

# Search Goes On

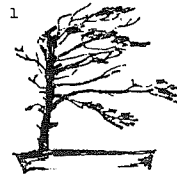
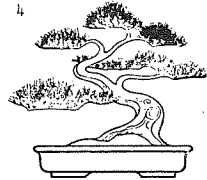
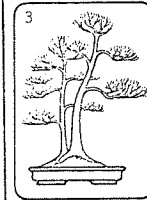
The search for an official American Bonsai Society logo is extended to the Society's annual meeting and symposium this summer. Members will be asked to make the final selection then.

None of the four logos offered (as reported in last month's Newsletter; see right) was a pronounced favorite, according to Dorothy S. Young, ABS President, despite an impressive number of votes - nearly 200. A significant number of responding members requested that additional logos be considered.

As a result, ABS members are invited to submit their own designs to be considered in selecting a logo to identify ABS. The rules are simple:

- All entries must be mailed by July 20

## Which Will Be New ABS Logo?



American Bonsai Society members recently were asked to submit their choices for a logo, given the four choices shown here. Numbers 1 & 2 have been used previously; numbers 3 & 4 are new designs.

Which one would you (or did you, if you are an ABS member) choose?

to Dorothy S. Young, ABS President, McKean Rd, Spring House, PA 19477.

- Each logo must be original.

The ABS meeting and symposium will be held July 29 through August 1 in Philadelphia as part of that city's Bicentennial observance.

## Program Topics

Club programmers are always looking for topics to keep interest high among the membership. Listed here are a few of many subject areas that could be used to liven and entertain at the same time.

Try assigning a topic per individual member on a rotating basis. The member thoroughly researches the subject and reports at the scheduled meeting time. His or her part can be as varied as imagination and ingenuity can make it. Some of the areas that lend themselves well to such research and report treatment are:

- Choosing trees for bark or trunk appearance.
- Dead trunks and branches: sabamiki, jin, and shari.
- Exposed roots: how to encourage and fill in where there are none.
- Local materials: stones, earth, ground cover, and where to obtain same.
- Flowering or fruiting trees.
- Seasonal trees: winter, spring, summer, autumn viewing.
- Transplanting from the wild.
- Two-tree and double-trunk bonsai.
- Bonsai cultivation in the ground.
- Grass, herbs, succulents as bonsai subjects.
- Bonsai display, indoors and out.
- Bonsai repair: grafting, restyling, or replacement trees.

the year of



BICENTENNIAL BONSAI



NEEDLE  
JUNIPER

National Arboretum Bonsai Collection

P  
B  
A  
**NEWSLETTER**



**PBA  
Newsletter**

Published by the  
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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.

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**on the cover** The magnificent Needle  
Juniper (*Juniperus rigida*)  
on the cover this month is one of two of  
this species in the National Arboretum  
Collection. It is a century old, 21½"  
tall, and is displayed in a circular  
Tokoname container. Collected from Ise  
in Mie Prefecture, the tree has been  
under pot-cultivation as a bonsai for  
about 30 years. Donor was Mr. Michio  
Nagai, Minister of Education in Tokyo.  
Especially interesting in the juniper  
family, the *rigida*, along with the *shin-  
paku*, often exhibits spectacular drift-  
wood effects. New growth on *rigida*, when  
viewed from a distance, often looks like  
flower petals. (USDA photo)

**MUST Register,  
Or No Dedication**



BCI '76

BCI '76 registration applications have  
been issued to each PBA affiliate club  
Regional Director for distribution to  
members. If you have not received yours,  
contact your club's representative, or  
request a copy from the Convention  
Registrar, 102 Devon Court, Silver Spring  
Md 20910.

Note that only those persons who fully  
register, or those who elect option #5,  
"Meetings, Programs, Lectures, Demonstra-  
tions, Transportation to Arboretum for  
Dedication, \$50.00" will be issued the  
invitation necessary for entry to the of-  
ficial dedication ceremonies of the  
National Arboretum Bonsai Collection on  
the evening of July 9.

The specification of registration was  
made by the National Arboretum for  
security reasons to handle the many who  
will be attending this gala affair.

