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POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
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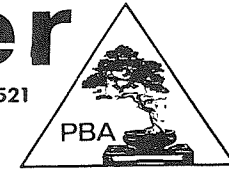
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POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION

VOL 16, NO 5, MAY 1986

Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DUES ARE DUE!!!

PAY YOUR LOCAL CLUB TREASURER

pba auction

As in years past, the annual PBA Spring Auction will be held at Behnke Nurseries on 31 May commencing at 10:00 a. m. Here's your chance to thin-cut your collection and/or pick-up that prize specimen you've always wanted. This is one of the few opportunities to find good bonsai material so close to home. You may even find some other bargains such as tools, wire, rocks and pots. Over-the-table sales of items that the seller does not wish to have auctioned will also be available.

Those wishing to auction or sell items should be at Behnke's Nurseries by 9:00 a. m. to have the items listed on the auction sheet. To aid the auctioneer please provide a brief description of the item: viz. common name, scientific name (if known), age (if known), where obtained and a minimum bid if you so desire.

Behnke's is located at 11300 Washington-Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Maryland.

The PBA commission is 15% of all sales which goes into the PBA

(Continued on the next page)

treasury.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help will be needed in taking down a few chairs and tables and assisting the auctioneers. If you are able to contribute a few hours for the auction please call Doug McCurdy at 727-6504 (work) or 703/931-7355 (home).

The following advertisement is typical of one you will find every week in the Washington Home section of the Washington Post Thursday edition. You should be able to find good bonsai starter stock if you are in the market for some material at Behnke's Nurseries.

Behnke's Summer Annuals

over one million colorful reasons for a carefree summer

Look for annuals with the colors you like best . . .

**PETUNIAS—MARGOLDS—ZINNIAS—
IMPATIENS—COLEUS—GERANIUMS
BEGONIAS—LANTANAS and more**

\$1.79 **85¢** **98¢**
Paks from Pots & up

BEDDING PLANTS or ANNUALS are so easy to grow—and so rewarding, they bloom now until frost.

VEGETABLE PLANTS—Over 40 varieties—65¢ each—10 for \$6.00

TOMATOES, PEPPERS, SQUASH, CUCUMBERS & more

CAUTION: In some areas there is still danger of FROST

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

Leyland Cypress One of the most beautiful privacy screens, ideal for a fast growing hedge, pleasant, dense green foliage, narrow, pyramidal in shape.

4 to 5 ft. Tall reg. \$34.95 NOW \$24.95

AZALEAS \$1.95 to \$24.95

We have the largest selection in the area—Over 120 varieties to choose from—in bud and bloom

NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT

Choose your colors while they are in bloom

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>ROSES</p> <p>Behnke's has over 200 varieties to choose from. All are potted #1 heavy plants, not packaged.</p> <p>Hybrid teas—Floribundas \$9.95 & up Climbers—Grandifloras</p> | <p>FLOWERING SHRUBS</p> <p>Abelia, Beauty Bush, Butterfly Bush, Heather, Deutzia, Mockorange, Viburnum, Snowball Bush, Spirea, Weigelia and more. \$8.95 & up</p> |
|---|---|

Exbury & Mollis AZALEAS

Hardier than regular azaleas. The most beautiful colors you have seen ever.

Orange—red—yellow—pink—

\$9.95 and \$24.95

EVERGREENS

BROADLEAF and NEEDLE

Over 20,000 to choose from. **\$6.95 & up**

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Hybrid RHODODENDRONS</p> <p>"The QUEEN of the garden" in bud and bloom over 60 varieties \$9.95 & up</p> | <p>CLEMATIS VINES</p> <p>Queen of the flowering vines—purple, blue, rose, white & more. 40 different varieties—potted. \$9.95 & up</p> |
|---|--|

PERENNIALS COME SEE WHAT WE HAVE!

Wildflowers & Native Ferns **\$2.95, \$3.95**

one of the largest selections of varieties and up

OPEN LARGO GARDEN CENTER

We've added AFRICAN VIOLETS, HOUSE & FOLIAGE PLANTS, POTTERY & BASKETS to our large selection here—for your convenience.

700 Watkins Park Drive, Largo, Md. Hours: 8-6:30 Phone 249-2492

FLORIST SHOP order early for MOTHER'S DAY

CUT FLOWERS—CORSAGES 937-4032

The Behnke's

NURSERIES CO.

SINCE 1930

"Known for Quality Plants"

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Flower & Vegetable Seeds</p> <p>Garden Supplies</p> <p>Houseplants</p> <p>Pottery—Baskets & more</p> <p style="text-align: center;">937-1100</p> | <p>11300 Baltimore Avenue (U.S. 1), Beltsville, Md.</p> <p>2 Miles North of exit 25-A Capital Beltway</p> <p>Open Daily and Sunday 8 A.M. to 7 P.M.</p> |
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PBA BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP

FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP FOR NEW PBA MEMBERS

PBA MEMBER CLUBS' EDUCATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS - PLEASE READ!!!

When Saturday , 7 June 1986
 at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where Auditorium, Administrative Building, National Arboretum,
 26th & R Streets NE, Washington, D.C.

