

PBA NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 7 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1977

TREE OF THE MONTH



F.J.

Rosemary

by Dorothy Brown

When a child I can recall building miniature gardens in the path of my grandmother's herb garden. Acorn cups were used as flower pots, Camomile flower heads were used to make Lilliputian flower beds. The woody sprigs of rosemary were used as "towering" pine trees.

Now I am a grandmother and have returned to making trees of Rosemary. The trees now have roots and are classified as bonsai.

Rosemarinus officinalis, a shrubby perennial, is ideal as an indoor Bonsai. The leaves are similar to pine needles (narrow and needle like) and even have a piney scent.

This herb comes in upright and prostrate species. I've found the prostrate most suitable for Bonsai. The stems become woody and gnarled with age.

Rosemary is very easy to train by cutting, very light wire, or even small fishing weights hung on branches.

To make cuttings of rosemary, clip a sprig of firm new growth 4 to 5 inches long, strip the bottom $\frac{1}{2}$ inches of leaves, and stick the sprig in wet sand until it has rooted. Roots usually form in six weeks.

I plant my large potted rosemary out in the garden in the spring. As the lower rambling branches become long enough I pin them down against the soil until roots form, making new plants. When potting rosemary I mix about $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon lime to a cup of soil mixture.

My rosemary is kept in my sunny kitchen window. They get four hours of direct sunlight and reflected light the rest of the day. If kept under strong artificial lights they require 12 hours.

It is necessary to keep a close watch on watering. Its soil must never be allowed to dry out completely, but it should be allowed to become moderately dry between deep soakings.

--- Dorothy Brown
Annapolis Bonsai Club

Winter Show at the Arboretum

Not everyone is aware that the National Bonsai Collection is on display at the Arboretum all year long. The trees are not put in storage for the winter, but are given special protection right in the Bonsai Pavilion. It is a marvelous opportunity to view and appreciate the branch structure and ramification on the deciduous trees. The Pavilion is open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. Don't miss the winter show.

President's Message

If you missed the Symposium, you missed a good party. The festivities began with a welcoming snack of coffee and cake to go with the exquisite film "The Spirit of Bonsai," carried through the cocktail hour and banquet and ended with the colorful slides and discussion of flowering and fruiting bonsai by Chase Rosade. There were approximately 100 registrants, including a considerable number from out-of-town areas such as Pittsburgh, Pa. and Norfolk, Va.

Discussions were lively and there was much to be learned for everyone. The topics covered the two major sources of obtaining trees for bonsai, collecting and nursery stock. Dr. Andrews helped us expand our horizons on collecting and the development of collected trees. Keith Scott, in his usual humorous way, talked about the development of bonsai from nursery stock. These talks were amplified by George Baker's discussion of the growth of trees. In addition, Cliff Pottberg gave us fresh look at the principles of design and the use of space in bonsai.

The workshops were excellent. The fine product of Marion Gyllenswan's demonstration of forest plantings was won by the Ballantynes of the Annapolis Bonsai Club. More than one participant in Jim Everman's saikei workshop expressed the wish that they were working with rooted plants, rather than branch prunings. However, I think part of the success of the workshop lay in the fact that there was no need to worry about keeping plants alive. We were free to concentrate on placement and design. Jim Newton did not find any "impossible trees."

