

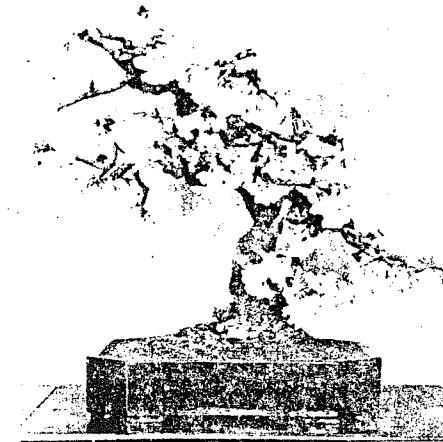
POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION
Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



SAKURA
JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRY

Translated by Jules Koetsch



The Japanese national flower is sakura (flowering Japanese cherry). Generation after generation has passed along to the children the story of sakura in the popular song sung in the elementary schools. A romantic person goes on an excursion to view plum blossoms, while, to make the point, everybody goes on an excursion to reverently view cherry blossoms. However there is a note of sadness because pollution, year by year, has severely decreased the number of sakura situated around many houses. Jointly the fondness for planting sakura has decreased. It can only be said that for bonsai, one might anticipate the same to happen.

The distribution of sakura in Japan is country-wide. The flowering period depends on the locality and the flowers are the symbol of Spring.

PECULIARITIES OF SAKURA BONSAI

The energy of sakura, in general, is robust and it will live in a pot. Even a bonsai beginner can prepare a successful sakura bonsai. Although it takes a comparatively short time to make a bonsai, a sakura bonsai will have a long lifespan. One can anticipate a trunk with a tinge of classical elegance as the tree ages and blossoms every year.

In truth, the blossoming is based on the cultivation which in turn is the pleasure of doing the sakura bonsai.

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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

Snips and Slips Editor: Mary Holmes (301) 721-1309

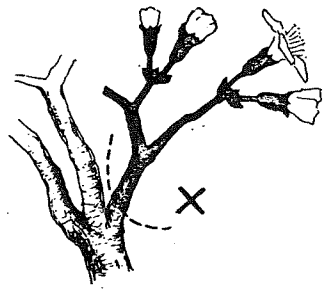
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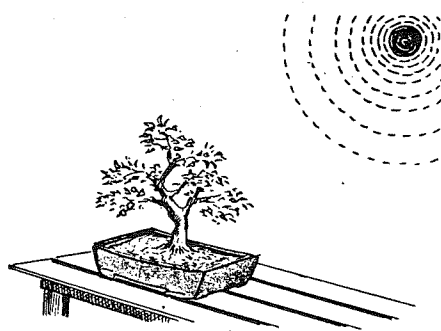
Subscription & Circulation: Molly Hersh & Josephine Finneyfrock (301) 589-3725

Send articles (in longhand, typewritten, in Japanese, cassette recording, etc.) to: J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 569-9378.

Main Hints for Cultivation



Frequently if branches are severely cut-back, the plant will die.



Place in full-sun all day.

However the flowering season is short, which can be regarded as a fault. Even if people appreciate the excellence of the blossoms, somehow they do not reason that the short spaced destiny of the blossoms is a negligible fault.

The second shortcoming is that a healthy, inexpensive variety of sakura frequently has energy that produces big leaves and excess growth. If the amount of new growth is poor, cutting back the sakura branches, especially by heavy pruning, will cause the tree to die.

The merit of selecting a species is that one can strike a happy medium to suite one's taste between smaller leaves and smaller blossoms or larger leaves and large blossoms.

Also sakura is fond of a full day's sunshine and putting it in a half-a-day shade in a yard then generates trouble.

SPECIES OF SAKURA

The general classification of sakura is divided into yamazakura found growing naturally in fields and mountains and satozakura which is not collected in the wild and is found on the embankments surrounding farm-houses and in gardens.

