

POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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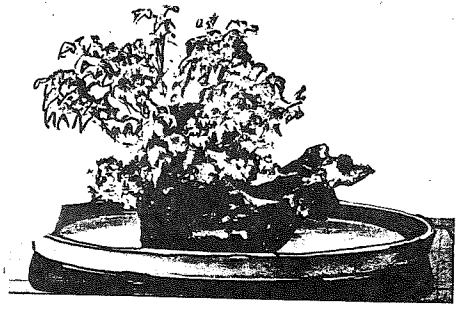


MOMIJI (Maple) ROOT-OVER-ROCK

by Takenma Takenai

Translated by Jules Koetsch

MAPLES (MOMIJI) TWIN TRUNK ON ROCK
PLANTING



Maple Root-Over-Rock

One should not make a mistake in distinguishing between maples (momiji) and trident maples (kaede) since maples have palmate leaves and are graceful in their appearance. In preparing a bonsai, be careful not to wound or injure the trunk and branches - gentleness in handling is the keynote to obtain a beautiful line to the trunk and thick spreading roots. This will be illustrated by the example which follows (attaching a bonsai planting to a rock (root-over-rock)). The use of momiji or kaede as the sapling plant is immaterial.

SELECTING THE TREE AND PREPARING THE POT

Initially, one should select the style of tree desired, single trunk, multi-trunk, etc. The tree selection for this article is from tree stock with the desired twin trunk structuring for air-layering.

Tree Selection Method: To begin, clear away the excess growth around the region where the twin trunk air-layered section will be removed from the parent tree stock. The main trunk section should be as thick as an adult's little finger to be qualified for the task in hand.

The air-layering process should be done at the time of entry into the rainy season or the beginning of plum picking time. Beneath the crotch of the two trunks, remove a 3 centimeter (1 1/4 inch) length of bark and cambium completely ringing the trunk. Make the edge of the bark/cambium at the top a sawtooth or "lightning stroke" cut.

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Next, apply moist red clay, which can be molded, to the whittled tree lignum portion, forming a dumpling shape. (NOTE: Tissue paper can be used to cover the wet clay before adding sphagnum moss to thereby prevent the clay from being dislodged when placing the moss.) Snugly tie an opaque piece of plastic with string at the bottom of the air-layered section, see diagram, and form a plastic bag. Insert sphagnum moss which has been soaked in water. The sphagnum moss should cover the air-layered segment for about 10 centimeters (4 inches). The top of the bag should be tied so that the sphagnum moss can be checked for moisture content.

The sphagnum moss must not be allowed to dry for the next 40 to 60 days and water must be applied to prevent this. When roots emerge from the bottom hole of the bag, stop watering of the sphagnum moss through the top hole of the bag, because the twin trunk section is ready for removal.

Potting Method for the Selected Tree: When the roots fill the bag, sometime during the month of August, it is time to pot the air-layered, selected tree.

The illustration shows where the selected tree is cut free from the lower part of the tree. Prepare an unglazed pot for the transplanting. Put large red clay pellets in the bottom for drainage, and on top of that put a potting soil mixture of 7 parts red clay, and 3 parts mountain sand or paulownia tree sand. The selected tree is placed in the pot without removing the sphagnum moss from the roots, but the root clump is loosened a little before potting. Hide a portion of the trunk above the root clump just below the soil level. Water the tree adequately. After one to two weeks have elapsed, during which time the tree is subject to some air movement, place the tree in a sunny place.

Three weeks after potting the tree, place three tamahi (rape seed) dumplings on the soil in three separate locations. When the dumplings need replenishing, place another three at separate locations intermediate between the locations for the preceding dumplings. As for watering, water three times everyday in the Summer, two times everyday in the Autumn, and once every two days in the Winter. Water until it comes out of the hole at the bottom of the pot.

In this first year interval, fertilize except from the end of October to the end of March, apply water generously. In February of the following year, prune to leave two or three sprouts remaining on each branch.

PRUNING ATTACHING TREE TO ROCK, POTTING, LEAF CLIPPING

The third year is the period for pruning, attaching the tree to the rock, potting the combination, and leaf clipping.

