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POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION Z U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM 3501 NEW YORK AVE. NE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

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### NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION

THE TEASER

This is what's known in somebody's parlance as a tease, or come-on. (And we won't go into the Freudiana of that.) It is a partial answer to the question you all have been asking: WHAT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE AUCTION? For those of you who will count the number of names on the list of donors then count the number of items listed below, I'll save you the trouble - the numbers don't match. And as I'm sure you know I have a good reason for that, I will tell you that a good number of people who have pledged a donation have not decided for sure yet what material they will donate. Therefore the list is preliminary at best, but large enough to be of interest.

You, of course, have already been following the saga of the cedar in the last few Newsletter issues, so more mention is superfluous.

Corky-barked elm (trained, 12" high); zelkova (informal upright, 8 yrs. old); bald cypress (sprouted stump w/ "flame" shari, collected); Kingsville boxwood (stock plant, 8" high); Japanese maple (field grown, 15 yrs. old); red maple (collected, 4-5" trunk); Shimpaku juniper (styled by John Naka); Chinese elm (trained); azalea (partially trained); saikei w/ Kingsville boxwood; mame composition in shadow tokonome (complete with miniature scroll and companion plant): Florida buttonwood (collected): white spruce (12" high, collected); red spruce (collected, large).

Of the people I have talked to who have not decided yet what they will donate, my impression is that there will be as much variety in the rest of the donations as is reflected in this list above. Some trees will be "finished" trees, or nearly so, others will be raw bonsai stock, and everything in between. In other words, something for everyone.

In addition, a number of non-plant but bonsai-related material has been donated, including several very good Japanese bonsai pots (so you'll have something to put your newly-acquired bonsai in), framed bonsai photographs, a bonsai sketch, a signed copy of Kawamoto's first book on saikei (long out-of-print and much sought-after).

Remember, I'm writing this in mid-February, so by the time you are reading it this list will be hopelessly out-of-date. So at best it's a tease and you'll just have to come to the auction to find out what else there will be.

Mary

### THE SCHEDULE

After all the hype and all the publicity and all the excitement generated, it is time to let you know where and when to attend so that you can share in the fun and come spend your money.

The AUCTION will be held Saturday March 30 at the U.S. National Arboretum (new York Avenue, N.E. at Bladensburg Road) in the auditorium of the administration building. I am delighted to tell you that, among other fine auctioneers ready and willing to help you part with your money, will be KEITH SCOTT, auctioneer par excellence.

### Friday March 29 \*

4-8 p.m. Early registration of donated material. U.S. National Arboretum. Trees will be secure overnight.

### Saturday March

2 p.m.-?

8-10 a.m. Registration of donated material
9-10 a.m. Public viewing of AUCTION items
10 a.m.-l p.m. Welcome by Dr. Marc Cathey, Marion Gyllenswan; explanation of AUCTION rules and procedures; AUCTION!
1-2 p.m. Lunch

Raffles will be conducted periodically throughout the AUCTION.

AUCTION

### Food:

Giant Food has generously donated a gift certificate which the AUCTION committee will use to purchase donuts and coffee for attendees.

Because of the isolation of the Arboretum from any eating establishment, it has been arranged that lunch wagons visit the Arboretum at the time scheduled for that break. Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch and eat on Arboretum grounds.

Soft drinks will be available for purchase in the afternoon.

A reminder: alcoholac beverages are not permitted on Arboretum grounds.

\* We don't like to be mean or unfriendly, but we ask that ONLY those with items to donate and wish to do so on Friday come to the Arboretum then.

I'm sure everyone has been scanning the list of donors to the AUCTION these last few months, hoping to get a clue, not only to how well the donations are coming in, but maybe to get an idea of what type of material might be available that you can spend your money on. I will tell you that this list is (almost) complete only through mid-February, with still six weeks to go. I will also tell you that a couple of donors wish to remain anonymous and their names will not show up on any list - just to add a little mystery to this whole proceeding. If you don't see your name here, there is still time, for we have been asked to and will receive donations right up to the very last minute.

