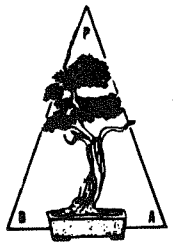


# PBA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 6

ISSN 0160-9521



## TREE OF THE MONTH

by Joyce Pelletier

### *Honeysuckle*

I'm sure everyone is familiar with the common honeysuckle which grows rampant in fields and roadsides, climbing over fences, trees and shrubs. As children we sucked the nectar from the blossoms, and as adults enjoyed its sweet fragrance permeating entire neighborhoods. However, many people dislike it for its persistent weediness, and therefore, it is seldom thought of as potential bonsai material.

Several people in PBA are training honeysuckle plants as bonsai and find them quite worthwhile. Collected in the wild, they can be expected to have interestingly gnarled and twisted trunks with ex-filiating bark. Honeysuckle transplants easily to many soils and pH levels. Leaves are generally 1-2 inches long and dwarf well, as long as you fertilize sparingly. It's a fast grower, so it will keep you busy pruning, and it may be necessary to repot a second time in late August. It is necessary to keep it in full sun, otherwise long internodes develop. Honeysuckle requires a well-drained soil, and will not tolerate "wet feet." One especially desirable trait is that honeysuckle buds back on old wood.

Although one thinks of honeysuckle as soft and flexible, due to its generally twining nature, it's actually quite difficult to wire because even 1-year old wood is very brittle and tends to crack easily. Dorothy Warren advises wiring very gently, only on young wood, and spreading it over several weeks. Both she and Richard Meszler recommend styling honeysuckle solely through pruning techniques if at all possible.

There are more than 180 species of shrubs or woody climbers in the honeysuckle family. The botanical name is Lonicera (pronounced lon-iss' er-ra). Many people may not be aware that some Lonicera species grow as tall sturdy shrubs that may be grown as standards (trained to a single, short, tree-like stem, with all growth concentrated in a terminal growth of foliage). Leaves are opposite, and occasionally evergreen. Showy flowers, 1-2 inches long, vary in color from creamy-white to yellow, pink, orange, rose, or purple-red, and are often very fragrant. Ornamental fruits may be white, yellow, orange, red, blue, or black, and are a favorite of birds. The berries are more profuse in the colder climates. Propagation is by seed (after cold stratification) or softwood cutting.

The most common honeysuckle in the eastern U.S. is L. japonica (Japanese honeysuckle). It is a vigorous, semi-evergreen climber, reaching 30 feet, so rampant that it will smother other plants if allowed to get out of control.

A honeysuckle with an unusual growth habit is L. pileata. It is a low, spreading evergreen shrub growing only 1 ft. high, having horizontal branches. It is suitable for rock gardens, and seems to be a prime candidate for bonsai.

Why not try it? The price is right.

--- Joyce Pelletier

## President's Message

Elections are over. We have another past president, Richard Meszler. He was a fine president; he brought a period of calm to the proceedings of PBA. After an initial, flamboyant expansion program, PBA needed a time of retrenching and solving of problems, and Richard provided the mood and opportunity for all that. He also expanded or added solid new programs.

It is interesting that Richard is a past president, because we had no newly appointed past-president last year. Richard is the first president in PBA history to have been elected for two terms of office. Which was as it should have been.

Also, Richard's being a past president is interesting because his past presidency is the first one awarded with an ex-officio role on the PBA board. And that, too, is as it should be.


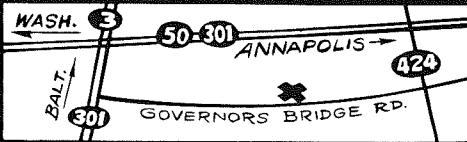
Now another year begins. We have another president: me. I'm not looking forward to living up to the standard Richard set for the presidency, but I'm going to try. Not by doing what he did, but by doing what I can do.

