

# PBA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 7

JULY 1979 ISSN 0160-9521



## TREE OF THE MONTH

### *Euonymus alatus*

by Cliff Pottberg

Quick. Think of a plant which makes an excellent subject for bonsai, is viewable in any season of the year, and which has different points of interest in every season. There aren't many. Those that do fit the description usually lack something at one time of the year or another. There is one at least, however, which is always of top value: *Euonymus alatus* (pronounced You-on-i-mus a-late-us), and especially its dwarf form *E. alatus compactus*.

Called the Winged Spindletree, *E. alatus* is a member of the family Celastraceae. Another member of the family beside the genus *Euonymus*, *Celastrus scandens*, the false bittersweet, also makes fine bonsai material. But *E. alatus* is by far the best.

The deciduous tree (really a shrub) grows up to 8 or 9 feet, and is supposed to be slow growing, but it is possible to force 2 or more feet of growth from even the dwarf form in one year while the plant is in training. Its opposite leaves are small, up to 2 inches (but easily dwarfed to 1/2 inch). New growth is an interesting pale yellow green, and is even more interesting in late spring when it contrasts with the darker blue green summer foliage. Most spectacular of all, though, is the fall color of the foliage which is a brilliant bright rosy red-crimson. And the color of the leaves are even more outstanding by their contrast with the green branchlets on which they occur. Even further contrast occurs in the fall because of the light grey slightly textured bark which adds another interest all year, of course, but especially so in the fall. No less an authority than Hillier's Nursery in England, in their "Hillier's Manual of Trees and Shrubs", describe it as "one of the finest of all deciduous shrubs for autumn color".

Hillier's also describe the *compactus* form as "ideal for a low hedge", as it is very branched. That fact and the corky wings on the branchlets, for which the species is named, guarantees the plant to be a good candidate for a winter viewing bonsai. Indeed it is fine, and its spreading growth habit makes it easy to train as well.

The small flowers are inconspicuous, but adding even more interest in the fall and early winter are the small 1/4 inch purplish fruits which persist well into winter. Thus the early spring growth, the rich summer foliage, the brilliant fall color, the fruits and then the branch structure, all provide a lovely and constantly changing reminder of the seasons.

Other good qualities of *E. alatus* for use as bonsai abound. The tree thrives in a wide variety of soils, acidity and moisture levels, is not too sensitive to wet feet, and generally is one of the harder plants to kill. And too the root system is relatively

Jack and Mary Alice Wells  
1810 37th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SILVER SPRING, MD.  
PERMIT NO. 2359

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION  
c/o National Arboretum  
24th & R Sts. NE  
Washington, D.C. 20018

PBA Newsletter:- published by the Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc., a non-profit organization, in the interests of its affiliate member clubs and societies.

President: Mary Holmes (301) 345-3606

Editor in Chief: Julius F. Koetsch (703) 569-9378

Tree of the Month Editor: Clifton Pottberg

Snips and Slips Editor: Mary Holmes (301) 345-3606

Art Editor: Linda Mayben

Science Editor: Ray Buck

Advertising Director: Mary Fox

Calendar Editor: Jackie Dorsett

Associate Editors: Ed Castillo and W. Howard

Layout Editor: Vicki Ballantyne

Photography Director: David Morse

Photography Contributors: Arschel Morell and Howard Clark

Send articles (in longhand, typewritten, by voice over the phone, in Japanese, etc.) to J.F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152

shallow and easy to train.

*Euonymus alatus* is not at all shy about being cut back hard either. Wounds heal over quickly and untemperamentally. In fact, it is faced with few pests, an occasional aphid or scale infestation being the largest problems you will face, and it is less susceptible to either than most other members of the genus.

The plant is also easy to winter in the PBA area as it is fully hardy up into New England, although it is originally from the more temperate parts of China and Japan. *Euonymus alatus* is also easy to propagate, but you may have problems trying softwood cuttings. While these will root easily, *E. alatus* enters into a summer period of quasi-dormancy and it is often very difficult to force new top growth; without it the rooted cutting will have a much harder time living through the first winter. Hardwood cuttings taken anytime in winter also root readily and do not have the same top growth problems, however.

The plant also seems relatively long-lived, and it has been used as bonsai material in Japan for some time.