Spring Pruning: Spring pruning is done between February 20th and March 20th. Do not fertilize at this time. Remove unwanted (useless) branches and for those branches growing side-by-side on the trunk, remove branches alternating from side-to-side up the tree always leaving one branch in place of the two "bar" branches. The same alternate cutting procedure applies to the smaller branches. All in all, retain an overall symmetry to the tree.

The above effort involving the pruning of the tree during this particular time of the month, is warranted since it will bring about a balance in the tree's energy between the roots and the upper portion during the following months.

Rock Attaching and Potting: During March 20th through 31st is the time to pot the tree. Remove the tree from the training pot, remove the soil from the roots, and spread the roots over the selected rock. Avoid placing the base of the tree over the center of the rock.

Avoid selecting a rock of a volcanic or porous substance, or one which is black and has any holes. Before positioning the tree, cover the rock with a thin layer of the following soil mix which has been kneaded to a claylike consistency using water (5 parts sphagnum moss, 3 parts red clay, and 2 parts river sand).

Before placing the tree on the rock, remove the tree lignum section where the bark had been removed for air-layering (see the illustration). The tree is joined to the stone by overlaying the roots with a layer of Nanking hemp (cheese-cloth is a suitable, biodegradable substitute). The hemp will, in time, decay. Next, place a kneaded soil mix, using water again to make it the right texture. The soil mix proportions are 5 parts sphagnum moss, 3 parts red clay, and 2 parts river sand. Use enough to just cover the roots. On top of the above, place moss which has been soaked in water to prevent any loss of the soil from the roots during subsequent waterings.

The moss ends where the soil level of the pot is to be. Use a shallow pot and avoid placing the root-over-rock combination in the center of the pot when viewed from the front. In planting the root-over-rock, insure that potting soil is filled in around the roots and under the rock. Of course, the base of the pot should be lined with a layer of large, red clay pellets to permit drainage. The potting soil mix consists of 7 parts red clay, and 3 parts river sand. The tree should stabilize in the pot in one week and be ready for removal to an outdoor shelf. Start the first application of tamahi (rape seed oil dumplings) around April 10th, placing 2 to 3 at different locations.

After a small period of time, the tree may not have grown roots thick enough for removing the soil and hemp to expose the roots on the rock. In order to grow thick, robust roots, the root-rock combination with the soil and hemp in place, can be planted in a field as shown in the illustration. The roots will definitely grow quickly into fat, robust ones in a year. Thereafter, repot as before.

Pruning, Leaf Clipping: Once begun, fertilize once per month and water generously so that leaf clipping and pruning can be done in June to carefully maintain minuteness in the twisted branches and leaves.

Circumstances whereby pruning in March is required are the deliberate removal of one of a pair of branches to eliminate bar branches, and the removal of one of two seasons of growth.

During leaf clipping, cut every leaf from the stem as shown if the tree is healthy. If the tree is not in good health, cut away three parts of each leaf, as shown, thereby leaving a single part. That is what leaf clipping involves.

Fertilize once per month using rape seed oil dumplings and always water adequately during Summer and Autumn. Stop fertilizing in the Winter.

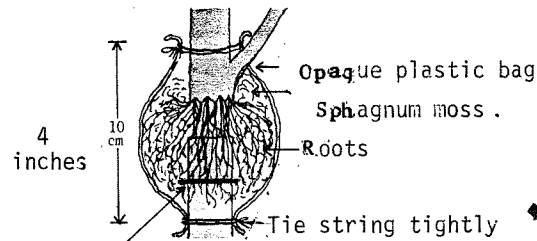
H - 5TH YEAR AND RESULTS

It is possible to have a tree with a satisfactory trunk, large branches, and small branches in the 4th and 5th years due to pruning during February 20th to March 10th, leaf plucking during April - May, leaf clipping and pruning during June - July, fertilizing from April - October, and adequate watering.

During the 6th year, the overall styling of the bonsai can be finished by following the same procedures as in the 4th and 5th years for leaf clipping and pruning.

Continue the procedures for another 4 to 5 years during the time periods cited above and a fine bonsai will be produced.

The above article is the last one on maples, trident maples (momiji and kaede) written by Takenma Takenai, which appeared in Seibundo Shinka Sha, 1974. It is hoped that the articles will provide some background material to prepare the reader for the forthcoming 1981 PBA Symposium on October 24 and 25. At the risk of being redundant, the above article on root-over-rock was translated so that any additional pointers not appearing in the July 1981 article on kaede could be brought to light. To those who feel that there has been too much concentration on maples, kaede, my apologies. Next month, we'll tackle Chinese elm.



