

PBA NEWSLETTER

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TREE OF THE MONTH

HI NO KI (木會)

by Jules Koetsch

Hinoki translates from the Japanese as "tree of the sun". This noble sounding name is aptly descriptive of the tree from the cloud or wreathlike appearance of its foliage to the fine lumber it provides which, among other things, the Japanese use for chests and tables.

The hinoki cypress, *chamaecyparis obtusa* or false cypress, is a native to Japan. It grows in the southern part of Honshu, - the middle island of Japan. The climate is quite similar to that south of the Washington, D.C., area. However, the hinoki has been found thriving as far north as Boston, Mass.

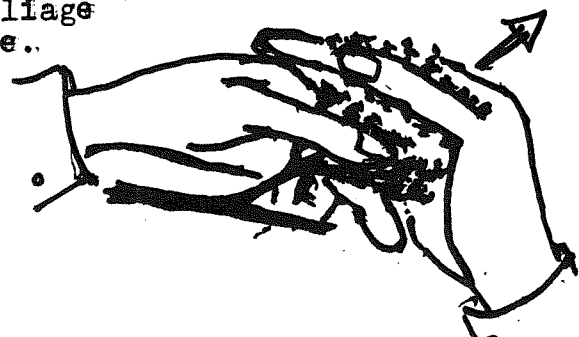
The true hinoki matures to 100 to 120 feet in height. However, many dwarf cultivars exist. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden pamphlet titled "Dwarf Conifers" lists 25 dwarf varieties and the National Arboretum's Gotelli Dwarf Conifer Collection has more than 50 dwarf hinoki's.

SOURCES AND TREE SELECTION: Small hinoki's for mamé or shohin bonsai can be obtained by starting cuttings in a good rooting medium during September or October. Hinoki can also be grown from seed. During the first years the hinoki will grow at a reasonable rate. However, the growth rates for the dwarfs slow down considerably after a few years and especially if the plant is in a container. Therefore, you had best select your hinoki from nursery stock and very close to the height of the finished bonsai you have in mind unless you're ready to wait many years. My smallest hinoki in a small container and 2½ inches tall has grown about ¼ inch over a two-year period. Another hinoki was purchased when 12 inches high and in two years, it has grown six inches in its 5 gallon pot.

STYLES: Hinoki lends itself nicely to a formal or informal upright style and hence to forest or group plantings. Judicious pruning of the branchlets can produce the elegant, classic cloud effect to the foliage.

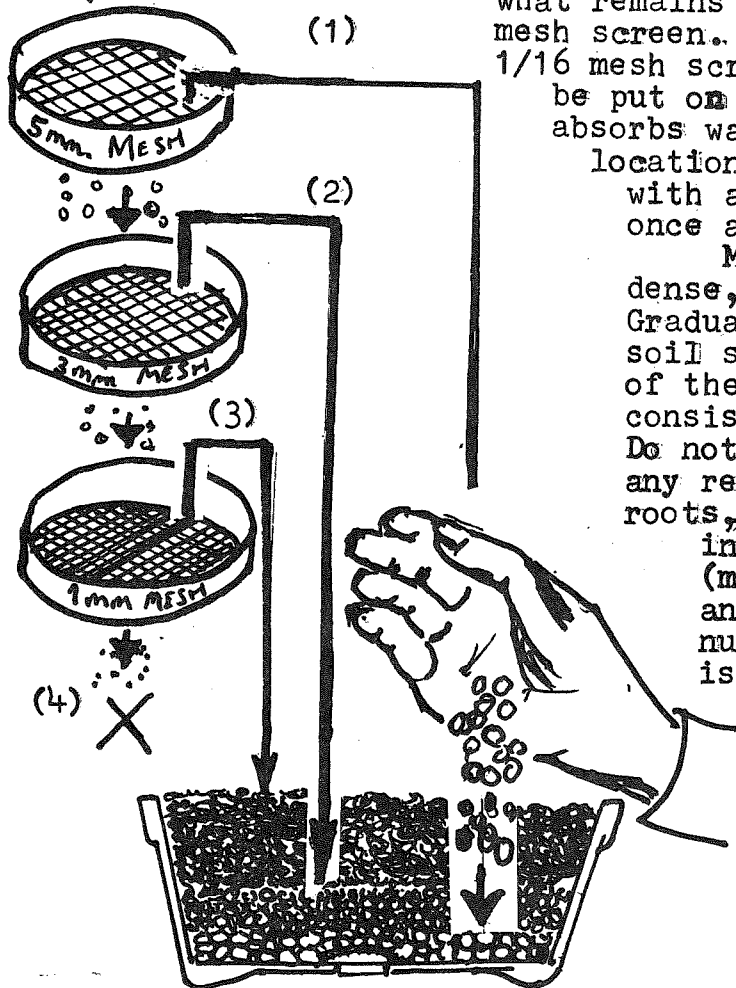
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES: The accompanying Schedule of Activities and much of the information which follows were translated from the Japanese book "Directions for the Preparation of Pines and Conifers with Illustrated Explanatory Notes" published by Makoto No Bun Dō Hika Sha (Sparkling Shop of True Art Company).

