

POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



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*PBA ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 27 AT 5:30 P.M.
NATIONAL ARBORETUM*

Come early and see the bonsai on display (see page 4).

There will be a buffet with refreshments after the election and business meeting. THIS YOUR ONE BIG CHANCE TO SPEAK OUT AND CONTRIBUTE TO PBA'S WELFARE.

The slate of officers for 1985-1986 is:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| President | Molly HERSH | (Brookside) |
| First Vice President | Fred MIES | (Brookside) |
| Educational Vice President | Mike RAMINA | (Baltimore) |
| Secretary | Julie WALKER | (Washington) |
| Treasurer | ? | (open at this time) |

David Garvin headed up the nominating committee consisting of Jackie Dorset, Richard Meszler, Dorothy Miller, John Simpson, and Godfrey Trammell, - thanks are in order for a fine slate.

Note: Nominees for any of the above offices will be accepted from the floor if seconded by at least 3 PBA members.

J. Finneyfrock/M. Hersh
102 Devon Court
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

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

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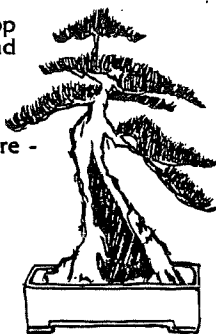
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TREE OF THE MONTH

EASY TREE CHINESE CORKY BARK ELM

One of my favorite trees to work with is the corky-bark elm (*Ulmus parviflora*). It's a neat little tree, grows like a weed, forgives mistakes, and has the twin attributes of rough bark and tiny leaves.

I bought mine from Brussels Martin at the Cornell Symposium in 1978. It had been field grown, cut back to a stump and resprouted, with some initial development and training. I restyled it from broom style to moyugi, then set about the process of fattening up the lower branches. I was told it couldn't be done, so you'll be glad to know it can. A few years of extra-long branches or a "slave branch", while keeping the top pruned hard, will fatten them up nicely. This year I decided to self-graft #1 branch to bring it down, cutting a notch under the branch at the trunk and pulling down so the two cambia met. It's the only time the tree has had a piece of wire on it since I've owned it, and the process didn't even slow it down. The season's only just over (last Fall) and I'll have to remove the wire soon or it will start cutting in. (I did leave the slave branch on to speed up the main branch's growth.) Next year the #2 branch will get the same treatment, and I now think I could have done both at the same time and saved myself some work.

As I mentioned, this tree grows like a weed - all season long. I have to do major pruning about three times a year, usually removing as much as two-thirds of the foliage. (This in addition to frequent pinching.) It produces buds prolifically and in just about any place you would want and several you don't. If you accidentally cut off the wrong branch you're pretty likely to have a bud back there within ten days, and within a few weeks it will be six inches long if left unpinched. With the prolific growth and constant pruning it's easy to get nice branch ramification in one season, even on a tree that has been neglected and gotten leggy. The only problem with this tree is that the branches tend to develop bulges if they're pruned too often in one place - much like a tree that's been pollarded frequently. The way around that is to let a new bud grow, then cut the old branch back to it, slightly redesigning the branch.

I've used the clip-and-grow method on this tree exclusively, which has saved me a lot of time and wire. If I want to change the shape of a branch I just wait (usually not long, especially after pruning) for a bud to develop that's going in the direction I want, let it grow a bit, then cut back to it.

The tree is repotted twice a year because of its rapid growth - once in March and again in July. If the tree is left to get pot-bound and remain that way throughout the Winter, it has a very high probability of dying which is a common cause of death for pot-bound trees trying to pass away the Winter.

The tree is wintered as you would any other outdoor bonsai under your care.

The tree is kept in full-sun except for about one-week in the shade after repotting.

Pruning is done in May, July and August to suppress the vigorous growth.

The tree has been potted-down to a smaller pot since the lower branches had been fattened to the desired thicknesses.

