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

FOR MEMBERS:

CONTRIBUTIONS:

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

Over 400 internets rely on a monthly basis.

PBA membership includes 12 monthly newsletters covered by part of the annual membership dues. Corresponding membership: \$5.50 for 12 monthly newsletters. Make checks payable to Potomac Bonsai Association and mail to M. Hersh, 102 Devon Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

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POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION

Vol 17 No 5 May 1987

Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DUES ARE DUE!!!

(Members: Pay your local club treasurer.)
(Corresponding Members: Please send \$ 6.50 to
M. Hersh, 102 Devon Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20910)

PBA ANNUAL AUCTION

This year's PBA Auction will be held as in the past, at The BEHNKE NURSERIES, 11300 Baltimore Avenue/US 1. 2 miles north of Exit 25A Capital Beltway. It will take place in the CONFERENCE ROOM which is on the second floor over the Flower Shop.

For some, the PBA Auction offers them a chance to thin out their collection of plant material, pots, tools, rocks, wire, etcetera. For others, it affords one of the few opportunities to find those items so close to home.

Space will be provide for over-the-table sales of items that the

Behnke Nurseries

A Special Gift for a Special Mom!

HANGING BASKETS

FUCHSIAS	\$14.95	LANTANAS	\$14.95
IMPATIENS	\$12.95	PETUNIAS	\$12.95
BEGONIAS	\$12.95	IVY GERANIUMS	\$14.95

More Beautiful GIFT IDEAS

LILACS, DOGWOODS, JAPANESE RED MAPLES, BLUE SPRUCE,
MARTHA WASHINGTON GERANIUMS - bright colors

THIS WEEK'S Special

AZALEAS

25% OFF regular prices
Excluding MOLLIS & EXBURY

Large, healthy plants; space does not permit us to carry them over.

ROSES

Thoughts of beauty they are. Thoughts of Roses.
Over 180 varieties to choose from. Potted
Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Climbers. **\$9.95 to \$14.95**

Hybrid RHODODENDRONS

"The QUEEN of the Garden"
In bud and bloom - over 60 varieties. **\$11.95 and up**

SUMMER ANNUALS

over one million colorful reasons for a carefree summer

Petunias, Marigolds, Zinnias, Impatiens,
Coleus, Geraniums, Begonias, Lantanas
and more.

Paks from **\$1.79 and up**, pots from **98¢ and up**.

VEGETABLE PLANTS

Tomatos, Squash, Cucumbers, Peppers.

PERENNIALS

1500 varieties

We have a fine selection of IRIS, PEONIES, DAYLILIES,
WILD FLOWERS, NATIVE FERNS, and ORNAMENTAL
GRASSES. Plus new introductions and unusual
varieties. Not sure which to choose? Select from our
list of "highly recommended" perennials.

Their First Spring! Young Perennials
200 varieties, some in bloom now, many more will
bloom this year. 4 inch pots - **\$1.95 each**.

FLORIST—FTD & local delivery

Order early for MOTHER'S DAY 937-4032

HOUSEPLANTS

AFRICAN VIOLETS—"We're known for our violets"
10,000 sq-ft. GREENHOUSE filled with Tropicals,
Cacti, Bonsai, Pottery, Baskets, Fountains,
Statuary, Garden Ornaments and much more.

BELTSVILLE, MD.
200 Beltsville Ave. S.
Central Belway

937-1100

LARGO, MD.

GARDEN CENTER

700 Watkins Park Drive

249-2492

Open Daily & Sunday

8 AM to 7 PM



seller does not wish to auction.

The auction and sales will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Those wishing to auction or sell items should be at The Behnke Nurseries by 9:00 a.m. to have the items listed. It is also requested that a brief description of an item for auction be given to include a minimum bid if you so desire, where and when obtained, and for plant material - the common name, the scientific name (if known), and the age (if known).

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

The accompanying advertisement is indicative of only a small portion of the large selection of plant material available at The Behnke Nurseries. One can also browse through their material for bonsai starter stock.