PRUNING: The hinoki does not grow back where the branches and complete branchlets have been removed. Also foliage will die out if masked by other foliage. Hence prune accordingly and very cautiously. Grafting could be used to remedy bad spots. When trimming branchlets, do it as shown in the accompanying sketch, by holding the fan-shaped part in one hand twixt thumb and forefinger and pull off the unwanted ends.



Equal Parts of

- ↓ Pea Gravel
- ↓ Terra Green
- ↓ Vermiculite or Perlite
- ↓ #9 Q-Rock
- ↓ GRAN-I-GRIT
- ↓ Starter Size
- ↓ Grower Size
- ↓ Turkey Size



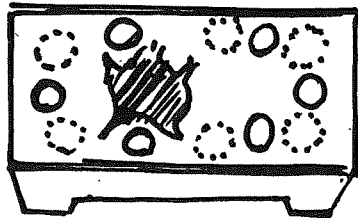
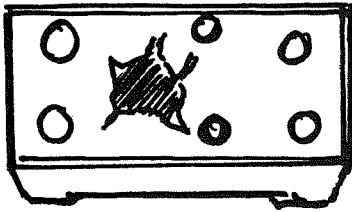
SOIL AND POTTING: In general the hinoki is tolerant of a wide range of soils. However, a well-drained, sandy loam with a PH below 7 is desirable. ("pHydrion papers" made by Micro Essential laboratory Inc., Brroklyn, N.Y. can be used to check PH.) The Japanese book recommends equal parts of clay and five different sands, - red-ball clay, paulownia tree sand, prepared arrow river sand, heavenly gods' sand, narrow view sand, and Fuji sand. A suggested substitute mixture is shown on the adjacent sketch along with the potting method recommended by the Japanese book. Step (1) shows pea gravel being put in the bottom of the pot to facilitate drainage.. Pea gravel can be purchased at hardware stores. Small sizes of pea gravel and the other ingredients will pass through the 5 mm or 1/4 inch mesh screen. Step(2) involves taking what does not pass through the 3 mm or 1/8 inch mesh screen and filling about 30 to 40 percent of the remaining empty volume of the pot. Step (3) is the filling of the remainder of the pot with what remains on top of the 1 mm or 1/16 inch mesh screen.. The particles which pass through the 1/16 mesh screen are considered too fine to even be put on the top surface. The hinoki absorbs water at a rate depending on its location and soil mix. Mine are in shade with a dense soil mix and require water once a week or less often.

Most soils around nursery stock are dense, - too much so for bonsai pots. Gradually over a few years replace the soil surrounding the trunk, - one-third of the old root ball volume each year consisting of three pie-shaped segments. Do not let the exposed roots dry during any repotting operation. The hinoki roots, like those of all conifers, live in partnership with a white fungus (mycorrhiza) which surrounds the roots and assists the plant in obtaining nutrients from the soil. The fungus is more sensitive to dryness and sunlight than the roots themselves.

FERTILIZATION: The Japanese tend to favor fertilization by pellets. Four to seven are placed around the pot as shown on the accompanying sketch. Note that the pellets are located a distance removed from the trunk to promote root growth. Also for

each feeding, the next pellets are spotted so as not to overlap the spots of the prior pellets. The pellets are about one-inch in diameter.