We are continuing our program for new PBA members. A free, one day only workshop is again being offered to welcome new members who have joined PBA for the first time. *** A modest tree and the Sunset Book "BONSAI CULTURE and CARE of MINIATURE TREES" will be provided to initiate beginners to the "mysteries" of creating their own bonsai.

The philosophy of the program is that a senior teacher will present the artistic background and advise the participants on the styling of their trees. It is expected that --- a representative from each PBA member 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 be no 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 be offered on a one-time-only basis to new members. The program is specifically designed as an introduction to bonsai and is not meant to substitute for a full-fledged beginner's course. Each club treasurer will be asked to verify that participants are eligible. This information should be transmitted to the respective club representatives who will be present at the workshop. Early estimates of the number of students would be appreciated. Call the information to one of the following: Mike Ramina (301) 668-1868 or Jules Koetsch 569-9378. Note: Mike is a member of the Baltimore Club. Jules is a member of Northern Virginia.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>10 May</u> Saturday</p> <p><u>10 May</u> Saturday</p> <p><u>10 May</u> Saturday</p> | <p>BOWIE ask for Jim Sullivan at work 496-5195 or home 262-9633. Contact Jim Sullivan for details.</p> <p>NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 644-4822: Green Springs Horticultural Center. Telephone above number for details.</p> <p>BALTIMORE (301)669-1487; Set up for show at Cylburn Market Day. Chairpersons Elain Kendall 426-5421 Mary Seidel 764-3893</p> |
| <p><u>17 May</u> Saturday</p> | <p>WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676: National Arboretum at 2:00 p.m. STYLING AND POTTING WORKSHOSP. Bonsai soil will be available for a nominal fee.</p> |
| <p><u>22 May</u> Thursday</p> | <p>BROOKSIDE (301) 774-9028: Argyle Community Center. 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. BEGINNERS' CORNER. 7:30 p.m. STYLING and RESTYLING CLINIC. Bring a tree.</p> |

For information on the following clubs' activities, telephone:

ANNAPOLIS (301) 263-3995 KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230

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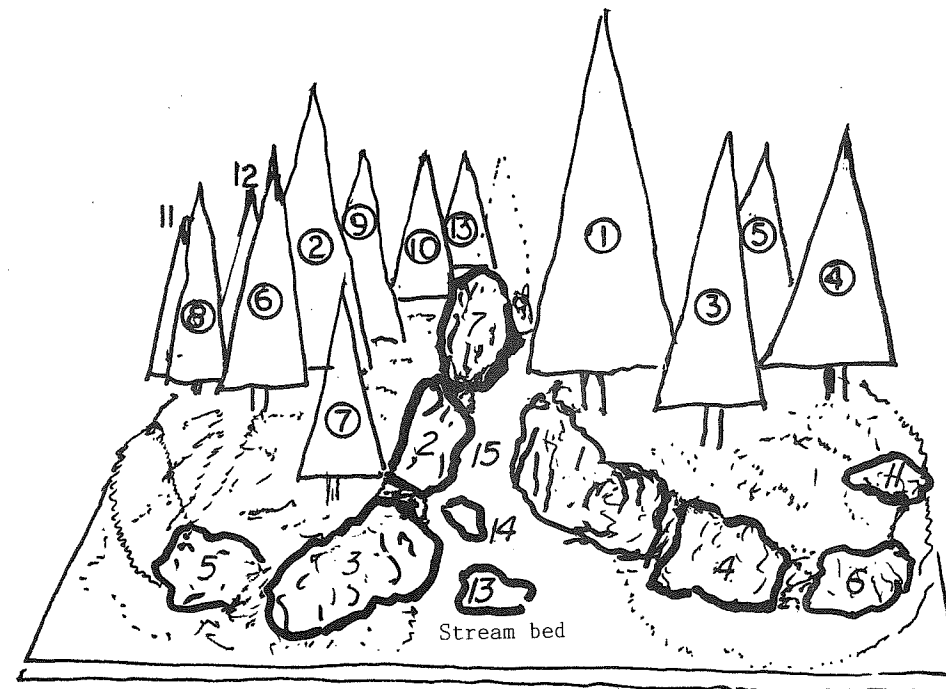
SAIKEI BY THE NUMBERS

Nine years ago on my first John Naka bonsai tour and on the last day before leaving for the U.S.A. while browsing through the bookstore at the hotel in Tokyo, I fell victim to buying Toshio Kawamoto's book "SAIKEI: LIVING LANDSCAPES IN MINIATURE". (This book was published by Kodansha International Ltd and is a highly recommended addition to your library if you can still find it in print,) Since then I've enjoyed just looking at the color plates in the books and easily visualized being somewhere in the world where I've seen similar landscapes. In the past the book's pictures have inspired me to attempt to make something in the same vein with the undeveloped nursery stock that one runs across. Like it is often said, you can use material that would not stand up alone as a single bonsai but you can offset its defects by combining it with other trees and let each balance out the defects of the others. As a result of this practise, my collection has a few 3 tree groupings, one 5 tree group and 3 forests of 13 or more trees. In my mind there is a thin line of distinction between what is considered a bonsai forest or grove and what changes it into a saikei forest,- it being simply the addition of rocks and ornaments such as human figurines, animals, or buildings to define the scene as the Chinese are wont to do thereby making it saikei. A bonsai forest leaves it to the imagination of the viewer as to where the rocks and streams should be.