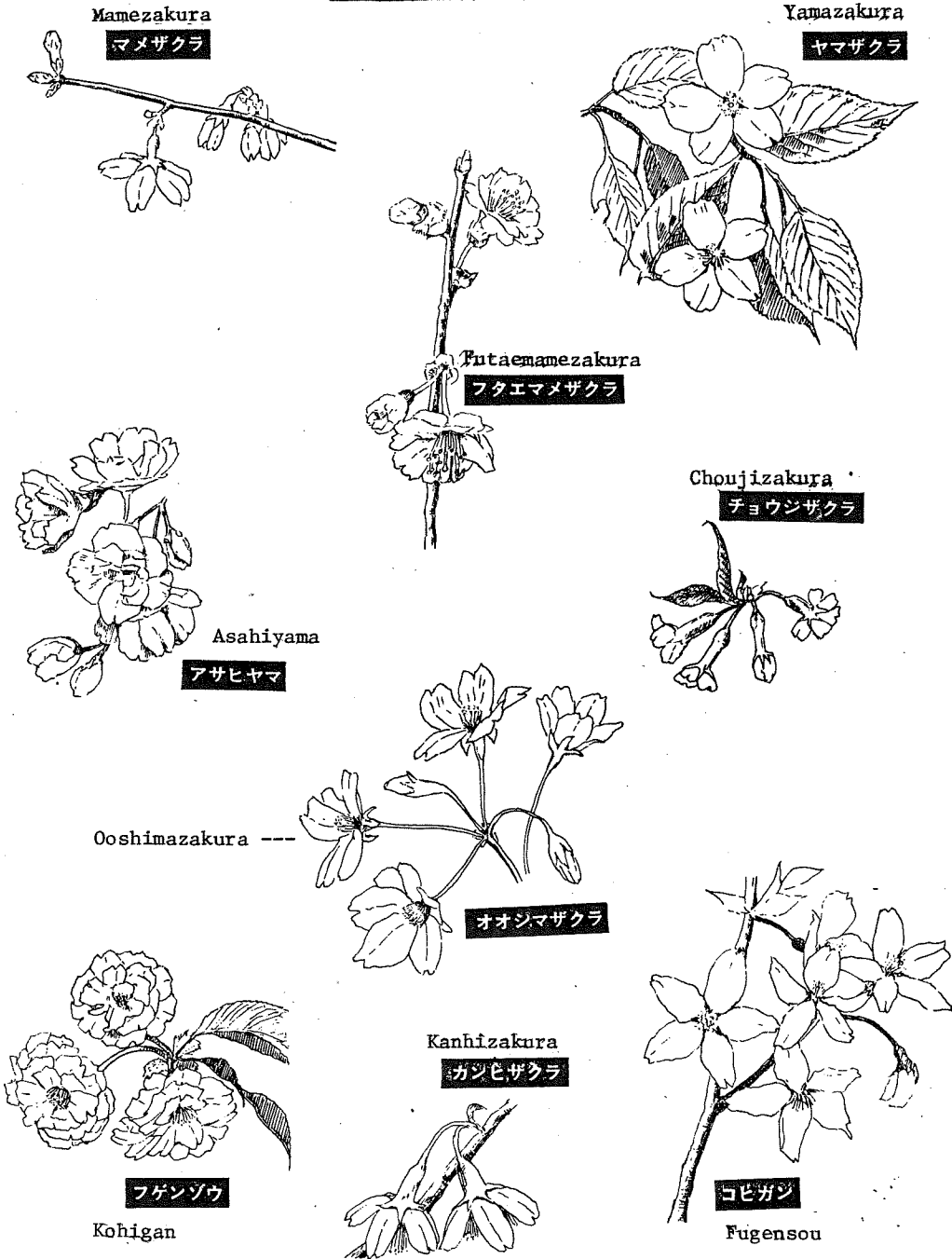
Of the satozakura category, yaezakura (double blossom sakura) is an artistic garden variety of which many can be seen.

Before leaving the subject, fujizakura is worth noting. It grows naturally in many places around the base of Mount Fuji and is distinguished by many short branches that droop and small sized flowers. It may be a species that one may be disposed to have.

