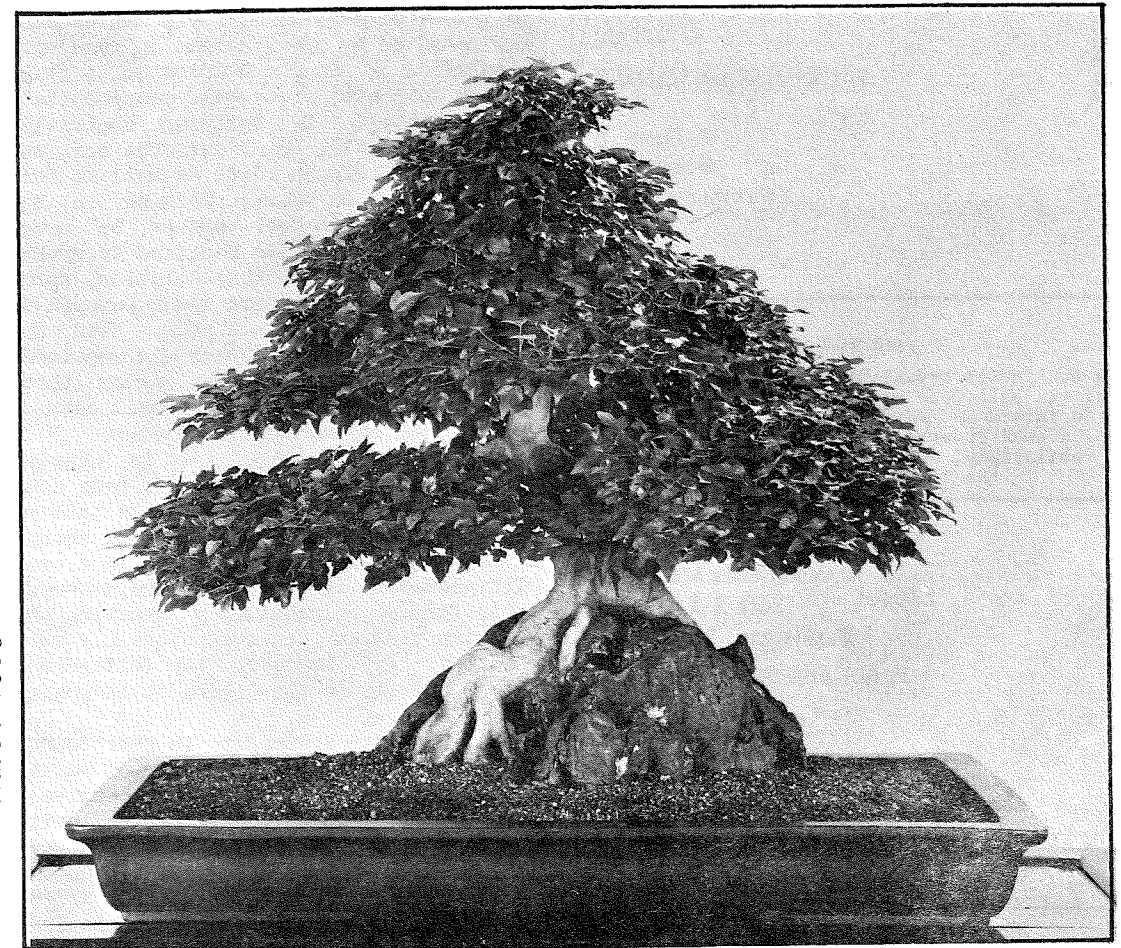
## Wound...

(from page 6)

ference in healing rates of various wound shaped.)

- Try to make the pruning cut through a "collar" of a branch either at its juncture with a limb or the trunk.
- Use sharp tools to insure clean-edged wounds.
- If possible, prune in spring, preferably before leaves appear, when healing is more rapid than at any other season.
- Don't worry about "bleeding;" loss of some sap is not a serious matter.
- Do everything possible to improve the pruned tree's vigor. Fertilize and keep soil moisture level at optimum for that species. Clean out all dead and dying twigs and branches, leaving no stubs.

And after all this, author Alan Cook concludes, "if you wish, happily apply tree wound dressing. At least your neighbors will think you're doing it right."