David Andrews (New York) Richard Baker (Pennsylvania) Vaughn & Donna Banting (Louisiana) Jack Billet (Pennsylvania) Chuck Bird (PBA) Peter Bloomer (Arizona) Mark & Marion Borchers (Florida) Norma Brand (PBA) Stanley Chen (PBA) Dan Chiplas (Washington, D.C.) Howard Clark (PBA) Harvey Everett (PBA) Dorie Froning (Pennsylvania) Dave Garvin (PBA) Karl Green (PBA) Joe Gutierrez (PBA) Marion Gyllenswan (New York) Molly Hersh (PBA) Mary Holmes (PBA) John Kipp (Maryland)

Ruth Lamanna (PBA) Janet Lanman (PBA) Felix Laughlin (PBA) Muriel Leeds (Connecticut) Mary Madison (Florida) Richard Meszler (PBA) Fred Mies (PBA) Christina Mitchell (PBA) Sharon Muth (Washington State) John Naka (California) Pan D. Oh (Maryland) Jim Oliver (PBA) Dan Robinson (Washington State) Chase Rosade (Pennsylvania) Jean Smith (Florida) Bill Spencer (PBA) Jerry Stowall (New Jersey) Godfrey Trammell (PBA) Melba Tucker (California) Bill Valavanis (New York) Irene Valavanis (New York) Dottie Warren (PBA)

Now that you have persused this, perhaps it's only fair to tell you that the AUCTION committee will not be telling you who donated what, for each item should stand on its own merit.

However, just to add a little more fun and so you won't get bored just outbidding everyone and writing checks, there will also be a RAFFLE. Of what, you say? Well, one item is a pair of dinner tickets for two at the SAKURA PALACE in Silver Spring. Come and find out what the rest are.

SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!!!!!

# NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION

is pleased to announce the auction of some of the best American bonsai

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Many bonsai have already been donated by some of the finest artists in America

Finished bonsai • stock material • bonsai-related items

10 to 5 Sat. March 30th late registration 9-10 viewing at 9:30

donations are tax deductible



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BUDGET MOTOR INN

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ECONOLODGE
600 New York Ave. N.E. 832-3200

HOLIDAY INN
2700 New York Ave. N.E. 832-3500

MASTER HOSTS INN
1917 Bladensburg Rd. N.E. 832-8600

Name				
Address	•			
Tree	Style of tree	-	Age	
Years in training		Source		
Estimated Value	•			
Do you plan to attend personally				1991 111 1111
Comments				
		Mary Holmes		

MARY HOLMES 1676 Walleye Drive, Crofton, MD 21114 (301) 721-1309

# BLACK PINE SPROUT CUTTING TECHNIQUE

This the third and final part of the three-part series on how to develop short-needle black pine bonsai. The month of March is a good time for you to start grooming a black pine bonsai by trying what has been mentioned in these writeups. Remeber that black pines thrive on full-sun, the more they get - the better they grow. If you have such an environment for growing your black pines, you are in luck. I've killed a few black pines trying to grow them in my back yard where the full Summer-sun shines for at the most four to five hours. I'm still trying but I hope you have better success in responding to the challenge of growing a black pine bonsai.

### WHY NEEDLES ARE REMOVED FROM SPROUTS BEFORE CUTTING THE SPROUTS

After the midori or candles have been removed and the first sprout cutting, that of the weak sprouts, there are two more sprout cuttings on finished bonsai. The intermediate sprout cutting is done on sprouts which are in-between the size of the weak and the more robust sprouts. The third sprout cutting is done on sprouts from which the needles have been removed. Carefully select from the number of sprouts those suitable for needle removal by picking the robust sprouts, since it is most likely that secondary sprouts will emerge from the place from which the sprouts have been removed. The black pine has the best phsyiology for insuring that secondary sprouts will emerge from the spots where the sprouts were cut.

