

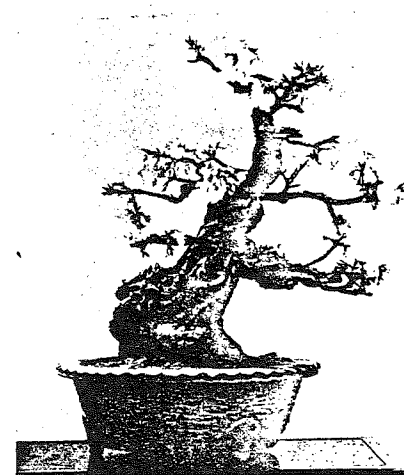
POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION
Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



SAKURA
JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRY
by **Takeyama Kō** (Informal Upright)

Translated by **Jules Koetsch**



NOTE: Following this article is the "EDITOR'S NOTE" concerning a follow-on article.

Cherry blossoms of Japan. The cherry blossoms are luxuriantly beautiful, but those who follow this article will have to wait two years to enjoy them. There are many species of Japanese cherry trees or sakura. The directions for preparing a bonsai are easy for any of the species, and by all means acquire the tree species with the type of blossoms you want to see.

SPECIES, GROWING METHOD, TREE STYLE

A bonsai can be produced from a number of species and cultivars such as yamazakuro (mountain cherry), fuji sakura, higan sakura, kanhi sakura, mid-winter flowering cherry and so forth,- in general there are

single and double blossom varieties.

Propagation is done chiefly by grafting the scion of the chosen species to a seedling cherry tree as understock. Refer to the illustrations as to how to do the grafting since that technique as shown is considered the best way to avoid rotting of the graft. In the bonsai community, the simple rule is to do the grafting in the Spring using a scion which will alter the characteristics and color of the blooms from that of the understock to that of the scion.

First of all, between February 10th and 20th cut branches (to be used for scions) which had completed their growth only in the prior year. To

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: \$6.50 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: Bill Merritt (703) 536-4052

Editors: Jules F. Koetsch (703) 569-9378

Mary Holmes

Snips and Slips Editor:

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.

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

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

prevent the cut-branches from drying out, bury the ends on a slant in the soil outside. (Practise in this country is to wrap them in a plastic bag and store them in a refrigerator). The cut-branches should be buried on a site with a protected Northern exposure so that they do not suffer drastic temperature variations throughout the day and will not be dried by the wind. However, the branches of higon sakura should be cut in January not in February as for the other species.

Between March 1st and 20th when the understock begins to show life, remove the cut-branches from storage and begin the grafting operation. Immediately after the cuts have been made, keep the scions moist. (This is done by placing the cut end of the scion in your mouth, closing your lips, but not allowing any saliva to touch it). Then cut the understock and immediately wedge the scion into the cut as shown.

To reduce the risk of a graft not taking, for mazakura or ooshimakura understock use scions of yamazakura or someiyoshin or satozakura, for edohigan and higanzakura understock use scions of higanzakura, weeping cherry and the like.

Many train sakuras to become twin trunk style. The method for styling the tree is covered under the following sections covering a purchased tree.

PURCHASING SAPLING TREE AND FIRST YEAR

Pointers in Purchasing Sapling It is preferable to purchase the sapling tree during February or March. Select a sapling which has been grafted and nursery grown for about 2 to 3 years. It should be about 20 to 30 cm (8 to 12 inches) in height and have a trunk diameter more than 1-cm (3/8 inch). The graft should be a good one and the variety selected should be from a reliable source. The plant can be purchased either in a pot or balled and wrapped.

POTTING EFFORT After purchasing, immediately consolidate (prune) the roots and then pot.

First of all disentangle the roots on the outside of the root-ball. Remove all of the soil. Shorten both the new, thin and the heavy, older roots after removing all of the old soil, so that 1/3 remains of the root system. The above is termed "root consolidation".

For the pot, use an unglazed number 4 or 5 pot. Place a layer of red clay drainage pellets in the bottom of the pot, and then insert a small amount of the potting mix consisting of 7 parts red clay soil and 3 parts of leaf mold. Having prepared the soil as above in the pot, carefully spread the roots and insert the potting soil. After potting the plant, thoroughly water using tapwater. For about one week to 10 days keep the plant in 1/2 day shade and out of the wind.

SUBSEQUENT MANAGEMENT March 20th to 31st, - in this time period the flower buds will swell and burst open, -strip off all flowers buds in any stage of development. If the blossoms are left to bloom completely, the tree will be weakened.

Between April 1st and 10th place the plant outdoors on a shelf in a sunny location. At the same time, apply 2 kneaded rapeseed fertilizer balls, - each about the size of the end of your thumb. Every month until September 20th to 30th apply 2 fertilizer balls after removing the prior month's balls. Do not fertilize during the rainy season. During Spring and Autumn, water twice a day and in the Summer limit the watering to three times a day.