On 21 March, 1986, the Brookside Bonsai Club hosted a lecture/demonstration by Dorothy Young who is known internationally in bonsai circles as an artist, teacher and author. She studied in Japan the art of saikei under the author of the book, Mr. Kawamoto. For those P.B.A.er's who did not attend, they missed an excellent presentation by Dorothy. Armed with the information presented by Dorothy, a follow-on look at Kawamoto's book, and a review of the list of material to make the saikei, "Mountain Rapids", on the jacket of the book when merged with the fact that the yatsubusa cryptomeria needed to make the saikei were listed in a recently received catalog from Brussels's Bonsai Nursery triggered me into action,- to try and make that saikei.

For those not acquainted with Mr. Kawamoto's book, besides having excellent sections on developing and propagating bonsai, the book describes 16 Masterpieces of Saikai. For each of these masterpieces there is a full-page color photograph of the finished saikai, a list of the materials that are needed, and a description of the method to be used. Also included are pen and ink drawings of the plan-view layouts of the saikeis, showing where each tree and rock are to be placed and front-view perspective drawings. In other words "Saikai by the numbers", - the accompanying plan-view and perspective drawings were copied from Kawamoto's book with one exception,- the saikai is on a slab.

The list of material included a requirement for an oval, unglazed, dark brown Tokoname ware tray, 30 x 25 inches. I have one large tray which upon measuring it was found to fall short of the specified dimensions by at least 6 inches in length and width. This was the first and most formidable problem that had to be solved. I knew how expensive it would be to purchase such a container not to mention the travail of having it shipped. The solution was found one afternoon when wandering through Sisler's Inc. stone-yard where I had gone for the express purpose of finding a suitable slab. I had almost given-up when the workman showing me around, led me to a large rack of 24 x 30



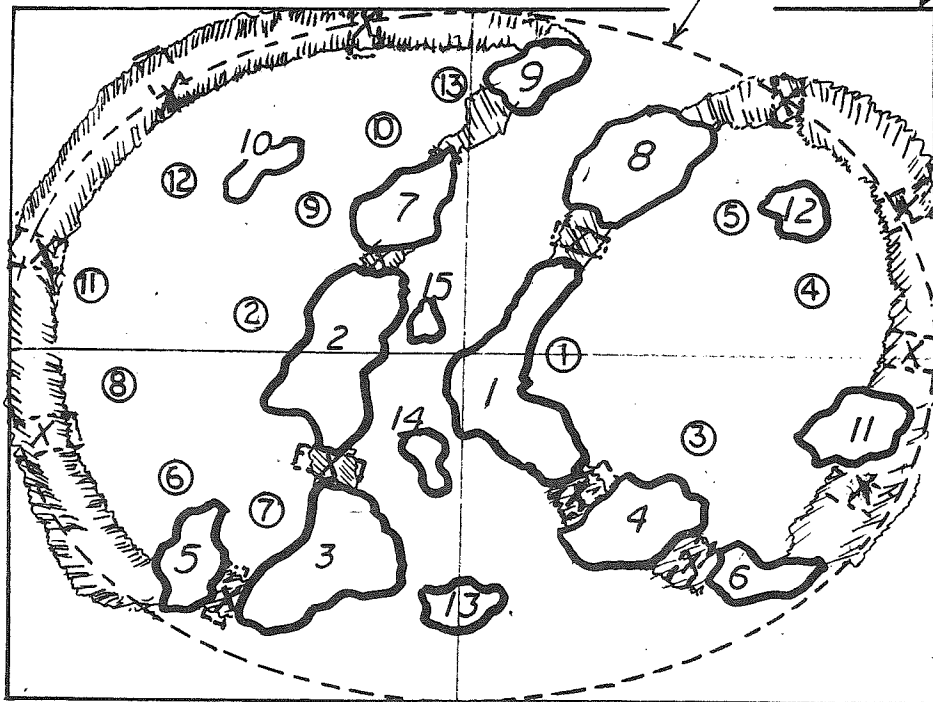
Perspective View Of Saikai Mountain Rapids From Kawamoto's Book.





inches rectangular slate slabs. Of the many there, ranging from 1/2 inch to 1-inch or more, one of the two 1/2 inch thick slabs was picked. The other slab had a crack. In fact the workman had his doubts about my selecting such a thin slab and advised me that it would not support much weight when stepped upon and would certainly crack. However, for the intended purposes, the slab is strong enough and one must consider that the resulting saikai will weigh enough without going to a thicker slab. The final saikai did weigh-in as a two-person saikai for lifting. Cost of the slab - under \$5.00.