PBA sincerely thanks The Behnke Nurseries for once again allowing the PBA Auction to be held on their premises.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

9 May
Saturday

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 920-8631: Green Spring Horticulture Center at 10:00 a.m. Featured event: AZALEAS.

Mrs. Ruth Lamanna will lecture on azaleas. Ruth is one of the founding members of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society. Mrs. Lamanna is very knowledgeable, and has an excellent bonsai collection.

16 May
Saturday

KIYOMIZU Trip to Chase Rosade's Bonsai Studio in New Hope, PA, and a demonstration thereat. We are car-pooling, leaving at 7:00 a.m. from Joan Stephens house. The

cost for this trip is \$10.00 to have been paid to Joan Stephens prior to May 1, 1987. For those who would like to go. Call Joan Stephens at (301) 423-8230 for details.

16 May
Saturday

WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676 - Please telephone this number to determine if there will a meeting at the at the U. S. National Arboretum at 2:00 p.m.

23, 24, 25 May VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW
Norfolk Botanic Garden, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This will be an opportunity for PBA members to see the fine bonsai that the Norfolk bonsai community is turning out. The Norfolk Botanic Garden is at the airport in Norfolk, VA, and in itself is a very attractive garden and all in all you should be well-rewarded if you go.

28 May **BROOKSIDE** (301) 774-9028: Argyle Community Center, Sligo
Thursday Spring Road, Silver Spring, MD. 7:30 p.m. ANNUAL STYLING
and **RETYLING WORKSHOP**. Bring trees. No Beginners'
Workshop.

6 June PBA BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP
Saturday at the NATIONAL ARBORETUM

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, 9 June, 1987
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Auditorium, Administration Building, U. S. National
Arboretum, 26th and R Streets, NE Washington, DC

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 starter tree and the Sunset book "BONSAI CULTURE and CARE of MINIATURE TREES" to initiate beginners into 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 trees. It is expected that a representative from each PBA member club, hopefully the Educational Vice President, will be present to assist the lecturer. Students will not work on plants at this session. Rather, each club is expected to schedule their own follow-up workshop, whereat new members will

be assisted in the initial styling of the tree (so-called "plastic surgery" which sets the basic shape of the tree) and when and how to prune, wire, pot and fertilize.

**** 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 be a substitute for a full-fledged beginners' course.

12 June **NORTHERN VIRGINIA** (703) 920-8631: Meeting will be at
Saturday the home of John Simpson, 3617 Ridgeway Terrace, Lake
Barcroft, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. BRING YOUR LUNCH but liquid
refreshments will be on the house. **THIS WILL BE AN OUTDOOR WORKSHOP**
so bring trees to work on. The Beginners who attended the June 9th workshop
at the Arboretum should bring their trees. Also bring a card-table and chair if
you can plus anything else that you need such as wire, tools, soil, pot, etc. In
case the weather looks or is threatening, telephone (703) 256-4615

13 June **KIYOMIZU** (301) 423-8230: TRIP and DEMONSTRATION..
Saturday we will be meeting at Louise McCullough's at Sake of the
Woods, VA, for a picnic, a demonstration by Chuck Bird
and an all-around good time.

11 July PENJING at the
Saturday SHANGHAI BOTANIC GARDEN, CHINA

On 11 July at 10:00 a.m., Mr. Hu Yunhua, former curator of Penjing (Chinese name for their potted plants and bonsai) for the Shanghai Botanic Garden and the author of "PENJING - THE CHINESE ART OF MINIATURE GARDENS", will give a talk and show slides about penjing at the Shanghai Botanic Garden. Mr. Arkey Hung will be the translator.

BETTER COME EARLY!! - the talk, since it is being given at the U. S. National Arboretum, will have to be open to the public.