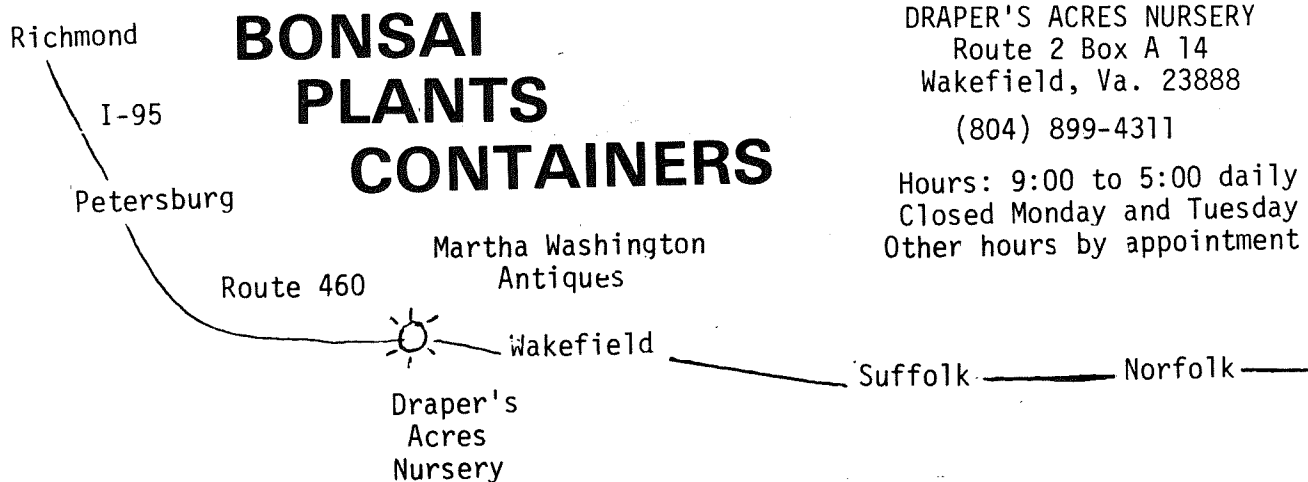
The sales area, albeit a little crowded, was in the main stream of the activities and I think added to the atmosphere of the Symposium by permitting spontaneous browsing & buying. The Baltimore Bonsai Club sponsored a silent auction of some 44 bonsai from the collection of Mr. J. Norman High, a club member who, for personal reasons, felt it necessary to dispose of his collection. Half the proceeds were donated to BBC. We regret this represented the end of Mr. High's bonsai activities, but his generous donation and the successful auction which dispersed his trees among the PBA membership will help the rest of us to continue to pursue the study of bonsai.

In all, I felt the Symposium was a great success and reflected the planning, hard work and dedication of the organization. Bill Merritt, Mary Houlton, Vicki Ballantyne, Archel Morell and the rest, Thanks for a great Symposium. Those of you who missed it, hope to see you there next year.

--- Richard Meszler

PBA to Participate in Flower Show

PBA has been invited to participate in a Flower Show which will be like the old Flower Show which was discontinued in 1971. The PBA Board is very excited about the prospect and feel that it is a golden opportunity for us to reach the Washington/Baltimore community. This is not the same production which was held at the Capital Center last year, but will be held at the Armory from March 3-8. Although it will occur at the same time as the Naka School, there will be plenty of time for PBAers to participate in both events.



Newsletter News

PBA Newsletter editor John Hinds has been sent on an extended business trip to the West Coast and has had to hand the reins over. John has done a tremendous job and one he can be well proud of. In his stead I have volunteered to attempt to do as good a job as he has done, and will be assisted by Mary Fox of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society and, I hope, by all PBAers.

Several members have already made some suggestions which are worth not only mentioning, but trying. First, the Calendar of Events will be done in chronological order rather than by individual club. You may have to look harder to find your own club's activities for the next month, but you may be apt to see what another club is doing on a particular day and decide you'd like to attend that also. PBA is, after, one large club and too few of us attend meetings of other club, even though any PBAer is welcome at any club meeting.

A second feature will be a kind of a readers' clearinghouse. For lack of a more clever name, it will start out as Snips and Slips. If anyone can come up with a better name, I'd love to hear it. With your cooperation, it will be a regular feature in the Newsletter and you can read more about it further on in this issue.

