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

**PBA NEWSLETTER:** Published by the Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc. (PBA), a non-profit organization, in the interests of its affiliate member clubs and societies.

**CIRCULATION:** Over 300 internationally on a monthly basis.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** PBA membership includes 12 monthly Newsletters covered by part of the annual membership dues. Corresponding membership: \$ 6.50 for 12 monthly PBA Newsletters. Make checks payable to: Potomac Bonsai Association and mail to M. Hersh, lo2 Devon Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

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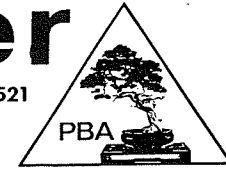
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POTOMAC  
**BONSAI**  
ASSOCIATION

VOL 16 NO 8 AUGUST 1986

# Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

I guess IBC '86 and the Dog Days of Summer have taken the wind out of almost everyone's sails for there is only one staunch group of bonsai enthusiasts who sent in this month's event but also those for the following 10 months. That club is the Washington Club.

20 September  
Saturday

WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676: National Arboretum at 2:00 p.m. INDOOR BONSAI. We will start with a JADE (*Crassula Arborescens*). Please purchase a Jade and bring it with you to the meeting. Other plant material that you may want to consider are Benjamin fig (*Ficus benjamina*), Natal plum (*Carissa macrocarpa*).

There will be no meeting of the Washington Club in August.

For other club information telephone numbers follow:

ANNAPOLIS - (301) 263-3995 ; BALTIMORE - (301) 669-1487;  
BOWIE - Ask for Jim Sullivan at work 496-5195 or home 262-9633; BROOKSIDE - (301) 774-9028; KIYOMIZU - (301) 423-8230; NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 644-4822.

## LOST BONSAI STANDS

Two bonsai stands were lost at this years PBA Annual Show in April.

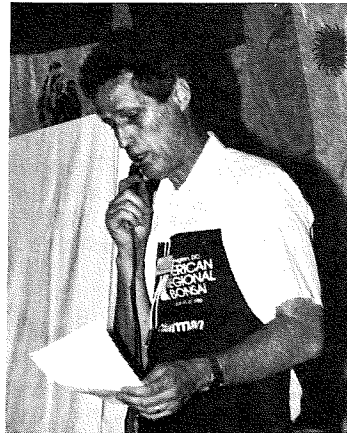
Both stands are black lacquered wood and are about 8 inches long. One stand has scroll shaped legs that curve inward and run the length of two sides. The other has four individual inward curving legs.

If you have any information about these two stands please call Godfrey Trammell at 634-7249 during the day or 301-645-3519 at night.

# IBC '86 IN RETROSPECT

Photos by Dr. Joseph Gutierrez MD

It seems appropriate with IBC '86 now only two weeks past to what still is fresh in the old memory bank. The man upon whose shoulders the bulk of the work to organize and carry out IBC '86 rested is Bob Sitnick who is pictured here in his role of reading the latest news updates/ bulletins to the conventioners.

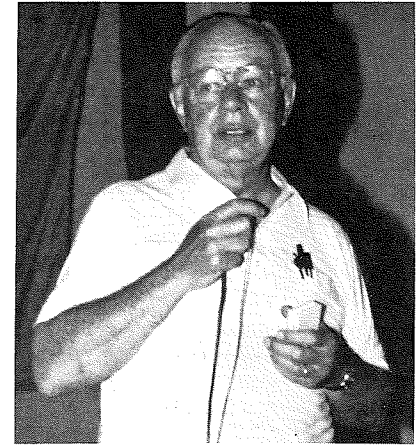


Bob Sitnick IBC '86  
Chairman

it had been smoothed using a die-grinder. The trunk was nailed up to a point where the growth on the live juniper would interfere with the deadwood snag. The live juniper would be left without any further nailing to the groove in the deadwood until it had further grown. The Japanese delegation headed by the Grand Bonsai Master Saburo Kato visited the workshop and it prompted some Japanese witticisms. One noted that the workshop qualified as a real noise maker if nothing else, with all the die-makers going. Another said that that type of bonsai is called Tanuki in Japan. The tanuki is the Japanese equivalent of our racoon whom according to legend could change himself into various persons and thereby assuage his longing for sake wine by duping others into helping him get the sake.