Broadly speaking, I see our goals this way:

1. Getting more people actively participating in and enjoying working for PBA and the clubs.
2. Helping the clubs to run more easily and efficiently, and to have programs which are even more fun and more educational, but only to the degree the clubs want or need our help.
3. Increasing the money-making opportunities for PBA and the clubs.
4. Increasing the memberships of the various clubs.
5. Finding out what else you want.

In spite of the problems always inherent in any volunteer organization, PBA is strong, and filled with talented, questing, and imaginative people. These seem to be marks of being a bonsai person.

This year promises to be fun.

 <p><b>Bittersweet Hill</b> NURSERIES RT 424 &amp; GOVERNORS BRIDGE RD. DAVIDSONVILLE, MD.</p>	 <p>Map showing location of Bittersweet Hill Nurseries. The map includes Washington (WASH.), Baltimore (BALT.), Annapolis, and the route of RT 424 and Governors Bridge Rd. Highway markers for 301, 50-301, and 424 are shown.</p>	<p>8 a.m. - 6 p.m. seven days a week Phone (301) 798-0231</p>
---	--	---

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		

## PBA Annual Show

The 6th annual PBA Show held the last weekend in April was an unqualified success. Over 5000 people attended and enjoyed the show. The presence of the newly acquired Japanese-style display stands enriched the displays by providing classical backgrounds. All clubs did outstanding jobs. The newer clubs - Washington and Kiyomizu - showed tremendous advancement in their trees and display techniques. The Northern Virginia Bonsai Society display was elegant and innovative. Hourly styling demonstrations drew on the talents of many members, and the appreciative audiences made it all worthwhile.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who worked so tirelessly putting up the displays, and taking them down again later, and cleaning up the area. Thanks to the volunteers who guarded the trees and answered questions from an interested public. Many new members resulted from the show. Thanks to Jules Koetsch, Tory Pottberg, John Hinds, Harvey Everett, Jim Newton, Mary Houlton, Dave Garvin, Arschel Morell, Vicki Ballantyne and John Hreha for their styling demonstrations. Thanks to Vicki Ballantyne for her assistance to me, and especially to Tory Pottberg for the wonderful job she did on the educational display, and for the publicity on TV, radio, and newspapers, which drew so many people to see the show.

--- Joyce Pelletier

### ALERT - 1979 PBA ANNUAL SHOW

Another show - another success! Now is the time to start to think of next year's PBA Annual Show at the Arboretum. As your newly elected 1st Vice President and, therefore, responsible for the 1979 Arboretum Show, I am looking forward to the same cooperation this coming year as has been previously displayed. I would appreciate suggestions, ideas, and any shortcuts for duplicating the successes of previous years. What is needed is manpower - and more manpower - so - I am here and now appealing for all the help that will be available for the last weekend of April of 1979. All I ask for now is the name of the person who will be responsible for coordinating this activity for each individual club.

Appealingly,  
Molly Hersh  
589-3725

## PBA Election

Results of the PBA election were announced at the annual meeting May 14:

President	Cliff Pottberg
First Vice President	Molly Hersh
Educational Vice President	Mary Houlton
Secretary	Jules Koetsch
Treasurer	Vicki Ballantyne

## Club News

### SMALL TREE WORKSHOP

Tory Pottberg has announced that Marion Borchers will be in the Baltimore/Washington area to conduct a small tree (mame) workshop in early July. Sessions will be held at Croton Hill Farm and participants will provide their own trees, etc. Cost will be approximately \$10. Those interested in participating should contact Tory for further details (301-366-8844). Marion is well recommended for her work with small trees and those interested in mame should not miss this opportunity.

### THANKS

The BGB show at Brookside Gardens Arboretum was held on May 20-21 and a good participation of members both for setting up and showing trees was evident. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the show so successful.