Though it's probably the smallest tree in my collection and one of the few that's not collected, it's one of my favorites. It's such a cheerful and enthusiastic little tree that I'd probably give some others up before I'd part with that one.

Mary Holmes

PBA ANNUAL BONSAI BASH
AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM
APRIL 26 - 28, 1985

The PBA Annual Bonsai Show will be held at the U.S. National Arboretum on Friday, April 26, through Sunday, April 28. We will use the same expanded format that was so successful last year, i.e., in addition to the ever popular display of our bonsai, we will have a bazaar, food and refreshments, and demonstrations. The exhibit and the bazaar area will be open to the public each of the three days from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Non-PBA visitors to the exhibit will be asked to make a donation of \$2. PBA members and children under 12 years old will be admitted free.

A Quality Show

All PBA clubs should begin preparing for the exhibit as soon as possible by rounding up trees, etc., and by scheduling their members to help with set-up and take-down and to cover the show. Club members wishing to exhibit their trees or offer their time during the show should contact their club president or educational vice president. Clubs often hold workshops this time of the year in order to groom the trees selected for exhibit.

Certain guidelines should be kept in mind. All trees should be in bonsai containers that are cleaned and polished, and should be placed on bonsai stands. Wire on branches should generally be kept to a minimum, and in any case shiny new wire should be avoided. Trees that are displayed should be mature enough so that the trunks need not be wired. If at all possible, there should be companion plants.

In selecting trees, clubs should emphasize quality over quantity and pick a few of their best trees. Each exhibit booth should reflect different styles and plant species to give variety to the display.

Volunteers Needed

Set-up for the exhibit will be on Wednesday, April 25, and Thursday, April 26, in the Auditorium. Substantial help will be needed from the PBA clubs to extract the display booths from the brick yard (beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday), make signs, assemble the display booths, iron the burlap and otherwise get the Auditorium ready for the show. Assembly should be completed by about 3:00 p.m. on Thursday. Exhibitors should bring their trees, stands and accent plants to the Auditorium between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Thursday and between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Friday.

We will also need volunteers to take up donations and monitor the exhibit area. Ideally, there should be a morning group from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and an afternoon group from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you are able to help, please call Felix Laughlin at (202) 862-1040 during the day.

Bonsai Display Plans

As was the case last year, the plan for this year's show is for Kyomizu, Baltimore, Washington and Brookside to use two booths each; for Annapolis and Bowie to use one booth each; and for NOVA to use the pedestals.

Bazaar

The bazaar is being coordinated by Fred Mies. Interested vendors should contact Fred at (202) 921-2733 (office) or (301) 299-6194 (home).

Food and Refreshments

There will be food and refreshments for visitors. This aspect of the annual show is being coordinated by Norma Merritt. Volunteers wishing to help Norma should call her in the evening at (703) 536-4052.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations are planned for the morning (11 a.m.) and afternoon (2:30 p.m.) of each day during the show. This has proved to be an excellent educational part of the show, since visitors will be able to see how it is possible to transform nursery stock into a finished bonsai. Janet Lanman will be coordinating the demonstrations.

PBA Annual Meeting

On Saturday night, April 27, the PBA Annual Meeting will be held, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The agenda will include the election of officers for the coming year and the discussion of activities and events that occurred during this past year and those planned for the future. Everyone should plan to attend. Food and refreshments will be served.

Take-Down

Take-down will occur on Sunday night beginning at 5:00 p.m. Help from each club will be needed. Trees, etc., should be removed promptly at 5:00 p.m. The display booths will have to be returned to the brick yard early on Monday (at 8:30), and it is very important that we have volunteers

to help with this process. If you are able to help, please call Felix Laughlin at (202) 862-1040 during the day.

Publicity

Bill Spencer is in charge of publicity for the show, and if you have suggestions please call him at (301) 871-5768 during the evening. Promotional flyers are available for distribution; call Bill.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO COME AND SEE A VERY EXCITING BONSAI BASH ON APRIL 26-28!