Once the problem of the "container" was solved, the remaining list of the needed materials was easily obtained. A telephone call to Brussel Martin took care of the trees. I described what I wanted to do and he put together 14 yatsubusa cryptomeria with 13 being required and one as a spare. The order consisted of one large yatsubusa for the number 1 tree, two for the number 2 and number 3 trees, smaller ones for the numbers 4 through number 9 trees and the smallest ones for numbers 10 through 13. He agreed to ship the trees after Easter since my wife and I would be away during that time to the area around Dover, New Jersey. This locale had been the site of a number of iron ore mines during and shortly after the Revolutionary War. This afforded me the opportunity to search out 15 "river rocks" called out in the list of materials. To play it safe and have a good range of sizes to draw on, I brought back twice the required number. While out rock hunting I also gathered moss. Somehow or other I always misjudge the amount of moss that I collect and wind up short of what I need to cover the surface of the intended bonsai. Hence I always try to collect twice the amount that I think I will need. Also some birds are programmed to attack any moss they see in the hopes that some insects or worms are underneath it. Some spare moss comes in handy in that respect. Furthermore to protect the moss from the ravages of the birds, I remove the moss after a tree has been displayed and place it on a flat in a shady location for future reuse.

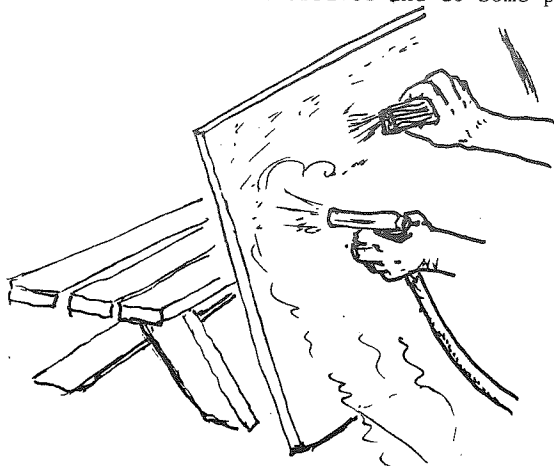
Outline of rectangular slate slab - 30 in. x 24 in. x 1/2 in.

Outline of Kawamoto's oval Tokoname ware tray

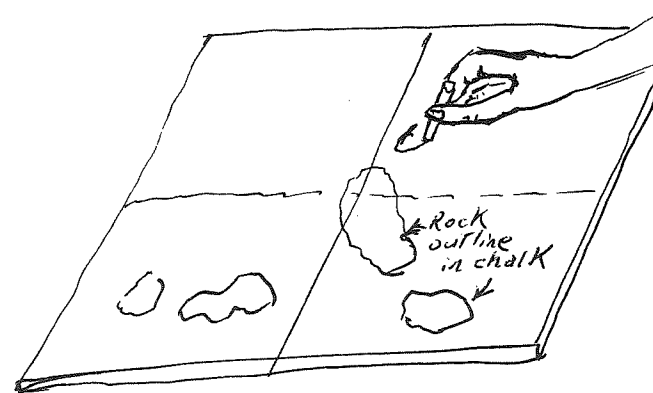
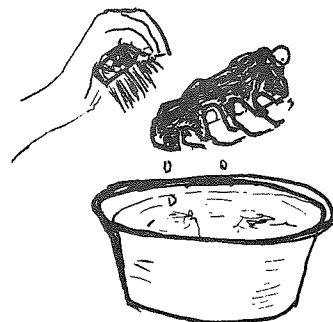


Key:  Number 2 rock,  Number 2 tree,  Muck wall,  Drains
Plan View from Kawamoto's Book for the Saikei "Mountain Rapids", page 36.

One thing that I did do properly was to get all the materials assembled before the trees arrived and do some preliminary chores.



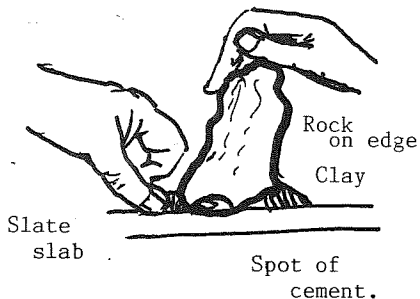
The slate slab and the rocks were scrubbed clean using a stiff brush and water.



With a piece of chalk first divide the slate in to quarters by drawing two lines. These will better help you to position the chalk outlines for where the rocks are to go.

* By scaling the size of the rocks in the photograph on page 37 of the book, it seemed that the largest rocks were about 3 inches high, i.e. rocks 1, 2, 3 and 4. Mr. Kawamoto in his book adds the cautionary note to the entire composition.

that rock 7 is placed vertically to give depth. In choosing the rocks, remember that they can be placed on edge to give the proper height and thereby keep the overall weight of the composition to a minimum. Use floral clay or plasticene and mold it in place as shown in the adjacent sketch. As an added precaution, the rocks were then pulled free and some cement was placed on the surface of each rock which touched the slate. Then the rock was set back in place and the clay once again pressed against the rock. The cement would hold the rocks more solidly in place and prevent any catastrophes when the trees and soil are worked into place. Rocks numbers 10 through 15 were chosen as those having at least almost one flat surface so that they could rest without having to be buried deep into the soil or stream-bed. Those rocks should not give the impression that they have been dropped on the surface but should have soil or sand mounded up around the sides to give the impression that they lie under the surface.