Therewith, in one and the same time, having cut the weak (less developed) sprouts, the tree now has an acute decrease in the amount of needles. To exist, the tree's physiology is such that due to the loss of needles, the tree hastens to put forth secondary sprouts at the places where the cuts were made for the weak sprouts. (Note: Also if the robust sprouts had been cut and not left in place for 10 days, secondary sprouts would have popped out at the cuts and drained energy from the weaker sprout cuts.)

Yet, by pulling out the needles from the robust sprouts, there is a trivial growth defect that will occur in the following year. The candle sprouts that emerge from those cuts, because they hasten to grow, drain the energy so that no more secondary sprouts will emerge until sprout cutting takes place in the second year.



This is a robust sprout from which needles are to be removed.



New needles have been removed

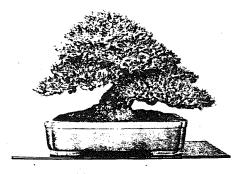
### FINISHED TREE - THREE SPROUT CUTTINGS



Results of the first sprout cutting (June 25th). Having cut the weak sprouts, all the needles are removed from the robust sprouts which remain.

Results of the second sprout cutting (June 20th) Average length sprouts have been cut.





Results of the third sprout cutting (July 5th). The robust long sprouts have been cut.

### SPROUTS!

The results of the sprout cuttings along with the benefit of proper fertilization, are that within one week secondary sprouts, the sizes of millet grains, will have emerged. During July 20th to 31st, these secondary sprouts grow so that the tree is top-heavy in appearance like a war-club. On a tree where the growth is the healthiest, one finds in the Spring, growth on the ends of the branches such that 2 sprouts and sometimes 4 or 5 sprouts can emerge. Even on a finished tree, 3 or 4 sprouts can emerge.

If the pruning of the sprouts is left until the Winter and the branch tip-ends become gun barrels, the crown of the tree and the tip-ends at the top prevail which are the basic causes for killing the tender internal sprouts.

Therefore, from July 20th to August 10th for each branch with an excess of more than 2 sprouts please pick-off all in excess of 2 sprouts.

Essentials of picking-off sprouts: for the crown of the tree, pick all the robust sprouts, - for the weak sprouts, let 2 sprouts remain. On the other hand, for the lower part of the tree, let the robust sprouts remain and definitely remove the weak sprouts.

Also for long branches at the branch ends, leave the weak sprouts and definitely remove the robust sprouts while close to the trunk do vice versa and please let the robust sprouts remain.

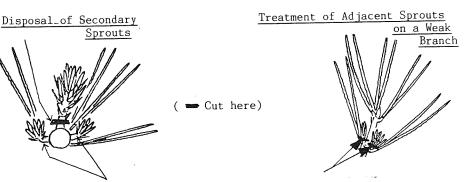
Remove the weak sprouts with tweezers. The robust sprouts cannot be removed by tweezers. Also forceful removal will cause a wound on the tip ends which, when healed-over, will produce a bump.

If there is difriculty in plucking the sprouts, use a scissor in order

to remove the sprouts.

Moreover, candle plucking, sprout cutting and not to forget sprout containment are 3 operations that can be suitably practised in the beginning while sprout cutting is the operation to be followed when the tree is finished. 

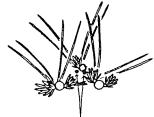
### ROBUST UPRIGHT SPROUTS



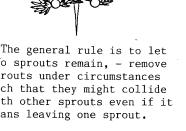
The two sprouts, - one right and one left remain.

Remove the sprouts in favor of providing energy to other sprouts.

### DISPOSAL IN A MIX OF SPROUTS

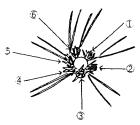


The general rule is to let two sprouts remain, - remove sprouts under circumstances such that they might collide with other sprouts even if it means leaving one sprout.





Spots where sprouts are not wanted.



For a single cluster of 6 sprouts, let the horizontal sprouts (2) and (5) remain and thin out by removing the rest.