You are cordially invited

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INDOOR BONSAI



AT THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

JUNIPER PROCUMBENS NANA
Photo — P. Tackill

By David Dambowic

Foreword:- Indoor bonsai is a subject that has not received the in-depth treatment that outdoor bonsai has had thanks to oriental practitioners of the art. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has been a forerunner in providing information on indoor bonsai, - see their booklet "BONSAI FOR INDOORS". Dave Dambowic kindly offered this article from the BCI Journal 1976 for reprinting. In order not to alter the article, references to the BBG 1976 exhibit were left in. Dave also provided an article containing a lengthy list of plants suitable for indoor bonsai. That will appear in the May PBA Newsletter.

Paul Lesniewicz, director of the Bonsai-Centrum, Heidleburg, West Germany, dean of the bonsai movement in West Germany, indicated on my visit with him in 1981, that he was intent on writing a book on indoor bonsai. It should be a real treasure if it is anything like the other books he has authored.



PSIDIUM CATTLEIANUM
Photo — D. Dambowic

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden recently held a precedent-setting Bicentennial exhibition. The bonus exhibit was in addition to the regular display and was intended to encourage greater use of indoor Bonsai. The exhibit ran from February 7 to February 26, 1976.

In a greenhouse which at other seasons houses orchid displays, the Garden had assembled and prepared an elaborate display of more than 60 varieties of Bonsai material, most of which are appropriate for indoor Bonsai. The Bonsai are the product of Frank Okamura's labors over the past 20 years in new or unusual material. The Garden described some as "in training," suggesting a relatively short training history. A group of Frank Okamura's "mame" Bonsai qualify as "indoor" material, on the strength of special care required through all seasons.

The exhibit design was structured on two sides of a framed wood spine running lengthwise through the greenhouse. The consecutive alternating forms were part way seen in many fine quality photographic Bonsai monographs. Natural light flooded the space through the slatted glass frame and filtered sunlight sprinkled patterns of leaf shadow on the neutral flat white backgrounds.

The "mame" section was perpendicular to the spine and faced the entry. A sliding clear plastic cover protected them but somehow made them more distant.

Note: The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225, offers an annual membership that provides you with their latest pamphlets on horticultural subjects plus a free small living plant. Write them if interested.



FRANK OKAMURA AND INDOOR BONSAI
Photo by G. Gil Kleine

The exhibit will most assuredly encourage greater activity in use of indoor varieties of tropical or semi-tropical plant material which of, necessity, becomes indoor Bonsai during winter season temperatures.

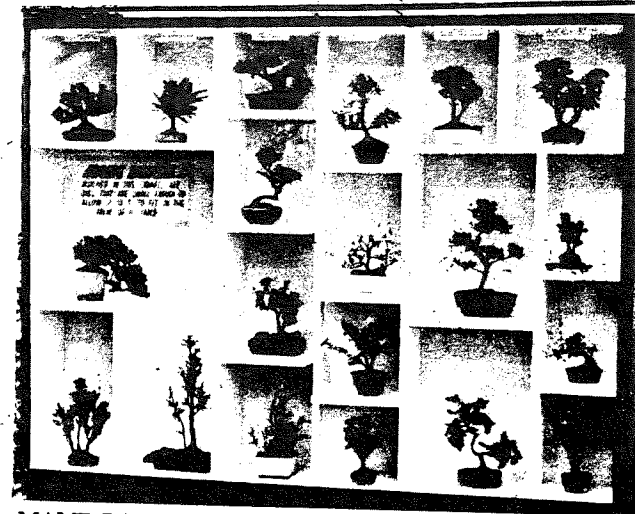
Represented in addition to tropical trees were coniferous varieties that are of borderline hardiness, and varieties that are winter hardy but are known to survive the indoor treatment of a cool room microclimate.

Indoor Bonsai was represented in three ranges: the first, tropical and semi-tropical plants that must have controlled temperature and humidity, similar to apartment temperatures with help regarding humidity control.