CUTTINGS and SHOUHIN BONSAI (Part 2)

The last issue of the Newsletter indicated that there would be this follow-up on how to manage black pine cuttings after their first year. As you probably know, it takes 5 to 6 years to develop a shouhin bonsai from a cutting that can be placed in a display pot and about 10 years to have the shouhin bonsai ready for exhibition. Although the following deals with black pine, such of the instructions can be applied equally as well to the development of other species from cuttings into shouhin bonsai.

The accompanying sketches trace the development of the shouhin bonsai into its 6th year.

2nd YEAR OPERATIONS and POTTING

The criterion for transferring the rooted cuttings to pots is during the week of the equinox (March 20, 21) although the time may vary depending on one's location and the temperatures. The cuttings are moved into deep number 2 pots (a Japanese size that appears to equate to inches, i.e. 2 inches in diameter). From the very first, moving the rooted cuttings into such larger pots will retard their rate of growth.

Providing slight warmth to the soil will easily influence the elongation of the roots. To provide an average amount of root growth vice a one-sided extension of the roots and to get not only strong rootage but also an ample amount of roots, the pots should be boxed in to insure uniform warmth around the pots.

The Japanese publication recommends using equal parts of river sand and red-ball clay of 1 to 3 mm in cross-section. A suitable substitute in this country appears to be Turface or Terra-Green for

the red-ball clay and Gran-I-Grits (Starter size) for the potting medium. The Turface or Terra-Green would have to be that which falls through the last mesh screen used in sifting but not through a finer flour sieve. It is also recommended that the mix be washed to remove any fine silt that may be present.

The sequel to the potting is that in 20 to 30 days a fertilizer is applied. Place 2 separate fertilizer balls consisting of 1 part blood meal, 2 parts cottonseed, and 1 part bone meal blended dry and then mixed with water, on each pot.

A healthy plant is water-demanding and in the summertime the demand may vary. Also rotate the locations of the fertilizer balls when applying new ones every month by placing the two halfway between where the previous 2 were located.

The main idea of fertilizing is to enhance growth—hence just in October give up fertilizing on behalf of allowing the plants to hibernate during the winter and conserve their energy.

From the 10 to 20th of June until even as late as the 10th to 20th of August, sprouts lengthen beyond the amounts one likes and to control the lengths, cut-off the sprouts at their bases. Leave sprouts untouched where additional branch length is desired.

Fresh sprouts will appear where the others have been cut-off.

3rd YEAR MANAGEMENT

There will be a numerical increase in sprouts during the 3rd year, and notwithstanding the previous prospects of tree shape, one must come to a decision as to what branches need to remain. Repotting is done using the same potting medium as in the 2nd year. However, this time the trees are placed in shallow number 2.5 (2-1/2 inch diameter) unglazed pots.

Each time one repots one cannot miss the fact that the roots must be consolidated. The strong roots are cut back to enable the plant to be repotted and also for the weak roots to share in the nourishment

and thereby create a balance. The roots that are long and would coil around in the pot are cut so that they lie spread out in the pot and do not touch the sides of the pot.

Plant the trees just deep enough so that in grading the soil, the upper surfaces of the of the uppermost roots are exposed to the sunlight and thereby encourage their growth. (This is a recommended procedure to enhance the growth of strong surface roots for all species of plants.)

There is a need to notice and operate on the sprouts that have appeared - doing so in the same manner as in the 2nd year with essentially the same points in mind. In November pull out old needles in the interior of the plant so that the sunlight can enter and the plant can enjoy the sunlight. Also place the plant where there is a prevailing wind. (Pines like full days of sunlight and windy locations.)

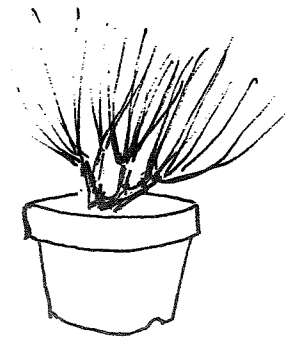
At the time old needles are plucked, please concern yourself with the branches which show severe weaknesses and decide what how many of the sprouts are to remain to establish an energy balance in the trees and on the whole an equilibrium of nourishment distribution.