Muck can be made at this time to make the retaining wall around the edges of the two "islands" containing the trees. However, do not put the muck in place until you are ready to plant the trees, because it will lose its moisture by then and get unduly hard. I had some muck which I had previously mixed but decided that I could use some more. It was a good thing that I did, since like my judgement of how much moss is needed, when I used the muck, it was just enough to do the job. In making the muck, organic peat was sieved to get out foreign matter such as twigs and pebbles and the sieved peat was then mixed with just enough water so that it would retain its shape like clay when molded in your hand. According to Dorothy Young, she mixes six parts of organic peat to 4 parts of sphagnum moss and allows the muck after the proper amount of water has been added, to stand for a few weeks. Muck can be used after standing for a period of time provided it is not riddled with mould. The sphagnum moss probably keeps the muck from cracking which happens when the moss has not been added.

UPS delivered the 14 cryptomeria trees on Monday, April 14th, just short

* The tallest tree in the photograph is 14 inches tall, - the highest rock is about one-third the height of the tallest tree.

of 5 days but just one day before the income tax was due. Fortunately I had finished figuring out that bloody chore. So after dinner that night I spent 5 hours assembling the finished product. Every tree had its root ball wrapped in plastic and showed much brilliant green, new growth. The 14 trees were lined up with the tallest or number 1 tree first and then graduating downward in size to the 14th tree. Next each tree's trunk was wired to remove the kinks in them and make them more formal uprights. In doing this, some pruning was done to remove some of the dense growth of leaves close-in to the trunks so that the wire would better contact the trunks.

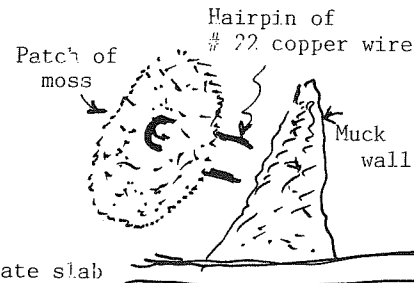
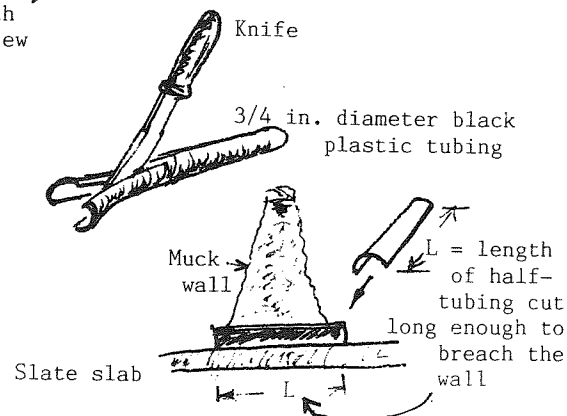
Needless to say, at this time you should have your premixed soil ready. I use 6 parts of sieved Turface and 4 parts of Gran-I-Grits, - the Grower size.

The muck wall was then put in place. Build up the wall so that it is like an earthen dam, - wider at the bottom. Then starting with the number 1 tree the four trees were placed in the one area. Prior to placing each tree a layer of soil was placed over the slate, - about a 1/2 inch thick. Each tree was bare-rooted and the roots were misted to keep them from drying out during the successive planting of each tree. A mound of soil was placed under each tree at the spot it was to be positioned and the rootballs were turned and pressed down until each tree was at its desired height. This was done to reduce the possibility of any airspaces being left under the center of each rootball. Each tree was held in place with the desired side facing front and soil was chopsticked in place. The operation was repeated for the other section with trees numbers 5 through 13.

The placement of the last tree is as important as the placement of the first tree. When I sighted into the completed arrangement, I saw that the last or 13th tree was almost directly behind and hidden by the 10th tree. Checking the picture in Mr. Kawamoto's book indicated that the 13th tree completely blocked out any blank space when looking directly into the arrangement. I moved my 13th tree from the number 10 tree to allow some open space between it and the number 1 tree when viewed from the front but yet not blocked from view by number 10. This gave me the feeling of more depth to the saikei. However, one can satisfy one's own preference.

Mr. Kawamoto advises that the trees on the right, numbers 1 through 4, create a foreground view, and the ones on the left be placed to give the impression of a middle to distant view.

Once the trees have been planted, the planting should be thoroughly watered. Don't forget to use Superthrive in the water. To insure drainage from the soil enclosed by the rocks and muck walls, I cut some black plastic tubing that is used in lawn sprinkling systems, in half and in lengths that will breach the walls of muck. X's on the plan-view drawing show where you might consider putting the rubber half-tube drains. Use a chopstick to start the holes, and then replace the chopstick with the half-tubes. One can use any tubing provided it is water resistant and will not be too obvious.



The moss is placed on the surface of the soil and on the muck in patches. In order to hold the moss patches on the sides of the muck, thin copper wire bent in the shape of a hairpin is used to hold each moss patch against the muck walls.

The Polaroid snapshot of the finished saikei shown below is admittedly a poor shot of the planting. After being shown at the PBA Spring Show, -

less than two weeks after it was created, didn't help the health of the trees and at this time they are still in limbo. According to Yuji Yoshimura and Giovanna M. Halford in their classic book "The Japanese Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes", Sugi or cryptomeria prefer half-shade, should be watered often, wired in late spring to summer and pruned not too late in autumn.

However, when working with new bonsai material such as this cryptomeria, I went to some other publications to give myself not only a more secure feeling in that I will be doing the proper things but also to see how much agreement existed between different bonsai growers. Three sources were used and one can see from the following that there is both agreement and variation in what to do when.