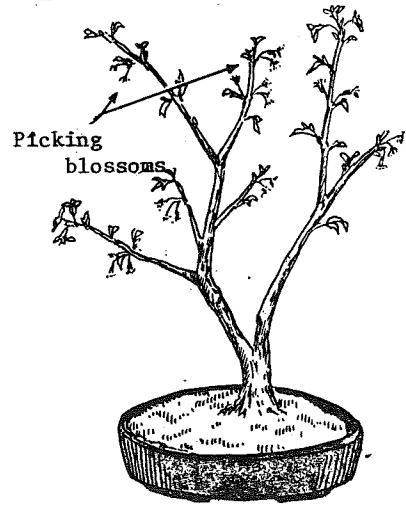
Commentary: The above article was provided as a supplement to last month's article on sakura. It was translated from the Original Edition,

"Styling and Pruning of Bonsai" a Stone Tower managed literary work from the You Ki Book Library. It is hoped that the variety of species of sakura illustrated herein is of interest.

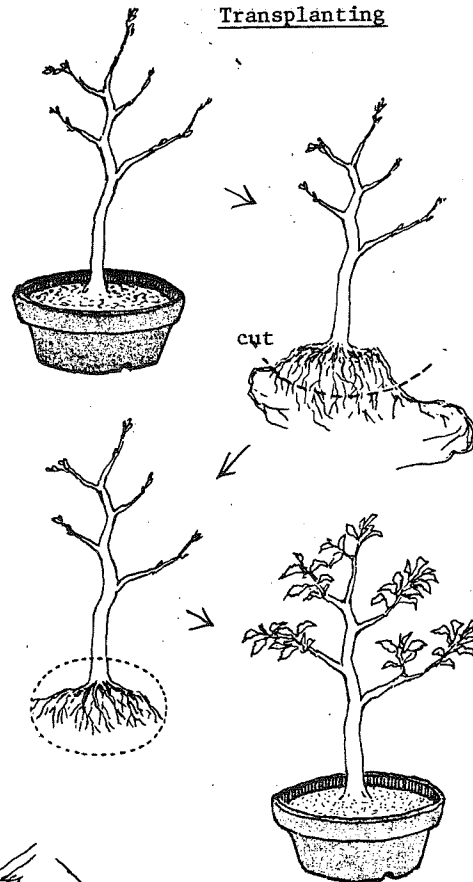
SAKURA VARIATIONS



ARRANGING SHAPE - CARE IN ESTABLISHING TREE



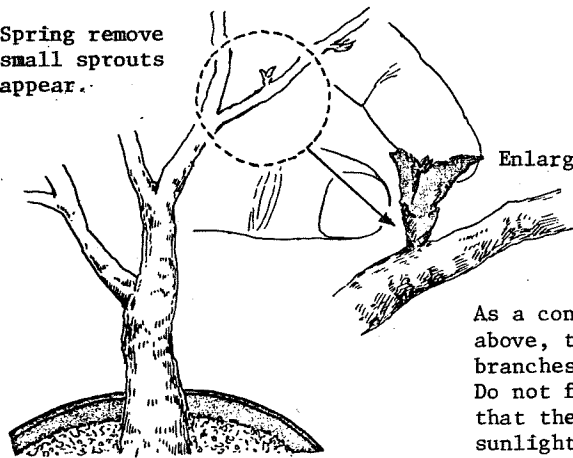
Tree With Almost Spent Blossoms



Transplanting

Clean Away Sprouts

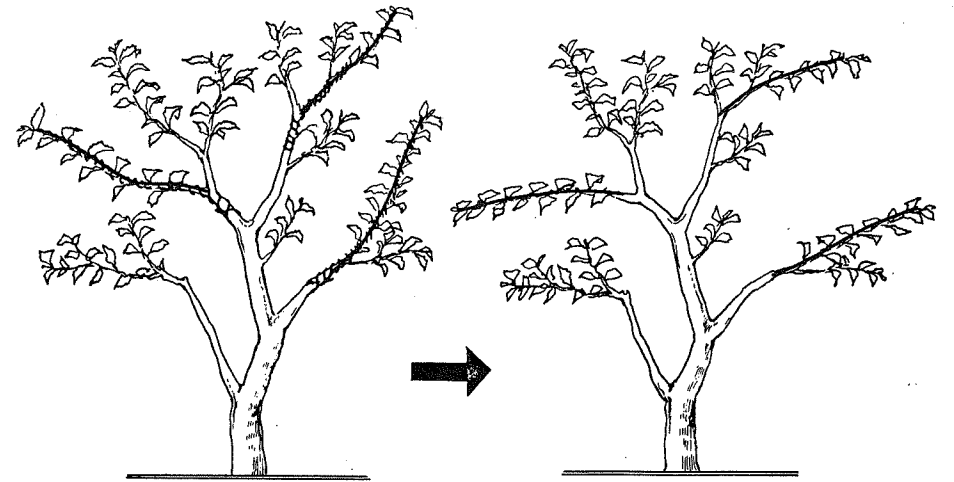
In the Spring remove (rub-off) small sprouts when they appear.