John Naka's book gives directions for making the pellets. For the Fall feeding I've added equal parts of super-phosphate and phosphate of potash to John's mix.



First Time Placement of 1-inch diameter fertilizer pellets on top of pot. Next Time

EXPOSURE AND WATERING:

According to the Japanese book, the hinoki should be in full sun all day in a location where there is ample air circulation. The book also recommends misting or spraying the hinoki twice daily in the Spring and Fall and three to four times in the Summer..

HINOKI SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PERIOD OF MONTH	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR
March 15-31	Procure tree and put in training pot. Keep outdoors on shelf. Water adequately..	Pot tree in training pot. Keep outdoors on shelf. Water adequately.	Move out of Winter storage to outdoor shelf. Water adequately.
May 1-15	Apply fertilizer.	Apply fertilizer. Commence fine styling, pruning. Do not remove new growth on unpruned branchlets	Apply fertilizer. Prune as needed. Do not remove new growth on unpruned branchlets
July 15-31	Apply fertilizer.	Apply fertilizer.	Apply fertilizer.
Sept. 1-15	Apply fertilizer.	Apply fertilizer. Complete fine styling, pruning. Do not remove new growth on unpruned branchlets.	Apply fertilizer. Prune where needed. Do not remove new growth on unpruned branchlets.
Oct. 1-15	Initial styling, - prune branches/trunk to basic shape. Wire trunk and only large branches if needed.	Rewire trunk. Wire small branches.	Wire small branches.
Dec. 1-15	Winterize ("Put under eaves").	Winterize ("Put under eaves").	Winterize ("Put under eaves").

For the fourth and subsequent years repeat the third year schedule. Repot every year in March..

President's Message

Vastly saddened that I could not attend the Symposium, I listened gratefully to all the stories people had to tell about it. From everything I heard, it was an artistic masterpiece.

Such an operation requires the hands of many, and last month Mary Houlton graciously named and thanked the many people who helped. Allow me to name a few more.

My special personal thanks go to Stan Townsend of the Northern Virginia club who filled in and helped on many of the organizational details with which I was unable to cope. And to Linda Mayben of the Washington club, who was sick herself, but nonetheless spent a lot of last minutes pitching in.

I would also like to mention Bill Merritt who was the chairman of our first three annual Symposiums. Without his diligence then and those earlier successes, we would have had nothing on which to build to this this year's excellence.

Of course, when it comes to discussing this year's excellence, there was one particularly important person Mary Houlton did not name: Mary Houlton. (Omit this paragraph, Newsletter-editor lady, and I'll brain you!) As Symposium chairman, Mary obviously had to make sure everyone else did their job. She was also our liason with the hotel, and she had a major share of the job of programming. We all owe her a lot.

Mary also is responsible for buying a huge, crazy, sympathy card for a non-attending shut-in. I was charmed and delighted by that, and by all of you who signed it. Since I can't thank you all personally, allow me to thank you here. By the way, I'm fine now. (Well, at least I'm healthy again.)


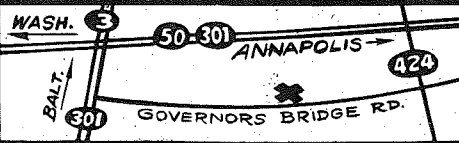
Last, let me thank all of you who attended. Activities like the Symposium are what PBA is all about, and in the final analysis, it is you who make them work. We know they are never perfect, though, and always welcome any comments, criticism or suggestions you can make. However informal, think up whatever you can and tell somebody. Only when PBA activities are by all of us, can they be for all of us as well.

--- Cliff Pottberg

Book Nook

The PBA Board has decided to reorganize the PBA lending library. New operating procedures will be established. There are a number of PBA books and other publications still on loan to members. Please check your library shelf for publications on loan from the library and call Harvey Everett (301) 933-0483. We hope to re-activate the PBA lending library shortly.

