

POTOMAC  
**BONSAI**  
ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



## NISHIKI-MATSU (CORTICATA PINE)

by Joseph Burke

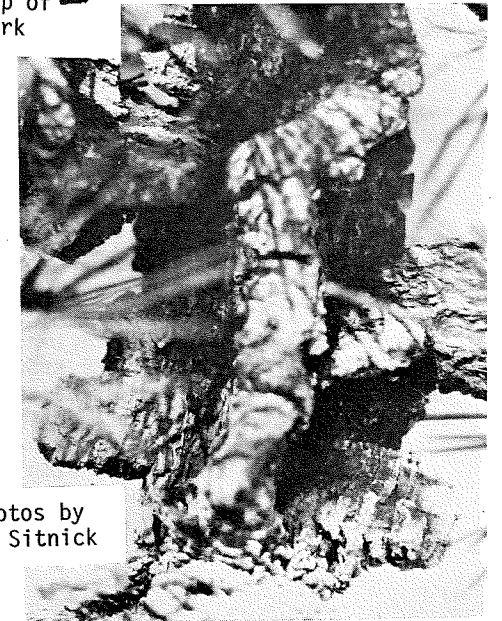
Editor's note: The following article is the third in a four part series of articles covering pine. The "cork bark" (corticata) pine, since it is basically a Japanese black pine is on the U. S. Department of Agriculture's restricted list for import into this country. However, there are sources of nishiki matsu (cork bark pine) in this country. These have been started principally by grafting cork bark pine scions to black pine understock.

As before, thanks goes to Joseph Burke for permitting PBA to reprint the following article and to Dave Dambowicz for providing us with a copy of the article.

The Latin name corticosa is the botanical term of corticata, which means "covered with corky bark". In Japan, Pinus thunbergii - Japanese Black Pine - called kuro-matsu, is a favorite bonsai subject. Kuro means black and matsu means pine. One variety of kuro possessing especially desirable characteristics is the corky bark variety called nishiki-matsu, which is very rare outside of Japan.



Closeup of  
Corkbark



Photos by  
Bob Sitnick

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION  
c/o National Arboretum  
24th & R Sts, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002

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

Mr Harold W Merritt  
5451 N 22nd Street  
Arlington, Va 22205

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

Circulation: Over 300 internationally on a monthly basis.

Corresponding membership: \$6.00 for 12 monthly PBA Newsletters.

PBA Membership includes 12 monthly PBA Newsletters, covered by part of annual membership dues.

For corresponding membership: Contact M. Hersh, 102 Devon Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20910 make check payable to Potomac Bonsai Association

President: Arschel Morell (301) 669-1487 Snips and Slips Editor:

Editors: Jules F. Koetsch (703) 569-9378 Mary Holmes (301) 721-1309

Mary Holmes (301) 721-1309 Science Director:

Ray Buck (301) 345-4919

Subscription & Circulation: Molly Hersh & Josephine Finneyfrock (301) 589-3725

Send articles (in longhand, typewritten, in Japanese, cassette recording, etc.)

to: J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 569-9378.

#### ORIGIN OF NAME AND HISTORY

Corticata pine found in Japan some several hundred years ago was the common Japanese name until recently, when it is called nishiki-matsu. Some of the old names were Ganseki-matsu, yahazu-matsu, kino-sho, and sansho-matsu. However, little interest was shown in the variety until the middle of 1800. There are several meanings, but the most common meaning of nishiki or kin in Japanese, pronunciation for one Chinese character, means brocade. There are two observations for the origin of the name nishiki-matsu which became common among Japanese bonsai lovers between 1880-1890. One of these came about because of the shape of the well grown corky bark pattern, which is similar in shape to the nishiki-gi, winged euonymous or winged spindle, Euonymous alatus. Therefore, the first name, nishiki, was transferred and instead of using gi or ki, matsu, meaning pine, was used. Hence, the name, nishiki-matsu.

Another source of the origin of the name might be rather peculiar to Westerners. This origin legend concerns the Emperor of Japan. The ensign of the Emperor of Japan is called in Japanese nishiki-no-mihata. The Emperor's general headquarters settled in Hiroshima during the war of 1894-1896, and a corticata pine bonsai had the honor to be displayed in the Emperor's room. To honor the memory of this occasion, this variety was called nishiki-matsu, taking the first word which came from the Japanese name of "ensign of Emperor".

#### ONE OF THE BEST VARIETIES FOR BONSAI

During the middle of the nineteenth century, the Japanese established styles of bonsai and used the term bonsai to differentiate them from other plants called hachi-ue, meaning potted tree. This bonsai design was based on naturalism and sensitivity. The corticata pine certainly does not show that taste and for this reason, some of the Japanese bonsai lovers felt that corticata pine was grotesque. However, since bonsai is an art form of living plants, it should not be restricted by a personal prejudice.

The spectacular corky bark in this specie will develop from the second year after being grafted or ordinary black pine; after at least five years, fantastic corky bark will be formed on the trunk. This adds a distinctive, dramatic impact to the bonsai design.