Use *Euonymus alatus* for many different styles and sizes of bonsai: saikei, forests, rock plantings, brooms and most upright styles are all styles to consider. Its versatility, universality, hardiness and general strength make it one of the best for many bonsai.

## Snips and Slips

### ZAPPING WHITE FLIES

It is possible to eliminate white flies in an enclosed environment--for example, an apartment--in about two weeks by putting all the infested plants under the right kind of Grow Lights! The flies are attracted to the light and get fried on the hot bulb, if the new incandescent Grow Lights are used, rather than fluorescents.

---Esther deLashmutt

### LOGGED WATER

Now that the season for heavy watering is upon us, a reminder that if you have trees in wooden containers the soil will not dry out as quickly as that in plastic or ceramic pots. The wood absorbs water during both the watering process and from the set soil, retains it, then releases it back to the soil as the soil dries out. Therefore you may run the risk of overwatering trees in wooden containers if you don't take this into consideration.

--- Mary Holmes

# PBA DUES ARE DUE

*past*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL--DUES

Please send your dues into your local club treasurer immediately. July is the last issue to go out to those who have not yet paid their dues. Club treasurers, please send Vicki Ballantyne and Molly Hersh an up to date list with addresses of all members.

Vicki Ballantyne

## GOING, GOING, GONE--SOLD TO???

The auction at Behnkes Nursery was a great success. The day started out looking like a total disaster with the rain pouring down. But it stopped at 9:00 as people and trees started arriving. What a relief! Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a success. The auction section sold \$1971.00 and the consignment table sold \$349.75. The PBA treasury retains 15% of these totals, so the treasury is richer by \$415.28. Those people who sold items please look for your checks in the next couple of weeks. If you don't get a check, call me because I may not have your address (647-3224).

Vicki Ballantyne

## NoVaBonSoc meeting on SUMMER CARE

At the 9 June meeting a panel consisting of Bob Coates, Dave Flipse, Pete Jones and Jules Koetsch discussed summer care for bonsai and fielded questions. Relative to insecticides, Bob Coates noted that these should be applied before the azaleas bloom in the spring. However, using a systemic such as Cygon circumvents washing it off during the daily mistings. Be certain that non-systemic insecticides such as Malathion coat both upper and lower leaf surfaces.

Dave Flipse said that his summer routine is to do everything in moderation: no heavy pruning, no repotting, no fertilizing during July and August.

Water plants preferably in the morning and mist them in the afternoon. If the plants are near a house wall, the reflected heat may be injurious. One corrective measure is to let a vine grow on the wall to cut down the reflected heat. It was also accepted that indoor bonsai should not be moved outdoors during the summer months.

## Nippon Bonsai Association Visit

The following 2 letters were received by PBA in thanks for hosting the reception at the arboretum for the visiting Japanese who were bonsai donors, on April 19.

Our thanks go to the Japanese for their gift, to Dr. John Creech for giving us the opportunity to participate, and, of course, especially to Clyde Roland for the excellent job she did in organizing the endeavor.

Hopefully the letters are self-explanatory:



### NIPPON BONSAI ASSOCIATION

3-42 Ueno-koen Daito-ku

Tokyo, Japan

03-821-3059

May 15, 1979

Mr. Clifton Pottberg  
#K 4412 Colmar Drive  
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Dear President :

We don't know how to thank you enough for your especially scrupulous care to us in spite of our troubling you so much, on that occasion when a party of the U.S.A. & Japan Bonsai goodwill mission from our association visited your district the other day.

A party of the mission owes its great success in obtaining expected good results to you. And please set your mind at ease, as the mission arrived at Narita airport with no trouble in the evening of April 28. This is just our sincere greeting and appreciation to you on letter, though rather late.

Thank you very much again.

Yours sincerely,

*Nobukichi Koide*

Nobukichi Koide  
Director, Nippon Bonsai Association

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
NORTHEASTERN REGION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

April 30, 1979

Mr. Cliff Pottberg  
President  
Potomac Bonsai Association  
4412 Colmar Drive, Apt. K  
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Dear Cliff and Bonsai Friends:

The Arboretum owes each of you a special word of thanks for the fine reception that you prepared on our behalf.

I am confident that the warmth which our Japanese friends displayed on Friday evening was an honest reflection of the sincere affection that they have for both organizations.