PONDEROSA PINE The lead-off lecture/demonstration was on Ponderosa pine and this was given by Harold Sasaki who lives in Ponderosa pine country, - in the Denver, Colorado area. He was assisted by Larry Jackel and Dick Meleny, - also from that part of the country. They also had one of the vendor booths where they sold a large number of collected Ponderosa pines that had been collected in Colorado. I think they didn't take any back with them, - they all were eagerly snatched up by those who wanted almost instant bonsai.

Right - Dick Meleny lectured on the care and feeding of Ponderosa so that Harold and Larry could work on the tree without being too distracted by having to keep-up a dialogue.

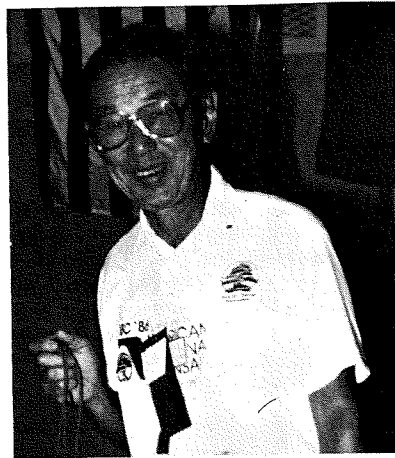


Above and to the right Harold Sasaki and Larry Jackel work on wiring the tree. Note that Harold is wearing surgical gloves. This is a good way for those who are allergic to certain plants such as junipers to be able to work on them. Also you wont mind the prickly juniper needles.



CHINESE BANYON It was a great privilege to have this gentle, unassuming man Haruo "Papa" Kaneshiro come to IBC '86. While Papa was working on the Chinese Banyon, Ted Tsukiyama (pictured on the right) took us on a slide/lecture tour of the Hawaiian Islands to show the Banyon trees and how they grow in the lecturers'/demonstrators' homeland.

Papa in styling the tree made two noteworthy comments. When you study the tree, the tree will tell you what to do. Also when asked what were the defects in the demonstration tree, Papa replied that there were no defects,



it is perfect for styling into a bonsai. That was traced back to the old adage that you must be careful in what you select as material.

Left - Papa shows the styled Banyon before it was to be put into the pot. Both the tree and the pot were donated by Papa.

Below - The tree is being placed in the pot. Note that there are a number of turns or coils in the ends of the tie-down wires.



This is one way of keeping track of which wire's ends belong to the same wire, - i.e. for one wire put one turn on each of its ends, for the next wire put two turns in each end, and so on.

Papa's reasoning for not centering a tree in the pot is as follows: If the base of the trunk were placed in the dead center of the pot, viewers would just take a quick look, see that the tree is centered in the pot and move on. When the tree is not centered in the pot, the viewers



stop to try and determine the reason for the tree not being in the center of the pot. Then they look at the tree and finally appreciate it and say, "Nice tree."

