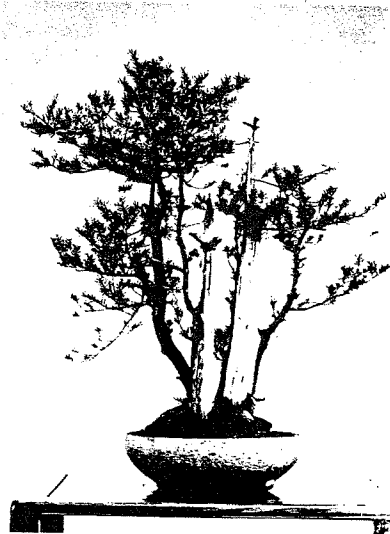


POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION
Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



ICHII or JAPANESE YEW
by RINBOKU SEI ICHI
Translated by Jules Koetsch



ICHII - CLUMP STYLE
GROWING METHODS AND TREE SHAPE

Growing Method: Ichii is mainly obtained from those produced and raised commercially.

The following article was translated from "Directions for the Preparation of Coniferous Bonsai with Illustrated, Explanatory Notes", Japan, 1975.

Ichii or Japanese yew is essentially a garden tree and the variety "onko" is the species used for bonsai. It has a reddish brown bark which is rough in texture, and the tree often has a luxuriant growth of branches with dark green needles. The growth is not rapid, but as a bonsai, one must not forget to perform the appropriate tasks during the designated timeframes. Branches and needles of the female tree of the species are spellbinding in appearance since the needles are minute and the bark is rough.

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24th & R Sts, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

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PURCHASING TREE AND THE FIRST YEAR

Purchasing Tree - Time and Pointers: Select the tree during March 1st to 10th. In locales where the cold season may be longer than the above, it is dangerous to select the tree before the new sprouts have started to appear.

Select a tree which is three to four years old with a trunk diameter of approximately 1 cm (3/4 inch) and a height of 30 cm (12 inches). Also pick a tree with many branches and with needles that are dark green in color. A tree with dark green needles is one that possesses good energy (is healthy). Insure that the tree has a good root-ball.

Potting: Having purchased a pot, see the illustration for potting tips. Use a number five partially fired clay pot. After potting, water until it runs freely from the hole in the bottom of the pot. Then place the potted tree under a shelf outdoors.

Management from April to September 30: Between April 1st to 10th, place the tree on top of a shelf outdoors where there is good air movement.

Between May 1st to 10th, apply two rape seed fertilizer balls (number five size).

Once in July, and once again in August, spray to kill spider mites which attach themselves to the plant during that time period. Use a special mite-insecticide in the recommended dosage. (NOTE: On bonsai it is advisable to use any insecticide at 1/2 strength. Also, cover the soil so that the insecticide does not harm the roots.) Spray the needles on all sides as well as the trunk and branches.

Again between September 1st to 10th apply two rape seed fertilizer balls. (NOTE: Usually the Japanese rape seed balls or tamahi lasts about 40 days. By then most of the nutrition has been spent out of the ball. The ball tends to disintegrate, work its way into the soil and eventually may lead to root rot. Hence, the balls should be removed in about 40 days and disposed of by placing them around plants in the ground.)

Removal of Unwanted Branches and Wire: Between October 1st to 10th, remove any unwanted branches. The suggested method is shown in the illustration which shows that bar branches are removed to leave single branches emanating from alternate sides of the trunk when proceeding up the trunk of the tree. Also, remove fat branches which cannot be bent or are out of place (especially near the top of the tree) and remove any undesirable branches and segments of branches.

Once the pruning is completed, immediately wire the trunk of the tree. Use 10 to 12 gage aluminum wire. (The figure in the Japanese diagram shows copper wire vice aluminum in the text. Aluminum wire may not be strong enough to hold the desired trunk shape.) Manipulate the trunk to correspond to the shape shown in the illustration. Apply the wire so that it makes one complete turn around the trunk between each point where the curvature of the trunk reverses sharply. Therefore, the turns will become closer together as the wire is applied going up the tree trunk (see the figure).

It is recommended to leave the wire on the trunk for about one year.

Between December 1st to 10th, place the plant in a greenhouse or a cold frame. If the plant is located so that it is exposed to the South (Southern Exposure), place the plant under a shelf or in an area where it is protected from direct sunlight.

BONSAI PHOTOGRAPHY



BY

HOWARD E. CLARK
18936 N. MEADOW FENCE ROAD
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20879
(301) 948-8758

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

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SECOND YEAR OPERATIONS

Place outdoors on a shelf sometime between April 1st to 10th and apply three rape seed fertilizer balls. Renew the application once during June 1st to 10th and again during September 1st to 10th. Water adequately, apply insecticide and place in a greenhouse in accordance with the first year's schedule.

Sprout Plucking: During May 1st to 10th, pluck the new sprouts which appeared during the preceding ten days. Work toward an ideal shape for the branches and side branches which is triangular. Hence, pluck sprouts on both the main and side branches and also from the top or "wick" of the tree. Remove sprouts which cannot be brought into the triangular pattern. The method for plucking sprouts is described in the illustration.

Wiring Main and Side Branches: During October 1st to 10th, remove the wire that was applied to the trunk during the previous year. Now, one is ready to wire the main branches and next the side branches in that order.

Use 14 to 16 gage aluminum wire in wiring the main branches. Bend the lowermost branches downward, those in the mid-section slightly downward, and those in the upper section slightly upward.

Next wire the side or lateral branches. Bend the side branches so that they lie in the horizontal plane of the main branch with their tips bending slightly upward.

THIRD YEAR AND PLANTING IN BONSAI DISPLAY POT

Planting a Bonsai Display Pot: Repot into a bonsai display pot sometime between March 1st to 10th. After the plant has been repotted, water so that it flows from the bottom of the pot. Then place the plant in a greenhouse. Refer to the illustration for repotting instructions.

Consequences of Management: Remove the tree from winter storage sometime between April 1st to 10th, and place it outdoors on top of a shelf. In the second year, repeat the first year operations during the same timeframe.

RESULTS AND MANAGEMENT

Repot the tree once every three years. Repeat all the other operations at the same times during each year. Always maintain the unequal sided triangular shape to the combined main and side branches.

Therefore, concentrate on training the main and side branches and remove any branch segments that are of poor quality. Also, wire the side branches so that they lie parallel to the main branches with tips flared slightly upward to form triangular shapes from both the side and top views.

ICHII or JAPANESE YEW
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

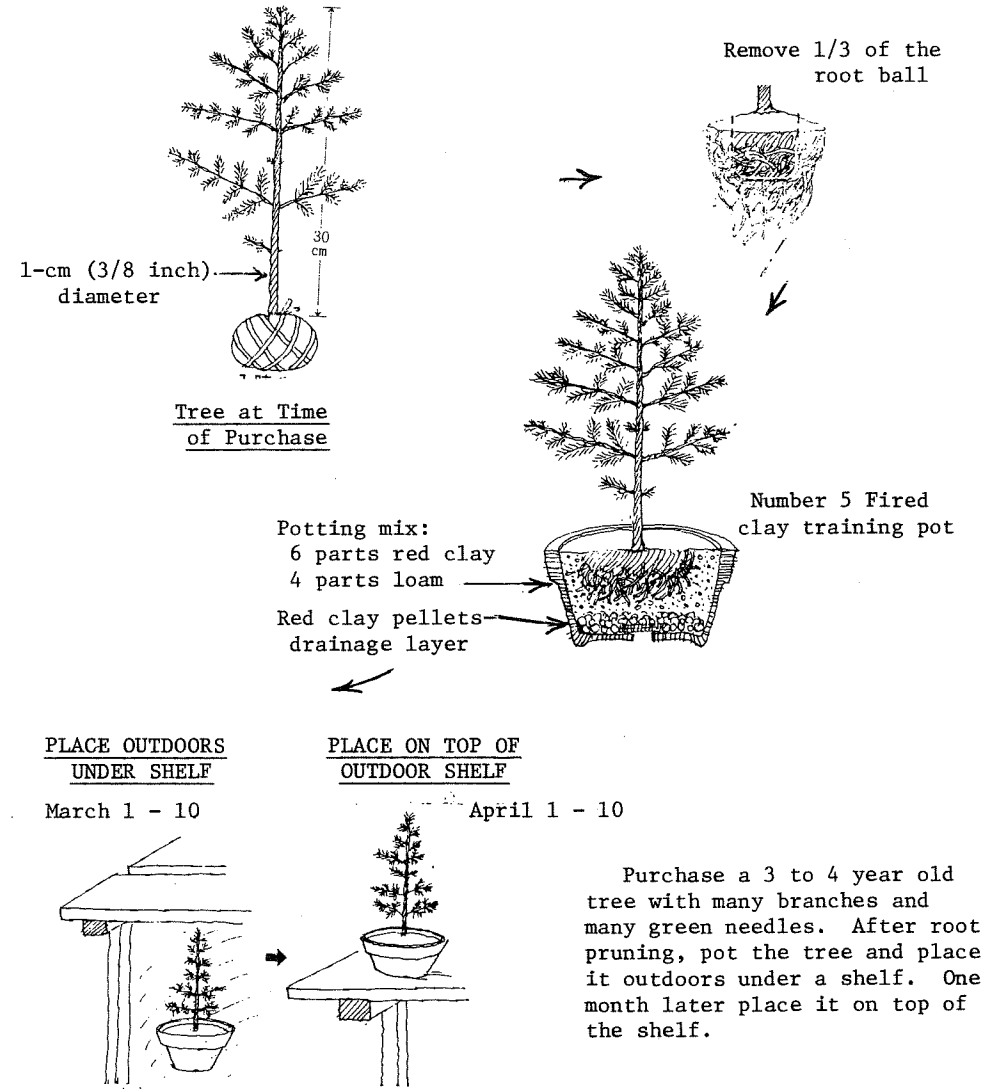
MONTH/DATE	YEAR		
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
March 1 - 10	Purchase tree Pot Place outdoors under a shelf Water adequately		Place in a bonsai pot
April 1 - 10	Place outdoors on top of a shelf Water adequately		
May 1 - 10	Fertilize Prune sprouts		
July - August	Apply insecticide		
September 1 - 10	Fertilize		
October 1 - 10	Remove unwanted branches Wire trunk	Remove wire from trunk Wire main and side branches	Remove wire from all branches Wire as needed
December 1 - 10	Place in a greenhouse		

After the third year, repot once every 3-years, otherwise repeat the events shown for the third year at the assigned times.

ICHII or JAPANESE YEW
INFORMAL UPRIGHT (MOYOJI)
MULTIPLE TRUNK, CLUMP (KABUDACHI)

FIRST YEAR

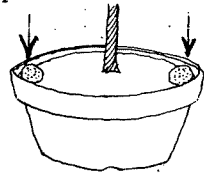
PURCHASE TREE AND POT TREE March 1 - 10



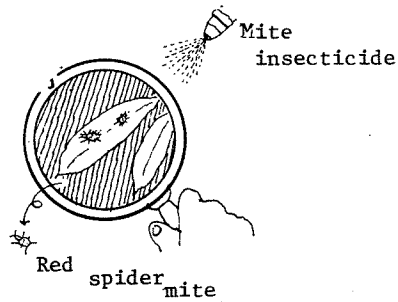
FIRST YEAR (Continued)

APPLY FERTILIZER May 1 - 10

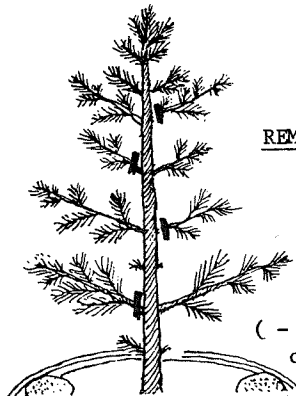
Rape seed fertilizer balls



APPLY INSECTICIDE July - August



REMOVE UNWANTED BRANCHES AND WIRE TRUNK October 1 - 10



(- Line for cutting)

Removal of Unwanted Branches

Cut opposite branches alternating from side to side up the trunk. Also remove fat branches which cannot be bent or are out of place.

Wiring Results

Manipulate the trunk with wire to conform to the pattern shown.

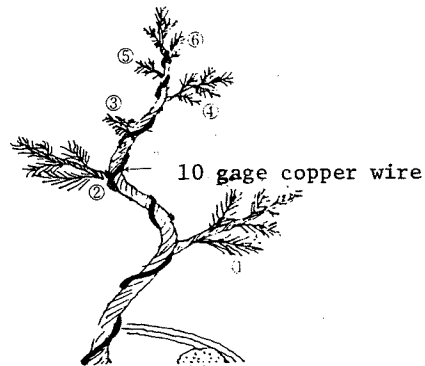


Before Bending

Vertical Views



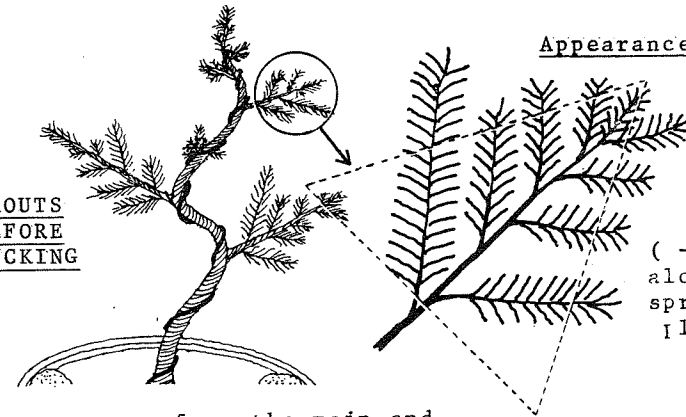
After Bending



10 gage copper wire

SECOND YEAR

SPROUT PLUCKING May 1 - 10

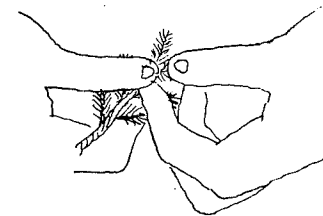


Appearance of a Single Branch

SPROUTS BEFORE PLUCKING

(--- Line along which the sprouts are plucked)

Remove sprouts from the main and side branches to form triangular shapes as shown. Pinch the sprout between the thumb and index finger of the right hand, bend it, and then jerk it off.



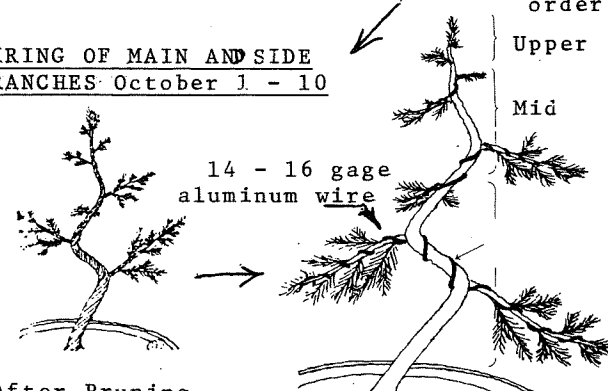
Method for Plucking Sprouts



Results of Sprout Plucking

The results of the sprout plucking shown above indicate every branch and side branch combination as forming a triangle. Do not neglect to pluck sprouts every year between May 1st to 10th in order to maintain the tree's shape.

WIRING OF MAIN AND SIDE BRANCHES October 1 - 10



14 - 16 gage aluminum wire

After Pruning Before Wiring

After Wiring

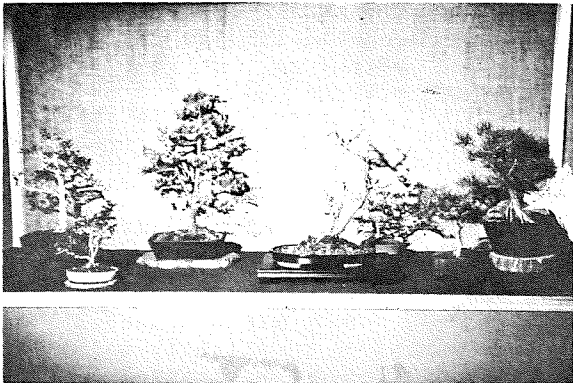
Upper - branches bent slightly upward.

Mid - branches bent slightly below horizontal

Lower - branches bent downward

Continued on page 10

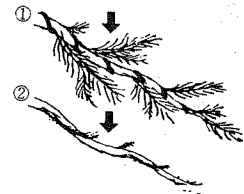
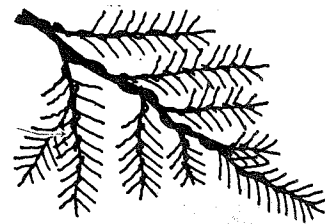
1982 PBA Spring Show



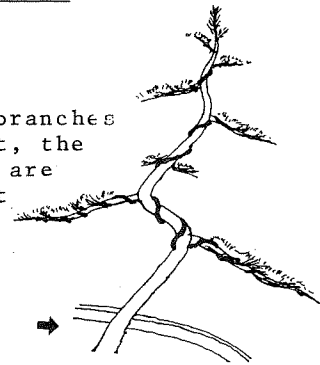
These photos are random shots of trees at the 1982 PBA Spring Show held at the National Arboretum.



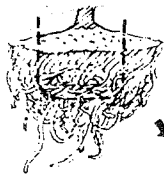
Results of Wiring Main and Side Branches



After the branches have been bent, the side branches are wired and bent so that they lie in the plane with the main branches



Side Views of a Single Branch

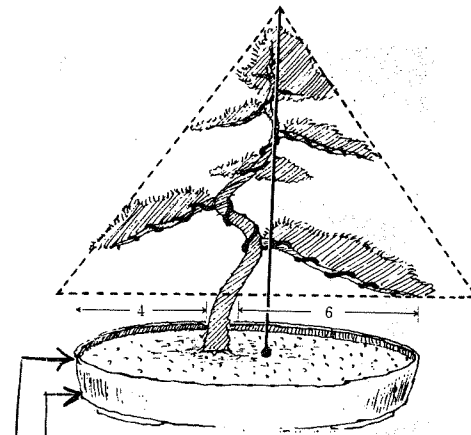


Remove 1/3 of the root ball

Root Pruning

THIRD YEAR

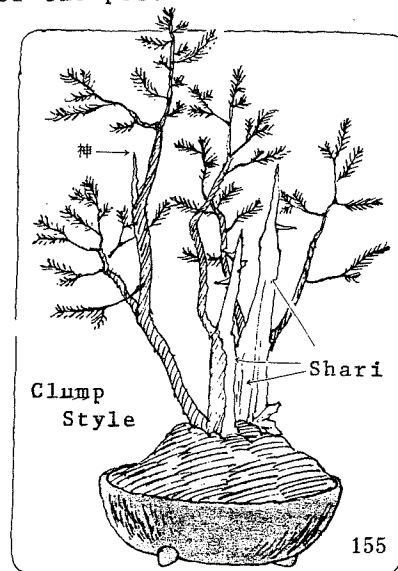
Roots and soil must be removed so that the plant fits properly into the pot. The visual target to concentrate on in placing the tree is to have the center of the triangular mass over the center of the pot.



Oval, Clay Pot of Medium Depth

Potting Mix:
5 parts red clay
5 parts loam

Drainage layer of red clay pellets.



155

Fireman turns bonsai trees into treasures

by Frederick Case Times Staff Reporter
The Seattle Times Dec. 28, 1981

Razor-edged blizzards shriek and whine out of Glacier Park and slash at an isolated ridge 5,000 feet up in the Rocky Mountains of Northern Montana. It's the last outpost of visible vegetation before all becomes raw rock, then sterile ice and snow six miles away at the Continental Divide. The battered little platoon of limber pines hunched on the ridge is several hundred years old. But these *Pinus flexilis* are no taller than small children. In a kinder setting they would be stately giants. But all their energy has been expended on scrabbling their roots into the lichened granite to withstand the cruel battering of 100 mile-an-hour northwesterers. Despite that, one of these dwarf trees may achieve giant recognition. Dan Robinson, president of Puget Sound Bonsai Society, thinks he has discovered one of the greatest natural bonsai trees in the world. He judges it to be about 800 years old.

Two years ago he began preparing the tree for removal. Next summer he will pry it from the rock with a hydraulic jack and bring it home. Robinson, 42, a Bremerton fireman with a University of Washington forestry degree, has been lovingly collecting and grooming dwarfed trees for the past 25 years. At his forested lakefront home near Bremerton, he enthusiastically tends what is indisputedly the best bonsai collection in the Pacific Northwest, and one of the best in the United States.

The combined age of his array of about 56 select bonsai is about 12,000 years. Most of the trees are only about 2 feet tall, despite an average age of 200 years. Robinson and his wife, Diane, 34, a communications student at the U. W. who formerly owned Mrs. Robinson's clothing store in Bremerton, live with their three children in a contemporary cedar house that Robinson and a carpenter built. Although Robinson never has been to Japan, the house has a peculiarly Japanese spirit. The foyer features huge 3 ton boulders, each about 4 feet tall. Rugged stone steps lead down into a high ceilinged room overlooking a deck filled with bonsai plants.

Amid the rocks and plants in the foyer are big cedar snags charred by forest fires.

"I like the mixture of life and death," Robinson explains. The 15 year fireman is a striking example of the "young turk" Westerners who are reshaping the ancient Oriental art of bonsai. Traditional Oriental bonsai equipment is dozens of little scissors and pruners that look delicate enough to do brain surgery. But Robinson uses a small electric chain-saw, routers, and drills. Robinson says his speedy techniques have outraged some Japanese bonsai teachers.

"Some Japanese masters spend 10 years just studying a bonsai branch before bending it," he says. "But we prefer to use new approaches and new tools to get quicker results." Robinson differs from the traditionalists on two other major points. They prefer hand-raised trees flawlessly groomed into a triangular shape.

Robinson favors a less disciplined contour.

"I don't want a look of perfection," he says, "I want to capture the perturbations that we see in nature."

By Oriental tradition, the apex of a bonsai tree symbolizes heaven, the base represents earth, and mankind is somewhere in between. But Robinson says, "I think that's mumbo jumbo."

Son of a sociology professor, Robinson acquired his interest in plants at the age of 9, when he began collecting cacti. He spent part of his boyhood pruning trees on his grandfather's orchard at Grapeview, Mason County.

Then his uncle, a landscape contractor, sent him into the Cascade Mountains to find unusual decorative plants and small trees. That's when he became intrigued by ancient, naturally stunted trees.

Now in his spare time at the Bremerton fire house he deliberately sculpts hollow trunks and dead branch stumps on his little trees to give the appearance of venerable age.

With Infectious fervor he adds: "It's exciting to create a tree that looks 1,000 years old when in fact it's only about 20."

Robinson's skill is recognized nationally. This past year the United States Forest Service made a nation wide search for the best bonsai tree to start a native United States bonsai collection at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

The Forest Service chose a Ponderosa pine made bonsai by Robinson, and paid him \$5,000 for it.

That was the highest price Robinson ever has received. He says the average price in the United States is \$50, although a good bonsai will fetch up to \$30,000 in Japan.

Robinson says he enjoys his bonsai collection so much that he hates to part with items from it. But he was about to sell a 430 year old bonsai Ponderosa pine to Martin Selig, the Seattle skyscraper tycoon, who wants to place it in the middle of a faulty fountain in his garden.

Robinson says bonsai is like stamp collecting in the sense that a bonsai tree or plant can increase in value.

"For example, a Japanese azalea bonsai I bought around 1975 for \$600 is now worth \$2,500", he said.

American bonsai collectors have a giant advantage over Oriental ones. Many hundreds of years of collecting have made wild bonsai rare in Japan, and the pace of collection accelerated in the 20th century.

"It's known, for example, that just one noted Japanese bonsai artist, a man named Suzuki, collected 5,000 wild juniper trees between 1910 and 1925," Robinson said. "It's not surprising they're running out of wild trees suitable for bonsai."

One solution is to grow trees from seed. Robinson is experimenting with that. After serving as an Army draftee water-purification specialist in Korea in 1963, Robinson brought home in his duffle bag 150 seeds of Japanese red and black pine trees.

He is using wire to train the trees into tortuous bonsai shapes. He says the trees won't be fully ready till the middle 1990s, when they're about 30 years old.

But Robinson won't be sitting around waiting. He spends his vacations traveling the country seeking more wild bonsai trees.

Equipped with bucket, crowbar, trowel, pruning saw, lopping shears, wet peat moss, burlap sacks and black plastic sheeting, he roams Florida's swamps, North Montana's windswept crags and the evergreen slopes of Stevens Pass.

"A shiver goes through me when I find a superb tree," Robinson says.

"Bonsai is the greatest treasure hunt in the world."

**Repeat
Announcement !!**

SIGN UP NOW !!!

FOR

PBA SYMPOSIUM

The Newsletter is glad to enclose with this issue a registration form for the Eighth Annual Potomac Bonsai Association Symposium to be held on October 16 and 17, 1982 at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel (the same great place as last year).

We all think that this year's Symposium could be the best one yet. Consider the excellence of the speakers, the interest in the spotlighted trees (conifers) and styles (literati, with Mr. Yoshimura counterbalancing with the classical), and the comfortable accommodations provided by the Marriott.

One suggestion we strongly make: sign up now for the workshops! These workshops offer a tremendous learning opportunity. Last year we were very sorry that so many people had to be disappointed because there were only two workshops available. This year we have expanded to three workshops in an effort to respond to the demand for this "hands on" educational experience. Moreover, we are going to have the best possible trees to work on in these workshops, so that you will leave the Symposium with a potential masterpiece rather than a wired seedling.

The PBA Symposium is considered to be one of the finest in this country by bonsai enthusiasts from all over the world. Support PBA and your Symposium by sending your completed registration form to Godfrey Trammell today.

Last month's article concerning Yuji Yoshimura and this month's article on Dan Robinson were printed to give readers more background on the capabilities and accomplishments of these artists who will be headliners at the 1982 PBA Symposium. A check on the registrants received by 23 July indicated that Mr. Yoshimura's workshop is filling-up fast.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PBA VISITING ARTIST PROGRAM

Jerry Stowell will lecture and conduct workshops at all the local clubs 13-15 August 1982. PBA is pleased to announce that Jerry Stowell, author of "The Beginner's Guide to American Bonsai", will be our first PBA Guest Bonsai Artist. Jerry will lecture and conduct free workshops on refinement at each member club. The program is completely subsidized by PBA Educational Funds, and all members are encouraged to participate in this excellent educational opportunity.

Jerry will display various bonsai and present slides which document the progressive refinement of his trees. Following the lecture, there will be a refinement workshop and/or critique of members' trees. The theme is refinement and only previously styled trees should be submitted. The visits are scheduled as follows:

BROOKSIDE: 13 August, Friday, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Audubon Naturalist Society (Main Building) 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD. (301) 871-8440.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA: 14 August, Saturday, 9:30 - 12:00 a.m. Gulf Branch Nature Center (703) 356-2697

WASHINGTON KYOMIZU: 14 August, Saturday, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. National Arboretum (202) 583-2676 or (301) 423-8230

ANNAPOLIS BOWIE: 15 August, Sunday, 9:30 - 12:00 a.m. at Gemmell's, 2914 Tarragon Lane, Bowie, MD. Directions: Coming West from Annapolis approximately one mile past Routes 3/301 on John Hanson Hwy. (Route 50) turn north on Collington Rd. (Route 197). Go past one light and about two miles to Tulip Grove Drive. Turn right and go four to five blocks to the top of an incline (Governor's Mansion is on the right). Turn left at the next light which is Tarragon Lane. Gemmell's is the eighth house on the left; yellow or black trim. If lost, phone 262-0989.

BALTIMORE: 15 August, Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. Cylburn (301) 426-5421.

U S NATIONAL ARBORETUM

August 10, 1982, BONSAI REFINEMENT WORKSHOP - Mr. Robert Drechsler, Curator of the National Bonsai Collection, will conduct a Bonsai Refinement Workshop in which he will assist individuals in repotting and refinement of their bonsai. Participants must bring their own bonsai tools, wire, and soil if repotting is planned. The Arboretum will provide no supplies or equipment.

There is no charge for the workshop which will be held in the Bonsai workroom adjacent to the National Bonsai Collection. The workshop will be held Tuesday, August 10, 1982, from 1:00-3:00. The workshop will be limited to 5 persons, and advanced registration is required. To register, please phone the Arboretum Education Office at 472-9279. Bonsai Refinement Workshops will be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

AUGUST CALENDAR

AUGUST 10, 1982

Plant Propagation for Children

AUGUST 10, 1982

The Falkland Islands

AUGUST 10, 1982

Bonsai Refinement Workshop

AUGUST 11, 1982

Fern Walk

AUGUST 11, 1982

Herb Workshop for Children

AUGUST 18, 1982

Aquatic Gardening

FLOWER SHOWS AND ART DISPLAYS

JULY 20, to AUGUST 27, 1982

Oriental Ink-Brush Paintings

by Keiko Hamas

AUGUST 31, to OCTOBER 6, 1982

Theroms (paintings on velvet) by the Chapter of the Early American Decorators

For further information on the above programs and events please contact the U.S. National Arboretum (202) 472-9279

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