Applying fertilizer encourages growth of the trunk and branches. By November 1st to 10th all growth has ceased, and at that time, the unwanted lengths of the branches are removed so that 3 to 4 segments or leaf nodes remain. And, between December 1st to 10th insert the sakura in a sunny place in a greenhouse.

SECOND YEAR MANAGEMENT

Take the plant out of the greenhouse between March 1st to 10th. And again this year between March 20th and 31st the blossoms swell and begin to bloom but for the sake of stopping the blooming, take off all the flower buds in whatever stage of development they may be.

Wiring: Wiring is done between June 1st and 10th. Wire is applied to the trunk and branches so that the tree can be shaped into an interesting design.

Employ aluminum wire. As shown in the illustration bend the trunk 2 to 3 times. To provide the proper feeling, bend the branches down slightly and even put 2 to 3 bends in the branches. View the trunk and branches from both the front and side to see that the tree design is in order and the branches are properly positioned.

Subsequent Management: Apply fertilizer in accordance with the directions or the fertilizing during the first year.

During November 1st to 10th since the shape as such has changed, the main point is to cut the tip ends of the branches. In other words, prune unwanted lengths of branches leaving no less than 3 to 4 leaf nodes in all cases, avoid bar branches by removing the smaller, stubby branch of the bar branches.

THIRD YEAR - PLANTING IN A BONSAI POT

Planting In A Bonsai Pot In the third year between March 1st and 20th, place the plant in a bonsai pot while still in a greenhouse. The pot can be either oval or rectangular and have a matte glaze on its exterior. The color can be a bright blue of varying shade which goes good in matching the color of the flowers.

Next in order, take the sakura from the pot and remove 2/3 of the old soil. And shorten both the thin and thick roots by cutting away 1/2 of the initial roots. After all of the above has been done, cut away the bump at the graft union using a branch cutter. Afterwards take a sharp pointed knife and trim the deges of the cut so that they are smooth.

Having consolidated the roots and after gathering a small amount of potting soil in the right hand and placing it in a little mound over the red clay drainage pellets, press the plant roots onto the mound. Use chopsticks to work the soil into the voids between the roots. Once potted, apply water to the extent that it flows from the bottom of the pot and care for the plant in a greenhouse until April 1st to 10th.

MANAGEMENT FROM FLOWERING UNTIL DECEMBER

Between April 1st and 10th take the sakura out of the greenhouse and put it on top of a shelf, outdoors, in full sun. Before long the blossoms will sprout. The fallen blossoms will decorate the top of the shelf to add to the viewing pleasure. Once the flowers have finished blooming, remove all of them.

Having finished the above, the management for the rest of the year is entirely the same as for the second year.

RESULTS OF THE ABOVE AND SINGLE BLOSSOMS SAKURA

In the fourth year and every year after that repeat the same management as for the third year and thereby a durable tree will be achieved.

Now with the exception of double blossom sakura, there are some supplementary actions for single blossom Sakura.

For double blossom sakura alone, prune once only between November 1st to 10th. For single blossom sakura immediately remove the flowers once all of them have finished blooming, and do not fail to prune. Prune the prior year's growth on all branches, -at the most so that 1 to 2 leaf nodes remain.

In the interval between April and August, prune all the new growth about 3 times, -cutting back where necessary to no less than 1 to 2 leaf nodes on the branches. Of course, between November 1st and 10th cut the unwanted lengths of the branches. The above provides the differences between handling single and double blossom sakura.

PROTECTION AGAINST INSECT DAMAGE

Kaigard mushi (scale) when observed, should be scraped or brushed off. Also in the Winter season, employ lime-sulfur medical compound mixed as 1 part in 10 to 20 parts of water. When the sprouts appear, abura mushi (aphids) attach themselves to the plant, and can be exterminated with marason (malathion) or sumichion.

The remaining insects are leaf eating insects which when seen, can be caught and killed.

Editor's Note: The next issue will provide another translation concerning sakura as a bonsai with some information on the Japanese varieties of flowering cherry.