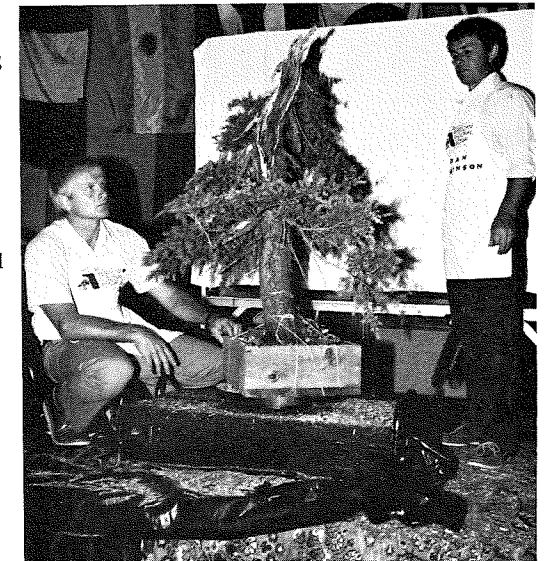


ALPINE HEMLOCK With the introduction, "Let the chips fall where they may," Dan Robinson showed us his latest techniques in working on trees to make them look very aged. In the picture on the left you will note the inevitable chainsaw, - a Dan Robinson trademark. The chainsaw is an electric one to which a wooden handle has been added for control. The wooden handle is in Dan's left hand. Dan says that he runs the chainsaw without any lubrication so as not to have the oil contaminating the surface he is working on. He also runs the chainsaw with a rather loose belt because of the absence of any lubrication. Occasionally the belt slips off of the blade but

its no problem to put back in place.

In the above picture with Larry Jackel once again in the role of assistant, Dan is making his first exploratory cuts with the chainsaw to determine the extent to which the dead area on the trunk of the tree had progressed. In the picture on the right, Dan has been doing a considerable amount of wood-removal as can be evidenced by the difference in the amount of wood chips on the floor between the two pictures. Dan is still carefully checking to insure that he does not do any wood removal beyond the point where the deadwood ends.

Dan explained that when he looks for the deadwood, he is looking for the places where the thin outer layer of the sapwood, cambium and phloem just under the bark are no longer active and alive. The





heartwood of the tree is dead and other than acting as a structural support for the tree contributes nothing to the life support of the tree.

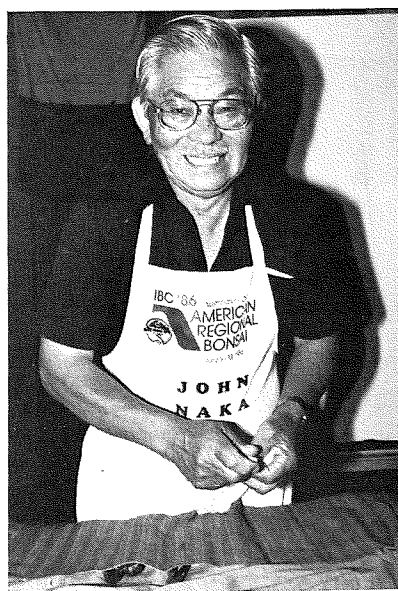
The finished Alpine Hemlock is shown in the picture to the right. The exposed deadwood area will be treated with lime-sulfur, ORTHORIX. One suggestion is that lime-sulfur solution should be put on in high temperatures such as found in bright sunlight on a 90°F day. To offset that requirement, one can paint on the lime-sulfur and then use a hair-dryer to heat the surface of the wood. Note that the soil should be covered so that no lime-sulfur gets into the soil.

The finished tree has been positioned to show the front. Dan always plants his collected trees in a container as soon as he gets them to a place to do so after digging them up. The Alpine Hemlock in the picture has been in the box over two years, - a satisfactory period of time for it to stabilize in its new environment before attempting to do anything to it.

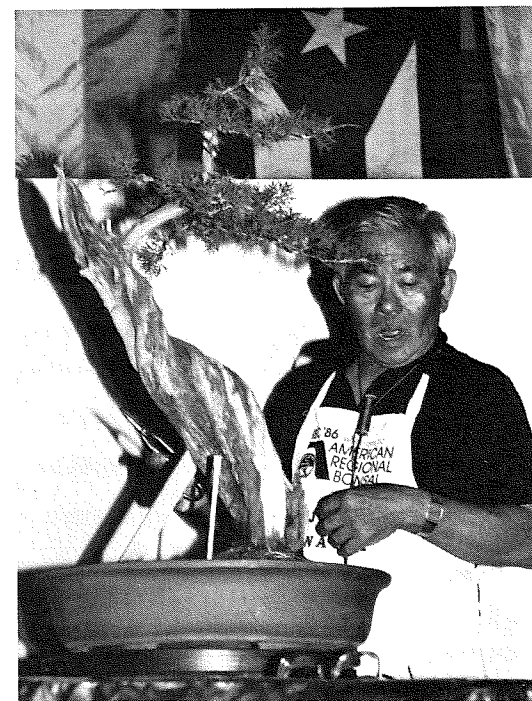


CALIFORNIA JUNIPER John Naka needs no introduction to the American bonsai enthusiasts, - his name is synonymous with bonsai in this country. Hence John's styling of a California juniper was a fitting climax to the series of lecture/demonstrations. John began his demonstration by very carefully examining the juniper to locate the living parts. By meticulously scraping and probing, the live part of the trunk was found. This was followed by scraping and cleaning the non-living area of the trunk.

