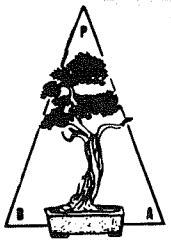


PBA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 7

JULY 1978

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TREE OF THE MONTH

Wisteria

Extra

by Joyce Pelletier

One of the most desirable woody vines in the landscape is the Wisteria (wis-tair'-i-a). However, because of its very long compound leaves, one would not expect it to make a fine bonsai. Despite this, because of its sinuous trunk and breathtaking flower racemes, it is frequently used as a bonsai for viewing in winter and early spring, when the leaves are not present. It has quite an oriental look at this time, resembling tree subjects in many Chinese and Japanese paintings.

The common name of this plant is often spelled Wistaria, but the above spelling is preferred.

Wisteria climbs by twisting stems which turn right-to-left. It requires considerable support in its early stages, but once established it clings readily. The stout stem twists increasingly and becomes several inches thick. With typical growth of 10 ft. a year, wisteria must be pruned frequently. According to Lynn Perry Alstadt (Bonsai: Trees and Shrubs) pruning should be done (1) immediately after flowering (2) in June, (3) in mid-summer, and (4) in the fall. She also states that root-pruning should be done only once each year in late March or mid-June, because the roots of wisteria are weak.

Wisteria is often reputed to be hard to transplant from the wild, but a number of horticulturists have found no difficulty if the top of the plant is pruned drastically. Wisteria likes a rich, well-drained soil which must be kept moist at all times. In the hottest part of the summer they would benefit from standing in a shallow tray of water. Extra clay in the soil mixture would help insure the presence of moisture. While wisteria are very tolerant of Ph variations, they do prefer a more alkaline soil.

Flowering is not dependable in wisteria, so careful cultural practices must be followed. In general, they require full sun, abundant watering, frequent fertilization, and regular pruning. Nitrogen should be used sparingly, because this encourages excess vegetative growth (leaf and stem). The use of super-phosphate is recommended. Pruning straggling shoots will encourage the production of short spurs on which next season's flower clusters will be borne. When pruning, always leave one or two buds on the shortened branches.

Flowers of the wisteria are pea-like, in showy, drooping racemes. They are often very fragrant. Colors vary from bluish-violet to purple to white and to pink. One variety even has variegated leaves. The flowers of *W. floribunda* (Japanese wisteria) are the most spectacular, sometimes having racemes 3 ft. long. Flowers on *W. sinensis* (Chinese wisteria) are only 6" to 12", but still lovely. The Chinese and Japanese wisteria are the most suitable for Bonsai, since they both flower before, or just as, the leaves emerge.

There are two native American wisteria species, but these are less suitable to display as Bonsai because they bloom after the leaves have grown. These natives are *W. frutescens*, found wild from Virginia to Florida and Alabama, (having flower clusters only 4" long), and *W. macrostachya* found wild from Louisiana and Texas to Illinois and Missouri, (with racemes up to 1 ft.). The American species blossom later than the oriental species, thus extending the period of wisteria bloom.

Wiring of wisteria as bonsai is very difficult because they are extremely limber when young, then very suddenly become brittle. Nevertheless, branches must be wired when very limber, to prevent damage from occurring later when the branches harden. Bark tends to split lengthwise when bending, but if not too serious, healing can take place if the split parts are bound with rubber strips.

Since wisteria are members of the Leguminosae family, the fruit consists of long pods, usually constricted between the seeds. Propagation is by seed or cutting. Seeds germinate readily without treatment. Cuttings taken in July have 80% success without treatment. Container-grown plants are also found in many nurseries.

--- Joyce Pelletire

PBA SYMPOSIUM

We hope that everyone has already put the dates of September 23-24 on their calendar to attend the 4th annual PBA Symposium. As you read in the Newsletter last month, the event will be held at the Sheraton Inn/Washington-Northeast at exit 30W (U.S. Route 450) of the Washington Beltway. The Symposium will start at 9:30 Saturday morning and run through Sunday noon. A saikei workshop, conducted by Marion Gyllenswan, will follow on Sunday afternoon for those who wish to stay on and put their new-found skills to practical use. Planned also for Sunday afternoon is collecting trip to Contee in Laurel, Maryland for those who wish to add to their collection of Virginia pine, sweet gum, high-and low-growing blueberry and many other species.

Our headliners for this year will be John Naka, Dr. David Andrews, Marion Gyllenswan and Cliff Pottberg. The main themes will be multiple plantings (saikei and forest planting), indoor bonsai, and accent plantings. There's lots of knowledge and good bonsai fun that will be coming out of this weekend and you won't want to miss it.