The second, coniferous varieties and trees of borderline hardiness that require protection from severe winters. Some of these have been adapted for indoor Bonsai. Varieties of juniper, chamaecyperis, cypress, cryptomeria, California redwood, boxwood, cotoneaster and ilex.

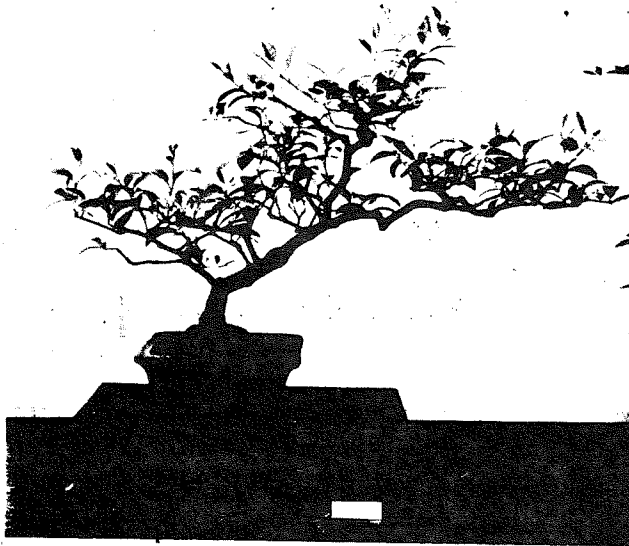
The third, trees that require protection from the severity of the elements and daily care of watering throughout the year because of the very small size. These are the "mame" Bonsai, usually less than six inches in height and set into very small containers that dry out quickly. This makes daily attention a must all year long. When spring arrives the latter two groups benefit greatly from being placed outdoors for those that have the availability.

The first group of course makes up the mainstay of indoor Bonsai. These are tropical and semi-tropical trees and shrubs that are often used as house plants in the temperate zone.



MAME BONSAI
Photo — P. Tackill

CITRUS TAITENSIS
Photo — D. Dambowic



The favorites that have appeared in many Bonsai exhibitions and in articles in the Bulletin were shown at Brooklyn. The group generally accepted as most adaptable to indoor apartment or greenhouse growth are represented in: *Carissa grandiflora*, the natal plum, *Citrus taitensis* — the otaheite orange which is similar to other dwarf orange varieties, *Ficus (deltoidea) diversifolia* — the mistletoe fig, *Hedera helix* — the English ivy, *Malpighia coccigera* — the West Indies holly malpighia, *Pittosporum tobira* — Japanese pittosporum, *Podocarpus macrophyllus maki* — the yew podocarpus, *Punica granatum nana* — the dwarf pomegranate, and *Serissa foetida* and *variegata* — the Japanese serissa.

In addition to the tried and true, there are some slightly more exotic and more difficult to maintain. Included in these are:

- Arundinaria* — Bamboo dwarf varieties
- Buxus microphylla kingsville* — Dwarf boxwood
- Camellia sasanqua* and *japonica* — Japanese camellia
- Cuphea hyssopifolia* — False heather
- Gardenia jasminoides radicans* — Gardenia
- Grevillea robusta* — Silk oak
- Hibiscus rosa sinensis* — Hibiscus
- Ilex vomitoria* — Yaupon holly
- Ligustrum japonicum* — Japanese privet
- Myrtus communis* — Myrtle
- Nandina domestica* — Heavenly bamboo
- Olea europaea* — Olive tree
- Rhododendrum indicum* — Satsuki azalea

The unusual varieties, which are rarely seen and may be difficult to find at the usual sources, do spark the imagination and open new roads for Bonsai to travel. The exhibits' contribution to this area is dramatic and welcome.