I have had several verbal comments on the reception and a very nice letter from one of the Japanese citizen's groups.

Again, it is a distinct pleasure for us to have your marvelous support and a most enjoyable working relationship. Please thank Mrs. Roland, Mrs. Lamana, and all those who contributed so generously to a perfectly delightful evening, one which will long be remembered by our Japanese colleagues as well as all the other guests.

Sincerely,

John L. Creech  
Director

## ANNUAL REPORT

May 1, 1978 - April 30, 1979

RECEIPTS

Dues	1039.50
Advertising	84.70
Flower Show	1238.40
Misc.--1978 auction	179.65
Symposium, 1978	5344.12
Cash on hand	<u>2305.51</u>
	10191.88

EXPENSES

Newsletter	1241.80
Flower Show	794.19
Misc.--phone, stamps, library materials, Japanese party (\$321.74), annual show and party (170.15)	863.19
Symposium	<u>3434.53</u>
	6333.71

The treasury seems to be pretty healthy. Dues were not enough to cover the newsletter costs last year. Mary Fox is in charge of getting more advertising for the newsletter and also handling the billing. The flower show netted PBA \$444.21 in profit in addition to the two extra booths, so all the hard work people put in to make the show such a success has really paid off. The same is true of the symposium. The \$1909.59 profit provides more flexibility to PBA for future outside speakers and other activities. The wine and cheese party the night of the annual show was lots of fun and these profits paid for the refreshments we all have had this year. About 40 people came to the annual meeting and party and maybe we'll have an even larger turnout next year.

Vicki Ballantyne

## AUCTION OF RARE PLANTS AT RARAFLORA II

The well-known private collection of Fred Bergmann in Feasterville Pennsylvania is being sold. Mr. Bergmann, who died a few years ago, had collected or developed, grafted and trained thousands of varieties of dwarf conifers and other unusual trees and shrubs.

Several hearty PBAers made it to the auction June 5-8 at which 8,000 items were offered for sale. Prices ranged from an occasional \$5 or \$10 for a very small hemlock or common pine to a spectacular \$13,000 for a one-of-a-kind Bergmann White Pine - about 4 feet tall and 6 feet wide. Like all the in-the-ground trees, it must also hereafter be dug by the buyer. Prices of up to \$1000 for 3 to 6 foot tall trees were not uncommon.

A second auction is to be held in July for all the material which was not sold at this time. Anyone considering attending should be warned that a sizeable deposit of \$500 is required, \$100 of which is not refundable, but is creditable against the first \$100 of bought merchandise by the registrant.

Mary Fox

# Book Nook

Among other things which I took to the hospital to read during my recent visit was a new book in the Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening series called Pruning and Grafting. Since I was being incarcerated for a skin graft, it occurred to me that perhaps if I showed this book to my doctor he might pick up some helpful hints which would be useful to him and, therefore, beneficial to me - the idea of the thing, after all, being not so different whether it be human or vegetable. My efforts were met with benevolent tolerance on the part of my doctor, but the exertion was not a total loss as I found the book both interesting and informative and my bonsai knowledge benefited if my medical welfare did not.

Written by Oliver E. Allen "and the editors of Time-Life Books," the book, of course, is published by Time-Life Books and retails for about \$9. The pruning chapters seem to be limited to such gardening subjects as espalier, topiary and the like, but the principles and techniques of pruning are well defined in understandable language, easily adapted to bonsai, and there is a large section in the back dealing with pruning specific kinds of trees and shrubs, many of which are found in a good many bonsai collections.

The chapters on grafting I found especially interesting. Nearly every aspect of grafting I would ever use, or even be interested in, is covered - bud grafting, bark grafting, in-arching, even a method called bridge grafting which might be valuable to save a favorite tree which had been girdled by gnawing rabbits or mice during winter storage. Best of all, again, it was explained in clear, concise terms so as to be intelligible, and I felt encouraged to think that even I could attempt some of these heretofore mystery-laden techniques with some degree of success.

At the same time this book was published, another in the same series called Bonsai and Miniatures came out. To the serious bonsai enthusiast this book, I feel, is very much of a beginner's explanation of bonsai, with better information to be found in other sources and not very much value in a bonsai library. Pruning and Grafting is another matter and certainly a welcome addition to my bookshelf.