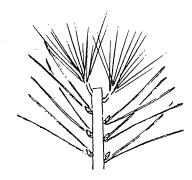
### RESULTS OF MANAGING THE SPROUT CUTTING

Initially, before any further explanation, it must be understood that the tree must be allowed to heal after the sprout cutting since that is a severe "surgical" operation. With great pains, the growth that was removed will be replaced by new sprouts after the surgical operation has left empty spots. Of course, increase the humidity if the tree is looking poorly since the absorption of fertilizer is a function of the dryness of the soil.

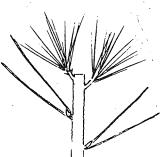
Before cutting sprouts, water the tree so that the sprouts glisten to some extent. If the absorption of the fertilizer by the roots is not satisfactory, please thoroughly spray the needles on all sides with a leaf-absorbing fertilizer making

2 to 3 applications 10 days apart. Depending on the dispersion of the fertilizer into the needles, a surprisingly quick recovery of the tree can be noted by observing an elogation in the secondary sprouts.

Note: For a poor looking, weakened tree which does not give the impression that it has the strength to continue to grow sprouts, - interrupt the sprout cutting for that year and let the tree rest. Please be diligent in applying fertilizer.



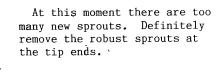
Close to the ideal situation for the emergence of secondary sprouts.



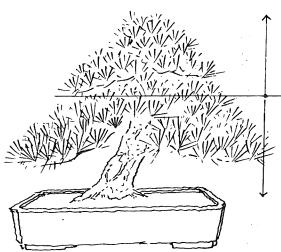
Alternate spacing should exist for the needle pairs and their buds.

Disposal of buds on a branch where medium sprouts have been cut-off.

### SUMMARY FOR A TREE WITH SPROUTS



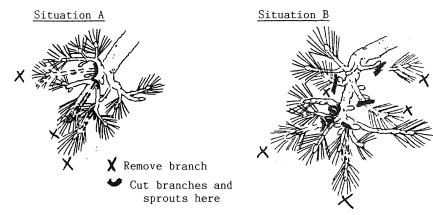
For the many new sprouts, remove the weak sprouts and definitely leave the robust sprouts.



### CONSOLIDATION OF BRANCHES

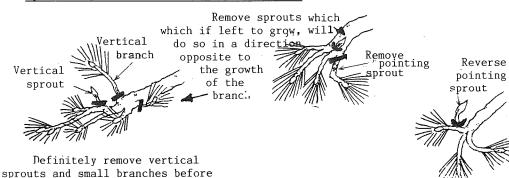
they become established.

(Note: The Japanese word seems to translate best into the English word "consolidation". It implies a general cleaning-up of loose ends or fine-tuning the tree's appearance. The following is from Chokusou.)



At the tips of the branches, consolidate by removing one of two branches emanating from side by side locations or are parallel to the main branch.

### Sprouts and Small Branches That Must Be Cut

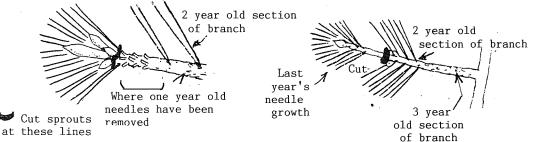


which point in the opposite direction from which the branch is growing since to properly compose the full shape of the tree, thosesprouts pointing in the direction that all the future side-branches are to grow should be the ones selected to remain at this time.

Especially cut sprouts

### THREE YEARS OF NEEDLE GROWTH - PORTION

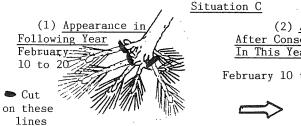
OF SPROUTS TO BE CUT September 1st to 10th



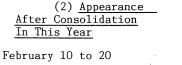
Consolidation here consists of causing sprouts to emerge from the two year old needle fasicles instead of at the tip of the branch by suppressing the energy from having gone to the tip-end sprouts.

This is the time to "chase" the growth back to the 3 year old segment of the branch by removing the latest growth.

### BRANCH-TIPS - CHANGES AFTER CONSOLIDATION



These figures show how one might decide to consolidate the branch tips.





