

PBA NEWSLETTER

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TREE OF THE MONTH

by Vicki Ballantyne

Collecting Bald Cypress

Collecting bald cypress in the Naples, Florida area is a mind-boggling experience. Six couples met in Naples the New Year's Eve weekend for a fantastic bonsai collecting experience with Cliff & Tory Pottberg. Everywhere we looked we found one more super tree after another. All were naturally dwarfed even though, in most cases, the trees were 15 feet tall - that is still considerably smaller than their normal 80-150 feet height.

We started out early in the morning with a big breakfast and then headed out into the forests. We usually stayed out until 6:00 so we put in quite a long day. Usually, by about noon our eyes were suffering from "museumitis." We had seen so many beautiful trees by then that we had a difficult time picking out the really special trees. The whole area was like a dreamland. Did I feel any remorse digging up these beauties? None at all. The water table is getting so low and so many swamps are being drained that these bald cypress will eventually be bulldozed to make way for housing complexes. Maybe some of mine will live.

The sand makes easy digging but it also makes for practically non-existent surface roots. Quite difficult to gather a root ball too, since the sand falls away so easily. It took Bruce, my husband, an hour of hard work to dig and then tie up the root ball.

We brought the trees home and put them in our basement. A greenhouse would have been much better. An interesting point: the three trees we left in the plastic bags are living, the ones we put in tubs have shown no sign of life. I wonder if I could have created a more humid environment if I had put plastic bags over the trees. I have heard that several people have winterized Florida cypress in their garages, but they had established roots. I am sure a greenhouse is the most successful method.

The bald cypress is easily identifiable with a normally straight trunk and numerous ascending branches. The bark is silvery to cinnamon red and as we walked through the forests it often seemed as though we were walking into a silver haze. Quite delightful and impressive. The leaves are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length and are arranged in a feathery way along the small branches. The fruit is a round ball about one inch in diameter and both male and female flowers are on the same tree. Check John Naka's book for the type of soil in which you want to grow your bald cypress. Some people have assured me they do fine sitting in a pot of water, and others have had no luck with that even though they grow naturally in swampy conditions. I have talked to the other people who collected with us and they have had almost 90-100% success, so I think the basement, even though it is basically unheated, was still too dry.

Our family had a great time collecting these trees. I only hope that next time our success rate will be a little higher. If you have a chance to be in Florida in December or January don't miss an opportunity to collect this fantastic tree.

--- Vicki Ballantyne

PBA Fiscal Report

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
March 14, 1978			
Cash on Hand			\$1315.72
<u>Dues 6/20/77 - 3/13/78</u>		\$657.50	
<u>Newsletter</u>			
no advertising income	\$1098.63		
<u>Flower Show</u>			
expenses & Flower check	1157.77	633.25	
<u>BCI Part II - loss (carryover 1977-78)</u>			-1787.74
<u>Naka demonstration & workshop - loss</u>	1262.65	956.00	
<u>PBA Symposium</u>	2606.29	2600.05	- 6.24
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	428.31	376.07	- 52.24

Club News

Area Clubs Elect Officers

NoVaBonSoc and Brookside both report the elction of officers for the coming year. They are:

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society: John Simpson, president; Bob Sitnick, educational vice president; Mary Alice Wells, secretary; Mary Fox, tresurer.

Brookside Gardens Bonsai Club: Mary Houlton, president; Dave Firestone, 1st vice president; Janet Lanman, educational vice president; Harvey Everett, secretary; Molly Hersh, treasurer.

PBA Auction

The annual PBA Spring Auction will be held at Behnke's Nursery, US Route #1, Beltsville, Maryland on June 3 (Saturday). The auction will begin at 10:00 a.m., and those wishing to have materials sold are requested to be there no later than 9 am. As we did last year, there will be a "flea market" table for small items (small pots, seedlings, etc.). PBA will take a 10% commission on all items sold. Bring the trees you can bear to part with for sale and your checkbook for those you find you can't live without. For further information call Mary Houlton (301) 345-3606 after 6 pm.