Enlarged view

As a consequence of the above, the growth of new branches is controlled. Do not fail to water so that the plant can endure sunlight for a full-day.

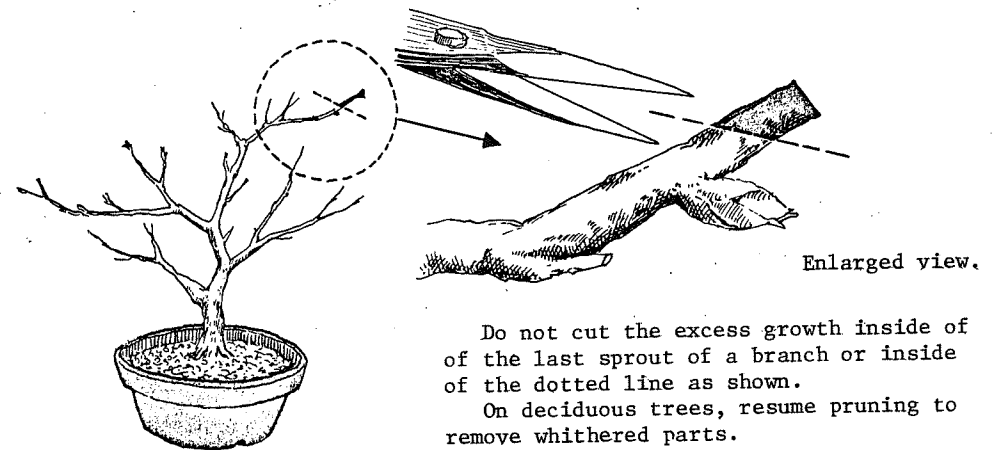
WIRING



During May 20th to 30th the branches will still be growing. Therefore between June 1st and 10th use paper wrapped copper wire (or bare aluminum wire) to pull down the branches.

In the beginning of October expedite the removal of the wire.

CUTTING BACK



Enlarged view.

Do not cut the excess growth inside of of the last sprout of a branch or inside of the dotted line as shown.

On deciduous trees, resume pruning to remove withered parts.

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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.

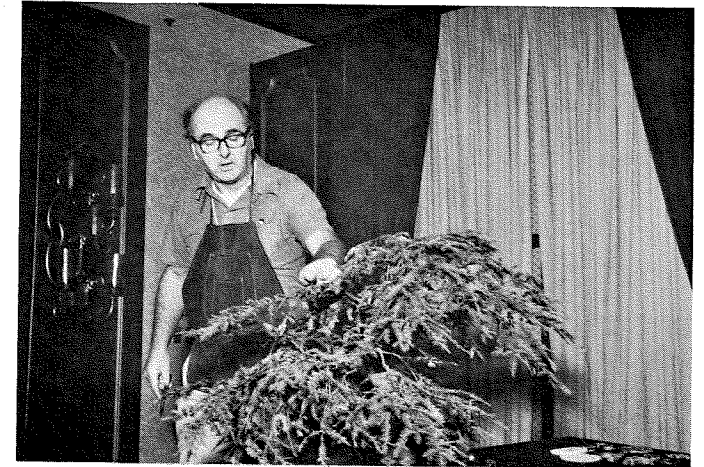
And the prize? One complete registration to the PBA Symposium October 15-16, 1983.

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.