--- Mary Holmes

## MISSING

Bruce Ballantyne lost a heavy duty yellow extension cord and a Craftsman screwdriver after the take down of the annual show, April 28, 1979. If anyone saw it or knows where it might be, please call Bruce at 647-3224. Was it packed into the PBA trunk at the Arboretum?

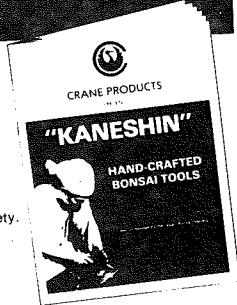
## CURE FOR RED SPIDER MITE?

Esther deLashmutter, after describing an indoor cure for white fly (see snips and slips), asks for help in turn in eliminating red spider mites on her indoor bamboo and elms. She's tried sprays and systemic powders and given them baths but they always come back. Please send any suggestions to the snips and slips editor.

**THE FINEST  
HAND-CRAFTED  
BONSAI TOOLS  
YOU WILL EVER  
USE!**

for gardening,  
house plants,  
and bonsai

Each Kaneshin bonsai tool is hand forged from the finest steel, and is guaranteed for one full year against defects in workmanship and materials. Recommended by the Japan Bonsai Society.



**FREE  
12 PAGE  
CATALOG**

For our free catalog, please write to:

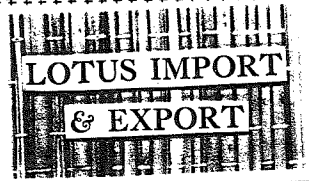
**CRANE PRODUCTS**

8432 Birchbark Ave., Dept. # p  
Pico Rivera, Ca. 90660  
or phone (213) 862-1216

© Copyright 1976, Crane Products

Travel with John Naka to Japan—  
John Naka's Bonsai Holiday in Japan Tour—  
contact Crane Products,  
8432 Birchbark Ave., Pico Rivera, Ca. 90660

\*\*\*\*\*



PARKINGTON SHOPPING CENTER  
4210 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22203 USA



- jewelry
- jade
- silk
- chinaware
- antiques
- gift items
- other orientalia

(703) 525-6171

**BONSAI POTS • TRAYS • STANDS**

10% discount to  
PBA and affiliated club members

## The PBA Symposium

The date has been fixed for the fifth annual PBA Symposium. October 6-7 is the magic weekend and all PBAers should put it on their calendar right now. The Symposium will be held at the Ramada Inn, Route #450 and the Washington Beltway (right across the Sheraton where it was held last year). The theme for our fifth Symposium will be Broad-leaved Evergreens and Deciduous Conifers. A first-rate roster of speakers will be there to expand our knowledge and fire our enthusiasm. Further information and registration forms will be in next month's Newsletter.

### COMMITTEES FORMED

New committees recently formed (or reformed) by the board included a properties committee under the aegis of the treasurer as specified by the PBA bylaws. Now that PBA has a new permanent home for its belongings, Vicki Ballantyne, the treasurer, and the board, have asked anyone with knowledge of the whereabouts of PBA's - occasionally far-flung - possessions, to get in touch with her.

An Educational Vice President's committee, started Mary Holmes earlier this year, is beginning to work again under the new PBA EVP, Arschel Morell. This committee is designed primarily to help each club schedule better and more interesting topics for its members. A report will be ready soon.

Finally, the library committee has been reformed, under the direction of Harvey Everett. Dormant for several years, PBA's basically sound and large library system is worth putting back together. It will be no small task, however, but one which is well worth doing. We all wish Harvey well; a report on his progress will be forthcoming soon also.

*Bittersweet Hill*  
NURSERIES  
RT. 424 GOVERNORS BRIDGE RD.  
DAVIDSONVILLE, MD.

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
seven days a week  
(301) 798-0231

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

**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



**BONSAI CARE**  
a simple guide for owners

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

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

PUBLISHED BY  
**BONSAI INFORMATION GUILD, INC.**  
Post Office Box 6140 Shirlington Station Arlington, Virginia 22206

## CLUB CALENDAR

July 4  
Wednesday ABS and BCI combined convention in New York. July 4-9. Call Mary Holmes (301-345-3606) or Jo Finneyfrock (301-589-3725) or Cliff Pottberg (301-366-8844) for registration details information.