Naka-sensei advised the audience that there are many trees or shrubs indigenous to one's home area that could be used as bonsai material, - not everyone must have a California juniper to do bonsai.



Shots of John Naka at work. Above is the inevitable John Naka drawing, - a blueprint so to speak, of the ultimate shape of the tree. (I should do that more often instead of plunging right in.)



The Finished Tree (ready for the raffle)

The Exhibit at IBC '86 contained some of the finest bonsai from private collections in this country. In addition there was an interesting display of suiseki from North America and Japan, - collected in such places as British Columbia, Oregon, the Mojave Desert, Colorado, Palm Springs California, Ontario, and Nachiguro Japan by Dr. Vincent Covello. The locations have been mentioned just in case you might like to know where to start looking for rocks. Dr. Covello in his lecture with slides on Suiseki indicated that he has not been able to find good stones for suiseki on the East Coast anywhere south of Maine.



The beautiful ponderosa pine shown to the left is a most generous gift to the American Bonsai Collection at the U. S. National Arboretum. It was given by the Kataoka family of Denver, Colorado in memory of Bob Kataoka who unfortunately passed away last Spring. He was one of the foremost bonsai masters in this country and had a superb collection. He pioneered in the training of ponderosa pine as bonsai.

It might be of interest to the readers to know what species of trees were being grown in various regions of the country:

SOUTH - Water elm; MID-ATLANTIC European hornbeam and Red spruce; WEST - California juniper on which Shimpaku has been grafted; SOUTHEAST - Buttonwood and the following name from Florida: Dwarf ixoria, Variegated serissa, Shimpaku juniper, firethorn, Holly malpighia, Chinese sweet plum, Dwarf rose, Squamata

prostrate juniper, Heavenly bamboo, Fukien tea, Tea weed, Virginia creeper, Narrowleaf fig, Dwarf boxwood and Hall crabapple; MID-ATLANTIC - Red spruce and the following name from Kennett Square: Larch, Dwarf boxwood, San Jose juniper, Red maple, Catlin elm, Procumbens juniper, and Trident maple; NORTHWEST - Manzanita and Japanese black pine; NORTHEAST - Scots pine; NORTH-CENTRAL - a group of mame grown under the lights in Michigan: Dwarf Greek myrtle, Japanese garden juniper, Snow-rose, Rosemary, Dwarf boxwood, Littleleaf cotoneaster, Firethorn, Box honeysuckle.

# Bonsai Societies of Florida



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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Thursday, September 25, 1986

- 1:00 - 5:00 PM Bazaar Set-up - Cypress Room  
2:00 PM B.S.F. Board Open Meeting and Registration in Hall  
5:00 PM Bazaar Opens  
Dinner On Your Own  
7:00 PM Hospitality Room #132-134 open, Registration in Hall  
8:00 PM Slides of the 1985 Convention in Hollywood, presented by Walter Lockenvitz

### Friday, September 26, 1986

- 9:00 - 11:30 AM LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION. . . . BEN OKI - Mary Madison assisting  
9:00 AM Bazaar Closed, Registration in Hall  
12:30 PM Lunch in the Royal Dolphin Room  
2:00 - 4:00 PM Mary Madison Workshop - Dwarf Black Olive, *Bucida, spinosa*  
2:00 - 4:00 PM Jim Smith Workshop For Beginners - *Ficus, nerifolia*  
2:00 - 4:00 PM Dali Museum Visit and short tour of St. Petersburg  
Dinner On Your Own  
9:00 PM John Jarvis - Haiku