Mr. Kawamoto in his book gives the following advice for cryptomeria:

Prune during dormancy except during the coldest season to remove branches.

Bud Trimming - "Trim buds frequently from April through late June. Make sure you trim the buds while they are still soft. The buds grow in the form of a ball at first and then become slender before they open into needles. While the buds are in the slender form, you should nip off about two-thirds of their lengths with your fingernails. Do it carefully making sure that you do not pull away the entire bud. If the tree is weak, you should not trim the buds, but rather prune top branches and other strong branches so that there will be a balance of strength in the tree."

Wiring - do during March and April.

Repotting - "If your purpose is to stimulate growth by providing fresh soil from which the roots can absorb nutrients, the best time is March or April before new new buds appear. September is also good. "To change containers and, possibly, change the style of the planting, Anytime, unless the root soil is loosened. If the root soil is to be loosened, - anytime except the coldest and hottest seasons.



Polaroid Of Saikei On Display

Note: - the streambed had been left void of any soil. Mr. Kawamoto suggested sprinkling a thin layer of sand to simulate the stream bed. I used small, flat stones and highlighted the fast-moving water around rocks 13, 14 and 15 with Perlite as the simulated water in the dry streambed.

"To eliminate diseases that may develop in the container, avoid the hottest and coldest seasons."

Placement - In the Spring and Fall put in a sunny place outdoors.
 In Summer outdoors where afternoon sun does not shine.
 In Winter under eaves or in sunrooms.

Watering - Spring, Fall: Water once per day.
 Summer: Water once or twice a day.
 Winter: Water once every three days.

Fertilizer - Liquid fertilizers are best for rock-grown bonsai, probably because solid fertilizer resting on moss tends to burn the moss. Mix it slightly weaker than directed. Use enough to permeate the soil. In Spring and Fall use the fertilizer 2 to 3 times per month. In Summer do not use fertilizer during rainy periods, otherwise use comparatively large amounts in mid-summer. In Winter-best not to use fertilizer. It is advised not to use the liquid fertilizer when the soil is too dry or too wet. Best to use on a fine day after rain.

Insecticides - Spider mites, use malathion or kelthane, - leaves turn yellow and fall off.
 Rust - tops of leaves become spotted and turn yellowish, use copper compounds, Bordeaux mixture.

Of the two Japanese texts I like to consult, the one "Directions for the Preparations of Pine and Conifer Bonsai" delves into what to do to take care of a bonsai from the day it is first styled until it reaches an age after which the care and maintenance are repeated. This book gives the following instructions for cryptomeria or sugi in Japanese:

| Month/Days | First & Second Years | Third Year |
|---------------|---|---|
| January | | Apply insecticide |
| March 21 - 31 | Pot, place in 1/2 day shade. | Pot. Place outdoors and water adequately. |
| Apr. 21-30 | Place outdoors and water adequately | Fertilize |
| May 21 - 31 | | Fertilize |
| Jun 1 - 10 | | Pluck sprouts |
| 21 - 30 | | Fertilize |
| Jul 1 - 20 | | Apply insecticide |
| 21 - 31 | Apply insecticide | Fertilize |
| Aug 21 - 31 | | Fertilize |
| Sep 20 - 30 | Fertilize Pluck sprouts Prune Wire | Fertilize Pluck sprouts Wire trunk and branches |
| Oct 20 - 31 | Fertilize | Fertilize |
| Dec 1 - 10 | Winter protection | Winter protection |

However, the above book indicates that after the third year, i.e. the fourth year and subsequently that the schedule is the same. The second Japanese text mentioned above, "Illustrated Bonsai Care Calendar Divided by Regions with the Tasks Arranged by the Month" published by Shousen Moden, provides schedules for cryptomeria that are finished bonsai. There are five annual schedules, one each for one of climatic regions ranging from the cold northern part of Hokkaido, south through Honshu and ending in Kyushu.

The schedule for the region containing Tokyo was selected since it is the one used by Mr. Kawamoto for the tasks cited above and copied from his book as well as the fact that past Tokyo annual climates have averaged close to those for Washington, D.C. The following tabulation compares the schedules in the Illustrated Bonsai Care Calendar book with the first mentioned book above, Preparations of Pine and Conifer Bonsai, for the fourth and ensuing years:

| Month/Days | Directions for the Preparation of Pine & Conifer Bonsai | Illustrated Bonsai Care Calendar |
|------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Dec 1 - 10 | | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 31 | | |
| Jan 1 - 10 | Apply insecticide | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 31 | | |
| Feb 1 - 10 | | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 28/29 | | |
| Mar 1 - 10 | | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 31 | * Repot, prune branches, water place outdoors | |
| Apr 1 - 10 | * Fertilize | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 30 | | |
| May 1 - 10 | | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 31 | * Fertilize | |
| Jun 1 - 10 | * Remove sprouts | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 30 | * Fertilize | |
| Jul 1 - 10 | * Apply insecticide | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 31 | * Fertilize | |
| Aug 1 - 10 | | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 31 | * Fertilize | |
| Sep 1 - 10 | | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 20 - 30 | * Pluck sprouts to establish ends of branches. Fertilize | |
| Oct 1 - 10 | | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 31 | * Fertilize | |
| Nov 1 - 10 | | |
| 11 - 20 | | |
| 21 - 30 | | |

Note: * Denotes the time period of occurrence of the event.