Registration fee for the program only will be \$20 until September 11 and \$25 after that. Registrations are welcome at the door. For those who can only attend one day, registration will be \$15 until September 11 and \$17.50 after that, for either Saturday or Sunday. The PBA annual banquet will be held Saturday night at the Sheraton and will cost \$11. The charge for attending the workshop Sunday afternoon will be \$20, to cover the cost of materials.

As we have in past years, a bazaar will be featured with commercial bonsaists bringing pots, tools, etc. for sale. PBA will also have a bazaar table and a silent auction table (for bonsai in pots only) for those who wish to sell some of their own material. A 15% commission will be charged by PBA to the seller. For information concerning either the silent auction or the consignment table, contact Richard Meszler at (301) 833-9559. Anyone wishing to help man one of these booths should contact Dr. Meszler.

For anyone wishing to stay overnight at the motel, the Sheraton has extended a special room rate for those attending the Symposium. - \$25 per night for single and \$30 for double. The address is 8500 Annapolis Rd., New Carrollton, Maryland, and the telephone number (301) 459-6700. Be sure to specify that you are attending the PBA Symposium.

Further information, registration forms, and program will be forth-coming in the next Newsletter. SEE YOU AT THE SYMPOSIUM!

--- Mary Houlton

*If you haven't paid your dues this is your Last
NEWSLETTER*

President's Message

You are not going to the ABS or BCI convention this summer because (please check where applicable):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> it costs too much | <input type="checkbox"/> they are too far from home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> it's a bad time of year | <input type="checkbox"/> you are afraid of not knowing anyone, of being left out of activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> only the biggies in bonsai go; it's no place for someone of less knowledge or talent | <input type="checkbox"/> and besides, it's probably not very much fun or educational anyway. |

If you checked any of the above you are in the majority of bonsai people in the country. The conventions do cost a lot, they are usually far from home, and you no sooner learn something than you discover you have to wait at least 3 months to try it out.

There is no question they are fun, though. Most programs are geared to the beginner, but everyone learns something. And it's a warm crowd, many of whom go each year.

ANYWAY: if you checked any, now try Brand X. Brand X is a small symposium held by a regional group in the fall. It has developed some fame as being fun, educational, and cheap. (Not inexpensive. Inexpensive is a nicety word that means you only have to pay \$99.00 instead of \$100.00 This is not inexpensive, it's cheap!)

Obviously, that regional group is PBA. It is our symposium. Check the facts: registration fee for both Saturday and Sunday: only \$20-25. Place: the Sheraton-Lanham on the D.C. beltway. Rooms: only \$25 per night single. Headliner: John Yoshio Naka himself. Theme: saikei and multi-tree plantings, and using indoor bonsai materials.

Other goodies: a fun and inexpensive banquet; the exquisite film from the Public Broadcasting System's Nova series on plant growth; the incomparable saikei of Dr. David Andrews; a talk on secondary plants and saikei by the charming and talented Marion Gyllenswan and saikei workshop later, and me. (I volunteered to do it this year for nothing, and your Board of Directors decided my talent was finally priced correctly). Plus a PBA flea-market type table where you can get in the act and sell (or trade) things you want to, and an expanded exhibit of fine bonsai.

So check the facts, try the others first, and you'll smoke (oops, sorry: attend) the Brand X symposium.

--- Cliff Pottberg

Snips and Slips

Harvey Everett reports that he tried Tanglefoot in a different way than suggested in last month's Snips and Slips. He painted a piece of cardboard or thin wood a bright yellow to attract flying insects, then covered it with Tanglefoot to trap them. He admits it's a home-made fly-paper, but reports that it works very well. I'd like to hear from anybody what and how many kinds of flying bugs it catches. Feedback, please.

Ants Are a Relative Matter

A short while ago I was cursing a nest of ants that had decided to take up residence in the same pot which housed a large azalea of which I am justifiably proud. I had pulled the tree out of the pot and was attempting to bareroot it and at the same time drown the little buggers. Being no Lady Macbeth, poisons scare the hell out of me, and especially chlordane - the one supposed to be effective on ants. Hence my difficult labors to avoid using the easy way out of my problem. As the task was just about completed, Richard Meszler called and in the course of the conversation I learned that Spectracide works equally on getting rid of ants. The advantage to this is that it has a much shorter life than chlordane (hence a danger for a far shorter period of time to pets, children and other wildlife) and it is biodegradable. It will be my choice next time I have the same problem.

--- Mary Houlton

Bonsai Mystery Solved

For many years I have puzzled over the pictures of magnificent black pines in the bonsai books. They have trunks several inches thick and a heavy array of needles close to the trunk. Yet when I would go to a nursery, a black pine would have needles far out on the branch, and, of course, black pines don't bud on old wood.