Coincident with the removal of unwanted sprouts in November one has the possibility of doing plastic surgery on the trees. (The Japanese use of the word "plastic surgery" is aptly applied to the drastic reshaping of a tree by branch removal and reduction in trunk height.) This plastic surgery can be followed by wiring which can remain in place until as late as two months into Spring.

The wintertime care consists of keeping the trees out of the wind in a sunny location.

FOURTH YEAR MANAGEMENT

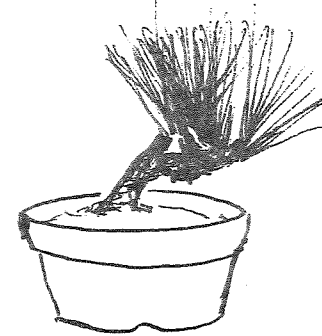
Repot the trees in a 2-1/2 to 3 inch diameter pot in the same potting mix and handling the roots as in the 3rd year. By placing the trees in small size pots the roots will be constricted and the more



Second Year



Third Year



Fourth Year



Fifth Year



Sixth Year

DEVELOPMENT OF

BLACK PINE SHOUHIN BONSAI

mature bark texture will more quickly reveal itself.

In the 4th year and subsequent years, unwanted branches are cut-off along with full sprouts to maintain balance in the trees. Also resolve with all one's might not to do plastic surgery on the strong roots but to bend them to fit into the pot.

FIFTH YEAR MANAGEMENT

In the 5th year the trees are not repotted and their emphasis should be on creating an attractive shouhin bonsai by wiring. Now that the trunk shape has been established, the effort should be placed on fattening the branches.

One removes needles in the wrong places (those on the bottom of limbs) and old sprouts similar to the 3rd and 4th year efforts where this is done so that the energy in each tree is balanced.

SIXTH YEAR MANAGEMENT

The enjoyment of doing shouhin bonsai can be found in seeing the shouhin bonsai emerge as a finished product. This year one should select a bonsai display pot suited to the tree's shape and repotting is done into that pot. Now each year pleasure is now derived from carefully refining the small branches.

Branch arrangement is now the big thing. Branches and their side branches that are out of place should be removed. The branch arrangement must be such that the top of the tree is evident. - hence stupid looking side branches should be removed. Grafting can be done to obtain branches where they may be needed. It is good to avoid any chaffing between branches.

In the 10th year the tree can probably be exhibited. However, find someone who can be trusted and knows the rules for making good bonsai to help you prepare the tree for exhibition. This may seem extreme but right or wrong this by all means will help you realize what can be done to improve the bonsai.

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BONSAI ORIENTATION PACKAGE

It seems that it was more than a few years back that I proposed an Orientation Package that would be presented to new PBA members to guide them through the initial phases of selecting plant material to fit the place where they will keep their plants as well as what to look for in either picking bonsai material or buying a ready-made bonsai. The following pages contain examples of what the package might contain and are offered for PBA members' comments and approval. In addition to those pages, the package could also include a table similar to the Bonsai Care Table which would correlate the plant species with styles; a listing of indoor bonsai material; a listing of plant pH's, the nitrogen-phosphorous, potassium content of various soil additives such as bloodmeal, coffee grounds, etc.; listing of bonsai books and magazines and national bonsai organizations; and any other information that seems warranted.

Feedback would be appreciated from PBA members concerning the above

Jules Koetsch

BONSAI CARE

The accompanying Bonsai Care Table is designed to help the neophyte in deciding what type of bonsai is suitable for an intended location outside as well as indicate what type of care is suggested. It is prudent to try and keep up with the care schedule otherwise the bonsai will not maintain or develop into attractive bonsai.