--- Harvey Everett

 <p>Bittersweet Mill NURSERIES 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

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Dwarf Pomegranate

Cotoneasters

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Azaleas

13 varieties of Junipers

We now have seedling Bristlecone Pine,

Small Pots & Bonsai Dishes

Japanese Black Pine for growing on - for Bonsai

Flower Show

THE FLOWER SHOW IS COMING! THE FLOWER SHOW IS COMING! PLAN NOW TO EXHIBIT YOUR BONSAI.

Please plan for the 1979 Flower Show now. As you know, one of the major needs is bonsai to exhibit. Now is the time to plan which of your bonsai you would like to exhibit and to put them where you can get them in the spring. A major difficulty last year was most people's trees were inaccessible in their winter shelters. If you plan now, while you are putting your trees away for winter, life will be much easier in the spring.

We had great success last year, especially with regard to the large number of PBA members participating in settin-up and manning (personing?) our exhibit. I hope we will have the same good participation in 1979. We will have more room so we can enlarge our display somewhat. That means we need more trees. If we start working on it now, maybe we can beat the Smithsonian this time around! If you have any questions about exhibiting your bonsai in the Flower Show, 1979 please contact Richard Meszler, (301) 833-9559 home, (301) 528-7492 office.

--- Richard Meszler

Snips and Slips

REDCEDAR REVISITED

I was pleased to see John Simpson reporting on Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus Virginiana*) as a Tree of the Month. The Bonsai use of Redcedar in forest style is preferred. However, there is another use that should not be overlooked. Redcedar responds to attractive formal upright styling when the branches are wired to the horizontal, as is natural for a spruce. Take a tree with a 3/4" to 1" trunk, train a heavy branch as a new leader for a finished height of 30" and you will also have a tree which can be decorated at Christmas time.

--- Harvey Everett

BUG-ABOO

In the course of preparing my greenhouse for winter, I dipped all my plants in Orthene, a biodegradable systemic pesticide. Of course, I took due notice of the plants Orth indicates should not be treated with the chemical, including apples. I would like to add a few more plants not listed, but either damaged or killed by Orthene:

- most if not all ferns, including staghorn
- Myrtus communis (myrtle)
- Cirphea hysopifolia (Mexican heather)
- Serissa foetida
- Bougainvillea

On the plus side, I might add that Orthene is great for getting rid of scale & aphids.

--- Richard Meszler

PLASTIC FANTASTIC

I recently received in the mail a flyer from Ole Orchard Hill advertising humidity display tables and plastic bonsai pots. I have seen some of these plastic pots and they are molded in the shape of regular bonsai pots and look very much like the clay pots until close examination. They make excellent training pots for those who do not like the cumbersome wooden boxes or leaky dishpans. For information write: Ole Orchard Hill, Route One, Kingsley, Michigan 49649

--- Mary Houlton

Snips and Slips

BOTANICAL BONANZA

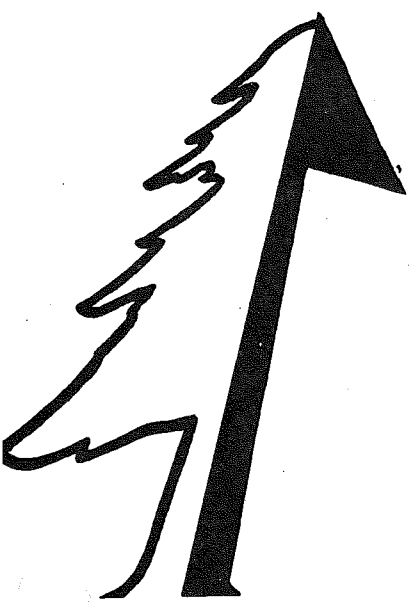
Lloyd Nichols of Brookside has been juggling being a nurseryman and a Navy captain for several years and has decided to give up his nursery business. He has a stock of junipers, dwarf Korean boxwood, mugo pine, black pine, yew, azalea, dwarf Japanese holly among other things for sale. He also has some rarer items which include some Bradford pear rooted cuttings, 2 Serissa foetida with 1/2-1" trunks, and Trident maple seeds which he offering for sale. Lloyd lives in Clarksburg, in upper Montgomery County and he can be reached by calling (301) 972-3358.