The first book above recommends repotting every 2 years.

A review of all the above information reveals that some sources contain information not contained in other sources. In addition the scheduled tasks are not always in concordance between sources. Hence you have to be vigilant and use your own judgement as to what is best to do for the bonsai based on your

PBA ANNUAL MEETING

The PBA Annual Meeting for all the members for 1986-87 was held on 26 April 1986 at the National Arboretum. Molly Hersh, the outgoing PBA President, thanked the PBA members who had helped her carry out PBA's 1985 - 86 programs.

The proposed slate of officers for the 1986 - 87 period of tenure were unanimously elected. The list of PBA officers for 1986 - 87 are:

Richard Meszler ----- President
Frederick Mies ----- First Vice President
Mike Ramina ----- Educational Vice President
Douglas McCurdy ----- Treasurer
Julie Walker ----- Secretary

The outgoing Treasurer, Jack Wells, was not at the meeting but was away on another trip to China for the Department of Agriculture.

PBA is very grateful to Molly Hersh and Jack Wells for all the have done in working for PBA.

After the business part of the meeting, there was lasagne, tossed salad, garlic bread, ripe olives and brownies to go with the liquid "refreshments". Thanks goes to Jane Koetsch for catering the meeting.

(continued from the previous page)

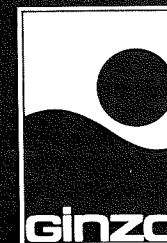
observations and pre-conditioning.

At any rate, cryptomeria are a good type of tree to use for sai-kei and group or forest plantings since they readily simulate in miniature the trees one finds in mountainous terrain. One last point is that "Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia" lists cryptomeria as being hardy as far north as Zone 5. (Washington, D.C., is on the edge of Zones 6 and 7. The interesting point about the "Illustrated Bonsai Care Calendar" is that cryptomeria is listed as being grown as bonsai as far north as Hokkaido which indicates to me that in those areas the bonsai are definitely wintered in some type of shelter. When Winter comes, I intend to place them in my poly-house. During the Summer just like Hinoki cypress, the cryptomeria will be placed so that they will not get the afternoon sun.

In conclusion - you can get as much satisfaction as I did putting together one of Mr. Kawamoto's masterpieces. Try and get a copy of the book and put one together. You do not have to spend a small fortune to buy a large Tokoname container when a slate slab from the local stone merchant will do.

Jules Koetsch

BONSAI AND IKEBANA SUPPLIES



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RESEARCH NEWS

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BOTANIST DISCOVERS "PHENOMENAL" TREES IN THE FAR EAST "Exploring From Fruit to Flower"

WASHINGTON, March 24-- Only a few days into a plant exploration trip in the Far East, a renowned American botanist has already found new flowering cherry trees at a higher geographical location and habitat in Taiwan than anticipated.

Roland M. Jefferson, of the USDA's U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., said that he has found Taiwan cherry trees at approximately 2,000 feet above sea level, growing on high cliffs which would require rock climbing for future studies.

"This is fascinating, because the higher the elevation, the colder the environment, making it most difficult for most trees to flower normally," Jefferson said. "These phenomenal trees could provide new nursery and breeding stock."

Flowering cherries are one of the oldest ornamental plants in the Far East. In this country, however, varieties are limited that will grow in States north and south of Washington, D.C. Most current varieties lack heat tolerance and cold hardiness, said Jefferson.

The Arboretum botanist will explore Taiwan, Korea and Japan for six months for trees with disease resistance, cold hardiness, water tolerance, heavy textured and intensely colored flowers, attractive Autumn color and compact growing habits.

Further research in Japan and Korea will occupy Jefferson's schedule as he will be investigating various cherry trees, from flower to fruit, for study and breeding purposes.

The first gift of the cherry trees was given to our Nation's Capital on August 30, 1909, symbolizing a token of "everlasting friendship," from the Japanese people to the United States.

ORGANIC FERTILIZER

The Organic Garden and Herb Shop, 7030 Carroll Ave. Takoma Park, (301) 270-4111, one city block from the District Line, has the best supply of organic plant foods in the Metro area. The proprietor, Mr. Norman Bernhardt is very knowledgeable and will take the time to share his knowledge with you. Norman sells his merchandise in large or small quantities. In fact The Organic Garden and Herb Shop has the most extensive listing of organic plant foods and soil amendments that I have seen. For example: Nitro 10 or Leathermeal I find when used for bonsai, to be better than blood meal. It is less troublesome to work with and is active for a longer period of time than the equivalent amount of bloodmeal. Sea weed - Kelp is another item that I have searched for and finally found at The Organic Garden and Herb Shop. Norman has Kelp in two forms, liquid and granular. I purchased both types and found them to be equally excellent. Both forms of Kelp are very high in Trace Elements plus a natural growth stimulant. After applying the liquid form, you will see its effect in two to three days. When I used the liquid Kelp, my plants responded by becoming dark green and the foliage became much sturdier. I can truly say that time spent at The Organic Garden and Herb Shop is time well invested.