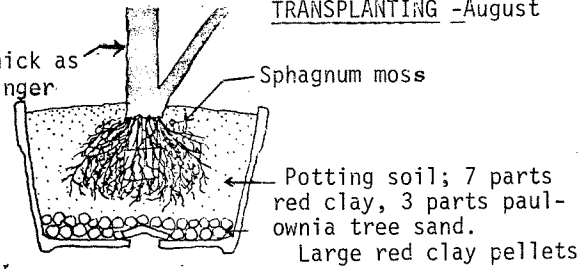
AIR-LAYERING TO OBTAIN TREE

August

SELECTING TREE

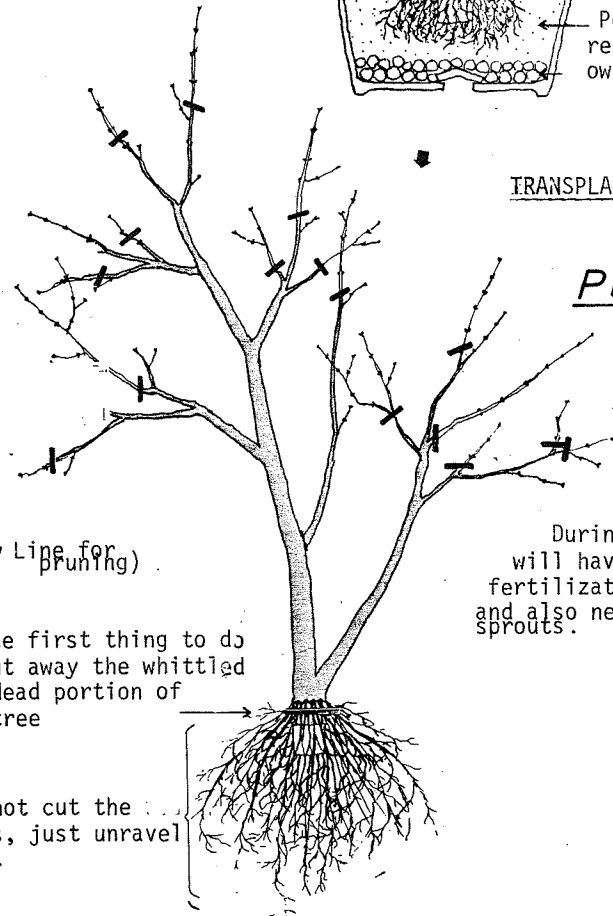
Cut along this line when ready for removal

As thick as a little finger



PREPARING POT & TRANSPLANTING -August

TRANSPLANTING Around March 20th



PLANT GROWTH

3RD YEAR

(- Lines for pruning)

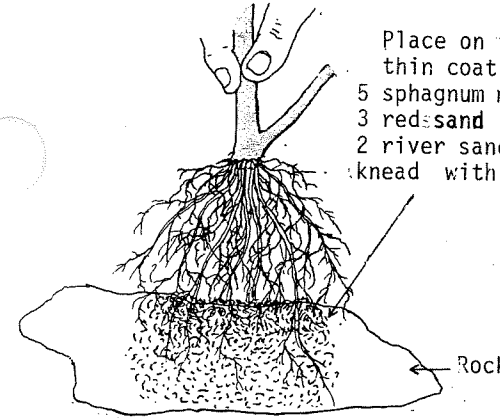
The first thing to do is cut away the whittled and dead portion of the tree

Do not cut the roots, just unravel them.

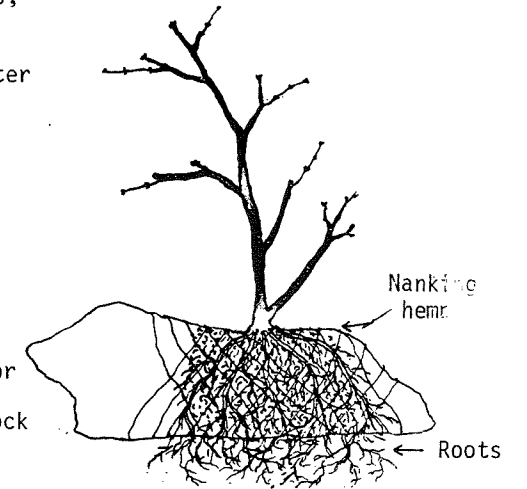
During the 2nd year, branch will have sprouted at will do fertilization. Cut away unwanted and also new growth leaving 2 to 3 sprouts.

