

PBA NEWSLETTER

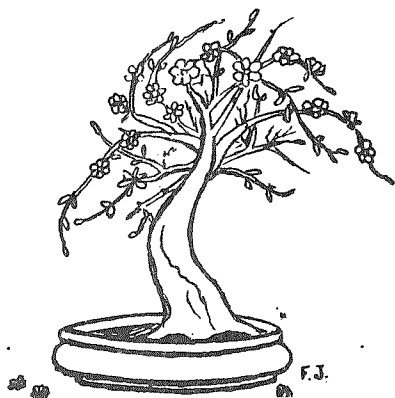
VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1977

WINTER JASMINE

by Joyce Pelletier

Wouldn't it be fun to look out your window on a freezing, dreary day in February and see bright yellow flowers smiling at you? This could happen if you had had the foresight to obtain and plant a "Winter Jasmine"



WINTER JASMINE ORIGINAL DRAWING

by Mrs. Fern Jacobi

(*Jasminum nudiflorum*). It is one of the most tolerant and beautiful of winter flowering shrubs. Its cheery flowers are borne close to the stem on last year's naked green branches, from December through February or March. Chances are good that if you thought you saw a forsythia blooming in Washington, D.C., in January, you were probably looking at a Winter Jasmine.

The Jasmynes, also called "Jessamines," comprise 200 species of shrubs or vines of the olive family, chiefly tropical or subtropical from Eurasia and Africa. They are climbing or spreading shrubs with compound, opposite or alternate leaves, and often green, angled stems. Flowers are generally about 3/4 in. across, in many-flowered yellow or white clusters, blooming in various seasons. The fruit is a small berry.

Widely cultivated and esteemed for their attractive fragrant flowers, the jasmynes make fine conservatory plants and may be grown outdoors in mild climates. The *J. nudiflorum* is hardy from Zone 4 (New Jersey) southward.

The jasmynes are popular as climbing plants but are seldom used as self-supporting shrubs. All the shrubby species have yellow flowers and are more or less deciduous in a hard winter, but their usually green stems create an evergreen effect. They are easy to cultivate, preferring a sunny location and a loamy soil. They are propagated by layers or cuttings of nearly mature wood. It is best to transplant them in the fall.

Although older wood is very stiff and brittle, jasmine can be trained into fine bonsai by judicious and timely pruning. Internodal distances are rather long normally, but this can be controlled if the roots are confined and the shoots are trained. They tend to be multi-trunked. Styling is better accomplished by pruning, in preference to wiring.

J. nudiflorum is an upright shrub with stiff, arching four-angled branches. Dark green leaves are opposite, with three oval leaflets about 1 in. long, falling in autumn. Flowers are yellow, 3/4 to 1 in. across, growing in solitary fashion along branches of previous season, appearing in winter or spring before the leaves. It originated in China. In mild places it blooms nearly all winter, but in more northern locations the flower buds often freeze.

Young shoots should be pruned back after the first flush of growth, and new, secondary growth allowed to develop. This technique serves to dwarf the branches, just as removing the first spring leaves from maple trees produces a smaller size in secondary leaves. When pruning in the fall, be sure to leave the buds which have initiated in the axils of the leaves, for these are the future flower buds. Following common garden practice, remove dead flowers so the tree will not waste its energy producing seed.

Wiring should only be done on young secondary growth which has reached several inches in length. Older branches are too brittle to be wired. Wires cannot usually be left on for long periods since growth tends to be rapid, so be sure to check wiring frequently to avoid possible wire damage.

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The new year is upon us. It is customarily a time for reflection and setting new goals. This is a good time to determine priorities for our endeavors with bonsai. For many of us the main goal is to have a superior collection of bonsai and with it the expertise to establish and care for this collection. Of course, given sufficient funds, one could eventually purchase such a collection. However, much of the reward of bonsai is in learning and, hopefully, mastering the art. In the process one can create a personal collection which, in essence, is a kind of portfolio exemplifying one's skill. I believe that this type of collection and expertise is a must for those who want to teach bonsai and an important goal for those seriously interested in the art.

How can we reach these goals and how can local clubs and PBA help? First, we must determine what we already know and what we need to learn. Even a beginner has some knowledge of bonsai, some concept that provoked their interest in learning more about the art. Beginners can be helped most readily by club activities. They have a great deal to learn and can do so through contact with fellow enthusiasts as well as through programs sponsored by their club or PBA.

It does not take long to learn the basics: pruning, wiring, repotting and soil mixes. Programs on these subjects soon become repetitious. Next it is a matter of doing and seeing what others have done to build competence and confidence. The major problem is to develop the eye to permit one to see the styles that can be extracted from a piece of material. At first, most work on small trees and follow directions by rote. Many stall at this stage. But, with practice one can develop a sense of composition and style. Eventually, it becomes easier to use the basic techniques to alter the structure and proportions of a plant to make it look more like what we conceive as a "good" bonsai.