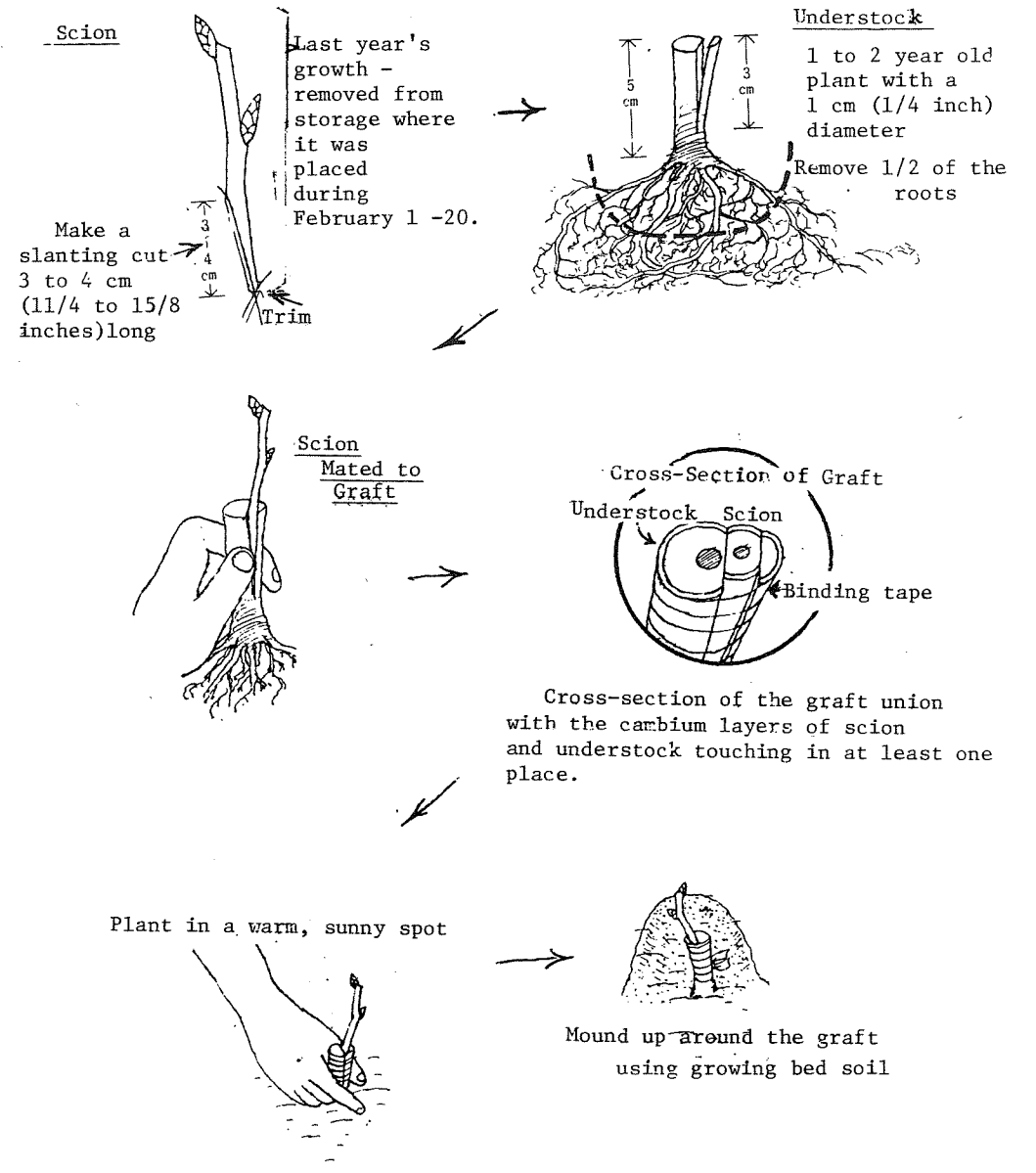
1983 Nominees for PBA OFFICES

P.B.A. NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR 1983 - 1984: The P.B.A. Nominating Committee presents the following slate for offices in 1983 - 84. Elections will be held at the Annual P.B.A. Meeting on April 24th following the 1983 P.B.A. Spring Show at the National Arboretum.

- H. William MerrittPresident
- Felix B. LaughlinFirst Vice President
- Frederick H. MiesEducational Vice President
- Godfrey E. Trammell, JrTreasurer
- Julie WalkerSecretary

SAKURA
JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRY

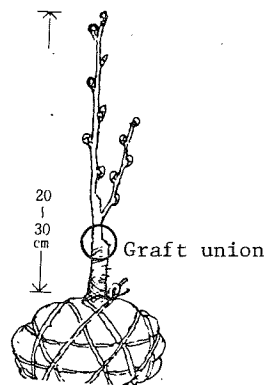
GRAFTING TECHNIQUE (Wedge Grafting) March 1 to 20



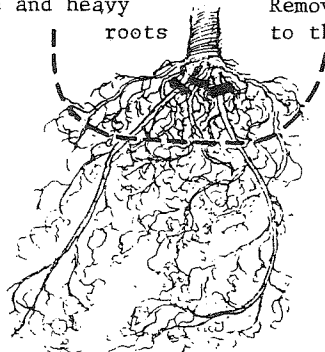
FIRST YEAR

PURCHASE SAPLING TREE March 10 - 20

Purchase a reliable variety of a grafted, 2 to 3 years old sakura with or without one branch, and 1-cm (3/8 inch) in diameter at the base.