--- Harvey Everett

### ALOHA, JOHN!

In Hawaii "aloha" means both hello and goodbye. It was with a great deal of sadness that we recently said goodbye to John Hinds, who packed up bag, baggage and bonsai and moved to the West Coast. John has long been a staunch worker for PBA, is currently President of BCI, and will always be a friend. We're sorry to see him leave us and wish him the best of everything in his new life. You may have left us behind, John, but you haven't seen the last of us yet!

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF BIG TREES

To the true aficionado, details about all trees are of great interest. Although we work at miniaturizing trees, full-size trees are models for the naturalness strived for in our living art form.

PBA bonsaiists may be surprised to learn that no less than 27 national champion trees named in the American Forestry Association's 1978 National Register of Big trees live in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia - many within easy travel distance from the Washington metropolitan area. Names, dimensions, and locations are listed in the following compilation.

Data collection started in 1940 for a "Social Register of Big Trees;" the name was changed this year. The first list was published in 1945 and included 228 trees. Subsequent "finds" of biggest-of-species have swelled the register to 661 giants, but more than 1,000 species are eligible for inclusion.

Eligibility is restricted to native or naturalized trees of the United States, as listed by the U.S. Forest Service. Anyone can nominate a candidate by sending measurements to the American Forestry Association. Data required are: circumference in feet and inches measured at a point  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the ground; height in feet; and average crown spread in feet. Candidate trees must be identified by common name and scientific name.

The American Forestry Association is a national conservation organization dedicated to intelligent management and use of forests and other natural resources. This independent and non-political association was founded in 1875. Its headquarters is located at 1319 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

--- Jim Newton

# PBA NEWSLETTER PAGE 5

## NATIONAL CHAMPION TREES in the Washington Metropolitan Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Circumference	Height	Spread	Location
//////////////////////////////////// Maryland //////////////////////////////////////					
Common Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	19' 7"	118'	104'	Allegheny County
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	11' 5'	100'	113'	Chevy Chase
Bigleaf Magnolia	<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	9' 3"	59'	62'	Baltimore
Cucumber tree Magnolia	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	18' 10"	92'	88'	Bel Air
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	21' 3"	78'	63'	Kitzmilller
Black Mulberry	<i>Morus nigra</i>	18' 7"	67'	71'	Westminster
Overcup Oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	21' 5"	116'	118'	Tuckahoe State Park
Southern Red Oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	27' 9"	128'	149'	Harwood
Swamp Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	22' 7"	122'	123'	Talbot County
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	29' 8"	102'	158'	State Park, Wye Mills
//////////////////////////////////// Virginia //////////////////////////////////////					
Seaside Alder	<i>Alnus maritima</i>	1' 1"	28'	11'	Springfield
Southern Apple	<i>Malus augustifolia</i>	4' 6"	46'	34'	Colonial Williamsburg
Pumpkin Ash	<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>	18' 3"	86'	84'	Warrenton
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	13' 5"	95'	90'	Cumberland State Forest
Carolina Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	3' 5"	27'	23'	Middleburg
American Elder	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	1' 10"	16'	20'	Shenandoah Nat'l Park
Franklinia	<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>	2' 8"	38'	28'	McLean
Fringetree	<i>Chioanthus virginia</i>	3' 6"	24'	26'	Mt Vernon Estate
Boynton Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus boyntonii</i>	4'	26'	26'	Shenandoah Nat'l Park
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya corfiformis</i>	14' 4"	120'	81'	Springfield
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	23' 3"	92'	104'	Buckingham County
Osage-Orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	24' 6"	51'	93'	Patrick Henry Estate
Peach	<i>Prunus persica</i>	3' 8"	26'	38'	Burke's Garden
Allegheny Plum	<i>Prunus allegheniensis</i>	3' 6"	20'	24'	Burke's Garden
Allegheny Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	7' 1"	50'	44'	Burke's Garden
Tuliptree Yellow-Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	30' 3"	124'	122'	Bedford
//////////////////////////////////// District of Columbia //////////////////////////////////////					
Mountain Maple	<i>Acer spicatum</i>	10' 10"	55'	53'	US Capitol Grounds