Both Jim Newton and John Hinds have reprinted articles from other bonsai newsletters, and I plan to do the same thing when I think they can be of value to PBAers. The main contents should come from PBA, however. It is your Newsletter and it is aimed at your bonsai problems and successes. Yes, we need articles, but we also need bonsai comments and suggestions - maybe only a sentence or a paragraph long. These could well go in the Snips and Slips feature. Share your knowledge with the rest of the members and we'll all have better bonsai. Any materials should be sent to:

Mary Houlton
5711 Seminole Street
Berwyn Heights, Maryland 20740

If your suggestion is short, call me at 345-3606 or Mary Fox at 524-6636 in the Washington metropolitan area, or Barbara Bogash at 922-9310 in Baltimore and Vicki Ballantyne at 647-3224 in Annapolis. Articles should reach me by the 15th of the month in order to be published in the next month's Newsletter.

--- Mary Houlton

Annapolis/Washington Corrections

The telephone number listed to contact Joyce Pelletire in last month's Newsletter is incorrect. The correct number is 262-8578 (dialable from Washington)

The contact listed for the Washington Bonsai Club should be Eulalia Walker at 547-8497.

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More On Winterizing

This is the time of year when we are all thinking of winterizing our bonsai, and it seems that we are deluged with articles on winter care. Perhaps one more might be of help, though - particularly to those who have limited space for winter care. It is a reprint of an article by George Reichert from the Toronto Bonsai Society Journal, reprinted in the October '77 Bonsai Magazine.

"We must protect our trees during the winter months from icy, dehydrating winds, killing frosts, and repeated thawing and refreezing of the soil.

... Apart from some tender indoor plants, most bonsai are hardy and require periods of dormancy just like their big counterparts. In other words, your trees are outdoor trees. However, they are outdoor trees in very shallow containers, which leaves the roots barely protected from frost, whereas the big cousins out there grow deep into the protective ground.

The most basic and by and large, most adequate measure, would be to simply bury your trees in the ground. If you want to take a chance with a not too expensive pot, you can bury the tree with it; otherwise take it out of the container and dig it in, if there is danger of the pot breaking in hard frost.

Select a northerly location and after your Bonsai is in the ground, up to the top of its soil level, protect it further by mulching with fallen leaves or straw, up to the lower branches. The tree should stay cold all winter and not warm up in southern exposures with every mild spell. A good snow cover is very helpful too, it keeps the tree insulated and moist. Trees do need moisture even in winter, so provide some shield against icy, dry winds.

Now, some tips for apartment dwellers: I for one keep my trees on the balcony in a huge wooden box (or boxes), where they sit deep in moist peatmoss under a lid. This lid is lifted gradually at the beginning of spring. Otherwise it stays on all winter, LEAVING THE TREES IN TOTAL DARKNESS. They are virtually put to sleep for a few months and they seem to like it well enough. Every once in a while I scoop some snow off the railing and throw it on the branches for added moisture, that's all. If you only have a few small trees, you could use styrofoam coolers, again with the lids on. I use several of these as well.

These are 2 easy methods. You could naturally enclose your balcony as one of our members does very beautifully, and so derive a great deal of pleasure from your trees even in winter, or in your garden you could build a greenhouse or a cold frame. That would save you the messy work of digging your trees out again next year. Also, some trees, like the Japanese White Pine, need a little more protection and an inheated greenhouse would be just right ..."

Editor's note: Although Canada's winters are longer and colder than we get in the Baltimore-Washington area, many of the trees native here are native, or at least hardy in southern Ontario and need the same kind of winter protection. Styrofoam coolers could be a great solution for wintering smaller trees, but be sure that you drill plenty of holes in the bottom of the cooler for drainage. Don't use your expensive plastic coolers for this. The drainage hole is inadequate for the kind of drainage you need and could too easily become clogged or frozen and you lose not only your trees but your cooler.



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There's A Fungus Among Us

"A fungus that often doubles the growth rate of pine seedlings may some day help rejuvenate forests and reclaim strip-mined lands.

Some fungi have a superior capacity for absorbing water and nutrients, and they carry these essentials to trees. The trees, in turn, manufacture carbohydrates through photosynthesis and transport them to their roots, where the fungi use them as nourishment.