I finally found the answer to this mystery while visiting a nursery near Tokyo as a part of the ABS convention last year in Japan. I watched a worker cut off the end of the branch and graft it onto the same branch near the trunk.

--- John Simpson

Club News

The PBA annual bonsai auction held at Behnke's Nursery was a huge success. \$1654 was taken in for total sales, \$225 of it going to PBA. Many, many thanks to the people who helped make it such a success, especially to fellow-auctioneers John Simpson and Pete Rozzell who both did a magnificent job, and to Bob Sitnick who recorded and kept track of everything.

--- Mary Houlton

BONSAI PLANTS CONTAINERS

The map shows a route starting from Richmond, VA, heading south on I-95 to Petersburg, VA. From Petersburg, the route turns east on Route 460 to Wakefield, VA. A sun icon is placed on Route 460 near Wakefield. From Wakefield, the route continues east through Suffolk and Norfolk, VA.

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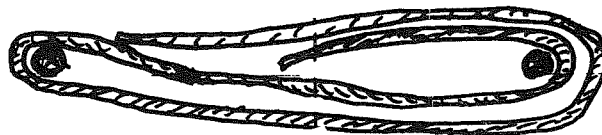
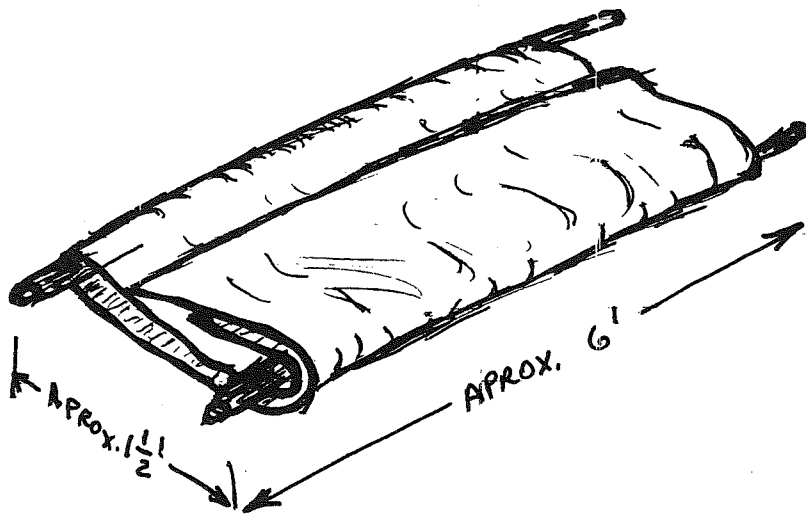
Not a Tree Shrinker - a Tree Stretcher

When your eyes are bigger than your back can handle, this idea proves to be a convenient means of carrying large collected trees. It is good for cutting down on the number of trips necessary for carrying smaller collected trees from the woods to your car. This stretcher is strong enough to carry a person safely so there is no need to worry about dropping a tree.

The only materials needed are two poles (1½-2" diameter trees or 2x3's from the lumber yard) and a sheet of heavy plastic or an old blanket. No nails, staples or wires are needed. What makes this handy is that by just taking the sheet of plastic with you collecting you will be able to make the stretchers with limbs of a tree, or small trees, or even the tops of two larger trees that you may have collected. The secret of the strength of this stretcher is how the plastic is folded over the poles. Although this fold is very simple it really makes the stretcher strong enough to carry anything two people can lift.

--- Bruce Ballantyne

THE STRETCHER:



END VIEW

Bruce Ballantyne

Japanese Bonsai Publications

At last die-hard American bonsaiists can obtain Japanese bonsai publications regularly without the hassle of international money and communication problems.

All the details are being taken care of by William N. Valavanis, Director of the International Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester, N.Y. He offers subscriptions to three of the best monthly bonsai magazines, which he obtains in bulk and re-mails.

(Best): Contemporary Bonsai (Kindai Bonsai); \$59 for 12 issues, postpaid. Profusely illustrated in both color (48 pages) and black and white photos of trees styled and grown by the new generation of Japanese bonsai artists. Published from the Kyoto-Osaka area, this large ($8\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ '), 144 pages) magazine is printed on heavy stock. Although in Japanese, the extensive how-to photo series are so clearly portrayed that any American bonsaiists can follow the valuable techniques depicted. Really a magnificent publication!

(Next Best): Bonsai World (Bonsai Sekai); \$35 for 12 issues, postpaid. Covers classical Japanese bonsai art. Well illustrated with color (32 pages) and black and white photos, several exhibitions are featured in each issue. Technique how-to series include creation from seed, cutting, layering, or collecting to two-color diagrams and sketches. Often included in the 7 x 10", 126 page magazine are many new design concepts for bonsai art.