— Lines for cutting fine and heavy roots
Remove roots to this line



PREPARATION FOR POTTING

March 10 - 20

Root Trimming

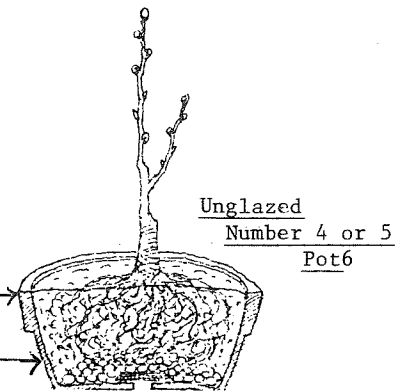
Remove all of the old soil. Shorten the fine roots and remove all of the heavy roots. Reduce the rootball to 1/3 its initial size.

Potted Plant

Spread the roots evenly in the pot. After potting, water the soil until the water runs from the hole in the bottom of the pot. For a 10-day period keep the plant out of strong winds and give one-half-a-day shade.

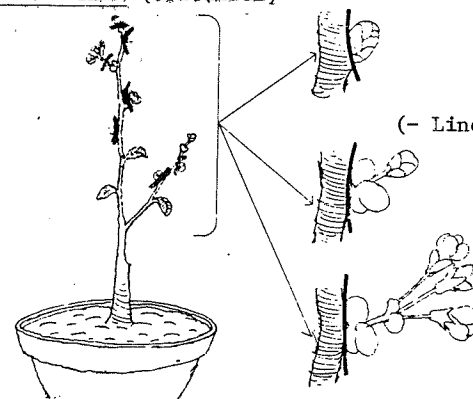
Potting mix:
7 parts red clay
3 parts leaf mold

Large red clay drainage pellets.



FIRST YEAR (Continued)

PLUCK SPROUTING BUDS March 20 - 31

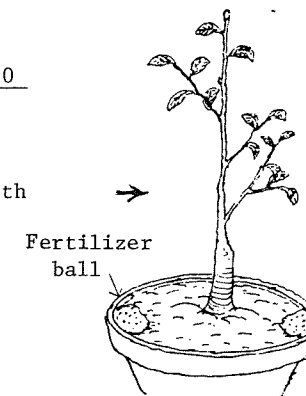


(- Lines for plucking buds)

In favor of increasing the size of the branches, pluck all of the bud sprouts as shown in the adjacent illustration. Do the plucking while the plant is still experiencing one-half-a-day shade.

APPLYING FERTILIZER April 1 - 10

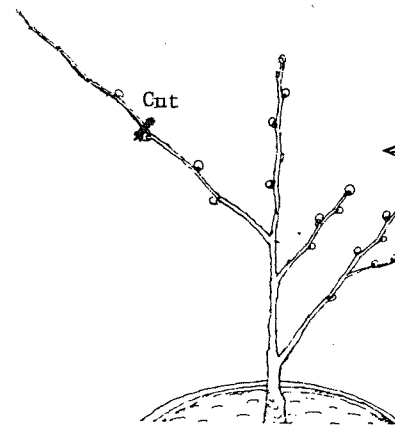
Apply 2 kneade rapeseed fertilizer balls once per month until September. Skip during the rainy season.



CUT UNWANTED BRANCHES

November 1 - 10

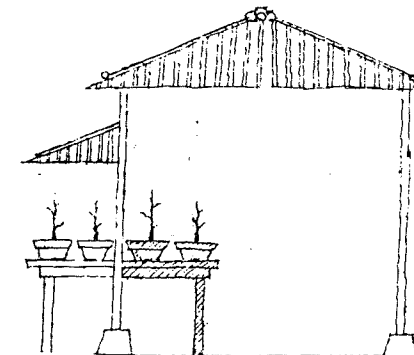
At this time the leaves have fallen from the tree. As a result of the one-year application of fertilizer, the excess branch length should be reduced so that 3 to 4 leaf nodes remain.



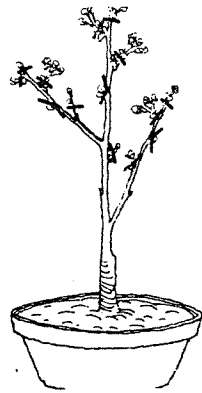
PLACE UNDER THE EAVES OR IN A GREENHOUSE

December 1 - 10

When dormant, place under the eaves or inside a greenhouse to protect the plant from the wind. It is imperative not to let the topsoil dry out.



BUD PRUNING March 20 - 31



(- line for plucking)

Again this year, pluck all of the sprouting buds in favor of letting branches and trunk thickj thicken.

WIRE June 1 - 10

Before Wiring

Employ aluminum wire to wire trunk and branches.



Results of Wiring



Front view, - put 2 to 3 bends in the trunk, bend the branches slightjy downward, remove branches that are on the inside of each bend in the trunk.

Bending The BRANCH

PBA was the first to make a financial contribution to the National Bonsai Foundation. Our Board of Directors, at its regular meeting on 17 August 1982, voted to donate 1,000 dollars to help start the new foundation. The check was presented to Dr. Henry M. Cathey, Director of the U.S. National Arboretum, during the PBA Symposium Banquet in October.

The National Bonsai Foundation has been officially incorporated with the following purposes.