ATTACHING ROCK TO PLANT

Around March 27th



Place on the rock, a thin coat by parts of:
5 sphagnum moss,
3 red sand
2 river sand
knead with water

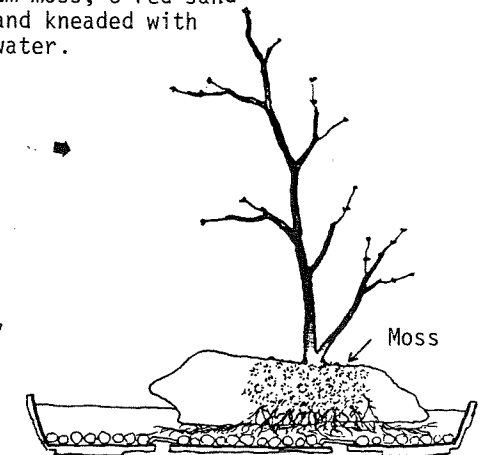
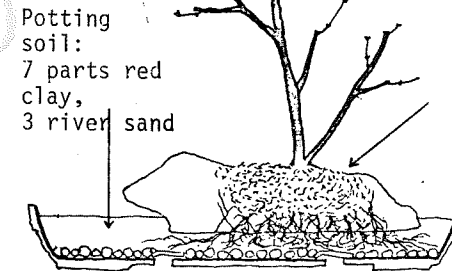


Avoid using a rock which is porous or of volcanic origin, decide on the front and spread the roots over the rock and bind with Nanking hemp.

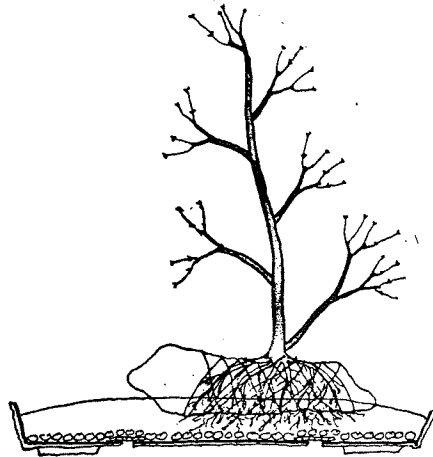
PLANT IN BONSAI POT Around March 27th

Cover the Nanking hemp with soil, the hemp will decay. Spread the moss over the top down to the soil line in the pot.

Place on the hemp a thin coating by parts of:-
5 sphagnum moss, 3 red sand
2 river sand kneaded with water.