TRIDENT MAPLE

NATIONAL ARBORETUM BONSAI COLLECTION

Volume 6 Number 3 March 1976

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A  
NEWSLETTER



PBA  
Newsletter

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Number 2  
February 1976

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POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION  
a non-profit organization, in the interests  
of its affiliate member clubs and societies  
to inform and educate amateur and profes-  
sional growers of miniature trees in the  
philosophy, principles, and techniques of  
the living art form called BONSAI.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION  
c/o National Arboretum  
24th & R Sts, NE  
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on the cover

Among the trees in the National Arboretum Bonsai Collection this root-over-rock Trident Maple (*Acer buergerianum*) can be classed as a "youngster." It is 60 years old (only six others are any younger; three others are the same age). The Kaede was cultivated as a bonsai from a seedling, and is the gift of Mr. Raizo of Tokyo. The tree stands 45 cm (about 17½ inches) and is in a rectangular, unglazed Tokoname tray created by Seizan. (See back page for look at this tree from a different angle.) (USDA photo)

Brown Foliage  
Not Always Bad

(Continued  
from  
last  
month)

Sometimes poor color in foliage is due to a lack of magnesium. This can be easily remedied by spraying the foliage with a solution of water and Epsom Salts (magnesium sulphate): one-half teaspoon to a pint of water. By spraying copiously, the solution will drip onto the soil and be absorbed through roots as well as foliage. Spray in early morning in hot weather, later in cool weather, but never on a very cold day. In addition to spraying once a week with this solution, spray daily with tepid water, just enough to dampen the foliage all over. Keep the tree in shade until color is regained. If no improvement is seen after three weekly applications, add a small dose of dried blood or another fertilizer.

Flabbiness in foliage that is usually crisp is another indication of poor condition. This is a more reliable indication in tree varieties where color change is not so noticeable, such as in a tree with glaucous (green with a grayish-blue cast) foliage. Immediately starting the spraying program can quite possibly save the tree. If, however, the foliage has become brittle to the touch, it is generally too late.

Occasionally a conifer in poor condition will develop an exudation of sap at the tip of each leaf or needle. Shriveling and subsequent decay of the leaves usually follow if not treated. The magnesium sulphate spray program will usually prevent further deterioration.

Conifers can suffer from accumulations of dust and dirt on foliage; the denser the foliage, the more the problem. Pollutants, thus, can directly affect a tree's health. The solution is regular foliar spraying with clean, clear water. Use of a wetting compound or spreader which breaks up water droplets and aids the washing action of the water may help in unusually severe cases of dirty trees. Application to individual trees can be done with a soft brush, but a syringe or hose with a fine nozzle is best (the hose nozzle called "Fog-It" is outstandingly efficient for this type of tree shower).

Don't  
BUG  
Me!

(This is the final 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.)

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE ORGANIC  
INSECTICIDES

Two organic insecticides listed below will kill many of the pests which from time to time attack bonsai. However, it should be noted that these materials should be used only when damage to trees is serious, since there is still the possibility of upsetting the environmental balance by their use.

- ROTENONE is made from the roots of a member of the legume family. Aphids, caterpillars, mealybugs, leaf miners, whiteflies, thrips, and other insects are killed by this poison, but it has limited residual value, losing its killing power in a few days.
- PYRETHRUM is used as a contact spray or dust. It quickly kills aphids, leaf miners, mealybugs, thrips, leafhoppers, spidermites, and whiteflies.

\* \* \*

The subject of pest control is one that every bonsaiist should study. Insect infestation is perhaps the second greatest cause of bonsai deaths (the first being

over-watering), and the battle to keep trees free and in good health should be a primary concern of each of us.

PBAers attending the Symposium in November 1975 heard a fine presentation on the subject of Insect Identification and Control by Charles L. Stains, of the Pest Management Section, Division of Plant Industries, Maryland Department of Agriculture. BCI '76 Convention-goers will have an opportunity to hear this expert on the subject of Insect Pests and Diseases.

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member BONSAI ARTISTS LEAGUE

## IN MEMORIAM

### BEV OLIVER

Mrs. George D. Oliver, known to her multitude of friends as Bev, died February 9, 1976, after a short illness. She is survived by her husband and two daughters.

The bonsai world lost one of its staunchest supporters with Bev's passing. A tireless worker for the betterment of all aspects of the living art form, her leadership as President of Bonsai Clubs International in 1973-1974 was a period of growth and advancement.

Bev Oliver's stamina in the face of differing opinions, her unrelenting quest for improvement, her passion for developing better ways for Americans to absorb the fascinating art of bonsai made her loom large, indeed. Her counsel and judgement will be missed.

