

## The Cover

### CEDAR ELM

An elm indigenous to the southern U. S. and Mexico is the subject of this month's cover. It is an Ulmus crassifolia and belongs to Jack Shaffer of Florida. The tree is 38" high by 26" wide, and is planted in rectangular container 18½" long by 2½" deep. Its age is unknown, but it has been potted for the past 7 years. Mature cedar elms show a tendency toward spreading pendulous and corky branches. The native tree is a valuable timber source. (Photo courtesy of Don Tranchina, Florida)

## Plastic Bucket For 'Greenhouse'

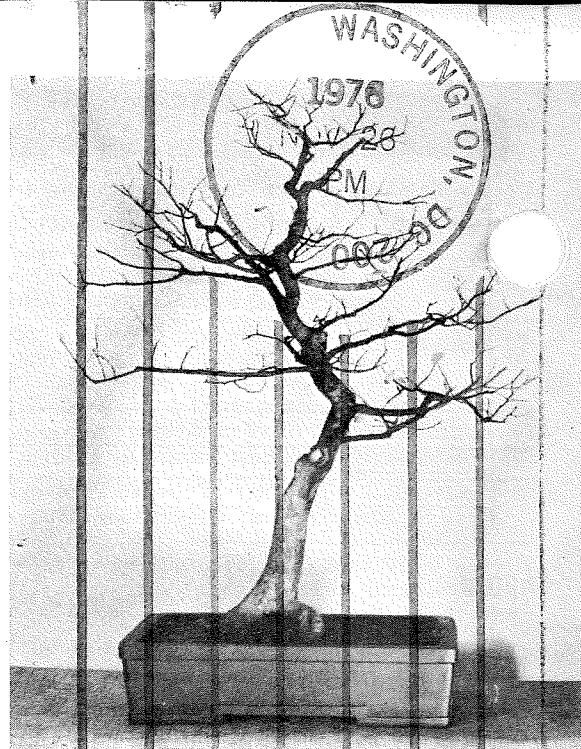
An improvement over the plastic bag "window greenhouse" has now been devised. It uses a five-quart plastic bucket and thus is more versatile and easier to carry and handle than non-rigid plastic bags. Four holes are cut in the bucket's sides to provide drainage, and a second wire handle is attached to the original handle at right angles and hooked to the lip of the bucket. These form the frame for the "tent," a 15" or 18" plastic bag dropped over the handles and secured with a rubber band under the bucket lip. An additional advantage is that it will accommodate quite large cuttings or other materials.



CRASSULA AFRA

### WINTER LOOK.

This fine example of water elm (Planera aquatica) belongs to Tom Graner of the Florida Bonsai Societies. It displays the bare look associated with colder climates; its bare branches offer a look that has a fascination quite different than usual full summer dress of green. Branch reticulation can be studied, trunk line noted, and defects more easily spotted. It is 35" tall by 25" wide. Age is unknown, but it has been in the pot 4 years. (Photo courtesy Don Tranchina)