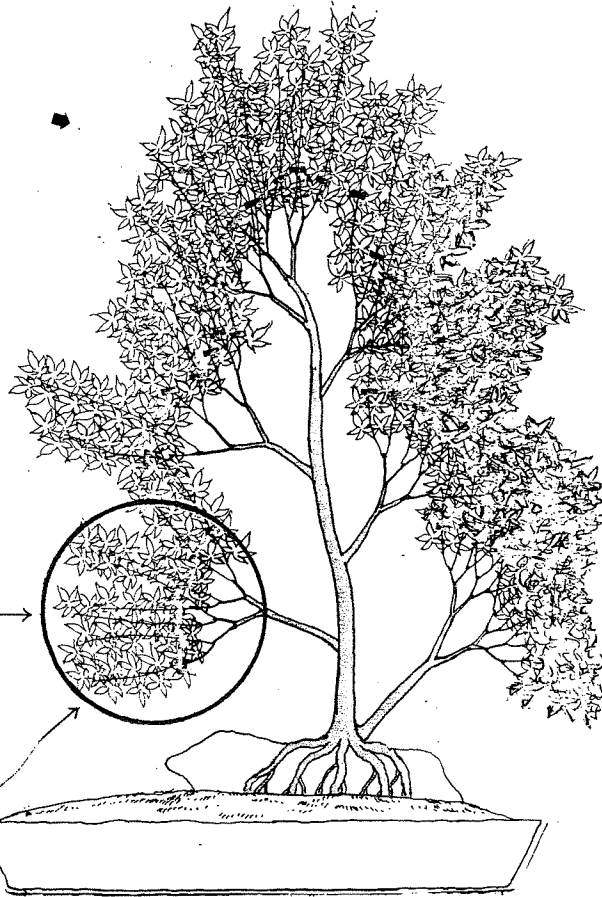
PRUNING Mid-March



Appearance After Pruning

4TH YEAR

SPROUT REMOVAL, LEAF CLIPPING
April - June



Cut away to leave dark branches

If the tree is not healthy, cut away on dotted lines.

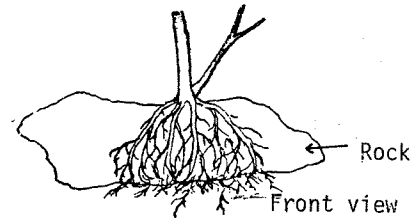
If tree is healthy, cut here



Cut away branches leaving only 2 to 3 segments. This diagram attempts to simplify on the surface of the paper in a single dimension what is to be done in three dimensions.

ROOT-OVER-ROCK PLANTED IN THE ELD
March 20th - 31

3RD YEAR

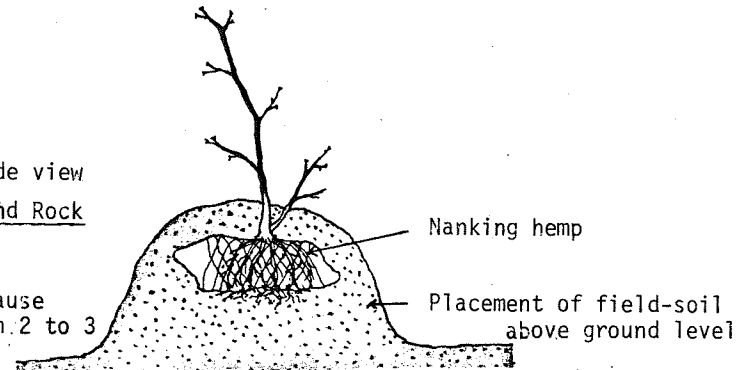


Front view



Side view

Roots Twisted Around Rock



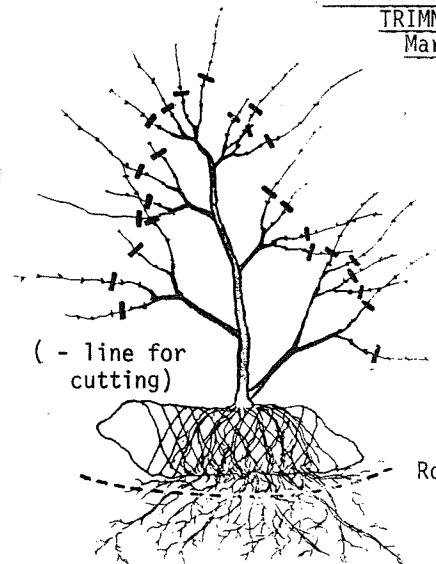
This technique will cause the roots to thicken in 2 to 3 years to the size it would take 3 to 4 years if left in the pot.

Nanking hemp

Placement of field-soil above ground level

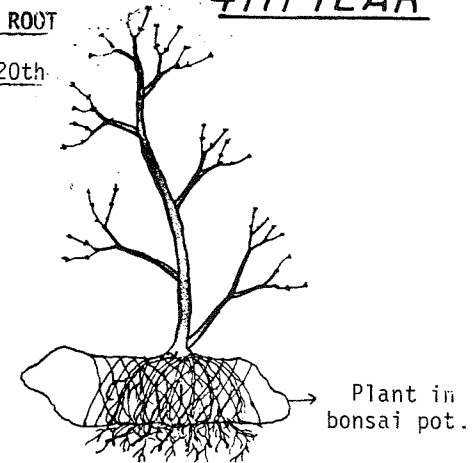
DIGGING UP, PRUNING, ROOT TRIMMING,
March 10th - 20th

4TH YEAR



(- line for cutting)

Root trimming line



Plant in bonsai pot.