Far more, I will miss the gentle manner, the ready smile, and the eager willingness to talk about bonsai that, for me, characterized a true lady, Bev Oliver.

-Jim Newton

## Banquet Door Prize Atlas Cedar Bonsai

A lucky PBA affiliate member will win a 10 to 12-year-old Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) bonsai at the annual PBA Banquet on April 2. A chance at this fine tree is included in the Banquet's \$7.95 price.

The door prize bonsai was styled and trained by E. Chase Rosade, bonsai expert and grower of New Hope, Pa.

The Banquet takes place in the Garden Room of the Andrews AFB Officers Club, starting with cocktails at 7 and dinner at 8 p.m. Reservation form included with the February PBA Newsletter may be used, or call Molly Hersh, 301-589-3725.

Dr. John L. Creech, Director of the National Arboretum, will be the main speaker. He will show a film recently produced by the Nippon Bonsai Association.

## Second Barrett Workshop Set

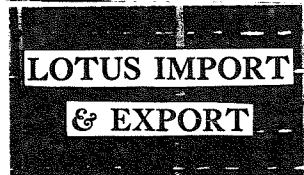
Response to the workshop on Catlin Elm to be conducted by James Barrett, BCI President, on Sunday, April 25, was so great that a second PBA workshop has been set for the following evening. This workshop will take place on Monday, April 26, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the main administration building of the National Arboretum. The trees for this session will be Chinese Elm (*Ulmus* sp.). Jim will bring 15 of his finest trees for student use.

The Chinese Elm workshop will be limited to 15 persons, and will cost \$20, which includes the tree, a pot, and soil. Reservations must be made not later than March 29 in order to provide the Officers Club with a firm attendance figure.

Reservations may be made with PBA Educational VP John Hinds at 301-292-2914 after 6 p.m.

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## tree of the month | What Seeds Need

Many bonsaiists have started their miniatures from seeds; others are getting ready to try. The following information includes some tips, some data, and some plain no-noes about seed handling and propagation.

Seeds kept unplanted for some time seldom come up as well as fresh seeds. If you have a batch and want to test their germination potential, spread a number (20 or more, if you have enough) on a moist blotter or doubled paper towel on a plate. Cover with clear plastic and place in a 70° site (no direct sun, of course) for two weeks.

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by JIM NEWTON  
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

Keep evenly damp as moisture evaporates. After two weeks see how many have germinated; comparing number with percent on packet label (if given) will let you judge the degree of germination you can expect. If none sprout, forget the whole batch.

Many seeds of trees popular for bonsai do not do well at all in storage; among those which will live only a few months at most are: beech, birch, most conifers, elm, maple, oak, and willow.

Seeds that can be kept five years or more safely include: Douglas fir and a number of pines - white, ponderosa, red, stone, and shortleaf.

Very hard-shelled seeds (holly and dogwood are included in this category) benefit by having a nick carved into the side opposite the "eye." Only a small sliver need be shaved off so moisture can penetrate.

Other seeds with hard coats germinate better and faster after soaking. Use warm water that cools as seeds soak; then plant before seeds dry out.

Seeds of many trees and shrubs used for bonsai should be stored over winter or started into germination by stratifying, that is, packing in damp sand, vermiculite, or peat and keeping them at about 40°. Exposure to warm and dry storage for even a moderate period is enough to kill them. For small quantities of seed, stratify by packing in damp peat or vermiculite in plastic bags or glass jars and storing in the refrigerator for two to four months. Holly, oak, yew, hawthorne, dogwood, hackberry, and apple are some that should be so stratified. If any start sprouting, remove and plant.

A few seeds - Japanese barberry is one - that germinate better after freezing can be frozen into ice cubes, then plant, still in the cube, after a few days or weeks, as needed.

The species cited above are by no means all-inclusive. Bonsaiists interested in seed germination for their art forms should check library or other source for more definitive information and data.

# Tree Wound Dressing Use-ful-less ?

The efficacy of painting tree wounds has been questioned by three plant scientists. Alan Cook, writing in the February issue of Flower and Garden, describes studies made by Dr. Dan Neely, plant pathologist with Illinois Natural History Survey; Dr. Alex Shigo, chief plant pathologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Northeastern Experiment Station in New Hampshire; and Dr. Charles L. Wilson of USDA's Shade Tree and Ornamental Plant Laboratory.