This beneficial relationship between friendly fungi and the root system of host plants is called mycorrhiza, meaning literally "fungus root," the National Geographic Society says.

Foresters have been aware of the symbiotic root-fungus relationship for some time, but until recently, little has been done to capitalize on it.

In the last years, Department of Agriculture Forest Service scientists with the Mycorrhizal Institute at the Southeast Experiment Station in Athens, Georgia, have conducted extensive studies on fungi.

They have achieved astonishing results by infesting the soil in tree nurseries with a friendly fungus called "Pisolithus tinctorius." In some instances, the speed of growth of pine seedlings has more than doubled over normal plantings.

The fungus also protects seedlings' roots against disease and environmental extremes like drought, abnormal temperatures, and bad soil conditions.

'These consistently positive results have generated considerable interest,' says Dr. Donald H. Marx, who pioneered work in the Mycorrhizal Institute.

'Many foresters have come to realize that mycorrhizal manipulation can be an important tool in silviculture.'

Abbott Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company, is already researching ways to produce *P. tinctorius* so it can be easily incorporated into the soil for tree seedling production.

Before this product is commercialized, however, the Mycorrhizal Institute will launch a pilot test program in a number of tree nurseries throughout the United States to ensure that the commercial fungus works as well as the one produced in the Institute's laboratory.

The commercial production and application of a single helpful fungus is just a first step. The Institute will continue to identify other promising fungus species that might increase tree production.

P. tinctorius may be in commercial use in the next two or three years, aiding nursery production and helping to guarantee survival of seedlings in the field. The fungus and others like it show great promise for the reclamation of strip-mined lands, reduced dependence on fertilizers, and healthier forests in general."

(Article by Donald J. Frederick of the National Geographic News, reprinted recently in the Baltimore Sun Newspaper)

--- submitted by Milt Kidd

Editor's note: The implications of the commercial availability of this "friendly fungus" can be of great interest to bonsaiists. It might greatly increase the chance of survival for collected pines and at the same time lessen the time required to develop them into trained bonsai.

The Bulldozer's Triumph, or Triangles Tragedy

Those of us who were lucky and smart enough to do some collecting in the Golden Triangle will be saddened to know that the bulldozers finally moved into the area to do their evil work on the day following the PBA Symposium. Nearly all the 56 acres have been cleared and it is heart-breaking to think of the trees we didn't get out of there. However, to look on the bright side, PBAers had a whole year of collecting when we expected far less, and a lot of good trees did come out of there in that time. It was gold mine while it lasted and we should be grateful for the opportunity we had.

--- Mary Houlton

Snips and Slips


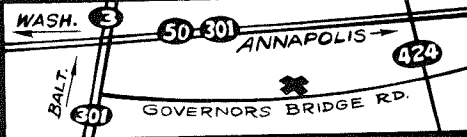
This feature of the PBA Newsletter is for the PBAers: for your questions, for your answers and comments. If you have a question - anything, from "what is the best soil mixture for an azalea?" to "where can I obtain cuttings for a Fukien tea?" It is also a column for your answers to someone else's question, or a comment on your own. A question published in one Newsletter will have replies published in the subsequent one, or whenever they may be received. It is the chance for YOU to get answers to your particular problems and to share your experiences with other Club members.

Questions, answers, or comments may be addressed to me in writing, or you can call me at 345-3606, or Mary Fox at 524-6636. If you live in Baltimore, call Barbara Bogash at 922-9310, or in Annapolis, Vicki Ballabtyne at 647-3224. I, for one, would like to know if anyone has ever tried to scrub bonsai pots in the dishwasher. It would seem logical, since some of the later models have a wonderful feature that will clean hard-baked beans off a pot. Has anyone ever tried it?