Fertilizing can be done with a liquid fertilizer. Some people prefer to use it at half-strength. With a well-drained bonsai soil the nutrients left by the liquid fertilizer will wash out in less than a week and one might want to repeat applications once per week. During the hot summer months using a fertilizer should be held in abeyance. Except for that time period fertilization usually starts with the first signs of new growth in the spring and ends around the first week in October.

Insecticides and fungicides are best applied as a preventative before any infestation develops. However, great care must be exercised in using chemicals which will not be injurious to your specific species of plant. **READ THE LABELS AND ALL PERTINENT LITERATURE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC INSECTICIDE TO BE USED.** Otherwise you might kill the plant instead of removing the infestation.

Potting deciduous trees are repotted more frequently than coniferous trees because their roots may grow faster and tend to fill the pot. I.e. make the bonsai pot-bound. General rule of thumb is once every one to two years for deciduous and three to five years for conifers. After repotting the soil is thoroughly soaked with water. The bonsai is not watered for as long as one week before the soil may have dried enough for another watering. Repotted plants should be kept out of the sun for about two weeks. No fertilizer should be applied for a month after repotting.

KEY

Pot column

Sp = spring; Su = summer; Au = Autumn; Wi = Winter.

I = Pot every 3rd year in Sp or Au.

Prune column

A: Trim several times in the spring pinching off the new shoots before they harden but leaving a few needles adhering to the base of the shoot. Example: black pine.

B: Pinch or pull off the top of the new bud at any time during the growing season. Example: juniper.

C: After the new shoot has from 3 to 5 nodes during the growing season, trim with scissors, leaving one to two nodes. Example: maple.

D: Trim with scissors after the blossoms wither and before the new buds harden in the latter part of the summer. Example: crab apple.

E: After blossoms appear, trim as in C above. Also in early spring or late autumn trim the shoots back to two or three nodes. Example: crape myrtle.

F: Leave the new shoots until late summer and then trim as in C above. Example: apricot.

G: Once every two years, in early autumn, cut back the tip of each branch so that only about 5 clusters of needles remain at the base. Example: black pine.

O: Pull out central bud; early summer cut all stems at the base. Example: bamboo.

Lt: Trim the leaves during late spring or early summer. Example: maple.

Wire column

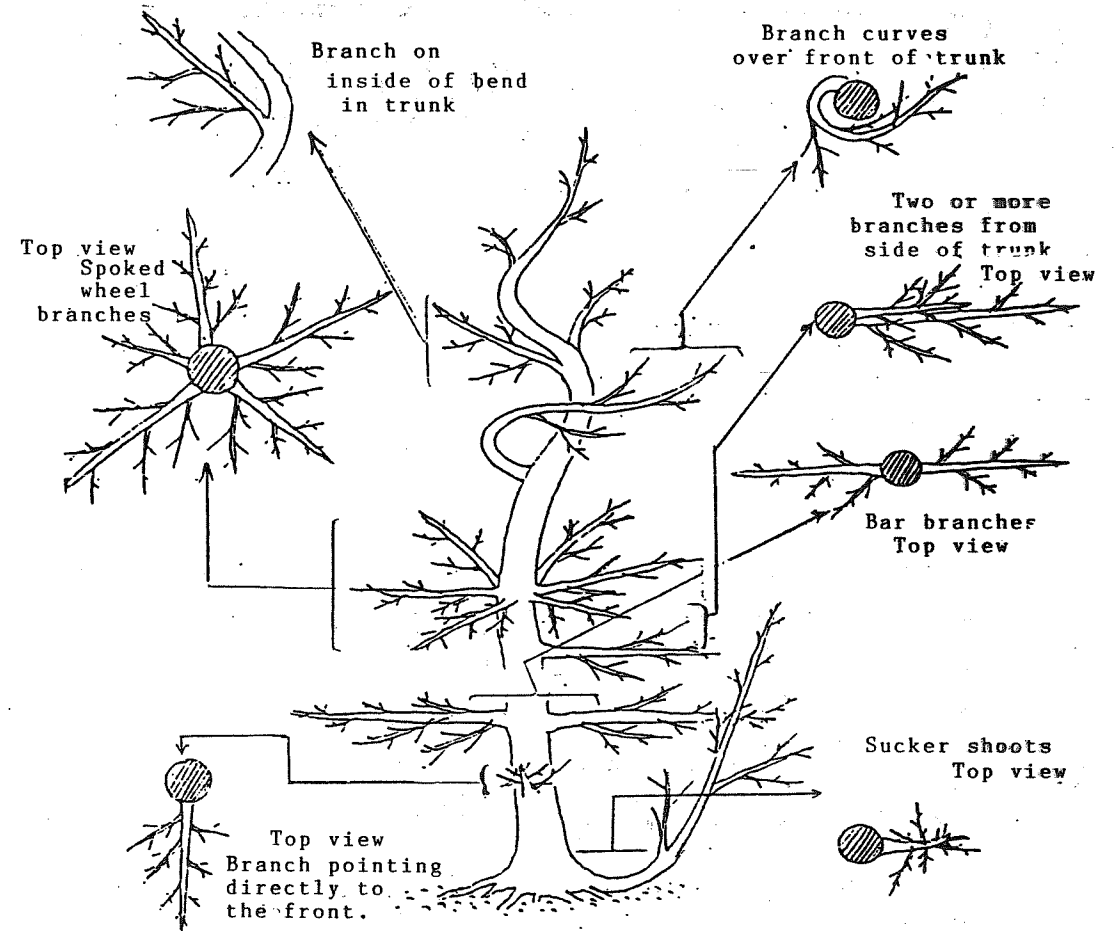
See Pot column above.