Dr. Neely's 5-year study tested dressings of petrolatum, shellac, latex paint, asphalt emulsion, and asphalt aerosol on both trunk and branch pruning wounds on white ash, honey locust, and pin oak trees. Comparing the amount of healing in pruned cuts to untreated wounds, he concluded that not one of the wound dressings appreciably increased the rate of wound healing.

Dr. Shigo and Wilson worked with red maple and American elm, coating inflicted wounds with asphalt-type dressing. In comparison with untreated wounds, they found definite indications that wound dressings had no effect on invasion of microorganisms or on the processes of discoloration after one year.

These findings all relate to northern U.S. hardwood trees. The author checked with several Florida experts to learn the efficacy of wound dressing on semi-tropical trees. No formal study was involved, but consensus of the experts was

that experience indicated little or no benefit from painting wounds on Florida trees.

The implications of these serious studies bear directly on bonsai growers, who, in the course of tree shaping, inflict large numbers of wounds. A primary criterion should be to keep the pruned trees in tip-top health, for, as Dr. Shigo points out, a tree has natural defenses against decay. Most wounds heal rapidly. But even on an otherwise healthy tree, dead branch stubs are perfect infection courts for wood-decaying microorganisms. This clearly means that jin and shari, as well as sabamiki should be treated with the proper bleaching (not wound dressing) compounds as soon as possible.

Other than that, what needs to be done for a tree wounded by pruning saw or branch cutter? A few easily accomplished steps are suggested:

- Forget about dressing wounds immediately.
- Clean away injured bark until only uninjured bark and sound wood outline the wound.
- Keep the wound as narrow as possible, since healing is from edges inward. (Interestingly, Dr. Neely tested the concept of faster healing sometimes attributed to wounds shaped into vertical ellipses, but found no significant dif-

(to page 8)

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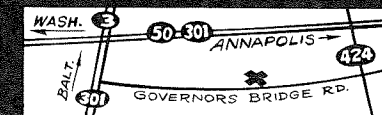
## PBA Affiliate Club Activity Schedule

6,13 20,27	Laurel - Outdoor Workshop, weather permitting, Schmidt residence, 9272 Old Scaggsville Rd, bring your own trees, 1 to 4 p.m.
9	Columbia - Soil Mixing, with Cliff Pottberg, Baltimore Bonsai Club; bring trees just out of winter storage for advice and styling; Phelps Luck Neighborhood Center, 8 p.m.
12	Annapolis - History of Bonsai by Kirk Cylus, Baltimore Bonsai Club; also, Workshop and election of officers, 7 p.m.
13	Forest Glade - Diminished membership forcing suspension of meetings; members remaining transferring to Northern Virginia Bonsai Society, effective April 1, 1976
13	Northern Virginia - Slides of Bonsai Village (Ohmiya) Japan by Harvey Everett, Brookside Gardens Bonsai; also, Problem Tree Clinic (bring yours for advice) by Jim Newton, 10 a.m.
18	Laurel - Indoor Bonsai by Jim Newton, Northern Virginia Bonsai Society, at Schmidt residence, 9272 Old Scaggsville Rd, 7:30 p.m.
21	Baltimore - To be announced
21	Brookside - (NOTE: Sunday date takes place of regular 3rd-Friday this month only) Workshop, bring your own tree(s), or will have variety of junipers (Hollywood, procumbens, blue rug, others) on consignment from Benkhe's Nursery in \$3 - \$6 range; pots also available, reasonable cost; soil provided; National Arboretum auditorium, 2 p.m.
24	Annapolis - Workshop on Styling, first of three sessions; others to follow April 9 - Wiring, and April 21 - Potting; Bittersweet Hill Nursery
28	Kiyomizu - Hinoki Cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis obtusa gracilis nana</i> ) Workshop; trees and soil provided by club; pots available reasonable cost, 2 p.m.
28	Washington - Styling Workshop with Cliff Pottberg, Baltimore Bonsai Club, assisted by Joyce Pelletier; \$5 to do a tree (not included in fee), limited to 15 persons; Sidwell Friends School, 3825 Wisconsin Ave, NW, 1 p.m.; "professionals" and all others invited to bring relevant materials for sale if they call 202-833-1935 to register

### did you know?

Crabapples may fail to flower for several reasons: tree is too young; tree is

kept in dense shade; tree has been over-stimulated by nitrogen-containing fertilizer; or excessive pruning has contributed to little or no flower bud formation.



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