Appearance after consolidation. will depend on the new distribution of the tree's energy after the disengagement of the one year growth. If not done and left without the sprout cutting, at the end of one year the branch tip will look like (6).



### (3) Sprout Cutting June 20th to July 10th

When the tree's energy is healthy, there is an increase increase in the number of needles and small branches. In this case some sprouts are removed and others are shortened.

(Continued on next page)

(4) <u>Appearance One-Month After</u> Sprouts Have Been Cut (5) Appearance In The Following
Year, February 10th to 20th



It is good to prune all the sprouts and not leave any portion unshortened. Then in one-month secondary sprouts can grow.

Between October 1st to 10th a number of branches will start to show small-needle growths.

(6) Appearance of (2) (see prior page) If Not Pruned

(7) Appearance After Consolidation of (6), February 10th to 20th

from now on are the same as in (1).

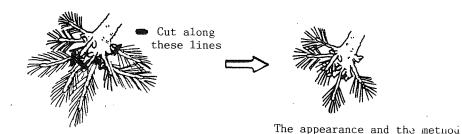
The tree shape and distribution of

energy in the tree are dependent

on doing the consolidation to

achieve the needle growth shown

in (5) and (6). Be diligent in



### ADDITIONAL ADVICE

Trunk Texture After a period of time one can observe, as the tree ages, that the bark naturally attains a rough texture.

Bonsai Neatness As the tree ages one can appreciate the results of having followed the proper steps in its cultivation. Do wipe the pot to keep it looking beautiful. Also be quick to pull-out any weeds and the like. It is very important to practise cleanliness.

# NURSERY (S) HOPPING

while collecting is probably the best way of obtaining good, mature bonsai material, my brand of nursery hopping can produce surprising results.

Large, well-stocked nurseries offer a good selection of stock for the "instant bonsai" of demonstrations, but is not usually this kind of material I am seeking. What I look for, then, is a smaller, less kempt looking nursery - the kind of place where back areas have been allowed to become overgrown and unattended, material has likely been there for years, and the nurseryman may not even know what's there in the way of plants. Most of these places will let you wander around and look to your heart's content, though they may think you slightly mad.

What one might find in these areas could range from "oddities" which didn't sell well some years ago and were dumped there to make room for better-selling plants, to stock which had been placed there for growing-on and subsequently forgotten until they had become too over-grown and leggy to be given space in the more public part of the nursery.

Like collecting, you may spend several hours looking at trees and not find anything really worth the effort. Like collecting, though, you may also run into a goldmine of material. For those who live several hours away from the nearest collecting area, it is a good compromise to the run-of-the-mill nursery stock.

The danger with purchasing this type of material is that it has usually been neglected for some time and may even be in poor condition. Stock which has been dumped there because it was insaleable will likely still be in pots, with roots growing out of the drainage holes and into the ground. The roots in the pots are apt to be worse than root-bound, they will probably also be coiled. If the trees were originally balled and burlapped the changes of a better root system are increased, though it may take some time to bring the roots down.

If you find a piece of material that you think is potentially good, approach the nurseryman. State your purpose and that you would be interested in taking the material off his hands if he'll give you a good price. A hint at your knowledge of the condition and saleability of the trees and an offer to do your own digging may lend weight to your argument if you need it, but don't push the point. If he won't budge on price and you've decided you simply must have that tree, insist on a full guarantee and let his employees do the digging. If you can't come to an agreement thank him and leave. Often, though, he is glad to get rid of this unwanted stock, particularily if it is not a popular item, and you may be urged to take more than you actually want once he knows your purpose. I had one nurseryman offer to let me go on a back lot and just take whatever I wanted. Unfortunately, there wasn't too much there that I did want.

Another good source of older nursery material is the nursery which is going out of business. They will be selling off all their stock, usually at auction, and this will include the "back lot" stuff you are looking for. Watch the garden pages and classified ad sections of the newspapers for notice of these sales. Often the kind and size of material you want is not what others attending the sale do and you may get it for a song.