- (1) To aid, support, advise and cooperate with the United States National Arboretum and its support organizations with respect to the design, erection, and maintenance of a Bonsai Pavilion to be situated at the National Arboretum for the exhibition of bonsai created, maintained or owned and cared for in the United States, regardless of country of origin;
- (2) To advise the National Arboretum with respect to selecting and acquiring bonsai, or other items to enhance the display of bonsai, for preservation, study, and exhibition at the National Arboretum and elsewhere;
- (3) To improve bonsai collections to be housed at the National Arboretum;
- (4) To aid, support, advise and cooperate with the National Arboretum and its support organizations with respect to the care and maintenance of said collections of bonsai;
- (5) To establish and develop an endowment to fund a staff person to care for the bonsai collection to be exhibited in the Bonsai Pavilion referred to in (1) above, such person to work under the curator of the National Bonsai Collection; and
- (6) To promote and stimulate the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding relating to the art of bonsai.

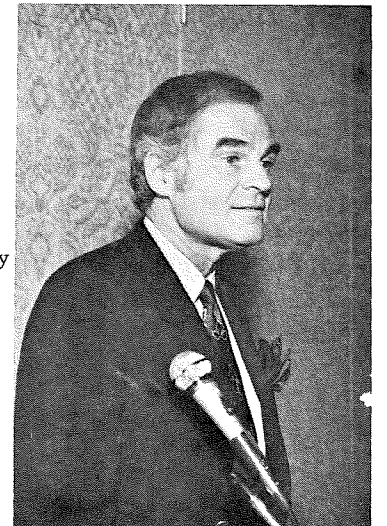
Steps are being taken to start the pavilion design, to raise funds for its construction, to initiate publicity, and to develop procedures for selecting and acquiring trees.

Bill Merritt

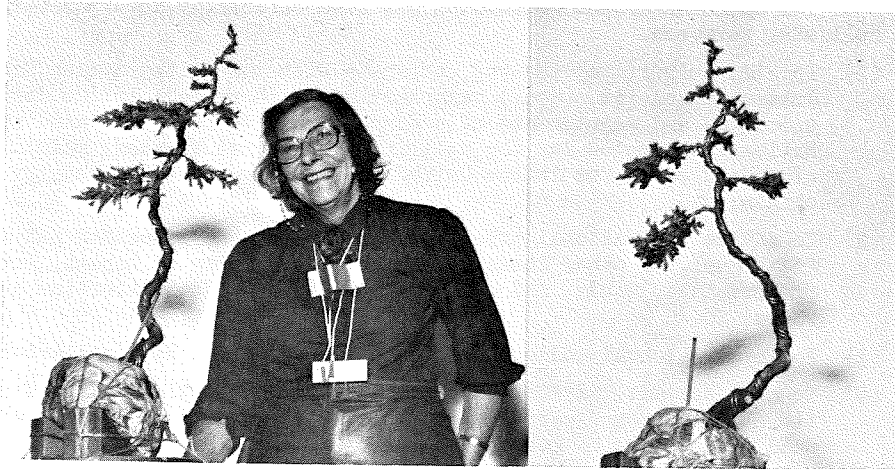


On the left, Bill Merritt, PBA President, is shown presenting Dr. Cathey with the PBA donation to the National Bonsai Foundation.

On the right, Dr. Cathey describes the future plans for the bonsai collections at the National Arboretum.



1982 PBA SYMPOSIUM REVISITED



MARION GYLLENSWAN

LITERATI

At the 1982 P.B.A. Symposium, the well-known bonsai artist Marion Gyllenswan provided the audience with an interesting, informative talk and demonstration on creating literati style bonsai from conifers. One can see in the accompanying photographs that making a good literati bonsai, as with any embryo bonsai, begins with the selection of suitable material. The above photograph illustrates what Marion did with conifer junipers.

On the right, Marion starts to style a mugho pine. Note that she has removed the plant from the pot and used wedges to place the trunk at the desired angle. Marion had this timely tip, - to keep wedges from slipping/sliding on the turntable, glue velour or some similar material to the bottoms of the wedges so that the knap engages the turntable and prevents any slippage.



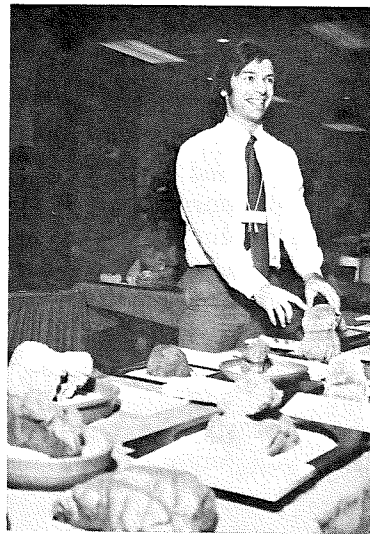
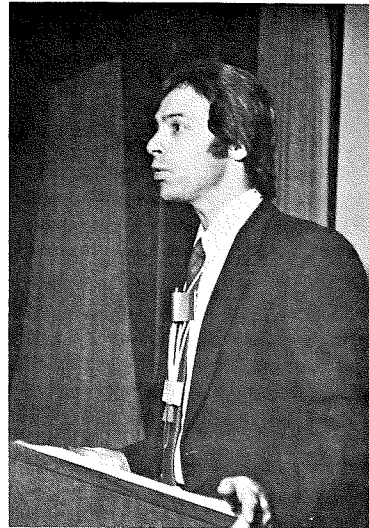
The finished tree has been topped and lengths of branches have been reduced. Marion like other experts has tied her plant securely to the turntable. This tying-down is done even while working on potted plants. Marion had another tip, - put cup-hooks on the edge of the turntable so that you have tie-points.