--- Mary Houlton

NAKA School in March

John Naka is returning to the Washington area on the weekend of March 4-7 to conduct a Naka School. The school will be divided into two classes, one meeting Saturday the 4th and Monday night the 6th, the other meeting on Sunday the 5th and Tuesday night the 7th. A lecture/demonstration will be both Saturday and Sunday mornings to which all PBAers are welcome to attend. Trees styled in these demonstrations will be raffled at that time. Workshops will be limited to 10 persons per class and further details will be printed in the January Newsletter. Put these dates on your calendar now so that you won't forget to attend.

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Conventionally Speaking

Bonsaiists throughout the country will have an opportunity to attend two fine symposium/conventions this summer.

The 11th annual American Bonsai Association symposium will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York on July 6-9, 1978. Featured will be Yuji Yoshimura as Master in Residence. Included on the program will be trips to bonsai nurseries, informal field trips, etc.

July 19-23, 1978 the Bonsai Clubs International will hold its annual convention in Portland, Oregon. Saikei Master Toshio Kawamoto, assisted by Tom Yamamoto will be featured. In addition, John Naka and Tosh Saburomaru, both California Masters, will be on hand.

Plan to attend one or both of these fine programs. Further details will be in subsequent issues.

The Symposium



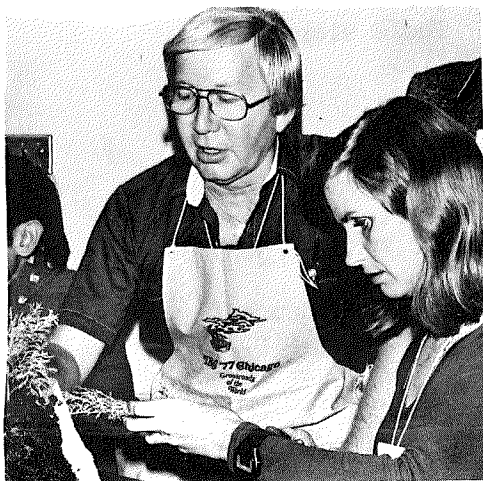
#1 Cliff Pottberg



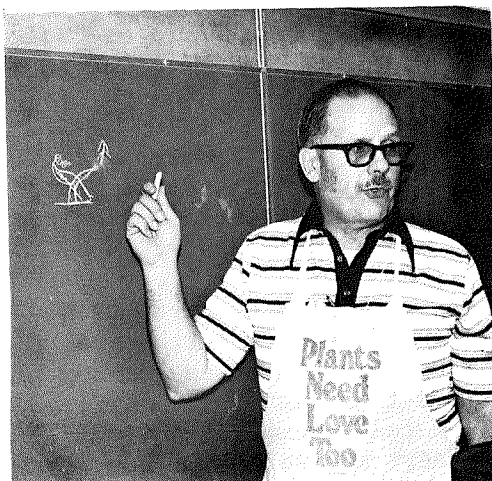
#2 Dr. David Andrews



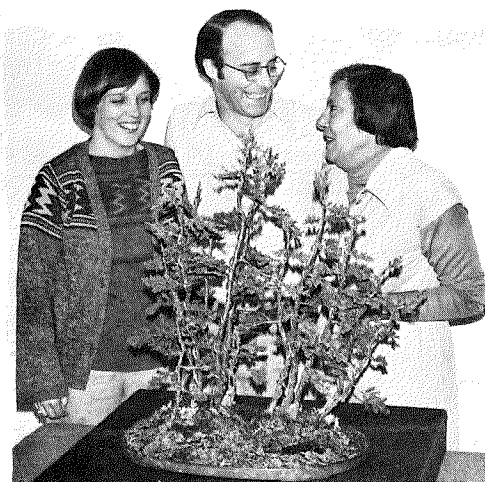
#3 Marion Gyllenswan



#4 Jim Everman



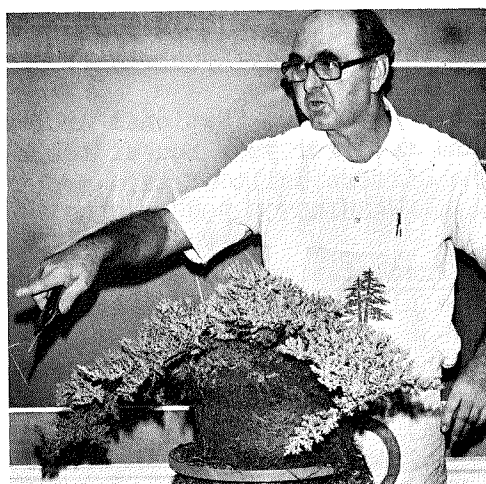
#5 Jim Newton



#6 The Raffle Tree



#7 George Baker



#8 Keith Scott



#9 Chase Rosade

1. Cliff Pottberg explaining the use of the void
2. Dr. David Andrews with one of his collected specimens, a Utah juniper (*Juniperus utahensis*)
3. Marion Gyllenswan creates a forest planting
4. Jim Everman assists Marge Spencer of Baltimore Bonsai Club with the techniques of saikei
5. Jim Newton working on an "impossible tree"
6. Marion Gyllenswan and forest planting with raffle winners Bruce and Vicki Ballantyne of Annapolis Bonsai Club
7. George Baker helps us understand what happens after the tree is a finished bonsai
8. Keith Scott - You WILL gather at the river, for Kimono coathanger style bonsai