### Saturday, September 27, 1986

- 8:00 - 11:00 AM LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION. . . . BEN OKI - Mary Madison assisting  
11:00 AM Bazaar Opens  
Lunch On Your Own  
1:00 - 3:00 PM BEN OKI WORKSHOP - Dwarf Powder Puff, *Calliandra, emarginata*  
3:00 PM B.S.F. Bonsai Memorial Garden at Morikami Park with DAN NELSON, immediately followed by B.S.F. GENERAL MEETING  
6:00 - 7:00 PM Cocktails and Cash Bar, RAFFLES  
7:00 PM BANQUET with wine  
8:30 PM General Auction

### Sunday, September 28, 1986

- 8:00 AM Bazaar Opens  
9:00 - 10:00 AM Breakfast served  
10:00 - 12 Noon LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION. . . . TERRY DAVIS

THE GRAND FINALE - GOODBY, UNTIL NEXT YEAR!

## BONSAI IN ISRAEL

Editor's note: The following is a reprint of the article which appeared in The Jewish Week, Inc. of December 6, 1985 to show how bonsai keeps becoming more and more universal.

HAIFA - Tomoko Nakamura was born in Nagasaki 10 years after the atomic bomb was dropped there. Naturally, her life was influenced by that terrible tragedy, which some have referred to as the Japanese equivalent of the Holocaust.

She came from a good Buddhist home. Her father was an engineer. Tomoko had heard of Jews, but had never seen one. Indeed, the first Jew she met was a young sabra named Amnon Josting, who had gone to Japan to study judo and karate and remained for three years, during which time he taught Hebrew and Bible to members of the pro-Israel Makoya sect.

The petite, smiling Japanese girl was attracted to the dashing, impetuous and handsome Israeli, and the feelings were mutual. When she told her parents that the two wished to get married, they were in shock, she told us. It was not because Amnon was Jewish; Jewish or Christian was all the same to them. It was because he was not Japanese. The couple was insistent, and a Buddhist marriage ceremony took place.

EIGHT YEARS AGO, the couple came to Israel and settled on a farm in the village of Bnai Zion where Amnon had been raised. They have reared three children, established themselves in the community and have set up what Tomoko says is the biggest bonsai farm in the world, not excluding Japan, for raising dwarf trees. Their greenhouses cover several acres of land, and the products are exported throughout Europe where the attractive midget potted trees have become extremely popular.

Though it was a matter of indifference to the free-thinking Josting, Tomoko decided to follow the example of Ruth the Moabitess. Her kitchen has been kashered, and she is now taking a course in Judaism given by a rabbi's wife who lives in nearby Kfar Saba. The rabbis have been impressed by her determination and her obvious sincerity.

The adjustment to Israel was a great cultural shock for her, but she appears to have overcome it without any great problems. She has met with kindness, warmth and understanding on every hand. "No hostility, no antagonism, no unfriendliness?" we inquired. "None," she replied. "only curiosity."

Our interview was conducted entirely in Hebrew, which she

spoke freely and fluently. She went to an ulpan, but how did she manage to pick up the language so quickly, when other new immigrants have great difficulty? Very simple, she explained; other newcomers have someone they can converse with in English or German or Spanish. But who speaks Japanese in Israel? Of necessity, she acquired proficiency.

SHE TALKS JAPANESE to her children, Jonathan, Naama and Mika, so that they may communicate with their grandparents in Japan. Though they understand her, they ususally reply in Hebrew. Her parents have visited her and were greatly impressed. They had been under the impression that there would be shooting all the time.

Actively engaged with her husband in running the bonsai nursery, Tomoko has found her services in demand on another front. Trade and commercial relations between Israel and Japan are on the verge of a great expansion, and Israel's Minister of Trade and Industry has found that the pretty girl from Bnai Zion is also personable and intelligent. She makes an ideal guide for the Japanese businessmen who visit the country and is able to advise Israelis on the psychology of doing business with her former countrymen.