# CLUB CALENDAR

- June 3  
Saturday      PBA AUCTION. Starts 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      Pruning Workshop. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Home of Stephen Morse. Bring Tree-of-Year for the past 2 years. New Tree-of-Year to be distributed. ANNAPOLIS
- June 17  
Saturday      General Workshop. 11 a.m. (Note change in time). Home of John Hreha, Damascus Road, Damascus, Md. (For directions call John at 253-4167). Bring your problem trees and your prize trees and your lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. 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. KIYOMIZU
- July 6-9        American Bonsai Society Symposium. Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Annual symposium of the American Bonsai Association. See May PBA Newsletter for registration form and information.
- July 8  
Saturday      Summer Plant Show and Display. 10 a.m.-noon. Home of Bob Roland. NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY
- July 15  
Saturday      Companion Plantings, or, weeds to keep your bonsai company. 2 p.m. National Arboretum. WASHINGTON
- July 19-23    Bonsai Clubs International Convention. Hilton Hotel, Portland, Ore. Annual convention of the Bonsai Clubs International. See March PBA Newsletter for registration form and information.

NO MEETING IN JULY FOR BROOKSIDE GARDENS BONSAI CLUB

Richmond  
I-95  
Petersburg  
Route 460  
Martha Washington Antiques  
Wakefield  
Draper's Acres Nursery

## BONSAI PLANTS CONTAINERS

DRAPER'S ACRES NURSERY  
Route 2 Box A 14  
Wakefield, Va. 23888  
(804) 899-4311

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

Suffolk
Norfolk

## Snips and Slips

### TONING UP

A good general-purpose fertilizer for bonsai is a product called Tree-Tone. Many gardeners are familiar with its cousins Rose-Tone, Bulb-Tone, etc., but it is not quite so readily available in some nurseries since the advent of spike-type tree fertilizers. It is carried by Bittersweet Hill Nursery, however, or your local nursery may order some for you if requested.

Tree-Tone has a 9-5-4 rating and, according to the label, contains such gourmet items as crab meal, animal tankage, manures, castor bean meal, cocoa tankage and bone meal. Not a good diet for fall feeding because of the high nitrogen content, for spring-early summer dining evergreen and deciduous alike thrive on it.

--- Mary Houlton

### Rx FOR SICK TREES

If a tree looks sick, first check for bugs. If ill health is not caused by bugs, it is usually a problem with the roots.

For sickly trees a good prescription is to put the tree in a large pot such as a bulb pot, mulch it well and keep the soil moist, not wet.

--- Linda Mayben

### WINTERKILL

Several people have reported that their trees did not survive well under a porch or deck this winter. This applied to some deciduous species as well as evergreens. Could the problem have been that, protected from the rain and snow, they did not get enough moisture and dried out?

### HOW COME...

The tree you sold at auction last year because you were bored with it turns up in a show this year looking great!

### THE ILLUSIVE TREE

A friend in California recently asked me if bonsaiists in this area ever worked with white pomegranate. I had never heard of it, but was assured that it made a lovely flowering bonsai and that a hedge of it grew in Colonial Williamsburg. Does anyone know of it, even its botanical name (Punica ?). It would be delightful to discover a "new" flowering species that lends itself well to bonsai.

### COLLECT COLLECTING SPOTS

Summertime is almost on us. Before long the bonsai will need less rigorous attention except for watering and we'll have more time to think about going away on vacations and getting away for weekends. As you travel in the area, hiking, picnicing, etc., keep an eye out for potential collecting spots. Take a notebook and pencil with you to help you remember the location and, if you need help finding the owner of the property to get permission, contact your club's educational vice president. Your find might just turn out to be a gold mine of bonsai material.