VINCE CAVELLO

SAIKEI

Vince Cavello introduced those who attended his lecture, slide-show on suiseki with a detailed introduction to the fascinating subject of suiseki. What makes a good suiseki was explained not only with slides but with rocks that Vince had collected and purchased. Vince once noted that he was attracted to suiseki since these never die and are easier to maintain than bonsai. On tip that Vince passed along is that to make a viewing stone more interesting, try wetting it to bring a new, if not better texture.

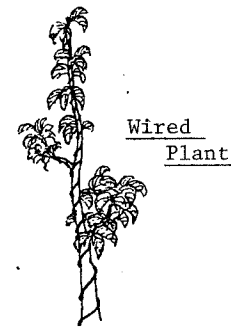


This shot shows Vince among some of the 150 rocks which he had brought for display and sale.

Unfortunately all of the facets of suiseki could not be covered in the time allotted for Vince's talk. His forthcoming book, "Suiseki : Japanese Viewing Stones and Their Use With Bonsai", should be a welcome addition to your library and a source for all the in-depth information that you would ever want on the subject.

SECOND YEAR (Continued)

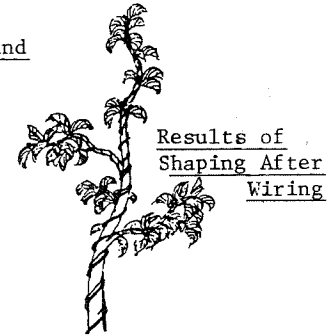
WIRING June 1 - 10



Side View Wiring of Trunk and Branches

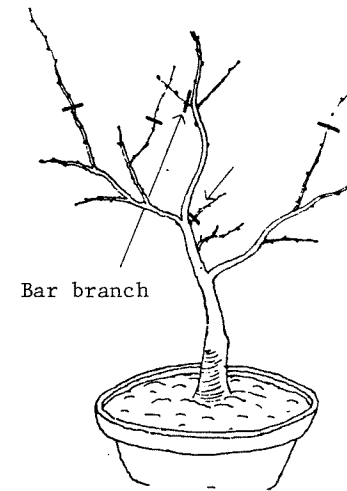


Direction of thrust of leaves



When wiring, check both the front and side views so that a half-finished job is avoided. The branches can be bent 2 to 3 times as viewed from the side and also bent slightly downward.

CUT UNWANTED LENGTHS OF BRANCHES November 1 - 10



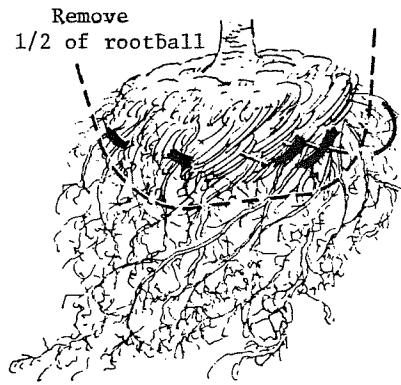
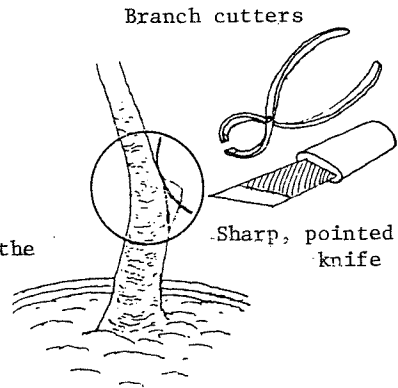
View the overall tree for balance and remove any unwanted lengths of branches leaving a minimum of 3 to 4 leaf nodes. Also remove bar branches.

THIRD YEAR

PLANTING IN A BONSAI POT

March 10 - 20

The circle marks the bump left from the tree mending at the graft-union. Remove the bump with a branch cutter and trim the edge so that it is smooth.