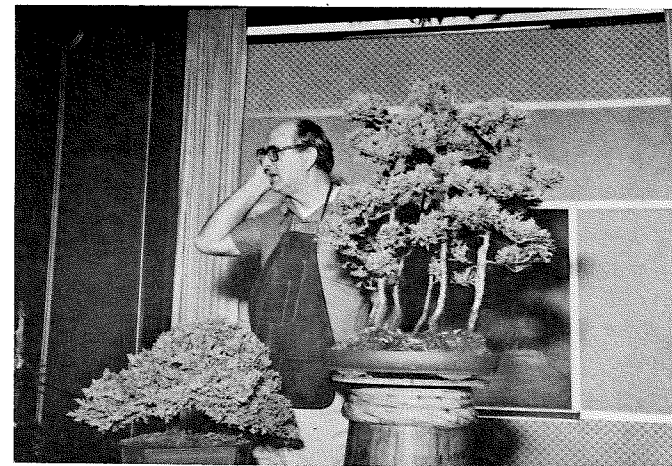
Remember: entries should be submitted in black and white on 8 1/2 x 11 sheets, and will be accepted until March 15. They should be sent to:

Mary Holmes
1676 Walleye Drive
Crofton, Maryland 21114

1982 PBA SYMPOSIUM REVISITED



Keith Scott stands beside a hemlock akin to those found near his home in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Tips on the care and grooming of the hemlock were interspersed with Keith Scott humor.



Keith Scott explained that he inherited this forest planting. He described what he saw as shortcomings in the design and what he intended to do about it.

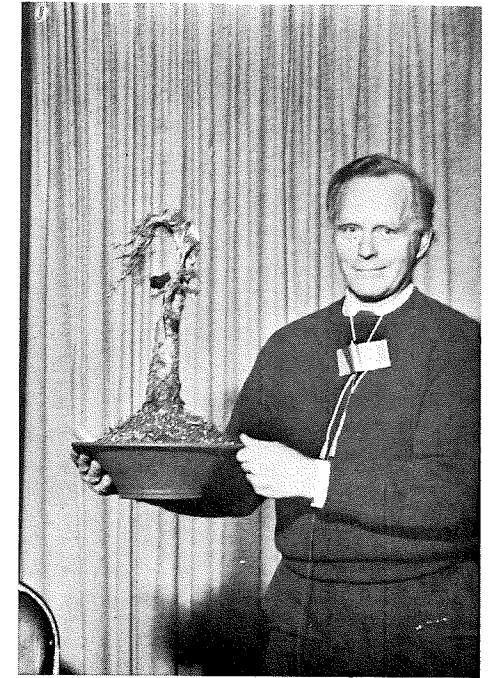
Photos by Howard Clark



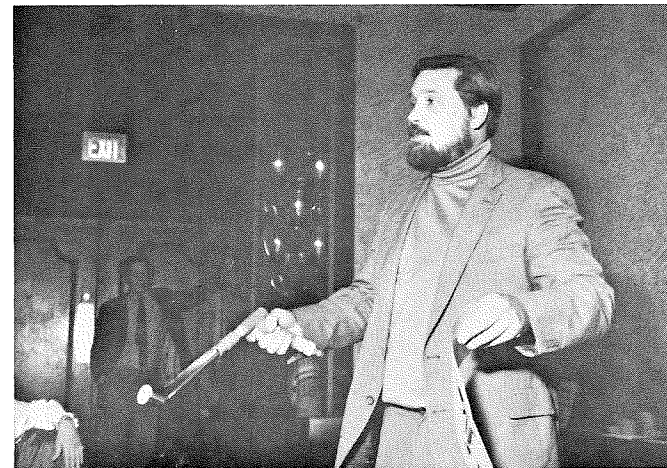
True to form, Dr. David Andrews did not disappoint the audience. He opened his lecture/demonstration by discussing bunjin and literati, their origins and their meaning in today's bonsai world.

The tree which David worked on was a larch which had been collected in the wild. On the left he is tilting the tree to place the trunk in the desired attitude.

On the right, David displays the finished product with the lone surviving branch wired down, and the tree has been planted in a suitable bonsai pot.



As David worked on the tree, as shown in the photo on the right, he repeatedly queried the audience as to what branches should be removed. Needless to say not everyone agreed with his decisions. But, as the tree evolved into the final shape, it was obvious that it was an excellent design.



At the banquet, Cliff Pottberg did a fine job as auctioneer. He is shown auctioning off what isn't a space/laser gun but one of Bill Merritt's excellent spray nozzles.