#### CLONES

The nomenclature problem is frequently confusing because the Japanese bonsai community uses colloquial names, and the Japanese botanists use the scientific binomial. In the reference, Flora of Japan by Jisaburo, Ohwi, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 1965 (English translation), the corticata pine has not been listed.

The corky bark is a mutation form of *Pinus thunbergii*, and the origin is unknown at this writing. It is true that there are opinions that corky bark develops as a result of viruses or diseases. Therefore, some botanists do not classify the pine as a variety. In addition, factors for cultivation, particularly propagation, of forms suitable for bonsai are in need of further research.

The slight differences within the varietal forms are not important to the botanists, but to the expert bonsai propagators, a shorter needle, multiple bud breaks, close internodes and rough bark would be primary factors in bonsai plant material.

The epithet, *Pinus thunbergii* var. *corticosa*, is usually followed by a clone name because there are many different forms of that variety used for bonsai. To illustrate, let us make up a fantasy name: *Pinus thunbergii* var. *corticosa*-John-Jones. The name, "John Jones", would identify a specific clone, and the plant would have a unique physical identity and a unique epithet within the variety.

#### (1) DIFFERENT GENERA

There are more than ten different kinds with corky bark used as bonsai material. The Japanese name for them is either started with nishiki or added at the end. The Japanese sometimes call this corky bark form nishiki-sho, sho meaning character or nature.

The following conifers are well known: nishiki-matsu - Japanese black pine, *Pinus thunbergii* var. *corticosa*: nishiki-goyo-matsu - Japanese red pine, *Pinus densiflora*: nishiki-goyo-matsu of goyo-matsu nishiki-sho. Both names are used interchangeably for *Pinus parviflora* or the Japanese five-needled pine.

It is not only among the genus *Pinus* that the corky bark develops. The flowering apricot, ume nishiki-sho, or *Prunus mume* and berberry, meg-nishiki-sho, or *Berberis thunbergii* also have this characteristic. Even in the mugho pines in the United States, some trees have been known to develop a corky bark.

#### (2) YATSUBUSA OR MULTIPLE BUD BREAKS

A useful equivalent descriptive phrase in English for this character would be Witches' broom. There are many different clonal forms within the varieties, and the number is always increasing as new plants are evaluated. Therefore, a descriptive list would require a separate addendum.

The name yatsubusa in corticata pine appeared in 1963. The term literally means eight - yatsu or hattsu. Busa or fusa means a bunch or a cluster, for instance fusa of grapes.

Maple, five-needled pine, spruce and many others have this multiple bud character at times and black pine is also very popular with this characteristic.

The variety which has the combined multiple bud break and the corky bark is called yatsubusa-nishiki. Here, again, to identify a specific form, a clonal name is used and would be written yatsubusa-nishiki-clonal name, and a separate list would require a separate addendum.

---

#### YELLOW DEFECTS PEST

Now white flies can be trapped without the use of pesticides! The U. S. Department of Agriculture experimented with placing boards painted with rustoleum #659 yellow and smeared with motor oil near plants infested with white flies. The bugs came out and got stuck. Frequent tapping of plants speeded up the flight of flies to the trap\*.

I have had problems with white flies on my indoor bonsai, on pomegranate, azaleas, citrus, and chrysanthemums. At the first sign of a new invasion I plan to think yellow.

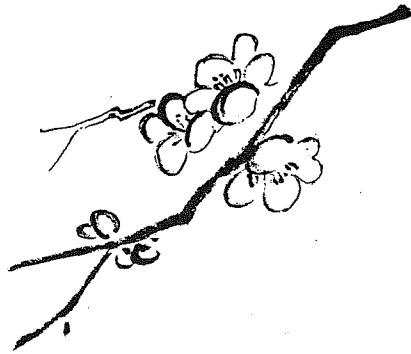
\*House plants and porch gardens, November issue

Janet C. Lanman

## Blooming Bonsai In Winter

by Walter Schmidt

Azaleas, crabapples, hawthorns, quince and many other Spring and Summer flowering plants can be brought to bloom in Winter.



Bonsai of the above species which are not intended for exhibit in the Spring, may as well be enjoyed in bloom during the dull Winter-time.

Flowerbuds are perceptible in the Fall on quince and azaleas. After being kept outdoors over some freezing spells, the plants can be brought inside in December to temperatures not exceeding 60° Fahrenheit and kept on the dry side. Buds will gradually expand, and as soon as they show some color on the fruiting trees or swelling on azaleas bring them to a warm, sunny place, water well and fertilize. Frequent misting of

the foliage is essential. You will be rewarded by this forcing with blooming bonsai in February or earlier.

Citrus plants which have been kept in the open during Summer, can be treated similarly, leave them outdoors protected from the wind and when temperatures get below 40° Fahrenheit, take them in. But keep the trees at 40° to 50° Fahrenheit until January. Then force them the same way as above and they should get to bloom provided that they were grown from cuttings and are at least three years old.

Bougainvillea must be kept dry and cold for at least two months before forcing.

If the plants for forcing do not receive the proper resting-periods when brought into a warm place, they will just grow foliage but will not bloom and they will be weakened.