Results of Root Trimming, Pruning

Pruning, Root Trimming

MAPLE ROOT-OVER-ROCK
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Feb. 10-20	Light pruning				
Mar. 10-20		Prune			
Mar. 20-31		Attach plant to stone. Put in bonsai pot OR Plant in field Water adequately.		Root prune and put in a bonsai pot.	
Apr. 1-10		Place outdoors on a shelf Start fertilizing, - apply once per month Water adequately			
June	Select tree shape		Clip leaves		
August	Air-layer. Cut from host tree. Pot tree and water.		Prune		
Aug. 20-21	Fertilize (begin once per month)				
Oct. 20-31	Apply fertilizer for the last time				
Dec. 10-20	Protect from frost and snow				

1981 PBA SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

- 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. BAZAAR
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Jack Eden: Lecture on fertilizers and insecticides.
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. BREAK
- 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Bill Valavanis: Slide lecture on propagation and training of maples for bonsai.
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. LUNCH
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Chase Rosade: Slide lecture and demonstration on "root-over-rock" technique, followed by raffle.
- 2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. BREAK
- 2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Ben Oki: Demonstration of group planting of maples, followed by raffle.
- 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Oki workshop on formal and informal upright styles - trident maples.
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. CASH BAR
- 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. BANQUET (reservations required)

SUNDAY

- 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. BAZAAR
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Nick Lenz: Slide lecture and demonstration on special techniques for rapid development of trunks and surface roots of maples.
- 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. BREAK
- 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Dr. David Andrews: Lecture and demonstration on David's "Surprise", followed by raffle.
- 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH
- 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Rosade workshop on "root-over-rock" technique - trident maples.
- 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Andrews collecting trip

PLANT RUSTS

One of the PBA members noticed that his crab-apple bonsai had a strange infection which did not vanish after applications of chemical fungicides/pesticides. All too late did he find out that it was caused by apple rust. For those unfamiliar with rusts, the following test was extracted from the "Reader's Digest Complete Book of the Garden". The table comes from "The New Garden Encyclopedia", 1946 edition, Wm. H. Wise & Co., Inc., New York. The latter book is still a favorite of mine among all the garden books because of the manner in which the subject matter is laid out. It's too bad there is no updated equivalent on the market.

If anyone can shed more light on the subject, the information will be most welcome, especially for heteroecious rusts. For those rusts, it is best to separate the alternate host plants by large distances, 30 feet perhaps. Otherwise, don't have one or the other in your collection.

Important Rust Diseases and Their Hosts

Disease (common name) and rust (scientific name).	Spore Stages and Hosts on Which They Occur	
Orange rust of aster and goldenrod (<i>Coleosporium solidaginis</i>)	Pine species	Aster and goldenrod
Blister rust of 5-needle pines (<i>Cronartium ribicola</i>)	White pine and other five-needle species	Species of currants and goose-berries
Poplar rust (<i>Melampsora medusae</i>)	Species of larch	Species of poplar
Witches' broom of fir and spruce (<i>Melampsorella elatina</i>)	Fir and spruce	Various species of the Pink Family
Rust of apple (<i>Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae</i>)	Wild crabs and cultivated apple varieties	Red-cedar and <i>Juniperus barbadensis</i>
Quince rust (<i>Gymnosporangium germinale</i>)	Quince, hawthorn and apple	Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i> and <i>J. virginiana</i>)
Hawthorn rust (<i>Gymnosporangium globosum</i>)	Hawthorn (many species) and apple	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Pea rust (<i>Uromyces pisi</i>)	Spurge (<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>)	Common pea
Rust of stone fruits (<i>Tranzschelia punctata</i>)	Hepatica, Thalictrum and Anemone species	Almond, apricot, cherry, peach and plum
Corn rust (<i>Puccinia sorghi</i>)	Oxalis	Indian corn
Rust of beet and spinach (<i>Puccinia sarcobati</i>)	Beet, spinach and many wild plants of 22 families	Salt grass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i>)
Stem rust of cereals (<i>Puccinia graminis</i>)	Species of Mahonia and the common barberry, but not Japanese barberry.	Wheat, oats, barley, rye and grasses

BCI CONVENTION - '81

The 1981 International Bonsai Convention, which met in Atlanta, GA July 9 through the 12th, 1981, offered a delicious array of goodies aimed at many tastes. For instance, Jim Barrett brought a 6 or 7 year old, container-grown juniper, (*Sylvestris foemina*) that about 3 years ago was 8 foot tall, down to an informal upright 30 inches high. And what at first appeared, to this viewer, that the so-called Number 1 branch was too high on the trunk, after wiring and bending, took its rightful position, just where it belonged. It was a beautiful creation, and a delectable experience for an enthusiastic audience.