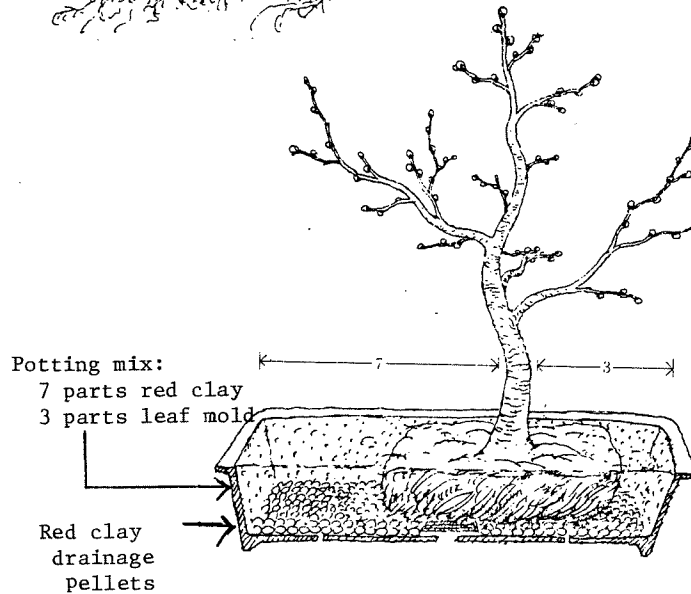


Root Cutting

Cut fine and heavy roots.

Remove 2/3 of the old soil. Cut the fine and heavy roots to the limits shown in the illustration. to reduce the rootball to 1/2 of its initial size. This is done to the extent that the roots can be placed in the pot.

Potted Plant



Concentrate on filling all the voids between the roots. Bind the tree to the pot with vinyl covered copper wire. Water until water runs from the bottom of the pot and then place the planting outdoors on a shelf in a sunny place. Repeat the schedule for the 3rd year in the years that follow.

SAKURA
JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRY
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Month Days	FIRST	YEAR SECOND	THIRD
Mar. 1-10	Purchase sapling tree Pot tree Provide half-day shade	Place outdoors on a shelf in a sunny place.	Place in a bonsai pot.
Mar. 20-31	Pluck buds that are sprouting or about to burst open		
Apr. 1-10	Place outdoors on a shelf in a sunny location.		Place outdoors on a shelf in a sunny location.
Jun. 1-10	Water Adequately		
Jul. 1-10	Fertilize once every month		Flowering begins. Take all spent blossoms
Sep. 20-30		Wire	
Nov. 1-10	Stop fertilizing	Remove wire	
Dec. 1-10	Cut unwanted length of branches		
	Plant in a greenhouse		

Fourth Year and Thereafter : Repeat the 3rd year operations at the times shown. for
Repot every 2 or 3 years.

LOGO CONTEST

The Potomac Bonsai Association is changing its logo! To what, you say? Well, that hasn't been decided yet because it's up to YOU. We're having a logo contest, complete with a winning prize and piles of glory.

Here's how it works: Entries will be accepted 'til March 15, 1983. They should be submitted on standard-sized paper (8 1/2 x 11), done in black and white. All entries will then be published in the April PBA Newsletter, so that you will have time to study them before you have to vote. The originals will then be displayed at the PBA Annual Show at the National Arboretum April 21-24, where you will have a chance to cast your vote for the one you like best. The winner will be announced at the PBA annual meeting, Saturday April 23rd.

And the prize? One complete registration to the PBA Symposium October 15-16, 1983.

Who is eligible to enter? EVERYONE! PBA members, friends, family, subscribers, anyone who would like to. Enter as many drawings as you would like to. Get your artistic non-bonsai friends to enter. If they win and don't want to come to the Symposium, maybe they'll give you their registration. Or maybe they'll come, become interested in bonsai, and then you'll have another interest to share with them.

Remember: entries should be submitted in black and white on 8 1/2 x 11 sheets, and will be accepted until March 15. They should be sent to:

Mary Holmes
1676 Walleye Drive
Crofton, Maryland 21114

Mary Holmes

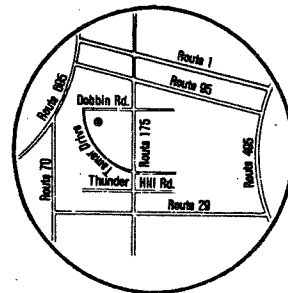
Japanese Plus Other Ceramics Exhibit

January 17 to March 3, 1983

Monday through Thursday 1-5 and 7-10 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to noon

The Eight Annual Collectors' Art of Ceramics Exhibition is being held now at the Columbia Visual Arts College, Columbia, MD, (301) 992-3933. The exhibition features

about 150 pieces of ceramic art including many from Japan (Hamada, Leach included), as well as pieces from China, Korea, Mexico, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S.A. Both antique pieces dating back to 1600 AD as well as some contemporary pieces are being shown.



Dot Shows the Location

Springtime Bus Trip

See the Philadelphia Flower Show the Best in the Nation!!

Bus Trip to Philadelphia Flower Show: Saturday, 12 March 1983

8:30 a.m.* to about 12:00 p.m.