SEQUOIA SEMPERVIRENS
Photo — D. Dambowic



CHAMAECYPARIS
Photo — P. Tacktil

The list that follows is probably a beginning of the drive to the endless expanse of indoor bonsai material:

- Bougainvillea*
- Bucida buceras* — Black olive
- Callistemon phoeniceus* — Bottle brush
- Chaenomeles japonica* — Japanese quince
- Cinnamomum camphora* — Camphor tree
- Cleyera japonica* — India shrub
- Corokia cotoneaster*
- Cotoneaster microphyllus* — Small-leaf cotoneaster
- Distylum racemosum*
- Duranta repens* — Goden dewdrop
- Euphorbia longana* — India longan
- Fortunella hindsii* — Wild kumquat
- Homalocladium platycladum* — Ribbon bush
- Ixora javanica* — Jungle geranium
- Jacaranda mimosifolia* — Sharp-leaf jacaranda
- Lantana camera* — Lantana

- Laurus nobilis* — Bay laurel
- Leptospermum scoparium* — Myrtle shrub
- Lonicera nitida* — Box honeysuckle
- Melaleuca leucadendron* — Paperbark tree
- Murraya paniculata* — Orange jessamine
- Myrsine africana*
- Nicodemia diversifolia* — Indoor oak
- Nothofagus cunninghamii*
- Polyscias fruticosa* — Aralia
- Psidium cattleianum* — Strawberry guava
- Pyracantha* varieties
- Quercus suber* — Cork oak
- Rosmarinus officinalis* — Rosemary
- Severinia buxifolia* — Chinese box orange
- Syzygium paniculatum* — Bush cherry, Eugenia
- Trachelospermum jasminoides* — Star jasmine
- Ulmus parviflora* — Chinese elm
- Westringia rosemariniformis* — Victorian rosemary



WU YEE-SUN COLLECTION AND MONTREAL, CANADA

Probably almost everyone who has delved into the art of bonsai has been introduced to the beautiful book "MAN LUNG ARTISTIC POT PLANTS" by WU Yee-sun. This book covers the Chinese method of producing bonsai which is distinct from that employed by the Japanese which is best described in the words of the book as follows: "Towards the end of the Ching Dynasty/start of the Republic of China, i.e. about 1900, dwarfed tree trainers in Kwangtung Province introduced the "Grow and Clip" method, inspired by Chinese brush painting technique. The result was a new layout and structure of dwarfed trees which have an ancient, gnarled appearance as well as easy grace. This method came to be known as the "Lingnan School", and raised pot plant culture to the status of art. - - - - When ready, the plants should be taken out of the soil and potted, and the tree pruned to get rid of undesired branches.. In order to give the branches strength and an ancient appearance, the method known as "Grow and Clip" should be employed; when the first section of a branch is strong enough, it should be clipped so that side-branches will grow and this process is repeated until a beautiful bonsai with ancient appearance results. It is important to bear in mind that unless extremely necessary, avoid using iron wires to bend the tree and branches to the required shape." (Note that the distinct difference is the attempt of the Chinese to avoid wiring as much as possible whereas the Japanese do not feel wiring is a technique that should be shunned.)

In 1981 on one of John Naka's bonsai tours, my wife and I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. WU's magnificent collection in Hong Kong. At that time it was mentioned that Mr. WU was ill and because of his age, was considering finding a home for his valuable collection of bonsai, and that the recipient would be willing to take the entire collection and construct a permanent home for the collection. In view of the projected addition of a Chinese Bonsai Pavilion to the National Collection at the National Arboretum, I was under the impression that something was underway or contemplated at that time to try and bring some or all of Mr. WU's collection to be part of The National Bonsai Collection. It came as quite a surprise to most of the local bonsaiists that Mr. WU had permanently donated 30 of his trees to the Montreal Botanical Garden. I for one am glad to learn that those beautiful bonsai will be so much nearer and have all the more reason to visit Montreal in the future.

The American Bonsai Journal "ABS Winter 1984, Volume 18, Number 4" has a detailed article on the gift by Mr. WU titled "WU Yee-sun Treasures Comerto the Montreal Botanical Garden". The article notes that as a result of The Floralias Internationales held in Montreal in 1980 that the Montreal Botanical Garden has also bonsai from Japan and from the Shanghai Botanical Garden. All the more reason why a trip there should be most rewarding, especially when Mr. WU's trees go on display in late Spring or early Summer. Anyone wishing more information contact Pierre Bourque, Montreal Botanical Garden. (514)252-8861.