E. Felton Jones, ably assisted by one of his students, Ming, provided the literati fans with a terrific display and discourse on what could be done with black pines. He pointed out that, although the choice of trees for literati or bunjin style is a personal thing, smooth-barked trees are not at all suitable for this style. The most desirable is a tree with a C shape on top, one that has no taper, but filled with branches on the top, and has a flaky bark. His choice of pines proved his point, and the result made my mouth water - ah, to reach such mastery!

John Naka, after titillating his audience while working on a 5 inch satsuki azalea for more than an hour, had a very, very challenging affair with another satsuki - this one truly a two man affair. So, with dependable Ben Oki at his

OVER
PLEASE →

RUST DISEASES

Rust diseases are easily recognized: they commonly show on leaves and stems as yellow-brown or orange-colored pustules. These have a rusty appearance, from which they take their common name.

They are highly specialized and produce spore stages of different kinds in a definite order. The rusts are interesting, because although some produce all their spore stages on the same plant (autoecious rusts), many produce them on different plants (heteroecious rusts). In the latter, the parasitic-rust fungus is said to use alternate hosts, a factor of great importance when considering control measures. It is of extreme importance to know the alternate host and the method by which the fungus lives and persists on its different host plants.

Some common examples of rust diseases are mint rust (*Puccinia menthae*), which produces all its spore stages on mint plants (illus. p. 799), and currant rust (*Cronartium ribicola*), which has some spore stages on the leaves of black currant in summer but also lives and produces other spores on the white pine and similar five-needled pines. The stage on the latter is known as blister rust because of the orange-yellow fungus which emerges from the bark.

Control: Rust diseases are checked by occasional applications of Bordeaux mixture, ferbam, sulphur or zineb. The white-pine blister-rust fungus can be controlled by painting the affecting areas with a mixture of Actidione BR in fuel oil or spraying the basal third of the trunk with this mixture, in the way directed by the manufacturer.

In autoecious rusts, where the parasite lives on one kind of plant, control is fairly simple by spraying or destroying diseased plants.

With heteroecious rusts, it may also be necessary to learn from your County Agricultural Agent, or other government resources, the identity of the alternate host, and either destroy it or treat it by spraying.

side, he started to create another Naka-san masterpiece. However, time ran out on our beloved John and Ben, and they finished their masterpiece outside the auditorium, with many kibitzers cheering them on.

Every convention has a highlight, and although this is not meant to reduce the achievements of the other artists, the drama and theatrics of Yugi Yoshimura's demonstration was, indeed, astounding. In a darkened room, and as the sound of music began to penetrate the darkness, very softly at first, spotlights flashed or revealing the Master with an assistant at each side (Marion Gyllenswan and Phyllis Wishnick) all dressed in black kimonos (to give the illusion of one body), at a very large round, covered table. Then as Ed Symmes, while adjusting the sound of music, began to narrate, three sets of hands began to create three beautiful, individual saikeis, using a multitude of plants (such as bald cypress, trident maples, shimpaku and procumbens junipers, Kingsville boxwood, dwarf azaleas, ferns, serissa, sedum, dwarf cryptomeria the most notable), many sizes and shapes of rock (feather), and pieces of driftwood (unfortunately, buttonwoods that didn't make it). Each container was about 2 inches by 2½ inches and about 2 inches deep. Each creation was an entity unto itself, beautiful and breathtaking. One represented a marshy, swampy coastline; the second, a piedmont-rolling hills and flatland with a stream running between them; the third, a rocky mountainous region with a waterfall. The very dramatic and exciting finale was when the three saikei trays were placed on a platform to the blare of music (was it the sound of trumpets?), and the three made one continuous, magnificently breathtaking scene, from the top of the mountain where the waterfall began, through the rolling countryside, to the sea! It is difficult to describe and give it full justice, but fortunately, there are slides available (through Symmes Systems, P. O. Box 8101, Atlanta, GA 30306), and PBA is the proud owner of a set.