July 10  
Tuesday Charter tree workshop: tree of the year, using Shimpaku juniper. 7:30PM at St. Margaret's Church. ANNAPOLIS

July 14  
Saturday Bonseki workshop and discussion. Bring 3 matched rocks and tray - and moss if desired. NoVa will provide moss and sand for those who desire it. 10:00AM at Gulf Branch Nature Center. NORTHERN VIRGINIA

July 14  
Saturday Picnic. At Hersh-Finneyfrock residence, 102 Devon Ct., Silver Spring. Refreshments provided. Each member is asked to bring either a good tree or a problem tree for discussion if possible. To start at 1:00PM; call Molly or Jo for further details. BROOKSIDE

July 15 Slide show on Japanese bonsai and potting soil workshop. Professional slide show by Dorothy Young of ABS, followed by members mixing potting soil, which will then be distributed to all attendees. 1:00PM at the nature center at Louise Cosca Park. KIYOMIZU

NOTE: the Baltimore Bonsai Club and the Washington Bonsai Club will not hold a meeting during the month of July. The Washington Bonsai Club and Brookside Gardens Bonsai will not hold a meeting during the month of August. Members are reminded that, as a member of any club in PBA, they hold the reciprocal right to go to any meeting of any club in PBA at any time. These summer months might be a good time to try out your privilege by going to a meeting of another club. You will be welcomed. For information on any of the other club's programs, call anyone whose phone number is listed anywhere in this newsletter.

August 19  
Sunday Charter tree workshop: tree of the year, using Shimpaku juniper. 3:00 PM at Cylburn Park

August 23  
Thursday 1979 ABS Symposium at Davis campus of University of California. August 23-26. Call Cliff Pottberg (301-366-8844) for registration details information.

Sept. 23  
Saturday PBA annual fall symposium. See next month's Newsletter for complete details. POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

## President's Message

PBA was founded in 1971 with fourteen members. In the last eight years it has grown from this small beginning to an organization of several hundred members and six member clubs. During this time the club has come from an organization which sponsored an annual show, an annual auction and a name-speaker once a year to an organization which has hosted an international convention, expanded activities to include one of the most popular (and best) exhibits at the annual Flower Show at the D.C. Armory, and successfully put on an ever increasingly popular annual symposium (popular among bonsaiists along the East Coast as well as our own members). All this activity takes a lot of time and a lot of talent.

Talent is something PBA has plenty of - and I don't just mean bonsai skill and techniques. There is a lot of that kind of talent in PBA, but this is not what successfully runs a club with as many kinds of activities as we have. Very few can make a living at bonsai and nearly all of us earn our wages applying our abilities to other jobs. It is these abilities and knowledge which we bring to the club which makes it run. Whether we be doctor, lawyer or truck driver, PBA needs the talents of every one of its members and each member has something to contribute. As PBA president one of the goals I intend to carry on from Cliff Pottberg is a fuller participation by all PBA members. If you don't want to serve as a board member or officer, there's no reason you should. Not everyone has the desire or time to be Secretary of State, either. There's lots else to do and the fact that PBA members can and will help has been dramatically shown at the Flower Show when better than a third of our total membership showed up to help. There's a lot of "one-shot-deals" you can help with.

One of our most critical areas is the Newsletter. When I became president I resigned as Newsletter editor and the job has been taken over by a committee headed by Jules Koetsch. There's plenty of work to do either on a continuing basis by meeting once a month to type articles or plan future features, or on a hit-and-miss basis by contributing an article or an idea here and there to be published in the Newsletter. Of course not everyone's a Hemingway, but I don't recall that anyone in PBA has written the Great American Novel so far. If you have noticed, the best issues have been those in which there have been contributions from a number of people. Each one has as much or as little knowledge as anyone else in PBA, and your experiences will be valuable to someone else - even failures. I used a 3-3-3 mixture sand, chicken grit and Baccto potting soil last year and lost three potentially great trees. By all calculations the mixture should have worked but it didn't - the soil held too much water and the trees died of root rot. I'll know better than to try that particular combination again, and now you're forewarned also. What experiences, problems, questions can you share?

Whatever talent or knowledge or time you have to contribute, do it! PBA needs you and whatever you can put in, you get more back because of it.

--- Mary Holmes