Photos by Howard Clark



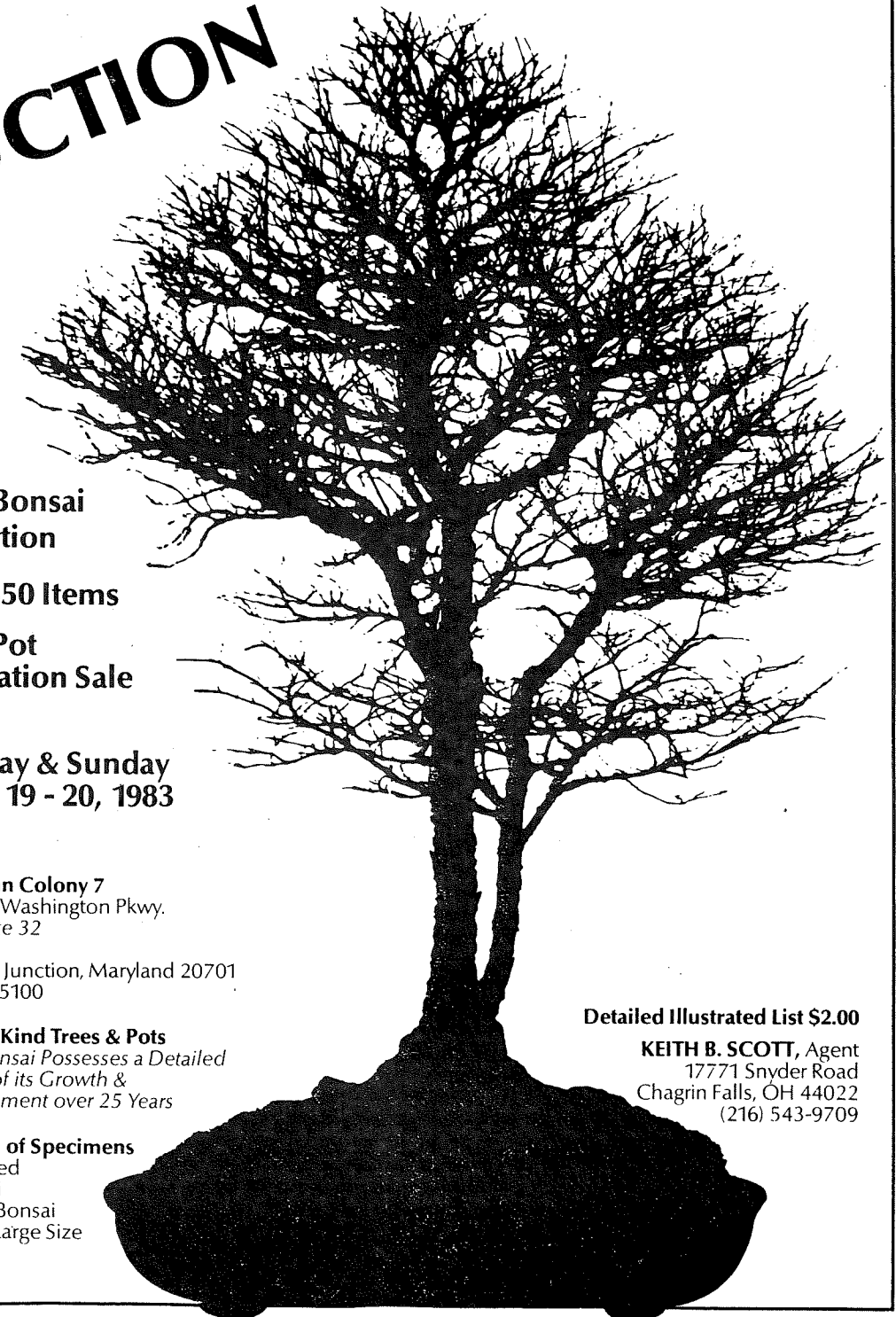
On the zany side, the Part II sequel of the Dwarf Tree Thief was presented. In this episode, Leonard (played) by Bill Merritt) has reluctantly agreed to give the dwarf tree thief (played by Jules Koetsch) a bonsai lesson. In the scene on the left, Leonard is giving the tree to be worked on as a presento.