## Symposium Syndrome

The one trouble with having a Symposium in the fall is that too often it's best to wait for spring to implement all the great things you learned. The enthusiasm runs high and must be sat on hard in order to do things at the right and proper time for the health of one's trees. The urge to adopt an oh-what-the-hell-I'm-gonna-do-it-anyway attitude is strong and must (for the most part) be resisted. Nick Lenz talked about leaf pruning to get budding back and I wanted to run right home to do it to a trident that had been giving me fits all year, even though leaf pruning a tree whose leaves have already fallen for the year is the height of the ridiculous, as well as impossible.

There was one bright spot, though, that was as delicious as finally finding a way to scratch an inaccessible itch. Chase Rosade, bless him, said the best time of year to create root-over-rock was the fall. Since what he said coincided with what I wanted to do, I took the statement as absolute gospel. It took a few days for the realization to sink in that I had the perfect rock sitting on top of my piano in a suiban, just waiting for me to look at it in a new light. Armed with this and a kitchen drawer full of heavy rubber-bands, the next step was to find a trident maple to put on this so-perfect rock.

This proved not to be such a tremendous problem since, five miles up the road, lives Vicki Ballantyne, who has enough trident and Japanese maple seedlings for an army. Vicki, fortunately, is of the same bonsai ilk I am and sees nothing unusual in searching a dark yard with a flashlight, looking for bonsai material. For some reason or other, it wasn't pouring rain the night I called Vicki and sped up the road in a creative fervor. The tree was found, nudged out of its flat, placed in a plastic baggie, and rushed home to Crofton.

The scene was now set for the big moment. A couple trowels-full of Maryland clay gleaned from under the picnic-table-cum-bonsai-bench when for muck. A fire in the fireplace (change of venue from the kitchen floor), a glass of wine, and Barbara Streisand on the stereo ( a switch from the usual Beethoven) completed the scenario. The tree and rock complimented each other perfectly, with a little judicious pruning; the rubber-bands weren't too large after all; even the mud cooperated. The whole thing when along almost too well until I realized I'd hit a snag - the "pot" in which this new creation was to be buried was too small to do the job. Oops!

Somehow the gods conspired, however. Have you ever swapped something with someone else, not because what they have is necessarily something you need, but merely because what they have is something you might (but probably won't) use while what you have is something you wouldn't use in a hundred years (but the other guy might)? In this roundabout way, I remembered, I'd acquired a cascade pot which just happened to be taking up space in a kitchen cabinet. Hauling this out, it turned out to be just the right size to accommodate my new creation, with the lip of the pot coming right up to the point at which tree was attached to rock. Hallelujah and Banzai! The thing was filled with rock, tree, and soil in less time than it takes to tell it. I even already have the right container for this masterpiece to go into eventually. This tree was meant to be.

The only trouble with this whole story is that now I'm back on a rock in the Rhine. I have to wait 'til next spring to know if the darned thing is going to live and grow into what I envisioned for it this fall.

--Mary Holmes

## The Collecting Trip

### "Splendor in The Mud"

A couple of years ago I ran across a intriguing book entitled, "Only a Gringo Would Die for an Anteater" written by a New York veterinarian who had a gift for turning a good story into high entertainment. Maybe Dr. Milt should join a bonsai club. I think he'd feel right at home, because it seems to me that only a bonsai nut would brave pouring rain and boot-pulling-off mud just to collect a tree out of the woods on a day that any normal, sane person would stay home in front of a roaring fire. Think, however, how much more that bonsai nut will appreciate the roaring fire when (s)he gets home, having withstood the elements and emerged victorious. It does make "normal, sane" sound rather dull, tame, and safe (and who really wants to be labelled "safe"), with no spirit or sense of adventure.

It was with great glee, then that I saw, of the several dozen people signed up for the collecting trip led by Dr. David Andrews after the PBA Symposium, most of them met at the appointed time and place, ready to go. Here were three dozen people as crazy as I! They knew full well that it was raining out, that they'd get wet and muddy, and that they could easily bug out and stay warm and dry and safe. This is the kind of bonsai spirit I can appreciate. The opportunity to go collecting with David Andrews (the ultimate inveterate collector) was not to be missed. The inconvenience of a little rain just wasn't important.

Rained on we got, muddy we got - with a vengeance. I must have stripped off fifteen pounds of soaked, mud-caked jeans and water-logged boots when I got home. Everyone suffered from the drowned-rat syndrome. No one complained. Karl Green, of the Baltimore club, looked as if his rainsuit had been attacked by wildcats, but he had his hornbeams and a big grin on his face. Cynthia Eisler of Brookside found a lovely hornbeam and was so happy that, had it rained twice as hard, she likely would not have noticed.

Hornbeams, beeches, and mountain laurel seemed to be the most popular species collected. With 400 plus acres at our disposal, the hunt concentrated on about fifteen acres where the woods had been cut back to stump and the stumps resprouted. Most of the hornbeams were taken just off the edge of the clearing and were cut back to long stumps. Scattered though we were all over creation, Dr. Dave got around to everyone with advice on selecting, digging, and caring for the treasures found. As the afternoon definitely waned, the last of the diehards (and there were still quite a few) pitched in to collect the last of the day's prizes and get them back to the logging road, where Fred Mies put them into his four wheel drive pick-up and delivered them to waiting cars. Covered with mud and glory, bedraggled, with smiles on their faces, almost everyone asked to come back again to this spot. It was a most successful dig.