PITCH FOR PINE

Richard Meszler informes us that he has the best luck collecting Virginia pine in the fall and early winter. His secret of success is his heated greenhouse. The pines are collected and left outdoors until mid-December so that the top can go really dormant in the hard frosts. The trees are then moved into his heated greenhouse where the roots continue to grow, even though the top stays dormant. His pines break candles 2 to 4 weeks ahead of trees left to winter outdoors, but Richard claims that he often finds that the pines have grown so many new roots during the winter that they have to be repotted by spring. If you have access to a heated greenhouse it would be well worth a try.

*clerkburg
left on 355.
to left 1 mi
4 1/2 mi. on Cumes Cr Rd
Shiloh Ch Rd
turn left at
1 1/2 mi
nichols*

MODERN PLANT TECHNOLOGY inc



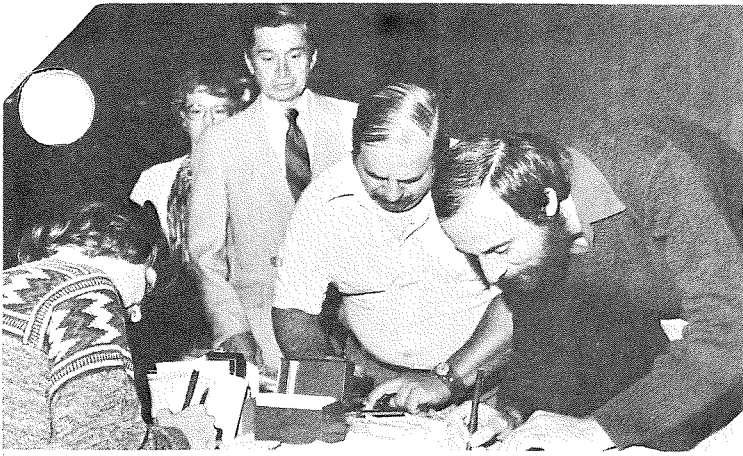
- pots
- plants
- fertilizers
- tools
- watering system components
- books
- soil components
- training aids
- wire
- general nursery supplies

Fall classes with Cliff Pottberg
now forming in: Baltimore
Annapolis
Washington

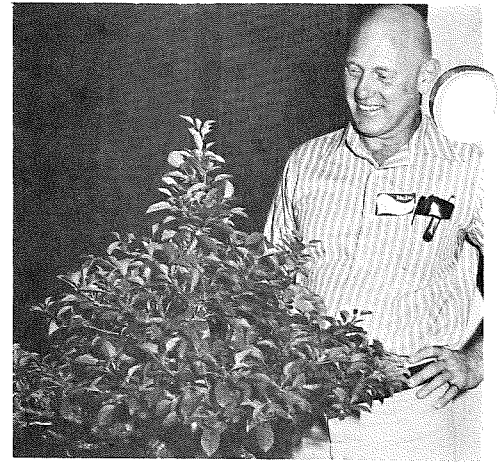
remember,
whatever you want
or need for bonsai
call any of us, anytime:

Cliff Pottberg
301-366-8844
Arschel Morell
301-669-1411
Stan Townsend
703-450-5987