**PBAer's Trees  
At Ikebana Festival**

Bonsai provided by a PBA member, Robert  
Roland of the Northern Virginia Bonsai  
Society, will again be shown at the  
Spring Flower Festival sponsored by the  
Ikebana International of Washington.  
The annual event will be held at the U.S.  
Botanic Conservatory May 4 through 7.  
Admission is free.

Among featured flower arrangements will  
be one entered by Headmaster Houn Ohara,  
Kobe, Japan, Master of the Ohara School,  
and Mrs. Riei Ikeda, President of the  
Koryu School, Tokyo. Other arrangements  
will be entered by regional exhibitors by  
invitation and teachers from the Washing-  
ton, D.C. chapter. In addition to Bob's  
bonsai, other special features will in-  
clude two Japanese gardens.

The Botanic Conservatory is located at  
Maryland Ave between 1st and 2nd Sts, SW,  
and will be open from 9 am to 4 pm daily.  
For further information call 225-7099.

tree  
of  
the  
month

**Camellia**

The novice bonsaiist who is looking for  
a flowering bonsai might want to consider  
the camellia. This floral aristocrat,  
familiar to southern and California gar-  
dens, can brighten collections as far  
north as Maine and Minnesota. And not  
just in greenhouses, but in the home as  
well. The camellia, then, can be raised  
as an indoor or outdoor bonsai.

The thick, glossy, evergreen foliage is  
decorative all year. Camellias are an-  
nual bloomers, the season stretching from  
late fall through mid-winter to mid-  
spring, depending on varieties being  
grown. Grown cool, individual flowers  
can last for weeks.

Under ordinary culture, camellias are  
resistant to insects, and will remain  
ruggedly healthy year after year. Growth  
is steady but not too rapid, and can

easily be controlled by pinching and  
pruning.

Three to four hours of sunlight daily  
is sufficient to produce blooms, and they  
will take temperatures from the low 30s  
to fairly high if not of too long dura-

by JIM NEWTON  
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

tion. Any reasonably sunny window in  
quarters too chilly for human comfort  
suit camellias admirably. They also  
thrive under flourescents and grow-  
lights. There are a few musts:

- Soil must never be allowed to dry out.
- Growing medium must be porous and acid  
similar to that used for azaleas and  
other rhododendrons.
- Avoid setting out in summer all-day  
sunlight. Filtered sun under tall trees  
or lath roof is preferred. Best out-  
door exposure is northern, with  
direct sun only in the morning and late  
afternoon.
- Inside, where winter temperatures are  
high and humidity low, mist or sprinkle  
frequently.

Although there is a bewildering variety  
of camellias available in area nurseries,  
bonsai have been successfully created  
with *Camellia japonica*, *C. reticulata*,  
and *C. sasanqua*. These, and hybrids  
thereof, come in many forms and varia-  
tions: single, semi-double to fully  
double. In petal arrangement, flowers  
may resemble roses, peonies, anemones, or  
waterlilies. Colors run the gamut from  
pure white and "cool" and "warm" pinks to  
deep reds. Bloom size ranges from three  
to six inches, large by esthetic stand-  
ards for dwarfed trees, but their sheer  
beauty overshadows most objections of  
unbalanced proportion.

*C. japonica* has greatest variations in  
color, size and flower form; the most ex-  
tended blooming season; and upright, neat  
compact habit of growth. *C. reticulata*  
produces the largest flowers, foliage is  
less decorative, and growth more leggy.  
*C. sasanqua* has the smallest flower and  
is the most profuse bloomer.

In searching nurseries for stock for  
potential bonsai, avoid bargains, which  
often are dump seconds, pot-bound left-

(to page 5)

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# How About New 'Artistic Pot Plants'?

Most PBA affiliate members are familiar with the name of Wu Yee-sun, the Hong Kong banker who privately printed and distributed the fine book of Chinese bonsai, *MAN LUNG GARDEN ARTISTIC POT PLANTS*. Every member of the American Bonsai Society and every club in Bonsai Clubs International received a free copy of this ex-

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*Travel with John Naka to Japan—  
John Naka's Bonsai Holiday in Japan Tour—  
Nov. '77, contact Crane Products,  
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cellent book in 1969.