H: In growing season.

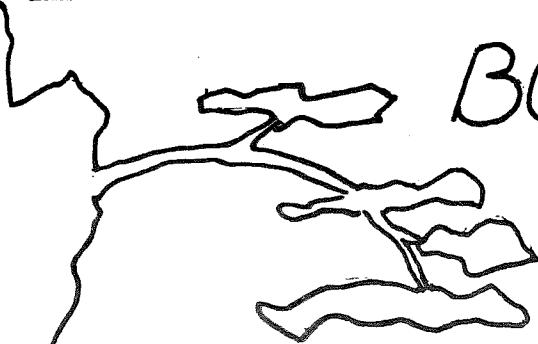
I: Anytime except winter.

BONSAI CARE TABLE

PLANT	Full Sun	Half Shade	Summer Half Shade, Full Sun Other Times	Water Often	Spray Foliage Spring to Autumn	Pot	Prune	Wire
APPLE	0			0		Sp-or-Au	D	Sp-to-Su
APRICOT	0					Sp	F	Sp-to-Su
ATLAS CEDAR	0					Sp	F	Anytime
AZALEA	0	0		0		Late Sp	D	Sp-to-Su
BAMBOO	0			0		Anytime	⊙	
BEECH			0			Sp	C,Lt	Sp-to-Au
CAMELLIA		0				Late Sp	D	Anytime
CEDAR	0					SP	B	Anytime
CHRYSANTHEMUM			0			Yearly	Sp-to-Su	
COTONEASTER	0			0		Early Sp	C	Anytime
CRYPTOMERIA		0		0	0	Late Sp	B	Sp-to-Su
CYPRESS			0			Late Sp	B	Sp-to-Su
DOGWOOD			0			Sp	D	Sp-to-Au
ELM (Japanese)			0			Early Sp	C,Lt	Sp-to-Su
FIG		0				Early Sp	E	Sp-to-Su
FIR	0				0	Sp-or-Au	B	As-to-Wi
GINKGO	0		0			Early Sp	E	H
HAWTHORN			0			Sp-or-Au	D	Sp-to-Au
HENLOCK		0		0		Sp	A	Anytime
HINOKI CYPRESS			0		0	Anytime	B	Anytime
HOLLY	0			0		Early Sp	E	Sp-to-Su
HONEYSUCKLE			0	0		Sp	E	Sp-to-Au
IYV		0		0		Sp	C	Anytime
JASMINE (STAR)	0			0		Sp-to-Au	E	Anytime
JUNIPER	0				0	Anytime	B	Anytime
LARCH			0			Early Sp	B	Su-to-Au
MAPLE & VINE MAPLE			0			Early Sp	C,Lt	Late Sp-to
OAK			0			Sp	B	Anytime
PINE	0					Sp-or-Au	A,B	Anytime
POMEGRANATE			0			Late Sp	E	Anytime
QUINCE	0						I	C
SPRUCE	0				0	Sp-or-Au	B	As-to-Wi
TAMARISK	0			0		Sp	In Au	Sp-to-Su
WILLOW		0		0		Sp-to-Su	D	Sp-to-Su
WISTERIA	0			0		Early Sp	D	Sp-to-Su
YEW		0				Sp-to-Au	D	Anytime
ZELKOVIA	0					Early Sp	C,Lt	Anytime