There seems to be something special about people who don't mind (and sometimes revel in) getting a little wet and dirty on occasion - a sort of joie de vivre that their more staid and conservative neighbors can never understand or share. I sometimes wonder, if it weren't for bonsai, what other excuse we'd find to get out in the rain and mud just for the sheer joy of it - or if we'd even bother with an excuse at all.

--Mary Holmes

## Beginners' Course

Just before going to press, the editor learned that Dorothy Miller, Washington Bonsai Club, has had very few responses to the "Beginner's Course" mentioned in the last PBA Newsletter. It's hard to understand why more haven't applied. Early during 1981, Fred Mies tried to organize a beginner's course without success. Certainly, newcomers should welcome the opportunity to obtain hands-on experience at prices that normally just cover the cost of the materials. Northern Virginia Bonsai Society sponsored their own Beginner's Course.

The Washington Bonsai Club is a small club and not only are they providing the opportunity, but also would welcome participation by others. The central location should be convenient to members in Brookside, Kiyomizu, and Northern Virginia. In addition, the course is also termed "BACK TO BASICS". It is designed to present material that is new to the neophyte but also will provide insight into techniques and approaches that may be unknown to those with bonsai experience. The instructor Bill Merritt has had many years of bonsai experience and not only is known for his entertaining presentations, but also for his in-depth knowledge of the subject and his continual searching and experimenting with different techniques. It has often been said that one should take courses from different instructors, for there is always something new that can be gained from this as well as a reinforcing of one's own practices and ideas.

- - Jules Koetsch

The following application form is for the Beginner's Course announced in the November 1981 PBA Newsletter. If more information is desired, contact Dorothy Miller (202) 583-2676.

### LEARN THE LIVING ART OF BONSAI

(Back to Basics)

Jan 16 - Feb 20 - Apr 17 - May 15 - Jun 19  
2:00 p.m., National Arboretum, 24th and R Sts., N.E.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

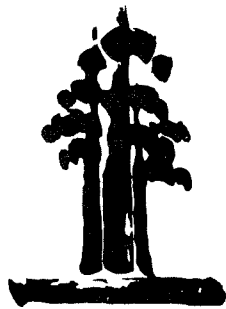
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cost  I am a PBA member, \_\_\_\_\_ \$28.00

Club Name

I am not a PBA member. . . . . \$34.00

Make check payable to: Washington Bonsai Club  
(Mail by Jan 10, 1982) P. O. Box 4713  
Washington, DC 20020-0713  
C/O Miller



# 第二十五回盆栽展

SILVER ANNIVERSARY BONSAI EXHIBITION & JUBILEE

April 1-4, 1982  
Los Angeles, California

CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.  
PROGRAM

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1982

8:00 am to 8:00 pm .....Registration - Museum Lobby  
1:00 pm .....Tour 1  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.....Workshops  
7:30 pm .....Preview Celebration  
Bazaar open daily

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1982

8:00 am to 4:00 pm.....Registration - Museum Lobby  
\* 8:30 am to 10:30 am.....Saikai & Satsuki demonstrations simultaneous  
Saikai by-Frank Goya, Sam Nakano, Kaz Yoneda - Satsuki by-Kaz Shimono  
\*10:30 am to 12:00 noon.....Black Pine & Deciduous material demonstrations  
Luncheon - Panel discussion.....Black Pine by Ben Oki, Deciduous material by Roy Nagatoshi  
\* 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.....Simultaneous demonstrations by  
Shinji Ogasawara and George Yamaguchi  
Dinner on your own  
7:30 pm to 8:00 pm .....Raffle  
\* 8:00 pm..... Demonstration by John V. Naka assisted by Ben Oki  
Bazaar & Exhibit open daily

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1982

8:00 am to 3:00 pm .....Registration - Museum Lobby  
\* 9:00 am to 12:00 noon .....Demonstration by Mr. Ogasawara  
Luncheon.....Muse Room  
\* 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.....Demonstration by Mr. Ogasawara  
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.....Cocktail Hour - Hilton Hotel  
8:00 pm.....Banquet - Raffle - Hilton Hotel  
Bazaar & Exhibit open daily

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1982

8:00 am to 11:30 am.....Workshops  
1:00 pm .....Tour 2  
Bazaar & Exhibit open daily

\* All demonstrations will be held in the Kinzey Auditorium at the California Museum of Science and Industry.

"In Pursuit of Excellence"

## Symposium Highlights

Photos by  
Howard Clark

Jack Eden, of radio garden show fame, leads off the Symposium with a talk on plant care.



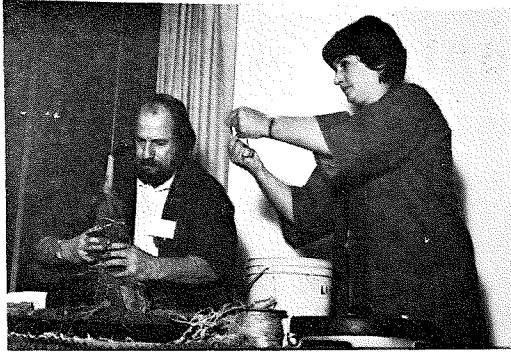
"Now where did that come from?" Bill Valavanis brought with him a lovely cut-leaf Japanese maple in full fall color.



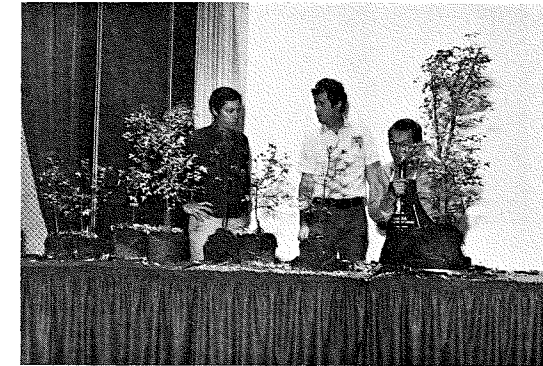
Chase Rosade, assisted by Lynn Porter, begins his demonstration of root-over-rock with a recognizable tree.



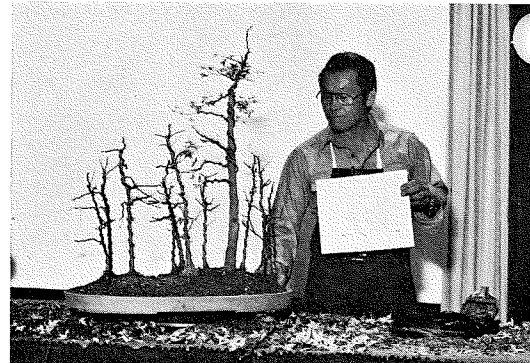




Lopping shears, rubber bands and muck later, the tree, now a stump which will sprout in the spring, is attached to the rock.



Symposium chairmen Felix Laughlin and Bob Sitnick assist Ben Oki as he begins the process of turning a bunch of trident maples in pots into a forest planting.



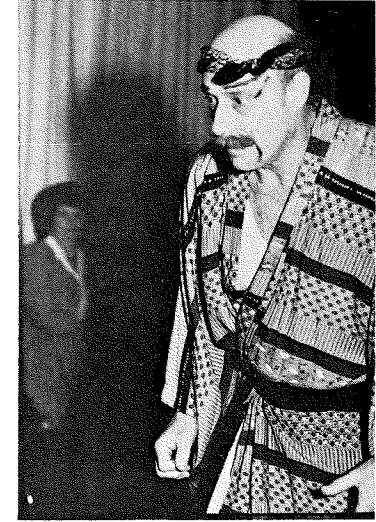
The finished product, and Ben has much to be proud of.



The bazaar area, the best we've had so far, was always active and full. Phil and Shirley Tacktill of Jiu San were among the dozen vendors.



"There's what in the bottom of my garden?"



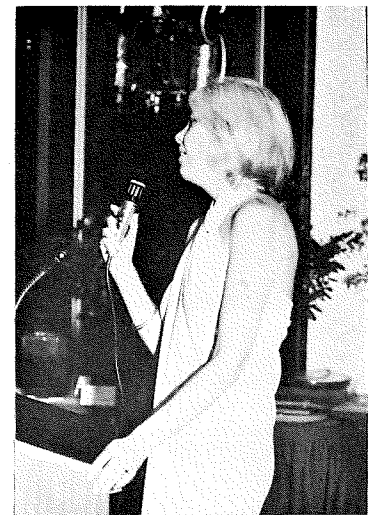
"Oops. I think I've been spotted."

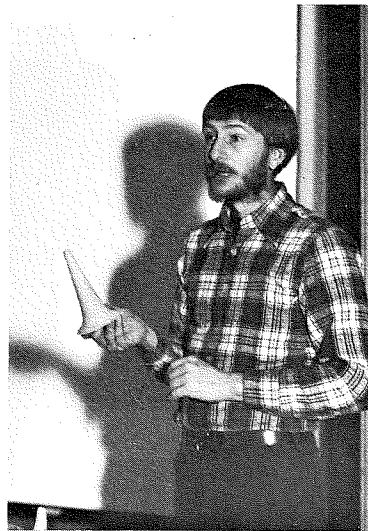
Thespians Bill Merritt and Jules Koetsch redefine the meaning of a No play, to the delight of us all.

PBA President Arschel Morell makes welcoming noises at the banquet Saturday night.

Another candidate for Ham of the Year, PBA favorite David Andrews caught in the act of auctioning a bonsai tray.

"O Come All Ye Faithful ..."  
Mary Holmes puts in a plug for ABS '82 to be held in June.





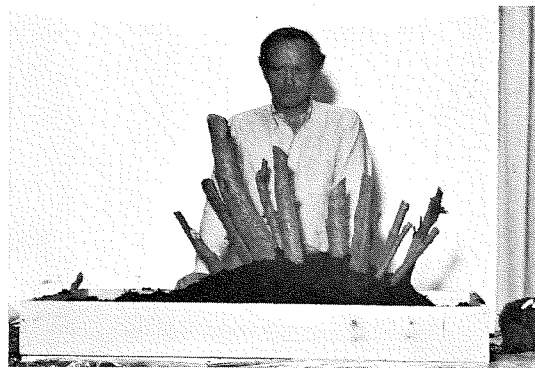
Bonsai enthusiasts are great inventors and innovators, as Nick Lenz proves in his talk "Tricks They Never Taught You." No comment.



So that's what that was for! We're developing trident maple roots an even different way.



Bringing some of his surgical tools with him, Dr. Andrews operates on a trident maple clump.



"And the person who wins this ..." David's "surprise" turns out, as always, to be a delight and an education.

(Ed. note: the planting was successfully gotten home in one piece by Ralph Benson)

## SNIPS and Slips

### FERTILIZER DUMPLINGS (Ping Pong Balls)

Inge Gross passed along the following information from Cliff Pottberg:

"I have been using the ping-pong ball method of fertilizing with cottonseed, blood, and bone meal. To keep squirrels or other rodents from eating my ping-pong balls, Cliff Pottberg recommended I use hot sauce in the fertilizer to make it unappetizing. However, this didn't seem to work and the balls kept getting taken.

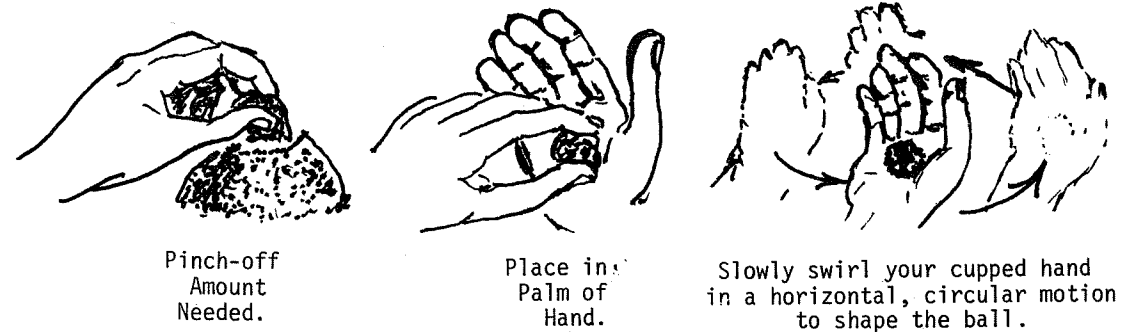
One day, in tasting the hot sauce from my kitchen, I noticed it didn't seem to be very hot (not surprising, since I had had it forever). I bought a new bottle, which upon tasting, burned by tongue for about 20 minutes.

I tried the remedy again, thinking that the freshness might have been important, and sure enough, it has worked. None of my new fertilizer balls have been taken.

So remember that using hot sauce (i.e. Tabasco Sauce) does work as a rodent protection, but make sure it is fresh since it will lose its "heat" over a year or two."

- - -Inge Gross

(EDITOR'S COMMENTS: Add a few drops of an insecticide to the water before mixing so that insects don't thrive in the dumplings. I've found that the best way to make the dumplings is to have the mixture soft enough so that the amount to be formed into a ball can be swirled in the palm of your hand into an almost round ball:



Pinch-off Amount Needed.

Place in Palm of Hand.

Slowly swirl your cupped hand in a horizontal, circular motion to shape the ball.

Inge Gross passed along another possibility: Use the the boxes one buys eggs in at the supermarket. Place the fertilizer mix into the spaces where the eggs were, and when the fertilizer hardens, you'll have a flat-bottomed dumpling.

- - -Inge Gross

(continued on page 15)

SAVE THIS DATE

SUNDAY- APRIL 25, 1982

For The

FOURTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL of LEARNING

Sponsored By The

Bonsai Society of Greater New York

THE THEME OF THE FESTIVAL WILL BE ROCKS--- WITH ROCKS, ON ROCKS AND ROOT OVER ROCKS.

JOHN NAKA, KIETH SCOTT AND OTHER WELL KNOWN LECTURERS WILL BE ON HAND TO SHARE THEIR INSIGHTS AND KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU.

SHOP IN OUR SALES AREA TO FILL ALL YOUR BONSAI NEEDS

RAFFLES AND PRIZES TOO!!!

Send this coupon for further information to:

Sig Dreilinger  
PO Box 343  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

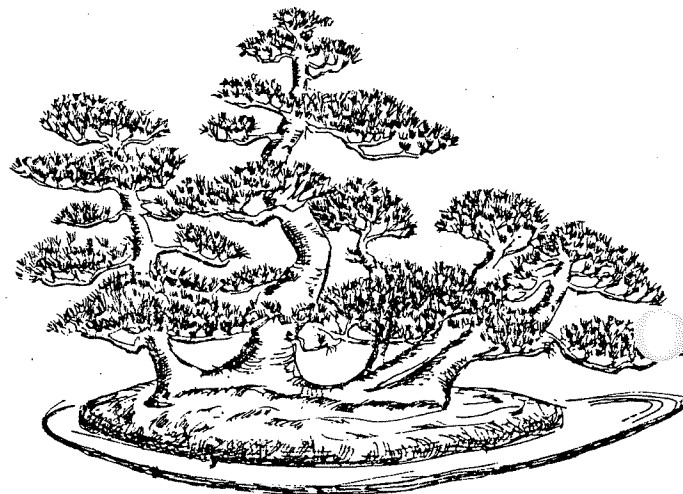
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



SNIPS and Slips (continued from page 13)

Peggy Koetsch now residing in Japan passed along this local Japanese recipe for fertilizer dumplings:

Basic Recipe: Combine a source of nitrogen (soybean plant "rennet" - leftovers after making oil or cottonseed plant "rennet") with phosphorus such as crushed cow bones (bone meal) or dried river (not saltwater but freshwater) fish. For non flowering bonsai, dry mix 1 part bone meal and 2 to 3 parts nitrogen source. For flowering bonsai, dry mix less bone meal, 1 part bone meal to 4 to 6 parts nitrogen source. After dry mixing, apply water and mix so you can form balls. Wait one week for bacteria to grow. Her Japanese advisor Minamisan cautions that the dumplings should be made in the Winter not during the Summer because they are too smelly.

- - -Peggy Koetsch

"Tamahi" has proven to do an excellent job during the short time I've been using it. My plants seem to be thriving. Julie Haga's Shoen Bonsai is the local distributor, one type for non-flowering and a second type for flowering bonsai. The Tamahi fertilizer dumplings are processed so that they do not decompose and the particles work their way into the soil and eventually cause root rot. Fertilizer dumplings which I've mixed myself, do decompose very easily.

- - -Jules Koetsch

BLACK PINE SEEDLINGS

The following was submitted by Richard Piacentini, 3512 Stuart Avenue #6, Richmond, Virginia 23221. The editor encourages any reader to pass along to Richard any comments he or she may have regarding his letter. The editor made a brief inquiry into the matter with a second party and as a result one may safely agree that there are a number of variables making it uncertain as to whether or not needle pruning turned the trick. The editor tends to feel that it did, at least for those able to overcome the other hardships.

Last April I received 25 Japanese Black Pine seedlings (three years old) shipped bare root from Girard Nursery. I was at first quite shocked to see how sparse the root systems were, but I potted them all anyway. I decided to use five different potting mixtures and on two of them I removed at least half the needles as in Dave DeGroots' article, PBA October 1980, for training Japanese Black Pines. By mid June, I'm sorry to say all the pines had turned brown and died, except for the two I had partially defoliated. In fact, they are doing quite well. Admittedly, there are many variables that could have caused the death of all those pines, ranging from the plants themselves to my technique, but it's apparent in this case that partial defoliating had helped in nursing these two pines through the traumatic experience of going from bare root to planted. As a newcomer to bonsai, I would be interested to learn of anyone else's experience with bare root pine seedlings.

Sincerely yours,  
Richard Piacentini



Editor's Note: The following article by Mary Holmes did not print legibly last month, and because of it's timely message, it is reprinted below:

Winter is the time to sit and dream in front of the fire (always assuming you have a fireplace or wood stove). Don't get too comfortable. Your tree may be asleep for the duration but, supposedly, you're not. While out walking pooch, you can be observing the deciduous trees, seeing how each species has its own growth patterns and storing this information in your mind, or even better, on film. You can also build boxes to use as training containers this time of year and have them ready for Spring when you won't have time to build them. If you must be in a reclining position when it's cold out, bring your bonsai file up to date. Weed out data cards for trees that have died or been gotten rid of (or file them separately with notations as to why they died or why you disposed of them), update others. If you're like me, you haven't done this for a couple of years, and since half of my trees have been acquired in the last two years, there's no record for them at all. And, if all else fails and you're still too lazy, dream about all the things you won't have done in the Spring if you don't get a move-on now.

- - -Mary Holmes



By Bill Day for The Philadelphia Bulletin

Thought you might get a chuckle out of the above cartoon. Bonsai has become a familiar word in the English vocabulary. Thanks goes to Molly Hersh for pointing it out and obtaining the cartoonist's permission. Thanks also goes to the cartoonist, Bill Day, for letting us reprint the cartoon.

## CLUB CALENDAR

January 9: 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Gulf Branch Nature Center. Chase Rosade will visit and give a lecture/demonstration on indoor bonsai.

Saturday 1:00 p.m. Chase Rosade and Lynn Porter will conduct a workshop on indoor bonsai. Workshop will be limited to 15 participants, but "spectators" will be welcome. Anticipated plant material is willow leaf ficus from Florida. Charge for workshop is \$25.00 per person. This barely covers cost of materials. NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY (202) 862-1040 Weekdays

January 14: 7:30 p.m., Annapolis Library, West Street. Bring indoor bonsai if possible for show and tell of what can be done in a living room atmosphere. There will be refreshments and socializing. Call Jackie Dorsett, 263-3995, if you can bring some nibblies, or just come and enjoy. It's been so great seeing faces we haven't seen for a while - now we'll have a chance to hear their experiences and ideas. ANNAPOLIS (301) 263-3995

January 16: 2:00 p.m., National Arboretum. Back to Basics This is the first in series of 5 monthly sessions. Good for newcomers and those who have had some experience and wish to review. This course will emphasize the philosophy as well as the techniques of bonsai. Bill Merritt is the instructor. See the application of Page 7 of this Newsletter. WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676

January 17: 2:00 p.m., Workshop. 3:00 p.m. Indoor Bonsai both at Cylburn Park. Sunday A forum on material, styling, and care of material for indoor bonsai. Bring raffle materials. BALTIMORE (301) 922-9310

January 21: 7:30 p.m., NOTE: We will be meeting at our new location: Colonel Thursday E. Brooke Lee, Jr High School, Room 220, Monticello Ave., Silver Spring. Discussion of "Winter Activities" by Bill Merritt, PBA Vice President. Bill Merritt is an entertaining, innovative, knowledgeable lecturer on bonsai and will present a Beginners Course at the National Arboretum (see Page 7 of this Newsletter). Brookside members will be receiving a detailed map in the mail. BROOKSIDE GARDENS BONSAI CLUB (301) 299-6194

January 24: 2:00 p.m., home of Paul Tahoman. Planning meeting for 1982. Call Sunday for directions. KIYOMIZU (301) 922-8230

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.

# National Arboretum Horticulture Series

## U.S.D.A. Graduate School

### Winter 1981-1982

#### E-HORT-115 - INDOOR LIGHT GARDENING. L. LINETT \$35.00

HELD: National Arboretum, Activity Center  
Saturday: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13 TIME: 1:00 - 3:00pm

For individuals limited to gardening indoors, as well as for those desiring to support outdoor gardening with indoor propagation. Discusses fundamentals of lights and supporting equipment for gardening indoors with artificial light. Discussion and demonstration of practical procedures and horticultural considerations.

#### E-HORT-150 - HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING ALLEN \$35.00

HELD: National Arboretum, Administration Building Classroom  
Thursday: Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4 TIME: 6:30 - 8:30pm

This course is designed for persons who are interested in growing vegetables for their own use. Upon completion of the course the student should know how to: (1) plan a garden to meet his own individual needs; (2) prepare and maintain his garden soil; (3) select best varieties for this area; (4) start plants indoors from seed; (5) plant and maintain a vegetable garden by applying good cultural practices, including identification and control of the more common insects and plant diseases; and (6) harvest and use crops properly. He should thus be able to obtain maximum yields of the highest quality of any or all of some thirty vegetables which can be grown in this area.

#### E-HORT-210 - BASIC METHODS OF PLANT PROPAGATION H. MITYGA \$35.00 + \$6.00 materials fee

HELD: National Arboretum, Activity Center  
Mondays: Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, TIME: 6:30 - 8:30pm

Techniques of plant reproduction presented in lecture. Hands-on experience in the laboratory portion. Reproduction of plants: Seeds with simple germination requirements, seeds with complex germination requirements, stem and leaf cuttings, grafting and budding, spores, bulbs, and tubers. Discussion of soil preparation, watering and transplanting.

#### E-HORT-145 - PLANTS IN THE HOME L. LINETT \$35.00

HELD: National Arboretum, Activity Center  
Saturdays: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20 TIME: 10:00 - 12:00 noon

A scientific and practical approach to the growing of indoor plants. Lighting, moisture, fertilization, soils, potting. Propagation techniques. Study of selected plant families. Discussion of disease and insect identification and control.

#### E-HORT-234 - WINTER WOODY LANDSCAPE PLANTS R. JEFFERSON \$35.00

HELD: National Arboretum, Administration Building Classroom  
Saturdays: Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, TIME: 10am - 12noon

This class will cover landscape plants of winter interest, broadleaved and needled evergreens as well as other ornamental plants appropriate to the season.

#### Natural History and Field Studies (Co-Sponsored by the Audubon Natuarlist Society of the Central Atlantic States)

#### E-NATH-145 - WOODY PLANT IDENTIFICATION P. MAZZEO \$40.00 + \$2.00

HELD: National Arboretum, Administration Building, Classroom  
Mondays: Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 22, Mar. 1, 8, TIME: 6:30 - 8:30pm  
Field Trip - Saturdays - February 6&7

Introduction to principles of plant taxonomy and techniques of identification. Study of woody vascular plants of Central Atlantic region. Laboratory and field practice in identifying specimens through use of identification keys. Two Saturday field trips.

\*\*\*\*\*

Registration: Mail registration will be accepted beginning November 1 through December 16, 1981. Registration in person will take place on the patio of the Adm. Bldg., U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th & Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250, January 4th through 9th, 1982. Late registration will be held January 11th through January 16th. A \$4.00 late fee is charged for late registration. The Graduate School telephone number is 447-6337.

All registration should be sent to the USDA Graduate School, 14th & Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250

## JIU-SAN BONSAI

### THE COMPLETE BONSAI SHOP

One of the East's largest selections of bonsai containers, tools, books—including those printed in Japan (BONSAI MASTERPIECES). Rare plants, indoor-outdoor bonsai & saikei, flower stones, pre-bonsai, soils, figurines, wire, stands.

NO MAIL ORDER

*Our new location — Open 7 days/week*  
1243 Melville Rd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735  
Tel. (516) 293-9246