At this intermediate stage it becomes most important to identify what you need to learn. Then it is up to you to use the resources of your club to maximum benefit. A great deal can be learned from studying other bonsai, or photographs of bonsai, talking to fellow club members, problem tree sessions, workshops, etc. However, the burden of extracting what you need is on your shoulders. You can do so by making your voice heard. Communicate your learning needs to your EVP and participate in establishing programs that satisfy you. As you become more experienced and proficient you will be able to help others as well. After all, when you assist in a workshop you are also getting the benefit of helping to style a number of trees.

Elections are coming up. This is your opportunity to help direct PBA activities toward areas you find beneficial. Take on some responsibility, run for office, encourage others to do the same. It is not just a matter of how much you know about bonsai, but how much you are willing to do to learn more. The only profit derived from our bonsai clubs is the cumulative effort to provide a resource for each of us to use to advance our abilities in the art. The more each of us contributes, the greater the resource.

Best wishes to all for a happy and productive new year.

-- Richard M. Meszler

BGB ADVANCED BONSAI COURSE STILL HAS A FEW OPENINGS

There are still a few vacancies left for the BGB sponsored course in advanced styling techniques to be given under the tutelage of Cliff Pottberg at the National Arboretum.

The course will run from February 19 through April 9, with no classes on March 12 and March 26. Tuition is \$20 for the entire six weeks, which computes to \$3.34 per session or 84¢ an hour. Students will provide their own trees, though some will be available for purchase on a limited basis. Since the emphasis of the course is on advanced styling, Cliff does not plan any potting sessions except for a forest planting.

For information and registration call Mary Houlton at (301) 345-3606 after 6:00 p.m. Preference will be given to Brookside Gardens Bonsai Club members who register prior to February 5. ---Mary Houlton

ELECTION CHAIRMAN EVERETT OUTLINES PBA PROCEDURES

The PBA officers to be elected for one year terms beginning June 1977 are President, First Vice President, Educational Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The election procedures are determined by Article II of the By-Laws as follows:

Section 1. Each dues paying member shall be entitled to one vote for the election of PBA officers and shall be entitled to one vote on all other business coming before any PBA meeting.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall elect a committee to nominate officers no later than 15 January. A notice of officers to be nominated, the nomination procedures and election procedures shall be published in the February Newsletter of PBA.

Section 3. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each office and report their nominations in the March Newsletter and to the Secretary and President of each club. Additional nominations supported by at least 3 PBA members may be submitted to the chairman of the Nominating Committee and shall appear on the ballot if submitted or posted no later than 1 April. The Nominating Committee shall report all nominees to a committee of Tellers.

Section 4. A committee of Tellers appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, shall prepare the official ballot which shall contain the nominees, provision for write-in votes and provisions for preferential voting for each office.

Section 5. The Secretary shall provide the committee of Tellers with the official roll of PBA members who are entitled to vote as of the closing date of 31 March.

Section 6. The committee of Tellers shall mail ballots, by 15 April, specifying all instructions and the limiting posted date of 15 May, for the return of the ballots to be considered in the tally.

Section 7. A majority of ballots cast shall be required to elect. The preferential vote shall be employed to determine the elected candidate should any candidate fail to receive a majority of initial votes.

Section 8. The Tellers shall notify the successful candidates and the President of the election results no later than 5 June. The official report of the Tellers shall be made at the Annual Meeting.

This year's ballot will also have a referendum on the PBA Board's proposition to partially finance an incumbent president's expenses to the BCI convention.
- Harvey Everett, Nominations Committee

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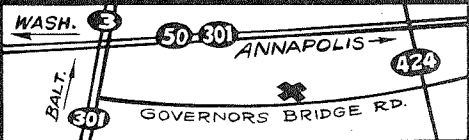
Hours: 9:00 to 5:00 daily
Closed Monday and Tuesday
Other hours by appointment

PBA Newsletter readers will note that the Newsletter has a new advertiser. Mr. Draper advises us that, besides plant material geared toward bonsai, his nursery carries tools, annealed copper wire, Turface, fine grit, and a large selection of bonsai containers. We welcome Drapers Acres Nursery to our Newsletter advertisers and urge PBAers to patronize all our advertisers.

BROOKSIDE BONSAI SPONSORS OKAMURA LECTURE MARCH 26

Brookside Gardens Bonsai announces that it will be host to Mr. Frank Okamura, curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden bonsai collection, on Saturday, March 26. The program will be held at the National Arboretum and will be divided into two sessions. The morning session, starting at 10:00 a.m., will be a lecture/demonstration open to all PBA members.