7:30 depart Tysons return 12:00 pm

The Largest and most prestigious flower show in the U.S. is presented each spring in Philadelphia, by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Among the many attractions are a display of trees by the Pennsylvania Bonsai Society. Also Chase Rosade and Lynn Porter present frequent demonstrations at the Rosade Bonsai Studio exhibit. Come join this Second PBA sponsored bus trip and enjoy an early breath of spring.

- Itinerary:
- o Leave Washington, 8:30 a.m.
 - o Leave Baltimore, 9:30 a.m.
 - o Brief stop for bag or light lunch
 - o Arrive Philadelphia Civic Center, 1:00 p.m.
 - o Participants fare for themselves for dinner at various facilities at or near the show.
 - o Leave show about 8:30 p.m.
 - o Arrive Baltimore about 11:00 p.m.
 - o Arrive Washington about 12:00 p.m.

Transportation
and Admission:

PBA Members \$16.00
Non-Members \$26.00

+ 6 for dinner at Show
+ 6

Registration: Forty-seven (47) seats are available on first come basis, with preference to dues-paying members. Make checks payable to Potomac Bonsai Association, and send to Fred Mies, 11712 Smoketree Road, Rockville, MD 20854. Include address and telephone number.

*Washington Pickup: At Hillendale Shopping Center, adjacent to Zayre's Department Store, 10121 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring. This is about 200 yards north of New Hampshire Avenue exit of Washington Beltway (495). Bus leaves promptly at 8:30 a.m..

*Baltimore Pickup: Anne Arundel Animal Hospital at 4800 Gov. Richy Highway (Rt. 2). About 1-1/2 miles north of Rt. 2 exit Baltimore Beltway (695). Bus leaves promptly at 9:30 a.m..

Tyson's Corner -

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10 February: 7:30 p.m. Annapolis Library on West Street. Vicki Ballantyne Thursday will give a talk on styling using slides. A catalogue will be available from Bonsai Associates, Inc., of Baltimore. They will deliver what is ordered at a future meeting.
ANNAPOLIS (301) 263-3995

13 February: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bowie Community Center. Robert DeFeo, plant Sunday propagator the National Arboretum, will conduct a workshop on how to propagate plants for bonsai. Please contact the below telephone number if you plan to attend.
BOWIE BONSAI CLUB (301) 390-6687

17 February Thursday 7:30 p.m.. Special BROOKSIDE-NORTHERN VIRGINIA Joint Meeting.

A lecture by visiting bonsai artist, William Valavanis of Rochester, N.Y., is being sponsored by the two clubs. As anyone who has attended recent PBA Symposia knows, Bill is an exceptionally gifted lecturer and teacher. This program will be devoted to pine trees - certainly the most aristocratic and challenging of all bonsai material. Bill will present a slide show covering the classification, care, training and styling of pines, and conclude with a demonstration of various training techniques. The meeting will be held at Woodsend, the National Audubon Society, 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase, MD. More specific directions for the NOVA members will be given in next months calendar.

ALL MEMBERS FROM ANY PBA CLUB ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND !!!!!

Directions: Exit Capital Beltway at Connecticut Avenue South. Take first legal left turn and follow signs to Jones Bridge Road. Turn right at Jones Bridge Road. About 1/4 mile down the road is the first traffic light at the intersection of Jones Mill Road. Turn left. Drive about 1/4 mile to white gates at the entrance to Woods End. If you make an illegal left turn onto Jones Bridge Road from Connecticut Avenue, it's a straight shot to the light at Jones Mill Road. Fred Mies of Brookside has arranged this meeting -- and provided the directions.

NOTE: Bill Valavanis has authored two excellent books on Bonsai: "Bonsai Creation and Design Using Propagation Techniques" and "Japanese Five-Needle Pine". It might be a good idea, if the books are available, to review them before his lecture.

SPECIAL: BROOKSIDE/NORTHERN VIRGINIA JOINT MONTHLY MEETING (301) 871-8440

27 February: 2:00 p.m. at the home of Joan Stephens. Soil mixing session. Sunday Bring bags for your soil take-home supply.
KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230

12 March, Saturday - PBA Bus Trip see page 17

13 March: William Nickle will show how to propagate and grow satsuki Sunday azaleas. Contact the telephone number below for time and place.
BOWIE BONSAI CLUB (301) 390-6687

BALTIMORE: Contact (301) 669-1487 for information about the meetings.
WASHINGTON: Contact (202) 583-2676 for information about the meetings.

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U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM FEBRUARY 1983 Schedule

Feb. 1, 1:30p.m. Winter Characteristics for Woody Plant Identification.

Feb. 2 & 6, 1:30p.m. Living Legends from Around the World - Columbia

Living Legends from Around the World Africa - Black History Month Program

Feb. 18, 1:30p.m. Arboretum

Feb. 22, 12:00 Noon - Beltsville

Feb. 8, 1:00p.m. Bonsai Refinement Workshop

Feb. 16, 1:00p.m. Film - "Room To Grow"

For additional info: (202) 472-9279



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