Below left, Leonard reels in horror as the ex-thief on the right is about to cut a wire on the pinus virginiana using an oversize tool.



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INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP FOR NEW***PBA MEMBERS: Saturday, 7 May 1983, 1-5 p.m.
Auditorium, Administration Building
National Arboretum, 26th & R Sts. NE

Teacher: Bill Merritt, PBA President

We are continuing our program for new PBA members. A free one day workshop will be offered each Spring to welcome members who have joined our association for the first time.*** A modest tree and pot will be provided to initiate beginners to the 'mysteries' of creating their own bonsai.

The philosophy of the program is that a senior teacher, again this year it will be Bill Merritt, will present the artistic background and advise the participants on the styling of their trees. It is expected that a representative from each local club, such as the educational vice president, will be present to assist the lecturer. Students will not complete their creations at this session. Certainly there will not be any potting at this session. Rather, each club is expected to schedule their own follow-up workshop, which should assist new members in the final styling of the tree and introduce the participants to the skills of wiring and potting.

***This workshop will only be offered on a one time basis to new members. The program is specifically designed as an introduction to bonsai and is not ment to substitute for a full fledged beginners course. Each club treasurer will be asked to verify that participants are eligible. This information should be transmitted to the club representative who will be present at the workshop. Early estimates of the number of students would be appreciated. Call M. Mies (301-299-6194) by 1 May if possible.

ERRATAE in the February 1983 PBA Newsletter.

1. Photos in the centerfold section were taken by Howard Clark
2. Apologies to Dr. Vince Covello for incorrectly spelling his name

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10 March 7:30 p.m. at the Annapolis Library on West Street. There will be a potting wor-shop. Bring all items, - tree, pot, soil. Otherwise come and watch.

ANNAPOLIS (301) 263-3995

12 March 10:00 a.m. at the Gulf Branch Nature Center. This will be Saturday "Spring Number-1, - Workshop on Repotting". (Spring Number-2 will be the April meeting.) Bring trees, pots, plants, soil and tools to do your repotting. For those who ordered Japanese hornbeams from Felix, bring items to pot and wire the hornbeams after they have been styled.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 356-2697

12 March The PBA Bus Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, - the best in Saturday this hemisphere. It's not too late to sign-up. Because of the limited response to-date, the trip will be combined with one on which members of the British Embassy will be going. The cost of the trip will be slightly more to include a lunch. At any rate, the cost of the trip is very inexpensive, especially if you drove on your own. Note that the price of admission, \$ 5.00, is included in the price of the trip. Call Fred Mies (301) 299-6194 for further details.

13 March 2:00 p.m. at the home of Dr. Wm. R. Nickle (11201 Montgomery Rd., Sunday Beltsville). Dr. Nickle, past-President of the Brookside Garden Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, will show us how to propagate and grow satsuki azaleas for bonsai. Note:- the April collecting trip is yet to be arranged.

BOWIE BONSAI CLUB (301) 390-6687

19 March 2:00 p.m. at the Arboretum. This will be a styling workshop. Saturday Bring trees.

WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676

27 March 2:00 p.m. Program and loca-ion will be announced. Sunday KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230

27 March 1:00 p.m. Joint Brookside and Annapolis Collecting Trip Sunday As per last year's trip, the collecting will be in Ned's Woods, near Crofton, MD. The 70 acres supports an outstanding crop of hornbeam, beech, and mountain laurel. DIRECTIONS: follow Route 50 for about 10 miles north of the 495 Beltway towards Annapolis. Exit at Route 3 North in the direction of Baltimore. At about 3 miles, turn right onto Route 450 East. The Patuxent Shopping Center, Crofton, MD., is immediately on the right. Meet near the Mr. Foto booth, in front of the A & P. Questions?? Telephone --- ANNAPOLIS (301) 721-1309

BROOKSIDE (301) 299-6194

BALTIMORE - contact (301) 669-1487 for information as to their meetings.

March ATTENTION BROOKSIDE MEMBERS !!! We are participating in a collecting trip on March 27 (see event in this calendar) and there is no meeting at the Audubon this month. Also our April meeting has been rescheduled for the 2nd Thursday, April 14, to facilitate preparations for the Spring Show. Look for forthcoming club newsletter. which outlines all Club activities for March-April-May.

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