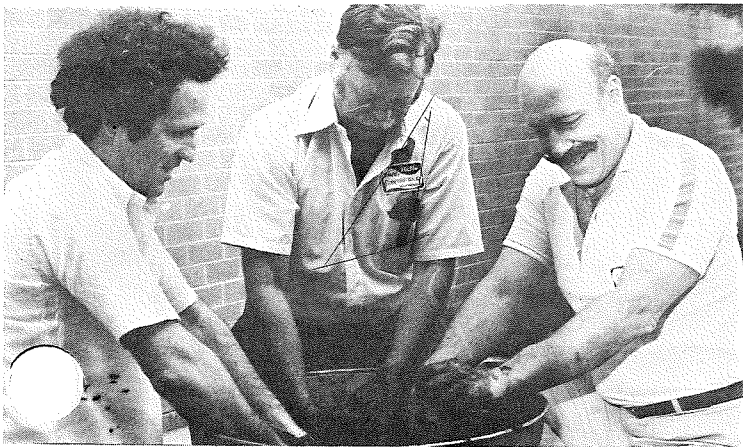
THE SYMPOSIUM



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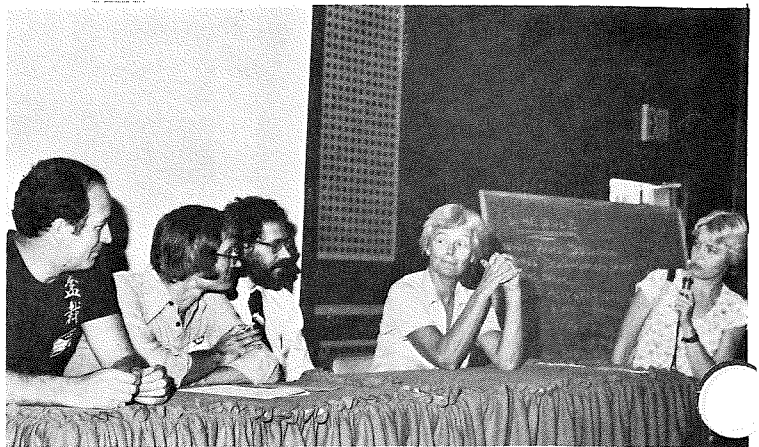


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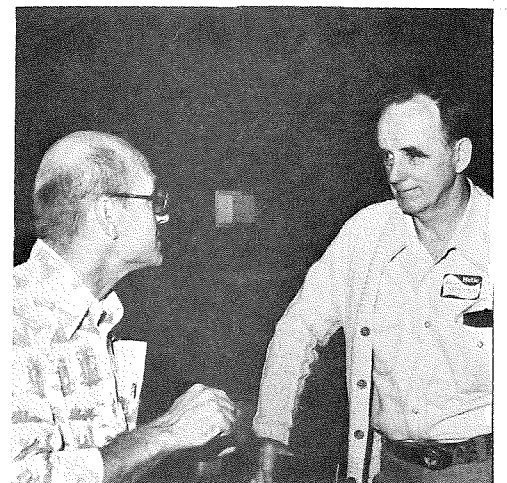
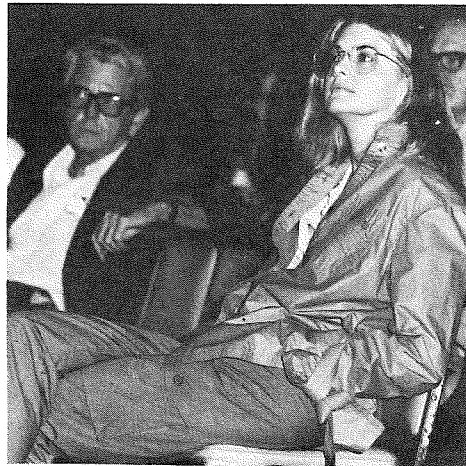


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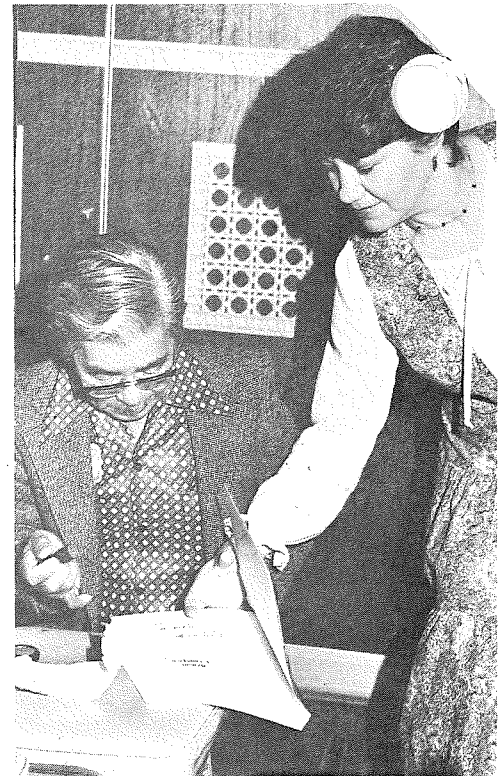
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- #1 Symposium registrar Vicki Ballantyne was kept busy Saturday morning.
- #2 Jerry Stowell proudly displays a collected apple he used as part of his lecture.
- #3 Kids sure have fun in mud: Bob Sitnick, Dave Porterfield & Jules Koetsch display their talents and obvious enjoyment at mixing muck.
- #4 The panel of experts is introduced by Symposium chairman Mary Houlton: (l. to r.) Norr Haddrick of Toronto (ABS director), Richard Meszler, Charles Stains of Maryland Dept. of Agriculture & Janet Lanman.
- #5 Marion Gyllenswan begins her lecture/demonstration of accent plantings.
- #6 Part of the rapt audience: Bob Calderwood of Brookside and Betty McLaughlin of NOVABONSOC



