

PBA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1978

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As you can see the format of the PBA Newsletter has been significantly altered. We were forced to do so by the lack of response to our plea for help to take over following Jim Newton's resignation as Editor. The PBA Board Members felt the Newsletter was essential to PBA and rather than let it expire for lack of help, they have taken on the job of producing some type of communication.

I might point out at this time that this Board has been exceptionally hard-working. They held frequent meetings prior to BCI '76 and still continue to meet at least every other month. These meetings, which last 4 to 5 hours, are necessary to deal with such matters as revision of the PBA Constitution, incorporation and tax exempt status for PBA, planning this and next year's Symposium, planning the Spring Show, and many others. The point I am trying to emphasize is that we still need help with the Newsletter, since the Board Members are already committed to other responsibilities.

This somewhat downgraded format is not all bad. It has the advantage of flexibility, since there are no columns or photographs. The publication arrangements are as follows.

- 1) John Hinds (c/o Science Applications, Inc., 2361 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202) will oversee the mechanics of having the Newsletter printed and mailed. Any copy not in his possession by the 15th of the month will not appear in the forthcoming issue.
- 2) Molly Hersh will take care of the calendar of club activities. She must have the information in sufficient time to submit it to John Hinds prior to the 15th of the month.
- 3) Joyce Pellitier will handle Tree of the Month and other educational articles.
- 4) Mary Houlton will continue managing advertisements.
- 5) Other Board Members and Jim Newton and Cliff Pottberg will deal with additional articles and comments.

We are working very hard to keep PBA as a viable and useful educational resource for its membership and all others interested in bonsai. To continue to do so, we require people who are willing to step forward and take on responsibility and to provide active help and support for the organization and its activities. - Richard M. Meszler

BONSAI BOOK "MUST" READING

Lane Publishing Company, publishers of the Sunset Book series, has updated its "Bonsai, Culture and Care of Miniature Trees." The revised edition should be a "must" for all beginners and a valued addition to the library of intermediate and advanced bonsai persons.

Illustrated with 38 excellent color photos and more than twice that number of sketches and black and white photographs, the new edition is a delight to the eye.

The presentation is logical and explicit. The graphic design and layout has great eye appeal and reflects the care and thought put into the production.

Opening with "The Spirit of Nature - The Hand of Man" the book, in just 78 pages, covers every major aspect of the art from philosophy and basic styles (12 excellent sketches) through explicit directions on how to wire, pot, train, propagate, prune and show.

The American bonsai world was very much a part of the creation of this book. The publishers acknowledge the contributions made by Connie Hinds, Horace Hinds, Jr., Clara Howard, Dr. Francis Howard, Alexandria Planting, John Planting, Robert Saburomaru, Toshio Saburomaru, Peter Sugawara, Kenneth Sugimoto, Carl Young, and Shin Young. To which the Newsletter adds a hearty "Well Done!" -- John Hinds

PBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The PBA Board of Directors met most recently on November 30. Present were Richard Meszler, John Hinds, Molly Hersh, Harvey Everett, Bill Merritt, Joyce Pelletier, and Mary Houlton. Jim Newton was also present in his capacity as recently retired editor of the PBA Newsletter.

Bill Merritt reported on the 1976 Fall Symposium. Ninety-one persons were registered for the event and two refunds were made for those unable to attend. Enthusiasm ran high for its success and plans are already underway for the 1977 Symposium.

The PBA Annual bonsai exhibit will be held at the National Arboretum on the weekend of May 7-8. A change of procedure will take place this year. Each affiliate club will be responsible for setting up and running its own display. Mary Houlton will serve as co-chairman with Gary Weinberg, who will be moving from the Washington area shortly.

The PBA Newsletter was a major item of business. John Hinds has agreed to act as coordinator. PBA Board members will act in body as an editorial advisory board and individually as coordinators for their own clubs. Each Board member will be responsible for seeing that club schedules, news and articles are submitted on time for publication. Specific assignments were given to Molly Hersh - Calendar of Events; Joyce Pelletier - Tree of the Month article; Mary Houlton - advertising and subscription; Richard Meszler (or incumbent president) - President's Message. The format of the Newsletter will be changed from magazine form to sheet form. Anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to John Hinds, c/o Science Applications, Inc., 2361 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202, by the 15th of each month. His office telephone is 979-5900; home, 292-2914 after 8:00 p.m.

PBA elections will be coming up in a few months. The PBA Board is serving as the nomination committee and a slate of officers will be published in the March issue of the Newsletter. As a change in the constitution now provides for an election by PBA general membership, each PBAer should be thinking about whom he wishes to have serve him as an officer and Board member. Communicate your thoughts to your Board member.

Jim Newton advised the Board that he had been contacted by a representative of the Washington International World of Plants, an event to be held at the Capital Center, March 9-13, 1977. PBA has been asked to provide hour-long bonsai demonstrations at the Center, twice a day for five days. Jim will act as coordinator for PBA.

The Board will meet again in late January. Any PBAer wishing to suggest an item of business or contribute his time and talent to the Newsletter or for an upcoming event is invited to contact PBA President Richard Meszler or the affiliate club representative. -Mary Houlton

EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ON PBA ELECTIONS

The PBA By-Laws were changed at the April 1976 annual meeting to provide for election of PBA officers by the membership rather than by the Board of Directors. The By-Laws have a time table and procedures for election by mail. To familiarize you with them, it briefly is:

- Board elects nominating committee before 15 January.
- Official notice - February Newsletter.
- Committee nominations - March Newsletter.
- Membership nominations - before 1 April.
- Closing date for membership roll - 31 March.
- Mailing of ballots - 15 April.
- Close of ballot box - 15 May.
- Majority elects, Preferential vote employed for less than initial majority.
- Tellers Report - no later than 5 June.

The Board's nominating committee consists of Harvey Everett, Chairman; Joyce Pelletier, Peter Arbresch, J. Patterson, Richard Meszler, Molly Hersh, Mary Houlton, William Craig, John Hinds, H. W. Merritt, and Gary Weinberg. Pass your suggestions on to them. -- Harvey Everett

PROTECTING YOUR BONSAI TOOLS

A good set of tools is essential to the creation and care of bonsai. Keeping the tools clean and rust free is important for two reasons:

- o Rust causes pitting which can accumulate dirt and organisms. These in turn can spread infections among trees being worked on.
- o Rust corrodes cutting edges, making them dull and difficult to keep sharp.

Rust is caused by oxidation of the steel surfaces in the presence of moisture. Tools stored in a greenhouse, or left with moist soil on them after use, are particularly susceptible to rusting.

In order to prevent rusting, tools should be cleaned after each work session. Dirt can be removed with a damp cloth. Sap can be taken off with turpentine (don't use paint thinner). After cleaning, wipe all the surfaces with a cloth dampened with turpentine. The fine film deposited will help reduce rusting.

To keep tools from rusting while in storage, use of a rust-inhibiting paper is helpful. This paper gives off an invisible, odorless, non-toxic vapor that prevents oxidation of the steel surfaces. The paper need not come in contact with the tools. A sheet placed in the bottom of a tool box or drawer will effectively inhibit rust for several months -- even in a damp greenhouse.

A package of 25 sheets, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11", stock number 08 G11-BG, can be obtained for \$3.00, postpaid from:

Woodcraft Supply Corp.
313 Montvale Avenue
Woburn, Mass. 01801

A club purchase could provide members with sufficient sheets of the vapor paper to last for some time. H. Wm. Merritt

THE CLUB CALENDAR

- ANNAPOLIS** Jan. 17 (Monday), 7:30 p.m., Annapolis Public Library. Mrs. Stibolt of the University of Maryland Botany Department will lecture on plant and tree identification. Everyone attending will receive a small identification "key" for easy tree identification. Members are asked to bring bonsai for critique.
- Feb. 21 (Monday), 7:30 p.m., same location. Mr. Bill Craig will lecture on indoor bonsai. Bring bonsai for critique.
- BALTIMORE** Jan. 15 (Saturday), Cylburn Mansion in Cylburn Park. Brooklyn Botanic Film on "Bonsai." Representative from Blue Mont Nursery to speak on tree identification.
- BROOKSIDE** Jan. 21 (Friday), 7:30 p.m., Brookside Nature Center. Mr. Robert Drechsler, Curator of National Bonsai Collection, will discuss the wintering over of the National Collection and will show new slides on the Collection. Members are requested to bring trees for critique.
- Feb. 18 (Friday), 7:30 p.m., Brookside Nature Center. Annual meeting and election of three Board members. Positions are currently held by Mr. Harvey Everett, Keith Kaneshiro. The Board position held by Annie Edwards who died recently will also be filled.
- KIYOMIZU** Jan. 23 (Sunday), 2:00 p.m., at home of President Charles Bird. Col. Bird will discuss the making of bonsai pots and show examples of his recent creations. Directions to his home will be mailed to Kiyomizu members in early January. Others desiring directions should call Ed. V.P. John Hinds after 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, prior to 25 Dec. or after 2 Jan. at 292-2914.

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Feb. 27 (Sunday), 2:00 p.m., Clearwater Nature Center in Louise Cosca Regional Park (near Clinton, Maryland). Brooklyn Botanic film on "Bonsai" and the Nippon Bonsai Association 53-minute film "The Spirit of Bonsai." Bring bonsai for critique.

NOVA BONSOC Jan. 8 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m., Gulf Branch Nature Center. Brooklyn Botanic "Bonsai" film and Bonsai Clubs International slides on bonsai. Round table discussion.
Feb. 12 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m., same location. Talk on grafting techniques and fertilizing.

WASHINGTON Jan. 15 (Saturday), National Arboretum Auditorium. 2:00 p.m. meet at the National Arboretum. Mrs. Joyce Pelletier will lecture on tree and plant identification. Bring bonsai for critique.
Feb. 19 (Saturday), National Arboretum Auditorium. 2:00 p.m. Lecture on wiring techniques. Bring bonsai for critique.

BROOKSIDE SPONSORING ADVANCED BONSAI COURSE

Brookside Gardens Bonsai Club is sponsoring an advanced course for its members this spring under the tutelage of Cliff Pottberg. Cliff will conduct six four-hour weekly sessions at the National Arboretum, beginning on Saturday, February 19. Tentative starting time is noon. His subject is advanced styling techniques and will include, among others, saikei, forest plantings, and root-over-rock. The cost is \$20 per student for tuition and students are expected to provide their own material.

Enrollment is limited to 15 students and is being conducted for Brookside Gardens Bonsai members. However, Brookside members must make their reservations by February 5. If there are still vacancies open for the course on that date, PBAers from other affiliate clubs are welcome to register on a first-come, first-served basis. For information and reservations, call Mary Houlton at 345-3606.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
c/o National Arboretum
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Washington, D.C. 20018



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