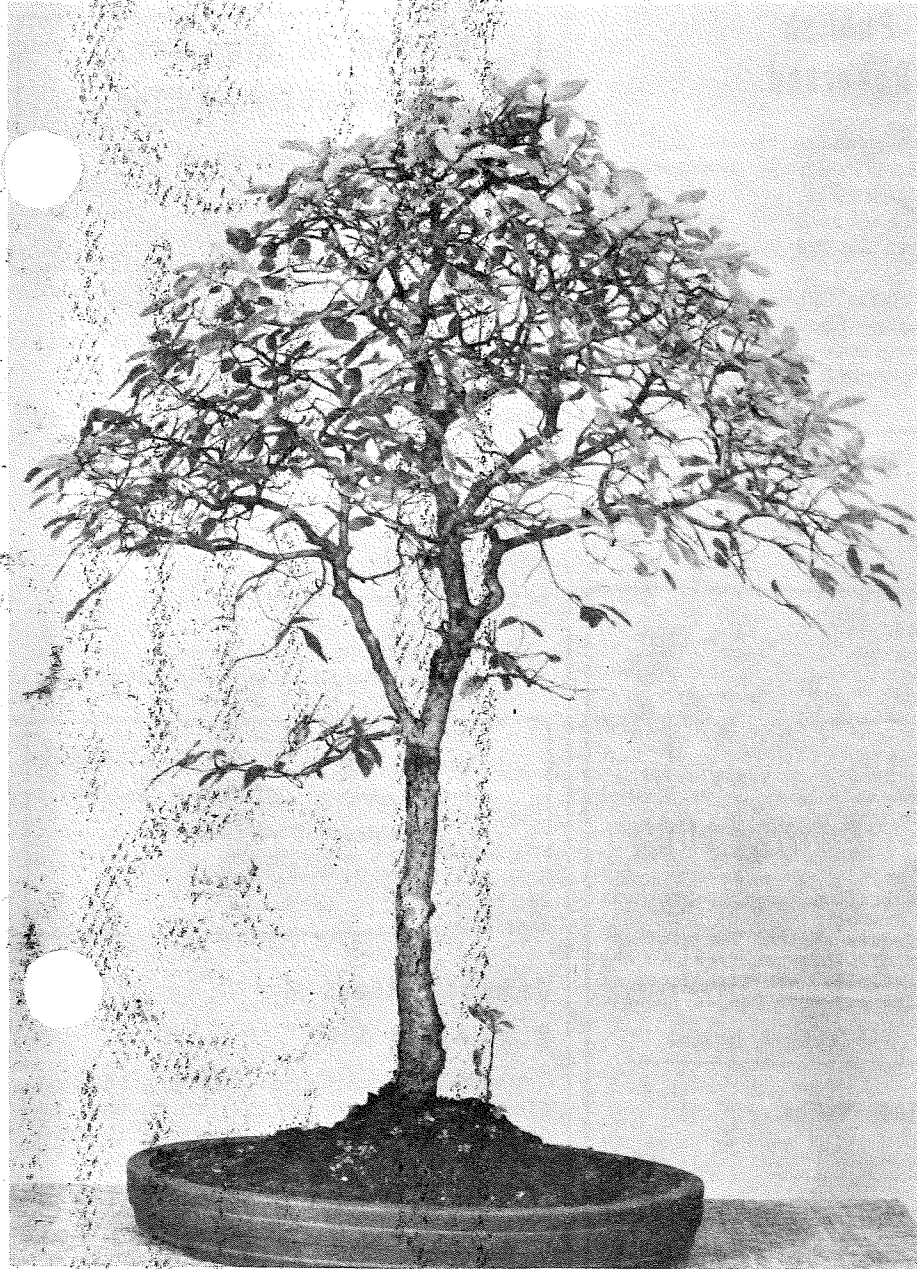


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PM

Ms. Mary Alice Wells  
1810 37th St, NW  
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United States 3c



CEDAR  
ELM

## Decision To Publish COLLECTOR Reversed

The decision to publish the NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTOR, a new magazine concept announced in September's PBA Newsletter, and to start in January 1977, was reversed at the Oct. 12 PBA Board of Directors meeting.

Reluctance to commit PBA to expending the relatively large amount of funds needed, and uncertainty of advertising and subscriber response were consensus reasons voiced.

### Did you know...?

A young tree will recover from the shock of transplanting much quicker than an older one.

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

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## Newton To Step Down As Newsletter Editor

Jim Newton, PBA founder and past-president, has announced plans to step down as editor of the PBA Newsletter. The next issue, December, will be the final Newsletter to be published under his direction. He has edited the Newsletter since its inception in 1971.

Citing growing pressures of both business and personal nature, he plans to continue member activities in his home club, the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society. He also will stay in contact with area bonsaiists and organization activities through the Bonsai Information Guild, Inc., of which he is president. Along with partners John Hreha and Dave Flipse, he will continue teaching bonsai in area recreation and adult education programs.

His successor has been named to edit or produce the Association's publication.

A leaf riding waves  
Of November breeze  
Vanishing on horizon.

-WALTER SCHMIDT-  
Maryland

### Haiku

### Campbell Heads Washington Club

The Washington Bonsai Club has changed its meeting date from the 4th to the 3rd Saturday of each month, starting in November. Meeting place is the National Arboretum, 24th & R Sts, NE, and meeting time is 2 p.m.

WBC officers are Brian Campbell, president; Ms Lore Low, treasurer; and Mrs. Ann Armstrong, educational vice-president.

### Did you know...

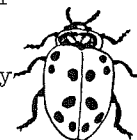
Compost or woods soil is preferable (to peatmoss) when improving soil for acid-loving rhododendrons.

Don't  
RUG  
Me!

## The Prolific Aphid

2

While ants may pamper their aphid "milk herds," not all other insects do so. Lady beetles and their larvae prey on them for food. The tiny red and black spotted beetle is one of the best means of aphid control.



Various fungus diseases also help reduce aphid populations, and heavy rains may even be enough to destroy large numbers. For the bonsaiist, a regular aphid control technique should be a strong jet spray of water at regular intervals on top and bottom of foliage.

Several effective spray substances are available. In all cases control actions should start as soon as aphids are observed to prevent destructive build-ups of populations.