#1



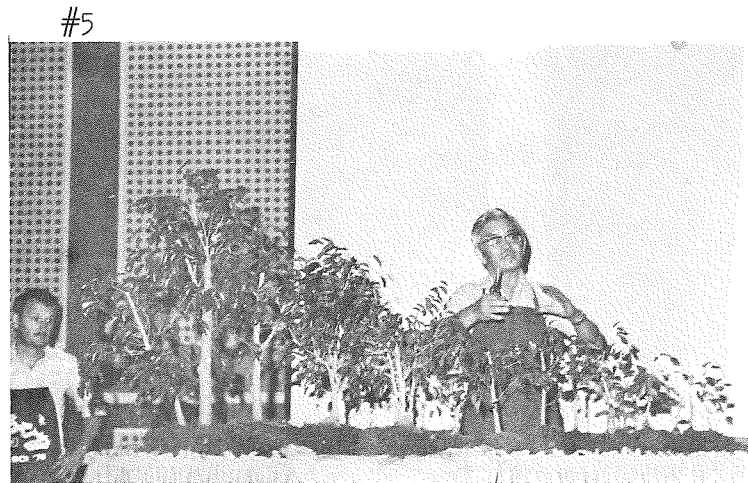
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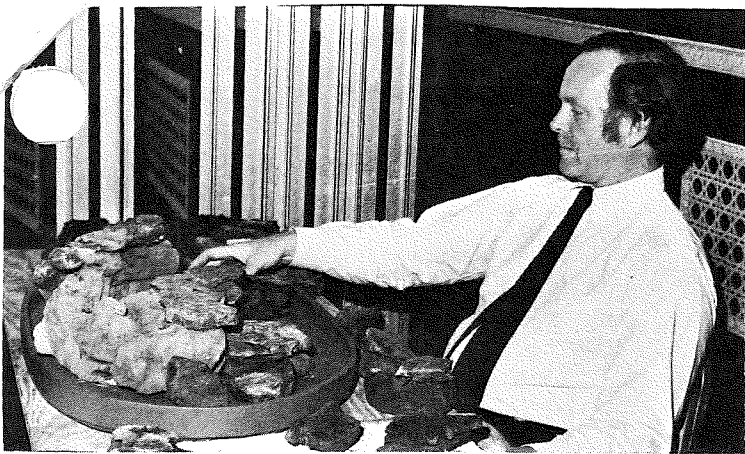


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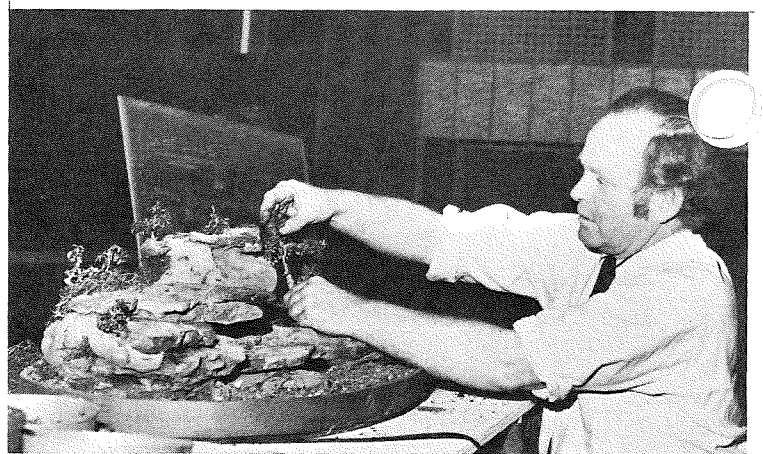