The afternoon will be a slab planting workshop beginning at 1:30 p.m. This will be limited to 15 members of the Brookside Gardens Bonsai Club, though onlookers are welcome. The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person and BGB will provide slabs, soil, etc. Students are expected to provide their own trees, though some will be available for purchase. For information and reservations call Mary Houlton at 345-3606. ---Mary Houlton

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BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDENS LATEST A "HANDBOOK ON INDOOR BONSAI"

Dull winter months can be much brighter if your bonsai collection includes some trees and shrubs that thrive indoors. "Plants suitable for indoor bonsai" by Edmond O. Moulin in the Fall 1976 issue of Bonsai Journal lists ninety-five "bonsai and companion plants suitable for indoor culture" and gives the light intensity and temperature conditions preferred by each. In an earlier article (Bonsai Journal, Summer 1976) Moulin tells a bit about how to keep them happy. Also, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York, 11225, has a new "Handbook on Indoor Bonsai" scheduled for publication in early 1977. The cost is \$1.50 and advance orders are now being accepted. ---David Gavin

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FOUR JAPANESE BONSAI ARTISTS VISIT THE NATIONAL COLLECTION

Four young Japanese bonsai specialists were overnight visitors to the U.S. National Bonsai Collection on Friday and Saturday, January 14 and 15. During their Washington stay they wired the magnificent Shimpaku Juniper given to the National Collection by Mr. Oguchi. Robert Drechsler, curator of the National Collection, and Sylvester "Skip" March, chief horticulturist of the National Arboretum, hosted the group and guided them on a whirlwind tour of the District.

The four visitors, all from Nagano Prefecture, were: Masanoshi Nakamura, Minoru Karasawa, Kazuyuki Takagi, and Shigenori Ono. They also visited the Los Angeles area as the guest of John Naka. ---John Hinds

THE CLUB CALENDAR

- ANNAPOLIS** Feb. 21 (Monday), 7:30 p.m., Annapolis Public Library. Mr. Bill Craig will lecture on indoor bonsai. Bring bonsai for critique.
 March 29 (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m., Annapolis Public Library. Cliff Pottberg will give a forest planting demonstration.
- BALTIMORE** Feb. 20 (Sunday), 3:30 p.m., Cylburn Mansion in Cylburn Park. Leonard Gallant will lecture on Kamuti, the short-cut method of bonsai creation. Barbara Bogash will lecture on viewing stones. Members are requested to bring their designs for the club logo. The selected logo will be used on club stationery. Also bring trees for critique.
- BROOKSIDE** 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.
 March 26 (Saturday: this is a change from the usual third Friday), 10:00 a.m., National Arboretum Auditorium. A lecture/demonstration by Frank Okamura, bonsai master of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Open to all PBA members. At 2:00 p.m., a slab planting workshop for BGB members only. Limited to the first 15 BGB members who call to Mary Houlton EVP, tele. 345-3606. Slabs will be provided. Individuals provide own trees. Cost is \$10.
- KIYOMIZU** 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.
- NOVABONSOCC** Feb. 12 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m., Gulf Stream Nature Center. Tom Rozzell will lecture on indoor bonsai. Earl Montgomery will talk on grafting techniques and fertilizing methods.
- WASHINGTON** March 19 (Saturday), 2:00 p.m. A walking tour of the Gotelli Collection of Dwarf Conifers. Meet at the National Bonsai Collection Pavilion to carpool to the Gotelli Collection site. Discussion of dwarf conifers suitable for bonsai.

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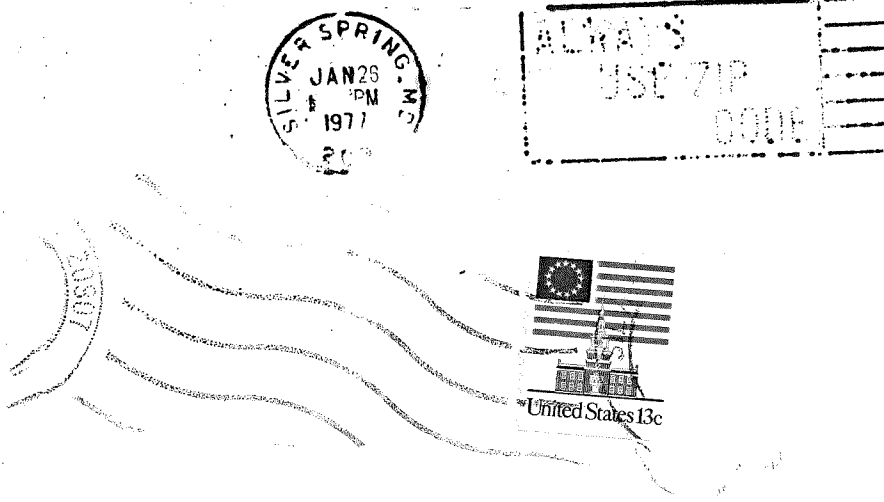
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A NEW IDEA ON PATIO STANDS FOR DISPLAYING BONSAI TREES

Need a mountain cliff for your cascade or windswept, usable indoors or outdoors on a patio every day? Try a plant stand or pedestal. Those on display in the area "jungle stores" can cost as much as a fairly big, partially trained tree. You can make your own very easily out of any available wood. U-Bild Enterprises, 15233 Stagg, Van Nuys, California, 91405, offers simple, complete construction plans for a cube, a cylinder, five rectangular pedestals, and something looking like a lectern. Some are plain and others are faced with lath. Although designed to hide the pot of a bushy house plant, they are adaptable to bonsai. Send \$2.50 to them for "Plant Furniture, Plan No. 579." ---David Gavin

YOU COULD HAVE SHARED YOUR BONSAI KNOWLEDGE IN THIS SPACE.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
c/o National Arboretum
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