Jules Koetsch



The American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Association of Michigan

cordially invites you to their Symposium at

**Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan
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Lectures and Demonstrations by

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Jack Billet - Delaware Tony Mihalic - Ohio

Workshops by

Jim Barrett
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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

13 April NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703)938-0683: Green Spring Horticultural Center, 10a.m. Saturday **WORKSHOP!** Bring your trees to work-on, a full range of effort will be pursued from potting or repotting, to styling and wiring. Check the schedules published in the past Newsletters to ascertain what can be done to your species of tree. Small groups will be formed so that members can benefit from individual instruction from more advanced NOVA members. **REMEMBER:** Bring tools, pots wire, soil. Soil and wire will be available and some of the senior members will help you with their tools, - we hope. Bonsai for the PBA Spring Show (see page 4) should be brought to the meeting for sprucing up, - all styles, all species are needed !!!

14 April BOWIE (301) 496-5195 or 262-9633: Collecting trip in Laurel, MD Sunday in lieu of meeting. Call Jim Sullivan at either of the above telephone numbers for details.

20 April WASHINGTON (202)232-6126: National Arboretum at 2:00 p.m. Saturday Telephone Aaron Brown at the above number to check on the topic/s.

21 April BALTIMORE (301)557-9399: Cylburn Nature Center at 2:00 p.m. Sunday **COLLECTED MATERIAL WORKSHOP.** Bring past year's material to work on. **TREE of the MONTH** - Any collected. Naka chapter p. 63-82 - wiring and bending branches.

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PBA SPRING SHOW APRIL 26 - 28 SEE PAGE 7 "PBA ANNUAL BONSAI BASH
AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM BE THERE, BRING OTHERS !!!

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4 May BROOKSIDE (301)774-9028: Behnke's Nursery, Route 1, Laurel, MD. Those Saturday wishing to purchase nursery stock for the May 5th workshop with Dorothy Young (see below) should meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of the soda-machine in the parking area. Members of the club will be on hand to help in the selection of workshop material. To sign-up telephone Norma Brand, 774-9028.

5 May BROOKSIDE (301)774-9028: Argyle Community Center at 1:00 p.m. Sunday **DOROTHY YOUNG WORKSHOP.** No more than 15 can participate in the in the workshop -- selection is on a first-come-basis. Participant's fee is \$ 15.00, - observers (unlimited number) \$ 2.00 each. Participants supply their own trees, pots, wire, and tools. Soil will be available in limited quantities.

11 May NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703)938-0683: Greenspring Horticultural Center Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Guest speaker - name and topic to be announced in the next Newsletter.

12 May BOWIE (301) 496-5195 or 262-9633: Telephone either of those numbers Sunday to find out what the meeting will be at Bowie Community Center at 2:00 p.m.

18 May WASHINGTON (202)232-6126: National Arboretum at 2:00 p.m. Saturday Telephone Aaron Brown at the above number to find out about the meeting.

11 May Cylburn Market Day: Telephone (301)557-9399 for details.


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May 25 ANNUAL PBA AUCTION AT BEHNKE'S NURSERIES CO., BELTSVILLE MD.

This is the time and place to get most anything for bonsai.
More next month.

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26 May BALTIMORE (301)557-9399: Cylburn Nature Center at 2:00 p.m. Sunday Lecture on PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES. Speaker will be Jerry Blazak of the Baltimore City Horticulture Div. Tree of the Month will be azaleas. **Remember** - Bring problem trees. There will be a raffle.




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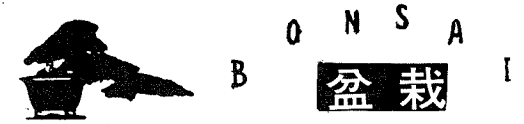
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