--- Mary Houlton

### BUG OFF

A good way to keep crawly-type bugs (including those nasty ants) off your bonsai benches is a product called Tanglefoot. It is a product used on trees and available in any nursery. Paint a strip around the legs of your benches and the bugs won't be able to get past it to work havoc with your bonsai.

ANNOUNCING...

a new name, a new design.

*Croton Hill Farms, inc.*

is moving aside  
to serve you better  
to make room  
for a new company

from now on, we'll have a new name, and more people to help you.  
with expanded services and more of what you need  
we're doing everything we can, to be your

**EVERYTHING FOR BONSAI** company.

you will still be able to visit the farm in Maryland  
you will still enjoy our low prices  
you will still be able to select from a large and growing  
inventory of plants, pots, tools, and EVERYTHING FOR BONSAI

and our new name is:

MODERN PLANT TECHNOLOGY

*in future issues, we'll explain much more about our  
our name change, and what we hope to do for you*

*in the meantime, for information, call 301-472-2664 or 703-450-5987*

*(But Felix, rest assured: our motto will always be: "Green side up")*



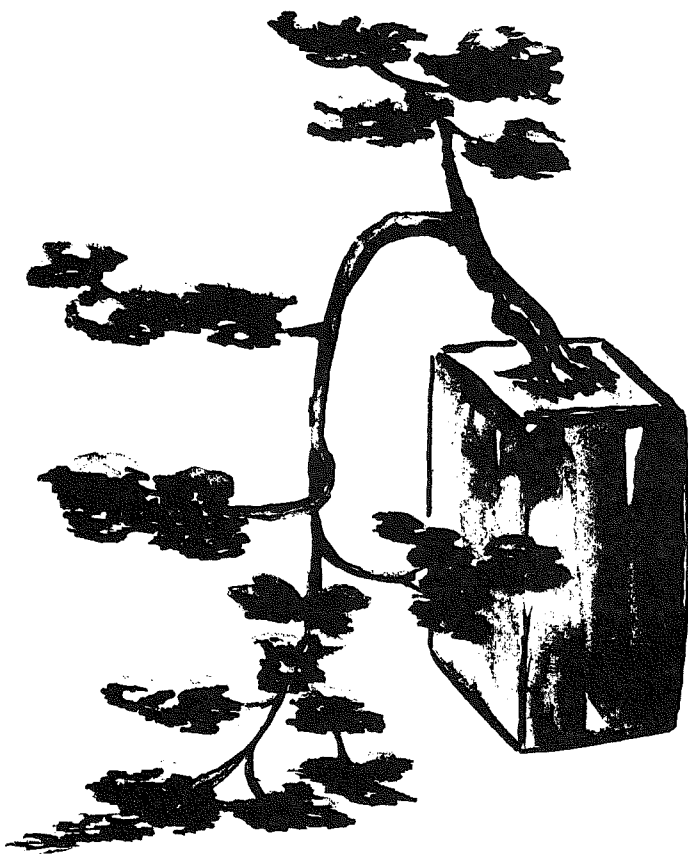
## The PBA Symposium

The dates are set for the 4th annual PBA Symposium and it promises to be the best ever. September 23-24 is the magic time and the location is the Sheraton Motor Inn at Route #450 and the Beltway in Lanham, Maryland.

We will have an all-star cast for this exciting bonsai learning experience. The PBA annual banquet will be held on Saturday night at the Sheraton in conjunction with the Symposium and we promise lots of bonsai fun for those who attend. Special room rates will be available for those PBAers who wish to stay over and for our out-of-town friends.

Put the dates on your calendar now and watch the next Newsletter for further details.

--- Mary Houlton



# BONSAI CARE

a simple guide for owners

**\$2 ppd**  
ask about group rates

PUBLISHED BY  
**BONSAI INFORMATION GUILD, INC.**

**DAVID E. FLIPSE**  
**JAMES R. NEWTON**

Post Office Box 6140 Shirlington Station Arlington, Virginia 22206

... think **BIG**