9. Chase Rosade shows the progress of the original hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) he did at the first Symposium two years ago

CLUB CALENDAR

- December 9
(Friday) Christmas Party and slide presentation. 7:30 p.m. Howard Clark will present a 35 minute nature slide show, followed by a Christmas Party. All PBAers are welcome. Those wishing to bring goodies to eat call Molly Hersh at 589-3725. BROOKSIDE
- December 10
(Saturday) Robert F. Drechsler, guest speaker. 10:00 a.m., Gulf Branch Nature Center. Topics will include wintering the National Collection. Also, talk with slides on his recent trip to Japan to study bonsai with the masters. NOVABONSOC
- December 10
(Saturday) Christmas Dinner. Christmas party at Gi-An's Hibachi restaurant in Annapolis. Best tempura in the area for \$8. Includes tip, tax, soup, salad, rice, hot tea, shrimp tempura & vegetable. (Larger portions than last year). Or, beef teriyaki, salad, soup, rice, hot tea & tempura vegetables for \$9.80. Volunteers to bring a dessert are welcome. Bob Drechsler will give a talk and slide show of his latest Japan trip. Call Joyce Pelletier, 262-8578 (Washington area) or Vicki Ballantyne, 647-3224 for reservations by Dec. 6. 6:30-7:30 (p.m.), cocktails, 7:30 dinner. All PBA members welcome. Combined ANNAPOLIS/BALTIMORE
- December 14
(Wednesday) Christmas Dinner. 7:00 p.m. Andrews Air Force Base Officers' Club. Details in Kiyomizu Newsletter. KIYOMIZU
- December 17
(Saturday) Care of tools. 2:00 p.m. National Arboretum. Come find out how to use and care for your bonsai tools and how to build soil sifters. The sifters built at this meeting will be given to the Arboretum. WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB
- January 12
(Thursday) B.C.I. Slide Presentation. 7:00 p.m. Annapolis Library (West Street). Hopefully, the Man Lung exhibit. ANNAPOLIS
- January 20
(Friday) Grafting Workshop. 7:30 p.m. Brian Campbell will give a demonstration and conduct a workshop on grafting (probably Japanese maples). Each attendee will have an opportunity to try simple grafting of scion to understock. Materials provided. All PBAers welcome. BROOKSIDE
- January 21
(Saturday) Film and workshop. 1:30 p.m. (note change in time). National Arboretum. Brooklyn Botanic Garden film on bonsai will be shown and the public is invited. After the film, a workshop will be held featuring Hollywood junipers. Bring own pruners and wire cutters. WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB