

POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION
Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



BOKE or QUINCE
(Multiple Trunk)
by Takeyama Kō

Translated by Jules Koetsch



SPRING BOKE, MULTIPLE TRUNK
STYLE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Boke refers to Chaenomeles, a species of flowering Asiatic shrubs. Many hybrids are closely related to the flowering quince which is native to China. Hybrids have blooms which are all white, white to pink, all pink, all red, or all orange

Boke or quince begins to show buds in the middle of the Winter and gives a person the sensation of a breath of Spring. From January into April buds continue to appear with the buds eventually blooming and forming a wealth of color which easily win the admiration of the general public.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES

Boke is of Chinese origin. It is a low growing tree with thorns and elliptical leaves that have sawtooth edges. In the world of

bonsai the general classifications of boke are Mid-Winter boke and Spring boke.

Examples of the varieties of Mid-Winter boke one can choose from are those with white blooms (make-believe Winter sand) and crimson blossoms. Mid-Winter boke is distinguished by the fact that it sprouts buds immediately during January.

Mid-Winter boke begins blooming during a period from the beginning of March on into April. Mid-Winter boke with red, crimson colored blooms is probably the finest in appearance with some blooms about to open, others still hanging on and those which have fallen to form a single, big ring of White cloth on the ground (make believe sand).

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A variety of Mid-Winter boke is Kuseba boke which has another name, Shidomi. Its place of origin is Korea as well as Japan. The roots have the appearance of rhizomes. The flowers are very elegant with a very little red inside of a field of white. The variegated Shidomi are valued highly and are still in short supply. Shidomi is propagated from multiple trunks or clumps.

PROPAGATION AND TREE STYLE (SHAPE)

Boke or Japanese quince is the most robust or healthy when grown in the multiple trunk or clump style. Hence it is best to make the most of that quality. The best established tree style is one with 2, 3 or 5 trunks.

Many boke are started from cuttings. The comparative simplicity of starting from cuttings not only augments the number of new plants but also helps the master tree by the removal of the cutting stock. The time (June 10-20) and the method for taking the cuttings and planting them is identical to that for chochubai (another variety of quince).

The next method for propagating boke is to divide the roots. By dividing the roots, a number of plants with thick trunks can be readily obtained.

Since dividing roots is a customary method for propagating boke, this will be explained herein as the process for preparing a multiple trunk style. Although the blossoms for boke and shidori may differ in the Spring, the method for preparing a multiple trunk style is the same for both varieties.

DIVIDING THE ROOTS AND THE FIRST YEAR

DIVIDING ROOTS: A suitable timeframe for this is between September 1st to 10th and October 20th to 31st. A sapling tree which is 5 years old and has 5 trunks should be used. Remove the sapling tree from its pot, remove all the soil from the roots, and cut the roots so that $\frac{1}{2}$ remain. Divide the roots by cutting with a scissor thence freeing each new plant. Once the roots have been divided, immediately prepare to pot the plants.

Preparations for and Potting: Prepare a number 4 or 5 unglazed pot. Place a layer of red clay drainage pellets in the bottom and on top of that, place a layer of potting soil mix of 7 parts red clay and 3 parts leaf mold. Spread the roots and complete the potting using the above soil mix and concentrate on leaving no voids. Next, water thoroughly until the water runs out of the bottom of the pots. Immediately place the plants on a shelf outdoors in a sunny place where there is adequate ventilation.

Phases of Daily Management: Apply tapwater twice daily and without fail do not cut-out any of the waterings. Between 20 and 30 September apply rapeseed fertilizer in solid form.

December 1st to 10th protection from frost and snow is accomplished by accumulating the plants in a greenhouse. When the topsoil has dried, water the plant.

SECOND YEAR - PRUNING FOR BRANCH ARRANGEMENT

January to August Management: In December of last year the boke was placed in a greenhouse and it should repose there until Spring proclaims itself sometime between March 1st to 10th. While the plant is resting peacefully in the greenhouse, water it about once per day. Also sometime between January and March make two applications of weak liquid rapeseed fertilizer. As a result, the flowers will display more intense color.

From February 20th through 28th/29th until March 18th to 10th when the blossoms die, immediately remove the spent flowers or else the plant will be weakened. Also buds can be removed during this time-period for the same reason.

Sometime between March 10th to 20th remove the plant from the greenhouse and place it outdoors on a shelf in a sunny location. From this date until November, water with tapwater twice-a-day and do not cut-out any of the waterings.

Between April 1st and 10th new sprouts will appear.

Branch Pruning: When August 20th to 31st has arrived, the tree has continued to put forth growth as a result of the fertilization. Pruning is to be done, - see the illustration. As a general rule the pruning is done in the following sequence:

(1) Prune back any of this year's growth even as far back as the second previous year's growth to shape the tree.

(2) Do not cut any new branches emerging from the trunk even though they may offset the balance of the tree's shape.

(3) New shoots for secondary trunks will have emerged from around the edge of the roots. Cut only those which are in excess of the desired number of trunks.

After the pruning, sometime between September 1st and 10th apply 2 balls of kneaded rapeseed fertilizer. Having done that, continue with the same management as for the remainder of the first year.

THIRD YEAR MANAGEMENT

Once the clumps have become established in the second year, management in the third year is identical to that in the second year.

During August 20th to 31st do not neglect to do the pruning. At this time the tree height must be decided upon and the tree pruned accordingly. Also small branches should be removed until 2 to 3 leaf nodes of this year's growth are left. The main point of the 3rd year pruning effort is to prune both main and side branches keeping in mind the ultimate balance desired in the tree structure.

FOURTH YEAR - PLANTING IN A BONSAI POT

This year is definitely when the plant should be placed in a bonsai pot.

Planting in a bonsai pot is to be done between September 1st and 10th and October 1st and 10th. Also pruning is done at this time prior to potting the tree. The pruning should consist of removing this year's growth so that 1 to 2 leaf nodes remain.

Next, having pruned the tree, remove the plant from the pot and remove $\frac{2}{3}$ of the soil and cut $\frac{1}{2}$ of the roots. The pot can be either oval (elliptical) or rectangular, it can be glazed and the color of the pot (yellow, white, cream or purple) should harmonize with the color of the boke. Study the illustrations covering the potting. Once potted, water thoroughly so that it flows from the openings in the bottom of the pot. Spread sphagnum moss on the surface of the soil. Immediately place the planting outdoors on a shelf in a sunny location. If necessary, attach a binding to keep the planting from tipping due to a sudden gust of wind. Now one can continue with the management steps for the third year beginning at this time.

The work schedule for the fourth and fifth years are the same as for the third year with the exception that repotting is done every 2 years.

PROTECTION AGAINST INSECT DAMAGE

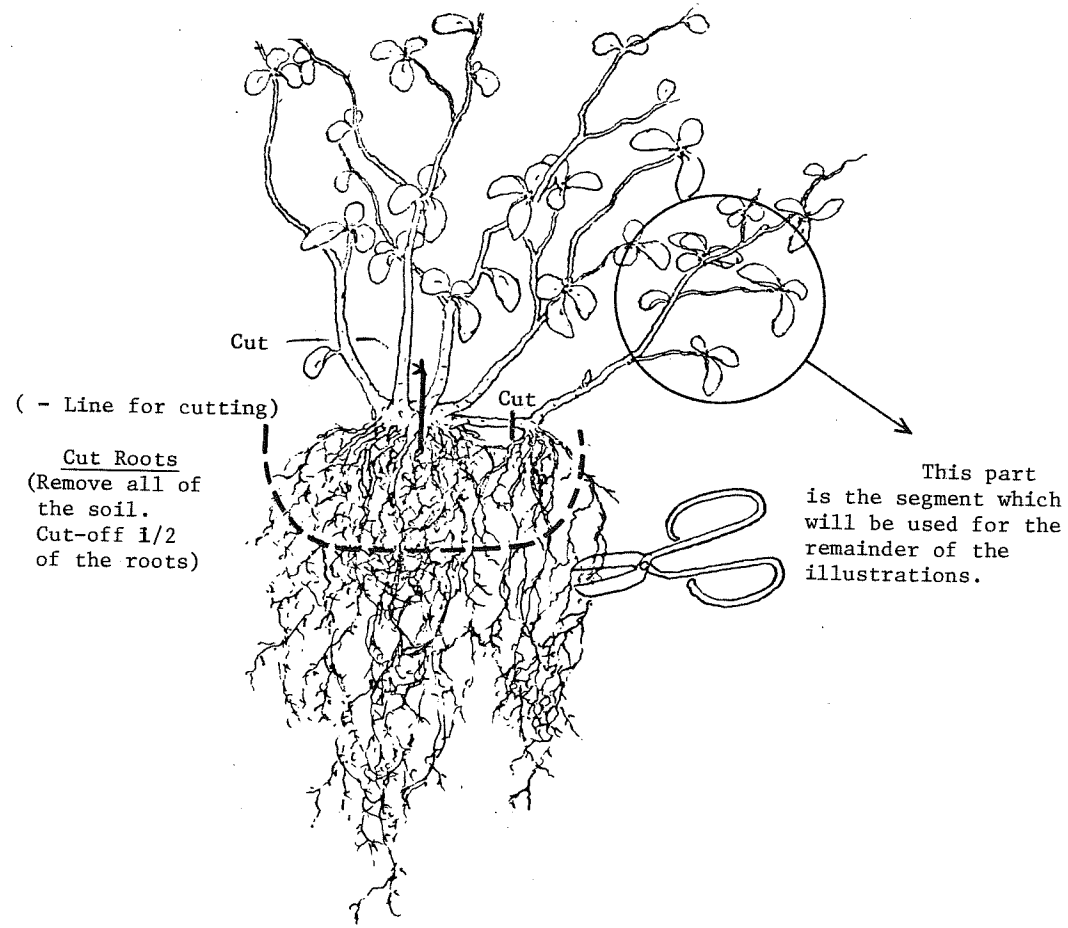
From Spring into Summer aphids (abura mushi) can infest the plant. Use marason (malathion) or sumichion when the aphids are discovered. Apply the insecticide to all the surfaces of the foliage especially the undersurfaces.

Kaigara mushi (scale) are scraped-off. Also in the Mid-Winter protect against scale with a lime-sulfur compound.

BOKE or QUINCE

FIRST YEAR

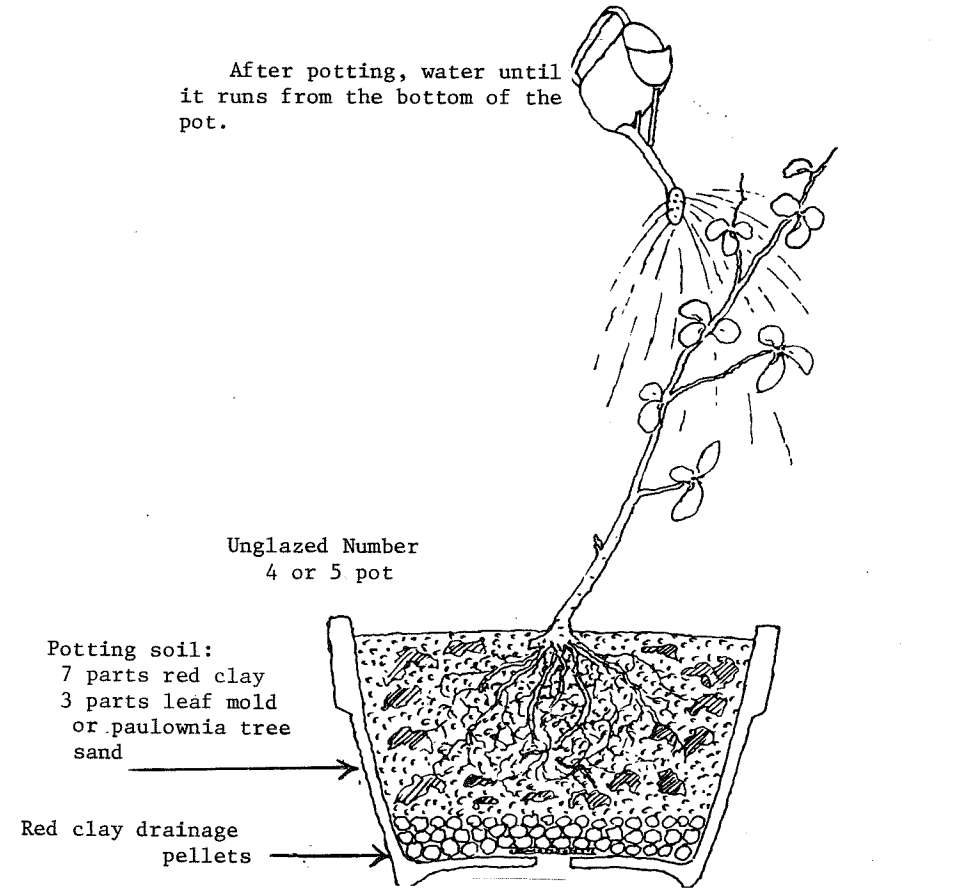
DIVIDE ROOTS September - October



A tree that is about 5 years old is suitable for dividing the roots. If one divides the roots of a very old tree, the aged roots will not throw any new growth.

FIRST YEAR (Continued)

POTTING September to October



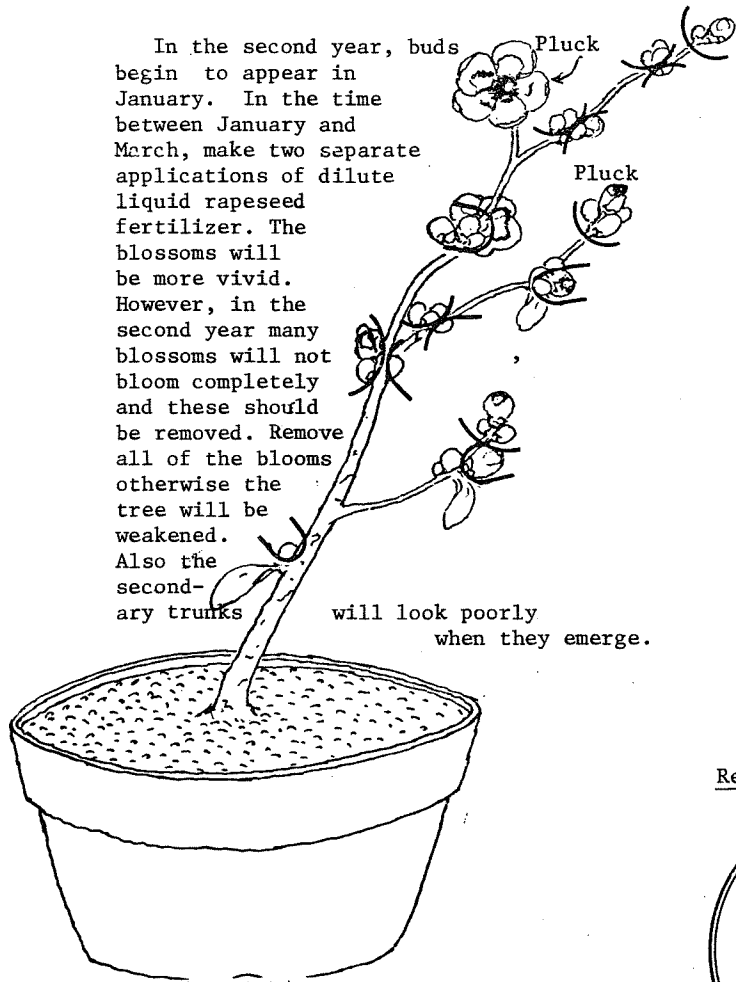
Growing the saplings is no problem if they are planted in a pot which is 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 inches) across. The pot is filled with rich soil and the planting is place outdoors on a shelf in a sunny place. After planting, buds and sprouts for next year's growth appear, and these can be removed

SECOND YEAR

FLOWERING, DISBUDDING, REMOVAL OF BLOSSOMS

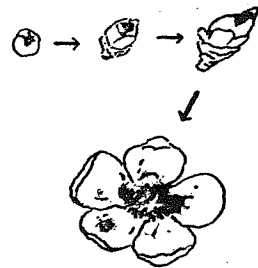
January to March 1 -10

In the second year, buds begin to appear in January. In the time between January and March, make two separate applications of dilute liquid rapeseed fertilizer. The blossoms will be more vivid. However, in the second year many blossoms will not bloom completely and these should be removed. Remove all of the blooms otherwise the tree will be weakened. Also the secondary trunks will look poorly when they emerge.

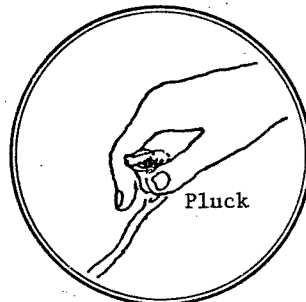


(- Line for removing blossoms)

Boke Bud to Blossom



Removing Blossoms

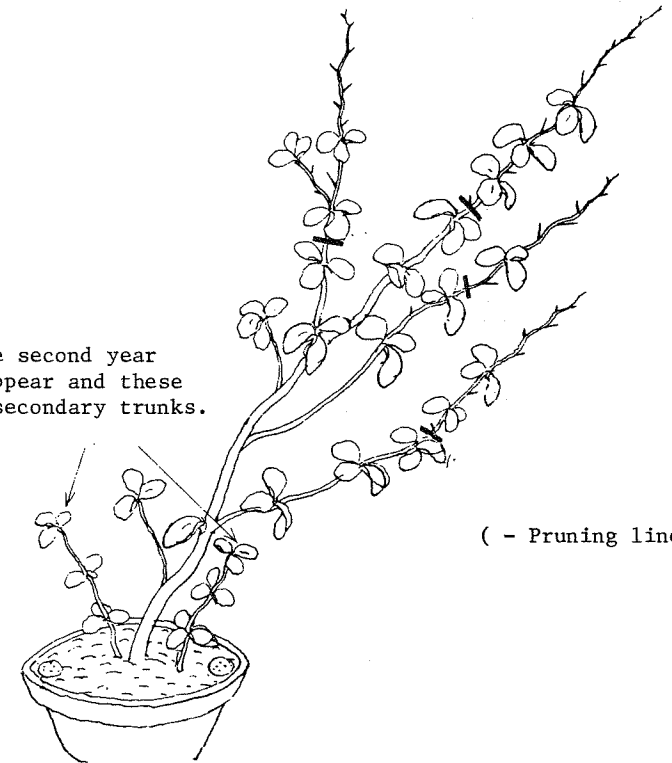


In the March 1 - 10 timeframe, blossoming will cease, and the blossoms should be removed. If all the blossoms are not removed, the energy of the tree will be weakened.

SECOND YEAR (Continued)

PRUNING FOR BRANCH ARRANGEMENT August 20 - 31

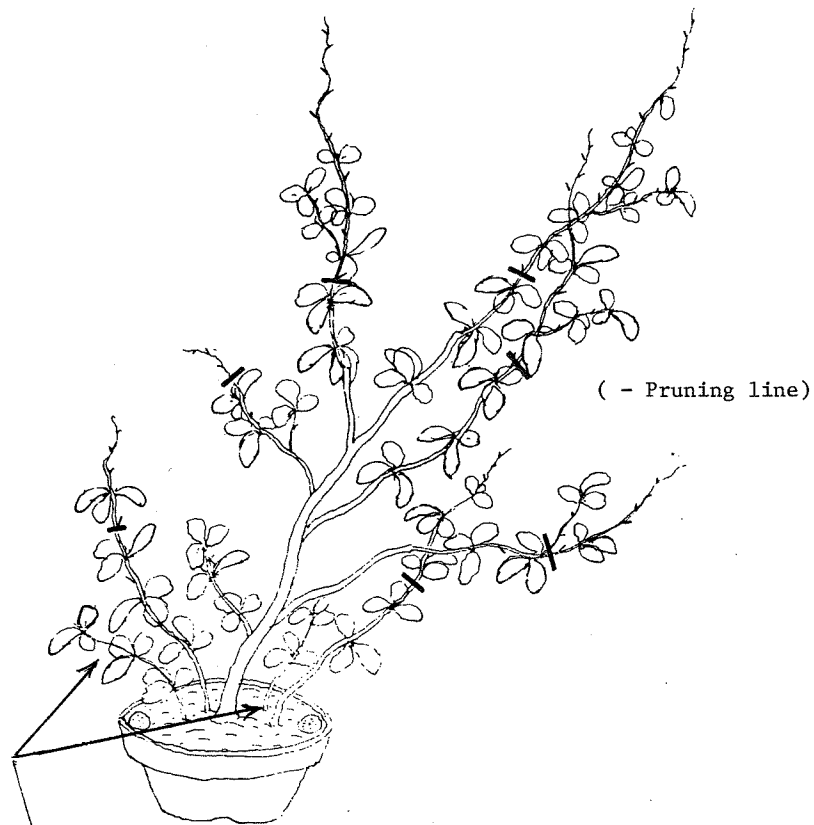
In the second year shoots appear and these are the secondary trunks.



(- Pruning line)

The sequence in pruning to achieve the proper branch arrangement is as follows:

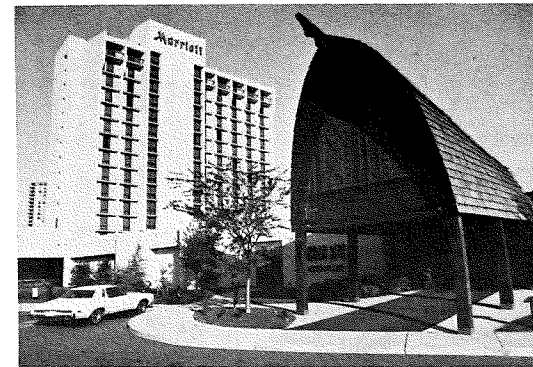
- (1). Prune back any of this year's excess growth even as far as the second year's growth to shape the tree. Also prune the top.
- (2). New branches will emerge from the trunk. These are not to be cut but are allowed to grow.
- (3). From the edge of the roots, new shoots will emerge to become the secondary trunks. Do not cut these.



Prune in accordance with the outline for the 2nd year in the sequence given. However, at this time one must decide on what the desired height of the tree is to be and prune to that height.

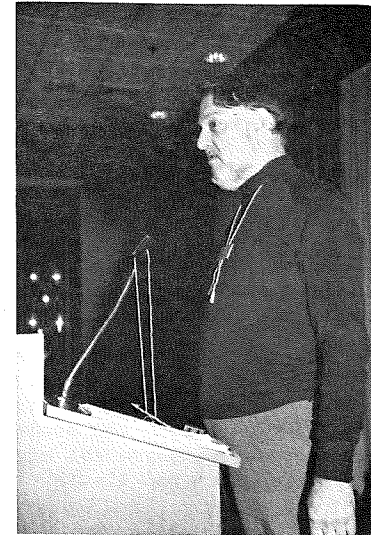
In the 3rd year more shoots will emerge from the roots at the surface of the soil. Any shoots which will increase the number of trunks beyond the desired amount should be removed at the root edge.

Continued on page 13

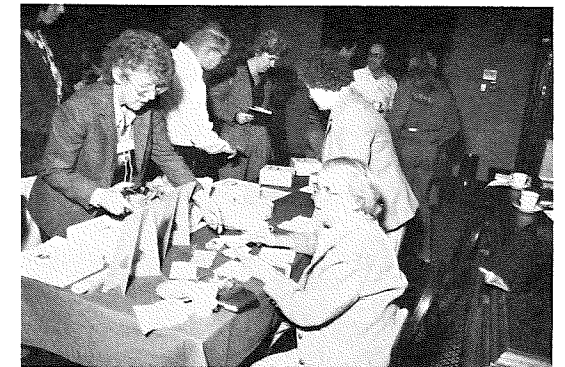


PBA 1982 SYMPOSIUM

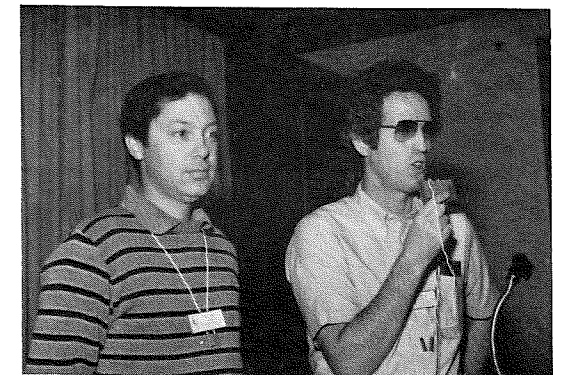
This is the first of a series of articles covering the PBA 1982 Symposium. The site of the Symposium was the Marriott Bethesda Inn shown at the left. Below Jo Finneyfrock ably handles the hectic opening phases of registration.



Bill Merritt, PBA President, makes the opening, welcoming speech.



On the right, Felix Laughlin and Bob Sitnick to the right, who did their usually excellent effort of putting together the symposium, describe the program and where to find things.

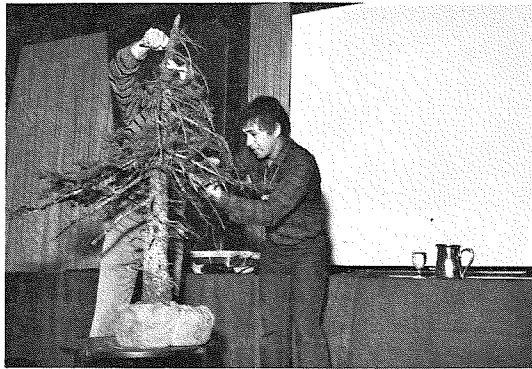


Photos by HOWARD CLARK

Dan Robinson Performs

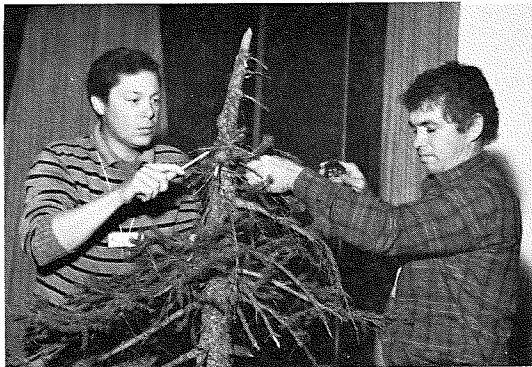


← Dan Robinson describes his demonstration tree's background. It was collected about two years ago in Oregon and has successfully survived those years in captivity. Dan has found that the most practical means for shipping trees is to tie them in a Sonotube. Sonotube comes in various diameters and is a pressed paper used for casting round concrete columns. It is sold in 10 ft sections and locally is available from Construction Material Suppliers in District Heights.



← Felix Laughlin assisted Dan and together they began by working from the top downward. Dan is removing dead and unwanted branches while Felix is jinning the top in this photo.

There was a question of removing one of the lowermost and larger branches. Dan suggested that it would be better not to remove the branch at this time because its removal might leave the tree with too little foliage from which to draw energy, - especially since it is losing other foliage. Anyway the delay will provide the future owner of the tree with some time to mull-over whether or not to remove the branch



← Branches were wired to enhance their normal tendency to droop and also place them at the proper angle to the trunk when viewed from the top.

Photos by Howard Clark



Dan strives to make his trees have that weathered look of the aged trees that have long passed their prime of life. When Dan last gave a lecture/demonstration, he introduced us to the chain-saw technique which he developed. This time he had another up his sleeve. To produce the effect found in an old tree where the limbs have died and rotted away, he uses a wood drill bit to drill out the spots where large branches have been pruned. This bit as shown



may be familiar to carpenters. It is frequently used to drill holes in beams for wire-runs.

Close-up of the trunk after the drilling. Many trees in the Northwest show such scars after losing large, old limbs.

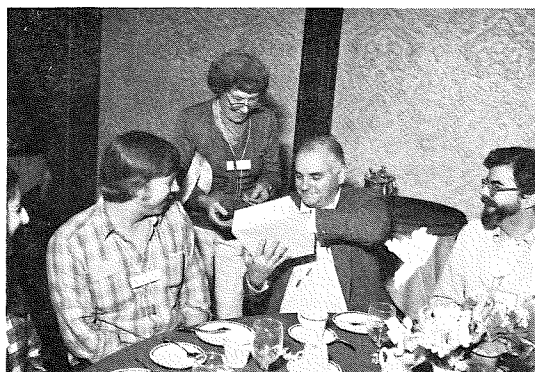


Photos by Howard Clark

The finished tree - wired and ready for potting in a training pot. To obtain a training pot to accommodate a tree of this size and still look like a bonsai pot, Dan makes his own training pots. He constructs them from wood, covers them with fiber glass and coats them with an appropriate paint.



The tree was raffled, and Molly Hersh, raffle chairperson, watches as the lucky number is drawn. It was a real bargain since \$ 1.00 bought a ticket and it only took one ticket to win a tree valued at considerably more money.



Dave Garvin picks the lucky number while Bill Spencer on the left and Joe Whittaker look on.

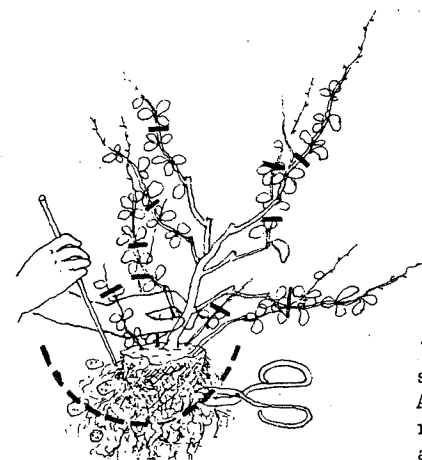
Who was the lucky winner? Non-other than Mrs. Valavanis, Bill Valavanis mother, had the winning raffle ticket. Lucky for the tree too for it will receive expert care.



Photos by Howard Clark

PLANTING IN A BONSAI POT September 1 - 10

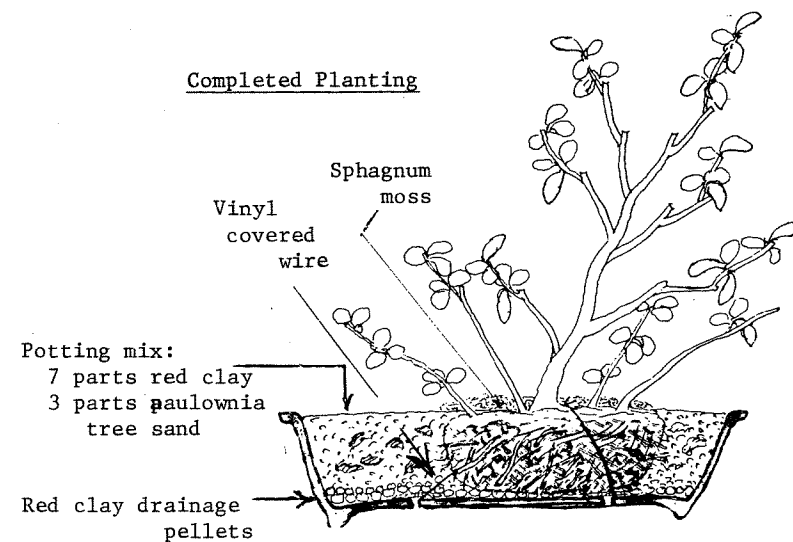
Pruning
Root Cutting



(- Line for pruning and cutting roots)

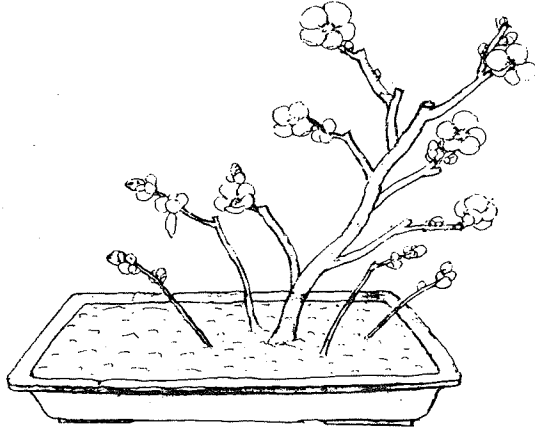
* Cut-off twigs on both single and forked sections. Also cut-off 1/2 of the roots before planting in a bonsai pot. Spread sphagnum moss on top of the soil.

Completed Planting



FIFTH YEAR

BLOSSOMS COMMENCE TO BLOOM January - March 20 -31



Remove the blossoms when spent. Prune between August 10th and 20th. Provide enough liquid fertilizer. Shelter from the frost and snow. Each year repeat the same tasks at the specified times. Repot every two years.

KUSABOKE (SHIDOHI)

MULTIPLE TRUNK

Appearance on
February 1 - 10



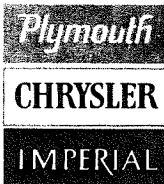
BOKE - QUINCE
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONTH/ DAY	Y E A R			
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH
Jan 10-20	X	Blossoms begin to appear		↑
		Apply liquid fertilizer twice between January and March		↑
		Remove spent blossoms		↑
		Remove buds		
Mar 10-20		Place outdoors on a shelf in full sun		↑
Apr 1-10		Water adequately		↑
		Fertilize		↑
May 1-10		Fertilize		↑
Jun 1-10		Fertilize		↑
Jul 1-10		Fertilize		↑
Aug 20-31		Prune to obtain branch arrangement	↑	X
Sep 1-10	Divide roots.	Fertilize	↑	Prune
	Place outdoors on a shelf in a sunny spot.		X	Place in a bonsai pot
	Water adequately		X	place outdoors on a shelf
Sep 20-30	Fertilize			Fertilize
Dec 1-10	Protect from frost and snow in a greenhouse			↑

After the fourth year repeat the fourth year operations as scheduled. Repot once every two (2) years.

KUDOS for the PBA 1982 Symposium

The following reprint of a letter from Mr. Julian R. Adams to Molly Hersh may be of interest to members searching for an automobile.



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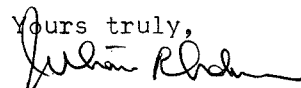
Dear Ms. Hersh,

Your Symposium was great!!!! There is no bonsai educational activity in the Lynchburg area so it was particularly nice of you to make your symposium available to us out in the wilderness. I only regret that I was unable to stay for the Sunday activities.....Maybe next year.

Enclosed please find my check for \$6.50 for a 12 month corresponding membership. I am looking forward to receiving your publication. The mailing address is:

Julian R. Adams
P.O.Box 409
Lynchburg, Va. 24505

Yours truly,


Julian R. Adams
Treasurer

P.S. Special PBA discounts on all Chryslers and Plymouths to any of your membership that may be interested. Have them contact me personally.



Kaidou Is Not Apple!

It was pointed out to the editor that the kaidou in last month's article in the strictest sense was not apple but crab apple. Researching malus (apple) in "Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia" by D. Wyman, Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1977, corroborated what Juli Haga pointed out.

Floribunda, 30 feet high, Japanese flowering crab. Introduced into America from Japan in 1862. It blooms in early May with deep pink to red flowers, - 1 to 1-1/2 inches across.

Sargentii, 8 feet high, Sargent crab apple. Lowest grower of all crab apples, a native of Japan, pure white, fragrant flowers 1/2 inch across.

Sieboldii arborescens, 30 feet high. , Toringo crab apple. Native to Japan, not particularly outstanding. It blooms later than some of the other crab apples, around mid-May. Flower buds are pink and the flowers are white and 3/4 inch across. It is found in the deep mountains in Japan which accounts for its Japanese name of miyama kaidou.

Snips and Slips

A Sharp Idea

In the same vein of making one's bonsai life simpler and less expensive, I picked up an idea from a gardening magazine for sharpening tools quickly and easily. The material? Sandpaper.

Yes, you may scoff. Others have done so beforehand. It's too simple to work, you say. But I have been vindicated before and will be again, at least on this issue. I use medium sandpaper and simply cut strips in it with the tool I wish to sharpen. If you're working with scissors be sure you make deep cuts so that you sharpen them all the way down the blade. In working with branch cutters whose blades overlap, be sure that overlapping edge is on the rough side of the sandpaper. (You'll quickly discover whether you've got it right because if that edge is on the smooth side of the sandpaper it won't cut the paper no matter how much pressure you can exert). Why both edges of the branch cutter get sharpened this way when only one edge seems to come in contact with the rough side of the paper is a mystery to me. The truth is I don't really care why. I only care that it works - and it does.

How much harder it will be when I'm in the middle of pruning, or out collecting in the middle of nowhere, to whip out a piece of sandpaper to sharpen up a tool than scrounging for a whetstone, and then have to get the angle right or I'll get the edge duller that it was before. One of life's pleasures is that sometimes you find something that's ridiculously easy and works.

Mary Holmes

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5 December: Potluck supper at a member's house as a holiday season get-together. Slides will be shown. Each member is to bring a tree. Time and place will be announced.

KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230

11 December: Traditional Japanese banquet, Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Saturday
Place is the Shiro-ya Restaurant, 2423 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC, - a white modern building near Columbia Hospital for Women - the only building in a triangular shaped block. The Shiro-ya is an elegant, new Japanese restaurant whose owners have been most accomodating. The banquet will be in a private room. To make reservations, send your check to Dana Sitnick, 6629 McLean Ct., McLean, VA, 22101 by December 8.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 356-2697

BONSAI REFINEMENT WORKSHOP, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1:00 pm - 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 Collections. The workshop will be limited to five (5) persons, and advance registration is required. To register, please phone the Arboretum Education Department at 472-9279. Bonsai Refinement workshops will be held on the second Tuesday of each month. Pre-requisite: A Beginning Bonsai Class.

16 December: 7:30 p.m. BROOKSIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY. Main building of Thursday
Audubon Naturalist Society. There will be refreshments. Janet Lanman will share with us her experiences on her trip to the People's Republic of China. There will be a bonsai grab-bag so bring a modest gift to exchange.

BROOKSIDE BONSAI CLUB

Baltimore : Contact (301) 669-1487 for meeting information.

The following clubs are not having any December meetings:

ANNAPOLIS

BOWIE

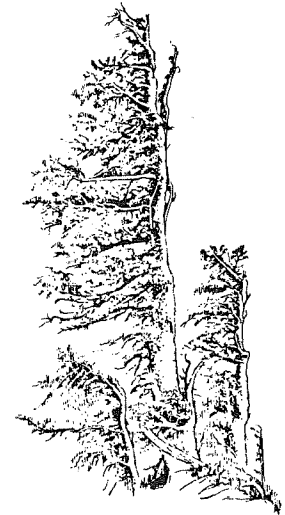
WASHINGTON

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Greetings
To One and All

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Wind-shaped Engelmann spruce at timberline

Drawing is from:
"Northwest Trees"
S.F. Arno, R.P. Ham
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