Although I don't have the pleasure of a tramp in the woods with type of "collecting", I also don't have to carry a lot of equipment around on my back. Nor do I have a long walk back to the car with a heavy, awkward root ball. Material obtained this way is just as chancey as collected stock and needs at least as much care once I get it home. If I've found a nice piece of material, though, the reward of seeing it grow and develop makes up for the fun I missed in a day out in the country.

Mary Holmes, Washington, D.C.

# Bonsai Symposium MidAtlantic

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### GINKGO

### by Emil Krauth

As described by Charles Darwin the Ginkqo is an ancient "living fossile", the only living member of a group of plants forming a link between ferns once covering the Earth and higher plants and trees we know today. Because of its lacy and divided leathery leaves that resemble the fronds of the maidenhair fern it is called in English, Maidenhair tree. The correct Latin name is Ginkgo biloba. Ginkgo - "silver almond", biloba - "two lobed" is given its own family GINKGOACEAE. It has been said by tree expert Sir Albert Seward that Ginkgo is "an emblem of changelessness, a heritage from worlds of an age too remote for our human intelligence to grasp, a tree which has in its keeping the secrets of the immeasurable past".

The Ginkgo adapts itself almost anywhere it is planted and does well on any relatively fertile soil. It is extremely hardy resisting fungi and insects as well as dirt.

Unlike any other tree the Ginkqo's leaves are frond-like rather than leaf-like broadening out towards the tip with fanning veins. Each leaf is divided into two marked lobes by a shallow notch or cut. When leaves open in Spring they are a pale green and prominently veined. Soon they turn much darker green. In autumn all the leaves turn yellowish-gold before they fall. The faint touch of green where it joins the stalk while the rest is yellowish gold has been described as "an ethereal radiance" and "a reflection from the immeasurably distant past".

The Ginkgo will grow up to 100 ft. high. Each tree is either male or female with graybarked trunk and slender little twigs that in winter bear chestnut-red, knob-shaped buds. Female trees have sma ler seed-bearing flowers than male on short stalks and are pollinated by the wind. The fruits are orange-yellow seeds that burst when ripe. Its juicy flesh has a foul smell and are edible.

The Ginkgo is suitable for Bonsai. The large leaves can be reduced in size. Transplant young ginkgo every year, those between 10 and 30 years of age are root-pruned every second year in spring when the buds are ready to open. Use soil mixture of 2 parts topsoil, 5 parts subsoil and 3 parts sand. Normal watering is sufficient.

From spring until mid-summer fertilize twice a month. It is not easy to overfertilize this tree. Prune large branches during the dormant season and cover the wounds to prevent infections. The cut should be made by leaving two or three leaves on the shoot.

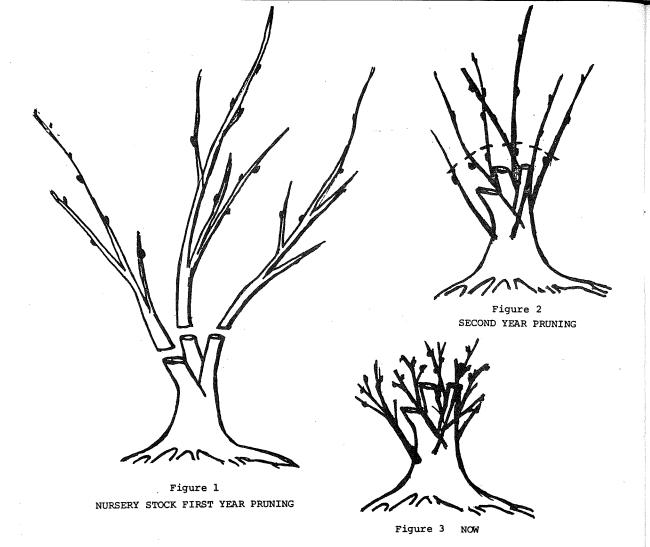
Wiring should be done during the rainy season when there is plenty of moisture or wet the bark as the wires are being applied.

Styles suitable for Ginkgo are - formal and informal upright as well as twin trunk and group planting, multiple trunk or raft.