VIEW FROM THE FRONT OF A POTENTIAL BONSAI
 What should not be there, - hence removable.

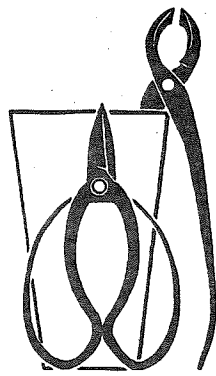


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THE
ROCKS**

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PBA Fall Symposium*

*Friday through Sunday
October 9, 10, 11
Holiday Inn Crown Plaza - Rockville Md.*

don't miss it!



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June 25-27, 1987
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CHINA

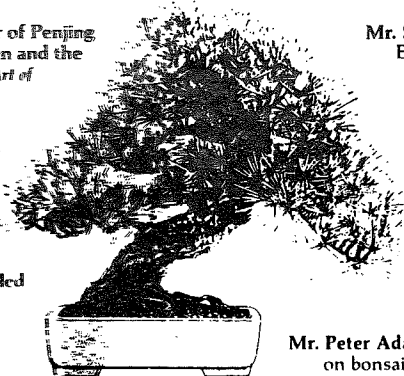
Mr. Hu Yunhua, former curator of Penjing for the Shanghai Botanic Garden and the author of "Penjing—The Chinese Art of Miniature Gardens."

GERMANY

Mr. Horst Krekeler, Curator of Bonsai at the Bonsai Centrum in Heidelberg and author of several books on Bonsai

CANADA

Mr. Norman Haddrick is as skilled with Pen and ink as he is with clippers and will combine both talents at IBC '87.



JAPAN

Mr. Susumu Nakamura, Director of Education for the Nippon Bonsai Association and a distinguished bonsai teacher and lecturer.

INDIA

The husband and wife team of Nikung and Jyoti Parekh lecture and teach Bonsai extensively in India. They are skilled artists with tropical material and have published two books on tropical bonsai.

ENGLAND

Mr. Peter Adams has published several books on bonsai and is a recognized teacher and lecturer of bonsai on the international scene.

UNITED STATES

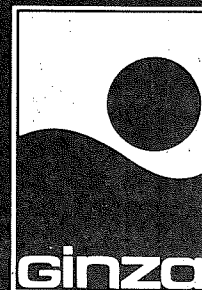
American Bonsai Masters John Naka, Chase Rosade and Toshio Saburomaru will cross clippers in the most unique styling demonstration ever staged. Don't miss "The Great American Tree Trim" Parts I and II.

That's Not All . . .

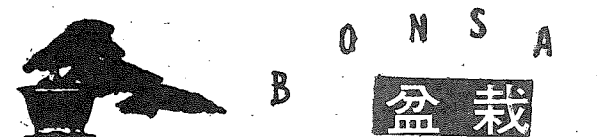
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