Contact sprays must hit the aphid to kill it. A fine mist is needed, and aim must be good and must hit the pest from all angles. Mixing a little liquid soap, or spreader-sticker, into the spray will make it adhere better and work more effectively. Mix carefully according to directions; handle with care. Brands selected should contain one or more of these principal ingredients: nicotine

sulfate, malathion, rotenone, or pyrethrum.

Many growers prefer biological controls instead of chemical. Using one or more beneficial insects that prey on aphids is one way. At least three are quite readily available from mail-order seed catalogs:

- Ladybugs - as previously noted, these prey on aphids, both in the larval and adult aphid stages; each ladybug may eat up to 50 aphids a day
- Preying mantis - prey on aphids and many other insects; relative of grasshopper; buy egg cases, which hatch in your growing area
- Green or goldeneye lacewing - larvae known as aphid lion; eat aphids, mites, and many other insects; may be ordered from some biological supply houses; some naturally present in most garden areas and may be recognized by gauzy wings and egg clusters perched on hair-like stalks; avoid destroying with chemical sprays.



Still another enemy of the aphid is the House Sparrow, which eats more of this pest than any other bird. The birds seek out aphids on leaf and twig, picking them off neatly. When sparrows abound, aphid does not.

(to page 7)

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# Jade Tree As Bonsai

A house plant as bonsai?

The Jade Plant (*Crassula portulacea*), while it probably will always be relegated to second class status in the bonsai world, nevertheless makes a fine indoor plant specimen with a tree-like form. As a matter of fact, from time to time it does surface in American bonsai circles, although purists tend to discount its appearance in serious bonsai displays.

The common Jade, which is related to the Sedums, has a fleshy stem - or trunk - with a brown or grayish outer surface resembling bark. It is a member of a succulent genera, with thick, fleshy twigs bearing thick egg-shaped leaves (*crassula*, from Latin *crassus*, meaning thick). Leaves are one to two inches long, 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches wide and 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick, borne in opposite pairs. The twigs branch frequently, assuming a tree-shape rapidly.

The Jade likes sun, and given a position of good intensity will bloom, covering itself with clusters of pale pink blossoms. It seldom flowers under household conditions unless placed under high light intensity, but will survive and even thrive under a wide range of conditions. It tolerates low light, a dry atmosphere, and little water. Of course, the better the conditions, the more you are likely to have a healthy, happy, blooming plant.

Strangely enough, in frost-free areas the Jade can be planted outside if in well-drained soil. With adequate sun and the right soil conditions, it will grow with amazing rapidity and flower quite regularly.

Little shaping except by pruning can be done with *crassula*. When cut, it exudes a milky sap droplet which soon dries and disappears. New growth follows readily, and soon reaches maximum size. Leaves do not miniature much, but there are several other members of the *crassula* family with naturally dwarfed leaves.

One is shown on page 8. A *Portulacaria afra*. This particular one was an entry in the first George F. Hull Memorial Bonsai Photography Award competition in July this year. The owner is James J. Smith of Vero Beach, FL (who also took First

4 • PBA NEWSLETTER

# TREE OF THE MONTH

Place award with another *crassula* photo). His *afra* is 14 years old and has been in training for 12 years. It was grown from a cutting and is 19 inches tall now.

The *afra*, as its name suggests, is South African fleshy shrub or tree, also called the Spekboom or Elephant's Food. Unlike the Jade, *afra* is related to our common garden weed, Purslane. Its common name "Spekboom" means "Pork Wood," referring to its edible twigs.

Other species somewhat similar to the Jade Tree include *C. arborescens*, a shrub or small tree with larger differently-shaped leaves; *C. lactea*, a prostrate sub-shrub; and *C. obliqua*, a medium-sized shrub. Further confusion comes from the fact that both *C. portulacea* and *C. obliqua* have been called *C. argentea*, a designation of uncertain origins.

As mentioned earlier, soil must be well drained. Like all succulents, Jade stores water in its cells; overwatering

(to page 7)

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# Collecting

Nine members of the Brookside Gardens Bonsai group, joined by PBA President Dr. Richard Meszler, conducted a dig for wilding materials on Oct. 16. Site was a 14-acre Maryland tract just off the Capital Beltway, known locally as the Golden Triangle.

The area lived up to its name, providing the collectors with a bonanza of stock suitable for bonsai, including Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) to mention only a few species noted.

Bulldozed about 15 years ago, the site has grown back naturally, providing trees from seedling size to those with trunks several inches in diameter. Much of the area is still open, and lower branches on the trees have not been shaded out to die back.

Collectors found that most of the trees dug had a good system of fine roots close to the trunk, caused by the sandy and gravelly consistency of the soil. Large trees could be dug without taking huge root balls, and tap roots could be cut completely off at first dig.