Now word comes that Mr. Wu revised and enlarged the contents, and is again making the book available to interested bonsaiists the world over. Donating 10,000 copies to the Hong Kong Baptist College, distribution will be made at a small cost which will go to establish the Wu Yee-sun Education Fund.

Persons wishing to obtain a copy of the book may apply to:

Office of Public Information  
Hong Kong Baptist College  
224 Waterloo Road, Kowloon  
Hong Kong

The application must be accompanied by a donation of not less than \$10 (U.S.), plus an additional \$1 (U.S.) for seammil postage. Checks or drafts should be made payable to "Hong Kong Baptist College."

Long a fancier of dwarfed plant culture Mr. Wu's revision to his publication includes material about the history and evolution of artistic pot plants (what we term bonsai) and revised notes of the public lectures he delivered at the University of Hong after the first edition was published. To the 200 photos of selected bonsai in the first edition he has added pictures of more than a hundred of his recent artistic pot plants, together with notes explaining them.

Mr. Wu announced his decision to retire as Chairman of the Wing Lung Bank, Ltd., having served it for 43 years.

tree  
of  
the  
month

## Camellia...

(from page 3)

overs, scale-infested, or underfed and waterlogged invalids. Examine candidates critically. Look for deep green foliage and check under leaves for scale. Do not bare root camellias; success is highly questionable.

Cultural requirements include a spell of warm weather, a certain amount of summer sun, and the ever-constant soil moisture. Fresh air, night dews, and summer rains will perk any camellia up. In warm weather and active growth periods more water is needed than in cool weather. A pot-grown camellia bonsai cannot survive dry soil; check daily.

On the other hand, do not overwater. Too much, especially in cool weather, can induce bull-nosing, a condition where buds remain unopened and shrivel off. Bud drop also is caused by sudden and drastic temperature changes.

If a camellia bonsai is kept indoors all summer, see that it receives all the sun your windows can supply. Sprinkle or mist frequently. Feed with organic fertilizer, cottonseed, or fish meal; a tablespoon per six-inch pot every two months works well. Fish emulsion once a month also suits most camellias. These fertilizers help keep the soil mildly acid.

The soil mix should contain organic matter, be slightly acid (pH 6.5) and be highly moisture-retentive yet rapid draining. A good mix is (by volume) 1/3

coarse gravel, 1/3 Canadian peat, and 1/3 rich loam (woods loam or finished compost). When repotting, never plant lower than previously; near-surface roots resent deep cover.

Proper pruning can keep most camellia bonsai in shape as well as help to produce plants well-branched. Top-pruning induces bushiness. The best time to start is when blooms appear. Cut flowers can be used for gifts, adornment, or arrangements. However, pruning can be done anytime, even if a bud or two is sacrificed to retain overall shape. Some varieties drop surplus buds much like fruit trees do with too-abundant fruit. Reticulating branches is best achieved by cutting back to within a quarter-inch of old wood (identifiable by its flaked light gray bark; new wood is smooth, pliant, and green), where three or four new branches will form. A random clip along green wood frequently results in another long single shoot.

New plants can be propagated from four-inch lengths of half-ripened wood. Peel off all but two or three top leaves, insert in a moist mixture of sphagnum and sand, and cover with plastic to maintain high humidity. Roots will form in three to six months. When leaf buds begin to swell, pot singly in three-inch pots. Continue under plastic in stronger light for another three months. When stem growth appears, treat like older plants. Flowering normally will occur from two to four years.

Trees with large leaves, as a rule, need more water than those with small, or needed, foliage.

**Did you know?**

\*\*\*\*\*

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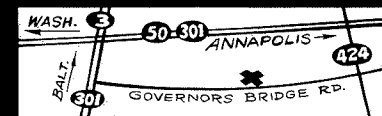
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## Montgomery Heads No. Va.

Members of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society elected new officers at their April 10 meeting. They are:

Earl E. Montgomery..President  
 Julius Koetsch.....Educational VP  
 Mrs. May W. Fox.....Treasurer

Harold W. (Bill) Merritt was elected NOVABONSO's Regional Director, replacing Jim Newton.