Ed Galle, curator of Galloway Gardens in Georgia, described the full spectrum of the genus of rhododendrons and pointed out that there may be 400 species in the United States, with 4,000 in Japan. Billy Horton, horticulturist and botanist, gave a very informative and delightful lecture on bamboo.

But, to this writer, the highlight of the entire convention was the moment it was announced that our very own Jim Newton was awarded The Outstanding Writer, Photographer and Artist Award for 1981! Jim is not only a founding member of Potomac Bonsai Association, but it's Founding Father!

Molly Hersh
 Delegate, Brookside Gardens Bonsai
 to BCI '81

1981 PBA SYMPOSIUM JOIN UP NOW !!

Upcoming Bonsai Events (That We Know Of)

Fruiting Bonsai 1981 BONSAI SYMPOSIUM

Holiday Inn
 Rochester, New York

INTERNATIONAL BONSAI
 P.O. Box 23894
 Rochester, NY 14692 U.S.A.

Saturday, September 12, 1981

William N. Valavanis
William Breiten
Doris W. Froning
Marion Gyllenswan
E. Chase Rosade
 Speaker- Keith B. Scott

Sunday, September 13, 1981

Jerald P. Stowell
David L. Andrews

BONSAI SOCIETIES OF FLORIDA, INC. B.S.F. '81 CONVENTION

OCTOBER 1,2,3,4, 1981

HOLIDAY INN, UNIVERSITY MALL, Pensacola, Fla.

Melba Tucker SAIKEI
 Vaughn Banting LITERATI
 Donna Banting MAME
 BSF '81
 c/o Thekla W. Morris
 579 Man O War Circle
 Cantonment, Fla. 32533

The Golden State BONSAI FEDERATION THE ANNUAL CONVENTION SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA NOVEMBER 13, 14, 15, 1981

- JOHN NAKA
- KHAN KOMAI
- DAVID ANDREWS
- WARREN HILL
- JIM BARRETT
- MAS TAKANASHI
- ROY NAGATOSHI
- KO TSUSHIMA

Further Information & Registration Form:

3201 Coral Dr., Oceanside, CA 92054

623 A Ave, Coronado, CA 92118

CLUB CALENDAR

September 12: 10:00 a.m. - at the Gulf Branch Nature Center. Collecting trees will be the theme, John Simpson will show slides of the collecting trip around Boulder, Colorado last Spring. Felix Laughlin will present slides from his collecting trip with Dan Robinson in Montana this Summer. Talks will be directed toward collecting with Dr. Andrews at the 1981 PBA Symposium in October. Members are requested to bring trees which they are willing to exhibit in the club's annual Fall show scheduled for our next meeting. Tips on grooming trees for the next exhibit will be provided.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY
(202) 862-1040 Weekdays

September 17: 7:30 p.m. - Program will be announced by mail. Raffle!!
Thursday
BROOKSIDE (301) 299-6194

September 19: 2:00 p.m. - National Arboretum. Watch the mail for details
Sunday
WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676

September 20: Outdoor work shop and cookout (place to be announced) Program -
Sunday
Preparing trees for display at the BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB, 10TH ANNIVERSARY BONSAI SHOW, a gala event. A short lecture demo will be given to illustrate as much of formal classic display that space will allow us to use in our show. The meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. Also, bring trees to work on and talk to Al Kash about the trees you wish to display at the show, BRING RAFFLE ITEMS . . .

BALTIMORE (301) 922-9310

September 27: 2:00 p.m. - Clearwater Nature Center. Charter tree meeting. Bring back Charter Trees for viewing and share your experiences, successes, failures. Get a new Charter tree (what it will be is a surprise).
Sunday
KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230

For meeting information on the following club, call:
ANNAPOLIS (301) 263-3995

If you plan to attend a meeting other than your parent club's meeting, it is recommended to telephone the number listed above to confirm the arrangements. Because of any of a number of reasons the schedule above can be changed. To be further on the safe side, you can telephone as early as possible to let the club know that you expect to attend and then request that you be advised of any schedule changes.

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