# Two Bad Bugs

Two insects are largely responsible for eating unsightly chunks out of rhododendron leaves in this area: the black vine weevil and the Japanese weevil. Both are night feeders.

Most local entomologists agree that chlordane will control these pests. Application is by dusting the soil and branches beginning about mid-June and a second three or four weeks later. One source recommends chlordane on the soil and an evening application of Sevin to the foliage.

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## Poor Lighting Can Be Too Much

Bonsai need light to grow. That statement may seem ridiculously simple and straightforward. But when the kind of light is considered, the subject turns more complex. Further complications arise when the time exposed to light is added to the topic.

Dr. Henry M. Cathey, chief of the Ornamentals Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (and, incidentally, author of the USDA booklet "How To Grow Bonsai") has conducted studies on this subject. Results can be quite significant for urban-dwelling bonsaiists.

It has been recognized for some time that installation of yellow-hued high pressure sodium lamps (HPS) in a number of Washington metropolitan areas can be detrimental to certain species of trees and landscape plants. Being used more and more to illuminate high crime areas and heavily traveled road networks, HPS lamps attract fewer night-flying bugs and cost less, attractions for money-conscious urban governments.

Cathey's studies found that several light sources - HPS among them - can trigger prolonged plant growth in the autumn, thus delaying the onset of dormancy. The red light of HPS lamps controls the growth and flowering behavior of many plants. Sensitive tree species growing within the range of HPS lamplit streets can be found growing vigorously in September and October, a time when similar trees in a forest would be dis-

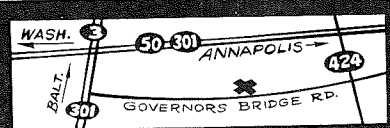
playing fall colors and starting into dormancy.

The effect of this prolonged fall growth may not be readily visible until the following spring when branches affected by the supplemental lighting will be found to have died back. Severe winter damage can be expected with those sensitive tree species. Also, 24-hour lighting may make trees more sensitive to the effects of pollution.

Some species known to be sensitive to supplemental lighting include Norway maple, American elm, and zelkova. Others affected to a lesser degree include American holly, sweetgum, Austrian pine, and willow oak.

Continued installation of security lighting can be expected, according to Dr. Cathey. He also notes precautionary measures, which, in the case of bonsai, are not difficult to achieve. Once the potential for damage is realized, a protective shield can be placed between the plant and the light source. Or simply move plants to areas where the supplemental light does not reach. These actions are equally applicable to benched bonsai and those on-growing in the ground.

Although the problem of supplemental lighting may not affect too many bonsaiists, the knowledge of action-reaction in trees to certain conditions adds to the experience level of everyone who understands that trees, like all growing things, have characteristics the grower should recognize.



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## PBA Affiliate Club Activity Schedule

12	ANNAPOLIS - Club Tree Project: each member will be given a Catlin elm, photographs will be taken now and each year thereafter to trace development; Library, 7 p.m.
	NORTHERN VIRGINIA - Winterizing Trees by panel: Bill Merritt, John Simpson, Jim Newton; Gulf Branch Nature Center, 10 a.m.
19	BROOKSIDE - Winterizing Trees by panel: Harvey Everett, Mary Houlton, Milt Kidd; Tree Critique, bring trees for comment, help; Brookside Nature Center, 7:30 p.m.
20	WASHINGTON - To be announced
21	BALTIMORE - To be announced
21	KIYOMIZU - Display of Prize Trees, Discussion of Care, and Slides of Japan by Janet Lanman; Clearwater Nature Center, 2 p.m.

### Aphid...

(from page 3)

An extremely heavy infestation can be drastically cut back by physically dipping foliage in warm water, not hotter than 140°F.

Another oldtimer remedy is to spray with a dilute solution of clay; the wet clay kills the soft-bodied aphids by clinging to them.

Still another home remedy involves a spray using a very thin mixture of glue, which clings to the aphid's body and smothers it.

The decision about which method to use may not come up if preventive control measures are followed as a matter of course. The best preventive measure is attention to cleanliness. Do not let debris collect. Keep the surrounding area brushed, swept, and litter-free. While working on your tree, use a trash

container; afterward remove clippings and spills to the garbage area immediately; burn any diseased clippings.

Add tender loving care. Aphids won't be able to get a foothold then.

### Jade...

(from page 4)

causes them to become soft, mushy, and leaf drop is very likely to occur if the overwatering continues for a prolonged period. A very sandy mix of about 80/20 proportions with garden soil works well. In a container, let this soil become almost dry before watering again. Water only enough to insure all the ball is moistened, then stop.

With proper care, enough light, the right soil mix, and the usual tender loving care bonsaiists give their collections, the Jade Tree can be a pleasant addition for tree lovers.



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