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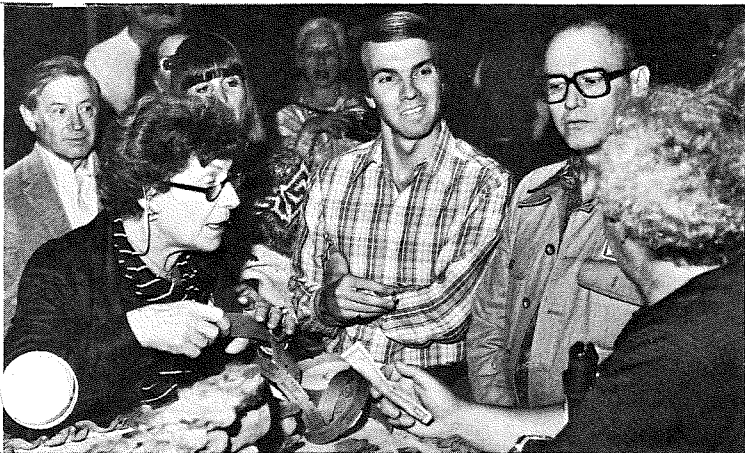
- #1 The Bazaar - nearly always crowded and busy.
- #2 John Naka autographs his book Bonsai Techniques for Dee Morris of Virginia Beach.
- #3 John Naka begins his demonstration by working on the #1 tree of a Ficus benjamina forest planting.
- #4 "Into this pot ...
- #5 ... will go all these trees." John Naka, with assistant John Patterson (left).
- #6 With the forest nearly completed, Vicki Ballantyne does some detail wiring while Naka-san contemplates the effects. (Dave Flipse was shy and had to hide his head).



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

- #1 David Andrews contemplates rock placement for his saikei prior to the demonstration.
- #2 The saikei, now nearly complete, as David places the #1 tree.
- #3 Master raffle ticket saleswoman Molly Hersh hard at work.
- #4 Bill Merritt tickles the ivories to the enjoyment of those attending the cocktail party
- 5 "No, you can't trade me three baseball cards for my banquet favor." Symposium chairman Mary Houlton with BCI director-elect George Reichert of Toronto.
- #6 "Feelin' fine." Arschel Morell, Louise & Stan Townsend enjoying the cocktail party.

CLUB CALENDAR

- November 9
Thursday
Bonsai workshop. 7:30 p.m. Library, West Street. Bring tree materials and tools. Discussion: planning for Christmas party; possible change of meeting day-of-the-wee; planning winter meetings. ANNAPOLIS
- November 11
Saturday
Wintering plants & tool maintenance. 10:00 a.m. Gulf Branch Nature Center. NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY
- November 17
Friday
Introduction to Chinese Bonsai. 7:30 p.m. Head House, Brookside Gardens. Slide program by Dorothy Young which describes Ling nan "grow & clip" techniques. Bring trees to show. BROOKSIDE
- November 18
Saturday
Topic to be announced. 2:00 p.m. National Arboretum. Call J. Cubie 347-5800 for details. WASHINGTON
- November 26
Sunday
Charter tree workshop. 2:00 p.m. Clearwater Nature Center. KIYOMIZU
- December 9
Saturday
Chinese Bonsai slides from Dorothy Young. 10:00 a.m. Gulf Branch Nature Center. NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY
- December 15
Friday
Christmas Party. 7:30 p.m. Head House, Brookside Gardens. Cookies & egg nog punch following meeting. Program will consist of showing members' photographic slides of interesting trees growing "in the field" or in a garden. Pictures to be shown are of trees from here & from distant lands. We seek contributions to make the evening as varied as possible. Bring slides to Nov. meeting or contact one of the following: Janet Lanman, Harvey Everett, Fred Mies, John Hreha, Brian Campbell. BROOKSIDE



BONSAI CARE

a simple guide for owners

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