BONSAI CARE

a simple guide for owners

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... think **BIG**

President's Message

This will be my last commentary as President of PBA. I would like to start by thanking you all for your initiative, support and work during my tenure. In particular, I would like to thank Molly Hersh and Josephine Finneyfrock for their hospitality and the use of their home for our numerous Board meetings during the past two years.

In this time, PBA has undertaken and supported several projects of considerable magnitude. Our success in these endeavors is proof of our maturity as an organization and our commitment to education and our personal development in the art of bonsai.

When I took office in April 1976, the plans for BCI '76 and the gift of the National Collection were well under way. This was an auspicious beginning. The hard work of Jim Newton and the many who worked with him set a new standard of quality for bonsai conventions.

The Annual Symposium had been attempted for the first time in the Fall of 1975. Since then we have expanded it, with good results, to a one and a half day event. Due to the smaller size and local nature of the Symposium, it can and ought to be responsive to the needs of PBA members and give us an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn new techniques. It is in this way we learned about such things as the hole-drilling trick, described by Chase Rosade, and how we might plan or practice styling of saikei of forests by using branch clippings instead of rooted trees.

Another major annual event, the PBA Show at the National Arboretum, has also changed character in the last couple of years. We started with an attempt to organize a unified show of bonsai selected by a central show committee. Now we have a merger of individual club displays. I believe this is a change for the better, since it permits each club to demonstrate the expertise of its members, experiment with various methods of display and compare their efforts with that of the other clubs. Furthermore, it gives the opportunity for involvement by a larger number of members.

Now, we also have the Flower Show. Our first attempt, this year, was a thorough success. Not only did we please the judges and the public, but we worked together, under the able leadership of Cliff Pottberg, and put on a show that I believe was satisfying to ourselves. The important point is that a large number of PBA members participated. I hope that each of you will continue, in this way, to share in the activities of PBA. We've come a long way baby, let's keep going! If we all contribute a little, we can each reap the sum of all our efforts, thereby improving our knowledge and skills and advancing the American Art of Bonsai.

--- Richard Meszler

PBA DUES ARE DUE

PBA Annual Meeting May 14

The PBA Annual Meeting will be held at the National Arboretum, Sunday, May 14, 1978 in the classroom downstairs in the Administration Building. There is no additional activity planned in conjunction with the meeting. Meeting starts at 1 pm. Please plan to attend. This is an important way for you and your ideas to be heard by those you have elected to run the Club.

Agenda:

Reading and approval of minutes of 1977 annual meeting

Reports:

President
Educational Vice President
First Vice President
Treasurer
Elections Committee

New business:

Constitutional amendment
Suggestions from the floor

--- Richard Meszler

Snips and Slips

Now that azaleas are (finally) blooming, the new growth will soon be appearing. Remember that the tops of azaleas should be kept well trimmed in order for lower branches to develop. This is true of any tree, but especially so with azaleas. Lower branches can be severely weakened if tops are allowed to grow too vigorously.

--- Mary Houlton

WINTER KILL

The growing season is now well upon us and PBAers know pretty much which of their trees survived the winter and which ones didn't. It would be interesting to know what trees survived, which didn't, where they were kept, when they were last potted, etc. Also, what kind of particular or unexpected success or failure any one experienced. Please contact me or one of the people listed below and let us know so that we can share it with the rest of PBA in the Newsletter.

--- Mary Houlton

For comments and contributions call:

Washington area

Mary Houlton 345-3606

Mary Fox 524-6636

Baltimore

Barbara Bogash 922-9310

Annapolis

Vicki Ballantyne 647-3224

CLUB CALENDAR

- May 10
Wednesday Special anniversary dinner and elections. KIYOMIZU
- May 13
Saturday Spring workshop at John Simpson's house. 10 a.m. 3617 Ridgeway Terrace, Lake Barcroft. (256-4615). Rain date May 20. NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY
- May 13
Saturday Cylburn Market Day. Sale of all types of plants. Cylburn Park, Baltimore.
- May 17
Wednesday Set up booths for BGB Show. 7:30 p.m. Brookside Gardens greenhouses. BROOKSIDE
- May 19
Friday Final set up for BGB show. 7:30 p.m. Brookside Gardens greenhouses. Placement of trees for show. All BGBers are encouraged to contribute trees for the show. Categories will include in-training as well as finished bonsai. BROOKSIDE
- May 20
Saturday Workshop at Dave Brown's. 10-4 Dave will provide beer & soil. Bring own trees or buy trees there. Don't forget pots - training or bonsai. Bring lunch. ANNAPOLIS
- May 20-21
Saturday &
Sunday Bonsai Show. Noon to 5 p.m. Brookside Botanical Gardens. BROOKSIDE
- May 20
Saturday Azalea workshop, air-layering demo. & pine candle pinching. 1:30 p.m. National Arboretum. WASHINGTON
- May 21
Sunday General workshop & problem trees. 1 p.m. Home of Dr. and Mrs. David Bogash, 8510 Stevenswood Rd., Baltimore. (922-9310) BALTIMORE
- June 3
Saturday PBA AUCTION. 10 a.m. Behnke's Nursery, US Route #1, Beltsville, Md. Those selling materials should be there by 9 a.m.
- June 10
Saturday Summer care of bonsai. 10 a.m. Gulf Branch Nature Center. Jim Newton & panel. NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY
- June 10
Saturday Workshop. 10 a.m. Home of Stephen Morse. ANNAPOLIS
- June 17
Saturday General workshop. 10 a.m. Home of John Hreha, Damascus Road, Damascus, Md. BROOKSIDE
- June 17
Saturday Raft style planting classes where everyone will participate. 1:30 p.m. National Arboretum. Also maple leaf pruning. WASHINGTON
- June 18
Sunday Return of the 3-Ring Circus. 3 p.m. Cylburn Park. New circus with 3 members styling 3 different trees. Tree of the month - anything goes. BALTIMORE
- June 18
Sunday Visit to Japanese Embassy. 2 p.m. Details in next Newsletter. KIYOMIZU

Croton Hill Farms, inc.


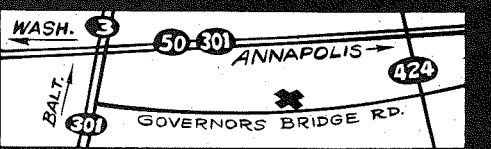
More open workshops scheduled at the Farm this spring.

Call Cliff Pottberg (301) 366-8844

for times and details

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE NEXT MONTH ! ! !



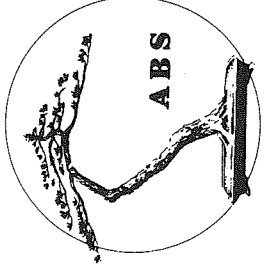
 <p>Bittersweet Hill NURSERIES</p> <p>Rt. 424 2 GOVERNORS BRIDGE RD. DAVIDSONVILLE, MD.</p>		<p>8 a.m. - 6 p.m. seven days a week Phone (301) 798-0231</p>
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Dwarf Rhododendrons	Japanese Maples, all sizes and varieties
Dwarf Pomegranate	Cotoneasters Secondary Planting Materials
Dwarf Conifers	Azaleas 13 varieties of Junipers
We now have seedling Bristlecone Pine, Small Pots & Bonsai Dishes	
Japanese Black Pine for growing on - for Bonsai	



<p>Richmond</p> <p>I-95</p> <p>Petersburg</p> <p>Route 460</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">BONSAI PLANTS CONTAINERS</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Martha Washington Antiques</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wakefield</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Draper's Acres Nursery</p>	<p>DRAPER'S ACRES NURSERY Route 2 Box A 14 Wakefield, Va. 23888 (804) 899-4311</p> <p>Hours: 9:00 to 5:00 daily Closed Monday and Tuesday Other hours by appointment</p> <p>Suffolk ————— Norfolk</p>
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11th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY

AT

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

JULY 6 - 9, 1978

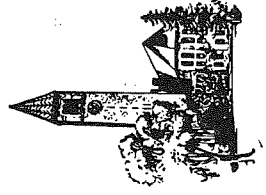
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