Bud Ricucci was appointed the group's Librarian.

Continuing a tradition begun in the Society's first year, the incoming president presented outgoing president Dave Flipse a gift as token of his fruitful year of leadership.

Boistrous springtime wind  
 Kissing tall and stately Pine --  
 Bonsai contentment.

JIM NEWTON  
 Northern Virginia

**Haiku**

**NICHOLS' PLANTS**  
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JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRIES - Kwanzan - Nanking (Manchu) - weeping

JAPANESE MAPLES - grafted cutleaf, cuttings and seedlings

PINE - Japanese Black and Mugho

PINE - Japanese White 5-needle grafts

JUNIPER - San Jose-Blue Rug-Bar Harbor

COTONEASTER - microphylla thymifolia, Likiang and Tom Thumb

DWARF ENGLISH BOXWOOD

AZALEAS - evergreen and deciduous

MAGNOLIA - dediduous Royal Star and Soulangeana

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## Did He Pray A Little?

The Reverend Samuel R. Franks was one of 99 PBA affiliate club members who attended the PBA Spring Banquet April 2 at the Andrews AFB Officers Club. He, like everyone attending, received one chance on the door prize.

The Reverend Samuel R. Franks was the only one to leave the banquet carrying an Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*).

## Sharp Sand Best

Clean sharp sand is probably the most useful medium for rooting cuttings. It is easy to handle, gives good aeration and drainage, and can be sterilized quite readily.

Another easily managed mixture is one of equal parts sand and peat moss. Plain peat moss, vermiculite, ground sphagnum moss, and soil also are used.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## PBA Affiliate Club Activity Schedule

2	ANNAPOLIS - All-Day Workshop, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., at home of Stephen Morse; pot-luck luncheon; for reservation or more info, call Shirley Powell, 301-849-8100
2	BALTIMORE - All-Day Workshop, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., at home of Edith Reider, 1823 Cromwood Rd, Baltimore; bring a lunch and a tree to work on; call Helen Lauenstein, 256-5612 for more information
8	NORTHERN VIRGINIA - Workshop; bring your own tree to work on, or buy from limited stock on hand; 10 a.m.
11	COLUMBIA - Pesticides and Fertilizers, lecture by John Hreha, Brookside Gardens Bonsai; Jeffere Hill Neighborhood Center, 8 p.m.
14	ANNAPOLIS - Workshop, and discussion of plans for June show and bazaar (with Annapolis Fine Arts Festival), 7 p.m.
19	BALTIMORE - Last month's cancelled program: Soils, Fertilizers, Quick Growth in Bonsai, Cliff Pottberg; plus Diseases of Plants, Helen Lauenstein; Cylburn Mansion, 3 p.m.
20	LAUREL - Effective May, Laurel Club deactivates; members join Brookside
22	BROOKSIDE - Exhibit of Member Trees: pre-bonsai, partially trained bonsai, trained, and mame bonsai; Brookside Botanical Garden, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Demonstration by John Hreha, 2 p.m.; PBAers interested in exhibiting, call Mary Houlton after 6 p.m. at 301-345-3606; contact not later than May 20
23	KIYOMIZU - Workshop; those who did not work a chamaecyparis last month may do so; otherwise, bring your own tree to work on; 2 p.m.
29	WASHINGTON - Slides of National Arboretum Bonsai Collection, plus commentary by Mr. Robert Drechsler, Collection Curator; any additional time, discussion of proposed constitution, etc.; Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave, NW; 2 p.m.

## Annapolis Elects

Officers for the Annapolis Bonsai Club were elected at their April 9 meeting.


They are:

Joyce Pelletier President  
 John Patterson 1st Vice-President

Vicki Ballantyne Educational VP  
 Dorothy Bading Secretary  
 Bruce Ballantyne Treasurer

Also selected was the club's PBA Regional Director -- John Patterson.

New Annapolis Club Directors named were Charles Aitken, Alice Herndon, and Bruce Ballantyne.

 **BIG** ...think

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