Editor's Note: In reference to the illustrations, Emil obtained an 8 foot Ginkgo from a nursery. The illustrations indicate how he reduced it over a period of time to Bonsai proportions.

14

Lecture / Demos



Reprinted from the Journal of the Toronto Bonsai Society May 1981



# The American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Association of Michigan

cordially invites you to their Symposium at

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan June 27, 28 & 29, 1985

Lectures and Demonstrations by

David Fukumoto – Hawaii Jim Barrett – California

Jack Billet – Delaware Tony Mihalic – Ohio

Workshops by

Jim Barrett Jack Billet Cliff Pottberg Jack Wikle

**Doris Froning** 

There will be a Bazaar, Bonsai Exhibits, Ongaku-Matsuri, (Japanese Festival Music and Dance), Pig Roast Picnic, Welcoming Banquet and Entertainment, Saturday Nite Banquet, Auction, Raffle of Demonstration Bonsai, Tours and more.

For Further Information and Registration Forms call or write Lucille Doremos, Registrar, 5637 Charlesworth, Dearborn Hts., MI 48127 (313) 278-8261, or Sally Hruska, 7923 Commerce Rd., Union Lake, MI 48085, (313) 363-0822.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9 March NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 938-0683: Green Spring Horticultural Center. Saturday Beginner's Course - the last of three at 9:00 a.m. Starting at 10:00 the meeting will concentrate on collecting. Rules and tools will be covered. Also the guest speaker, Mary Holmes, will talk about going on a collecting trip. A film will be shown concerning collecting with Dan Robinson. Bill Merritt will talk about bonsai tools and how to sharpen them. There may be a possiblity that someone will be on hand to sharpen tools.

16 March WASHINGTON (202) 232-6126: COLLECTING TRIP - if you did not attend Saturday the February meeting, - for information about directions to the collecting site telephone 583-2676. BE THERE BY NOON!

17 March BALTIMORE (301) 557-9399: St. Patrick's Day Collecting Trip at 1:00 p.m. Site: to be announced. What better time to be collecting something green?

28 March BROOKSIDE (301) 871-5768: Argyle Community Center. BEGINNERS' Thursday CORNER to start at 7:00 p.m. The topic will be collecting. This will tie-in with the collecting trip on Sunday, March 31. See the article below this one. The regular meeting will begin at 7:30. This meeting will be devoted to a twofold purpose. First, plant selection will occur for the PBA Spring Show. Bring your bonsai. While selection and a mock-up of the booth takes place, a narrator will discuss the hows and whys of doing a show: - How to select, prepare and set-up.

NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION AUCTION SATURDAY 30 MARCH NATIONAL ARBORETUM

10 AM

31 March BROOKSIDE (301) 871-5768: Brookside collecting trip. As per last year's trip, the collecting will be in Ned's Woods, near Crofton, Maryland. 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 about 3 miles, turn right onto Route 450 East. The Patuxent Shopping Center, Crofton, MD. is immediately on the right. Meet in front of Mr. Foto booth which is in front of the A&P.

Questions?? Telephone (301) 871-5768

13 April NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 938-0683: Green Spring Horticultural Center Saturday at 10: a.m. Main topic will be "The Whys and Wherefores on How To Pot" by Dave Dambowic . This will be followed by workshops on styling and poting trees. Bring trees to work on. An attempt will be made to have a BAI representative bring bonsai materials, pots ands tools.

20 April WASHINGTON (202) 232-6126: National Arboretum at 2:00 p.m. Saturday

21 April BALTIMORE (3C1) 871-5768: Cylburn Nature Center. COLLECTED MATERIAL WORKSHOP. Bring in past year's material to work on. Tree of the Month is any collected tree. John Naka Vol. 1, - the chapter on wiring and bending branches pages 63 through 82.

NOTE! NOTE! PBA SPRING SHOW at the NATIONAL ARBORETUM 25 thru 28 April

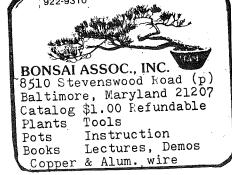


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