(Third Choice): Nature and Bonsai (Shizen to Bonsai); \$35 for 12 issues, postpaid. Features articles on different species authored by prominent Japanese horticulturists and plant scientists. Well illustrated with black and white photos, color content is usually less than the other two (8 pages). This smallest of the three magazines (6 x 8", 160 pages) emphasizes the natural environment and its importance to bonsai.

All subscriptions begin with the January 1978 issue and continue through December. Back copies will be provided to all who subscribe during the year. Prices are subject to change without notice due to price or postage increases. The International Bonsai Arboretum acts as distributor only, and cannot be responsible for publisher changes or delays. Make checks payable to William N. Valavanis and send to: The International Bonsai Arboretum, 412 Pinnacle Road, Rochester, New York 14623.

--- Jim Newton



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Bonsai Festival '78

Bonsai Festival '78 - the magic of the name drew more than 200 bonsai aficionados from as far away as Florida to Ellenville, N. Y. June 2-4.

Sponsored jointly by Yuji Yoshimura and Wallace B. Stone, the grounds of World Bonsai Service (formerly DUSO Bonsai Co.) were covered with cars, people, sales areas, and hundreds of numbered items tagged for the auction which climaxed the three-day event. Taking most of the last day, the auction items included stands, rocks, antique trays and pots, and more than 170 bonsai.

The Festival featured the work of Messers Yoshimura and Stone, plus exhibits by Marion Gyllenswan of Nanuet, N.Y., William N. Valavanis of Rochester, N.Y., and Chase Rosade of New Hopem Pa. Each of the three exhibitors demonstrated their skill for avid audiences by styling a Birds Nest Spruce (*Picea abies* "nidiformis"), all of which were sold at auction.

Items going under the auctioneer's hammer averaged \$30 to #50 in price, one happy bidder taking a small round rosewood stand for \$2, while Dr. David Andrews of New York made the highest bid (\$860) for a large antique bronze suiban tray cast from an original design by Mr. Yoshimura's father many years ago. Assisting auction chairman Jim Newton (Northern Virginia Bonsai Society) were Jack Caccese (New York), Dr. Andrews, Chase Rosade, and Keith B. Scott (Ohio).


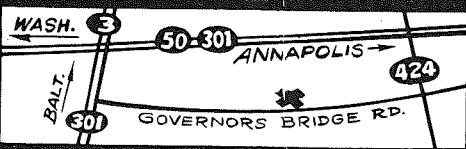
Also featured Sunday were raffle drawings for two magnificent bonsai. Mr. Yoshimura provided a 3½ foot Alberta spruce (*Picea compacta*). The new owner is Melvis S. Martin of Martinsville, Pa. The second tree, donated by Mr. Stone, was a satsuki azalea (*Rhododendron indicum*), which went to a stunned Jim Newton. Values placed by donators were \$2,000-plus for the spruce and more than \$1,000 for the azalea.

Beside Jim, PBA members attending Bonsai Festival '78 included Dave Flipse, Northern Virginia Bonsai Society, and Mr. and Mrs. David Brown, Annapolis Bonsai Club.

Tentative plans call for holding Bonsai Festival '79 at the New York Botanical Garden just before the Bonsai Clubs International 1979 Convention, which is being hosted by the Bonsai Society of Greater New York.

The Bonsai Festival is the brainchild of Mr. Yoshimura. It is designed to provide a showcase for the talents of various bonsai artists as well as to give an opportunity to learn more about and acquire quality bonsai and accessories at reasonable prices.

--- Jim Newton

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CLUB CALENDAR

- July 8
Saturday Summer plant show and Display. 10 a.m.-noon. Home of Bob Roland.
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY
- July 13
Thursday Tree of the year - azalea. 7:30 p.m. Annapolis Library, West St.
Bring catlin lems and trident maples from previous years. ANNAPOLIS
- July 15
Saturday Companion plantings, or, weeds to keep your bonsai company. 2 p.m.
National Arboretum. WASHINGTON
- July 16
Sunday Charter tree - trident maple. 2:30 p.m. Flea market. 3:00 p.m.
Cylburn Park. Bring trees from previous years, plus any trident
maples you wish to share with others or for critique. BALTIMORE
- July 23
Sunday Tour of Japanese Embassy. Contact Chuck Bird for further details,
292-3167. KIYOMIZU.

NO MEETING IN JULY FOR BROOKSIDE

- August 18
Friday Tour of U. S. National Bonsai Collection. 7:30 p.m. National
Arboretum. Tour of the U.S. National Bonsai Collection and talk
by Robert Drechsler. BROOKSIDE

NO MEETING IN AUGUST FOR KIYOMIZU

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