For example, some Israeli industrialists expressed disappointment that Japanese businessmen with whom they were conducting negotiations backed out of the deals after apparently agreeing to the proposed terms. Tomoko patiently explained that one must understand the basic politeness of the Japanese. They will never say "no" if they think it will hurt the feelings of another. When they nod their heads, as if in assent, and keep saying "yes" to proposals, they mean, "Yes, I have heard you," not "Yes, I agree."

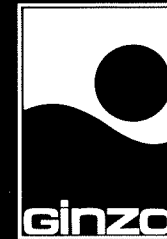
Tomoko has a great deal of explaining to do, and she has willing listeners. She also offers a Japanese-English-Hebrew translation service.

One thing is certain: she has no competition. There are no more than a handful of Japanese living in Israel. When Tomoko completes her formal conversion to Judaism and finds more time to devote to the culture of bonsai, observers could well say: "What kind of occupation is that for a nice Jewish girl?"

-----  
The above article was provided by Molly Hersh.

The author of the above article is Carl Alpert.

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# BOOK REVIEWS

**PENJING: THE CHINESE ART OF MINIATURE GARDENS**, Hu Yunhua  
 Timber Press, Beaverton, Oregon, USA  
 1982, 160 pages, Color photographs and drawings, Index of  
 species used in China for Penjing  
 Hardback \$ 39.95, 11½ x 9 inches

**BONSAI PENJING: COLLECTION OF THE MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN**,  
 Dorothy-Ann Donovan and Marc Lord with David Easterbrook  
 Marcel Broquet, LaPrairie, Quebec, Canada  
 1985, 143 pages, Color photographs, Index of cultur codes,  
 Index of Technical Data  
 Hardback \$ 19.95, 7½ x 7½ inches.

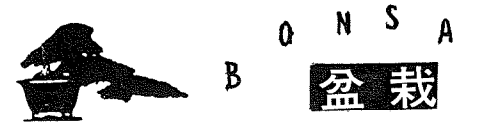
These two volumes, both profusely illustrated with excellent  
 color photos, are forerunners of the deluge to come with the  
 advent of Mr. Wu's trees to North America. Both books  
 contain historic data and information on cultural techniques  
 but it is the pictures that make each desirable for one's  
 collection.

The Montreal Botanical Garden book is of course self-  
 serving. I find no fault with this, because they scored  
 really high when they acquired this collection and they have  
 a right to blow their own horn. It is nevertheless a beau-  
 tiful book and very well done. The index of culture code  
 for bonsai of Eastern North America could prove to be of  
 help to bonsai growers in the Northeastern United States.

The jewel of the pair is the volume from Timber Press.  
 While the photos are excellent, the drawings of trees and  
 rocks are most spectacular and add greatly to understanding  
 the text. The section on rock penjing opens up a wholly  
 different view of rock planting with emphasis more on rocks  
 than plants. Oh! to have access to rocks like those shown  
 on pages 56 through 65. The section on pots, trays, and  
 stands and methods of display really point out the differ-  
 ence between Japanese and Chinese ideas about formal, classic  
 display. The list of species used in China for Penjing  
 contains many new plants (to me) and some surprises, i.e.  
 Crown of thorns euphorbia, - also many old friends.


Although each of these books represents a sizeable in-  
 vestment, they are well worth the cost to embark on a new  
 adventure, THE ART OF PENJING.

Arschel Morell  
 Baltimore



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**BONSAI REFINEMENT WORKSHOP**, Tuesday,  
 September 9, 1p.m. Robert Drechsler, Curator  
 of the National Bonsai Collection, will conduct  
 a Bonsai Refinement Workshop in which he will  
 assist individuals in repotting and refinement of  
 their bonsai plant according to seasonal  
 requirements. Participants must bring their  
 own bonsai plant, bonsai tools, wire, container  
 and soil if repotting is planned. The Arboretum  
 will provide no supplies or equipment. There is  
 no charge for the workshop which will be held in  
 the Bonsai Workroom adjacent to the National  
 Bonsai Collection. The workshop will be limited  
 to five (5) persons, and advance registration is  
 required. To register, please phone the  
 Arboretum Education Department at 475-  
 4857. Bonsai Refinement Workshops will be  
 held on the second Tuesday of each month.  
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