(Editor's notes: A telephone call to The Organic Garden and Herb Shop provided the following information: The shop handles 12 kinds of natural fertilizer and natural pest controls. What is sold is all organic with no unnatural ingredients or chemical additives.

Also the shop is open by appointment only, so please telephone Norman who resides above his shop.

Pete Jones indicated that on his last visit to West Germany, he learned that they are going back to using natural and not chemical fertilizers. I also found this to be the case in Czechoslovakia when visiting Nitra last Summer. Mrs. Maria Svetlanski said that land which has been treated with chemical fertilizers is worn out in 5 years, no longer producing vigorous crops. Is it because chemical fertilizers lack Trace Elements or some other yet to be determined secret ingredients?)

Pete Jones

Pete Jones has a source for composted horse manure. If interested, please contact Pete at 521-0674 on weekdays after 7:30 p.m.

JIN BARK STRIPPER



Comment:

The Masakuni # 817 Jin Bark Stripper

The Masakuni Company, makers of the first tool especially for bonsai, is constantly on the forward edge of the rapidly changing bonsai tool market. This new set of tools, three in number, should revolutionize the arduous task of stripping bark as a prelude to making jin. Each of these tools is eight inches long with a vinyl covered handle, which is very comfortable. The tools are made of the black steel of most traditional Japanese bonsai tools. Each tool head is a different shape, one has a diamond shape with a rounded crown, next a circle, and finally a diamond with a pointed crown. The tools are packed in a soft green vinyl slipcase with a pocket for each tool.

In use the tool is placed at a 45 degree angle to the branch or trunk to be stripped and the tool is pulled toward the user. This pulling action causes the tool lip to bite through the bark and cambium into the heart wood in one stroke. Subsequent strokes will clean all traces of bark off of the trunk/branch. The tools are easy to clean and retain a good edge for a long time. A bonus is the fact that the tool has two cutting edges, just turn it over. Sharpening is a breeze because the edge is exposed on both sides of the tool head. The tool if kept sharp can be utilized for carving and reshaping.

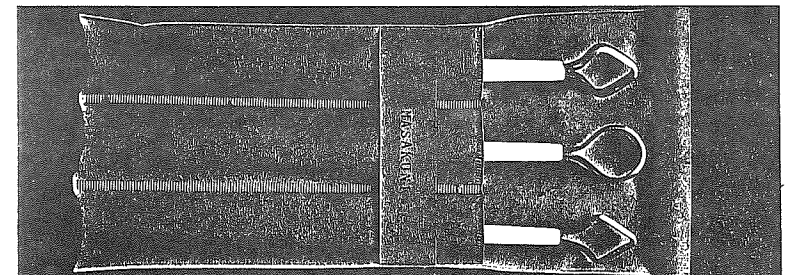
This tool set has become one of the most helpful tools in my kit. Generally I shy away from new tools because I feel the tool that I have been using can still do the job. This opinion also saves me some money. However after using this tool the first time I was convinced that the tool was worth its salt and does the job of stripping bark fast and easy.

Price: Around \$40.00

Arschel J. Morell

(Editor's note: See Bonsai Assoc., Inc. advertisement which is operated in part by Arschel if you want to buy one or want more information.)

No.817 JIN BARK STRIPPER length 200mm weight 45g



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**SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1986
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1986**

Join the staff of the U.S. National Arboretum
in the Administration Building at 1:30p.m. for
DEMONSTRATIONS/LECTURES on:

- **The Story of Plant Galls**
Dr. Hiram Larew
Research Entomologist,
Florist and Nursery Crops Laboratory,
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

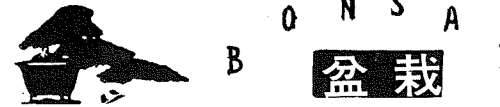
Host Families of Plant Galls:

- **Oaks**
Erik Neumann
Curator, Education Department
- **Willows**
Daniel Chiplis
Assistant Curator,
The National Bonsai Collection
- **Dogwoods**
Lisa Schum
Curator, Azalea Collection


A beverage will be provided by
the Friends of the National Arboretum
at 3p.m. A question and answer session
will complete the visit.

The Arboretum is easily accessible from the
beltway and downtown Washington. It is
bounded on the west by Bladensburg Road,
on the north by New York Avenue and on
the south by M Street, N.E. Follow signs
to enter from the gate at 3501 New York Avenue,
N.E. Follow signs to the Auditorium in the
Administration Building. Ample free parking

is available. To reach the Arboretum by
Public Transportation—from Central
Washington take metrorail or bus No. 42 to
Stadium Armory Station; then change to bus
B-2, B-4, or B-5 to intersection of
Bladensburg Road and R Street. Walk east
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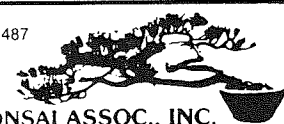
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A Gala Celebration
on July 8, 1986 at


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Washington, D. C.

of
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of
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Laughlin, Chairman 1986 A.B.F. Gala, 1411 32nd Street, N.W.,
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For More Information, Contact:

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Call toll free 800/521-4041, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time.
Be sure to mention the IBC '86 Convention account number: 576F