

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
% U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM
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PBA NEWSLETTER

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Over 400 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 Newsletters. Make checks payable to Potomac Bonsai Association and mail to M. Hersh, 102 Devon Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

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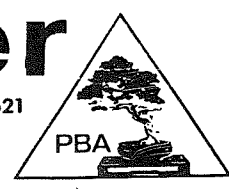
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POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION
Newsletter

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DUES ARE PAST DUE!!!

THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE UNLESS YOU PAID:

Members: Dues to your local club's treasurer.

Corresponding Members: Sent \$6.50 to M. Hersh, 102 Devon Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20910

6 June **PBA BERGINNER'S WORKSHOP**
Saturday **at the NATIONAL ARBORETUM**

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.

3 and 7 June Living Legends at the U.S. National Arboretum: ALL ABOUT GROWING MEDIA/METHODS. If you plan to attend, notify the Arboretum Education Department at (202) 475-4857.

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

20 June WASHINGTON (202)

25 June BROOKSIDE (301) 774-9028: Argyle Community Center, Forest Thursday Glen Road, Silver Spring MD. 7:30 p.m. NEW MEMBERS' WORKSHOP. This is a follow-up on the PBA Beginners' Course. Old members are encouraged to attend to help the new members. There will also be a bonsai video.

PENJING AT THE SHANGHAI BOTANICAL 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.

Mr. Yunhua is a resident of Shanghai. He studied horticulture at Peking University, specializing in forests and parks. He holds a certificate in Chinese bonsai and has worked in Nanking and Shanghai designing parks and recreation areas. In 1977 he was appointed curator of penjing for the Shanghai Botanical Garden and currently serves as assistant director of the Shanghai Gardens Administration Bureau. He is also chairman of the Chinese Flower and Bonsai Association

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

Editor's note: It will be interesting to learn about the techniques used at the Shanghai Longhua Gardens, especially how much wiring or restraints they might use. The bonsai trees which Mr. WU Yee-sun has donated to the U. S. National Arboretum's collection of bonsai, have been trained without the use of wire or restraints in so far as possible. Mr. WU in his book "Man Lung Artistic Pot Plants" states the following: ".....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 an ancient appearance results. It is important to bear in mind that unless extremely necessary, avoid using iron wires to bend the trees

and branches to the required shape. The method of 'Grow and Clip' is used by the 'Lingnan School'; Messrs. Wu York Yu, Liu Fei Yat, Hung Tai Chor, Mok Man Fu, Buddhist Monk So-yan, Luk Hok Ming, Tsui Hung Pui, Chan Kam Tak, Yu Shuh Nam, Tan Heung Hoi, Weng Kam, Chan Tak Cheung, Kong Chee, Lee Shu Chik, Cheung Sui Tou and Jim Ting Bor are outstanding followers of this School."

In addition, when I was on John Y. Naka's first tour of China, the soil that I saw the bonsai planted in was far from the coarse textured soils that we use. In fact in some cases it looked like what one finds between the sidewalk and the curbstone along city streets, - indeed in appearance as if it were hostile to plant growth and trying to emulate concrete. However, the changeover from a porous soil mixture for young plants to encourage their growth to one that is denser for mature bonsai to inhibit their growth seems rational. Does the less porous soil mixture cause closer internodal spacings between the leaves, - smaller leaves, slower growth? What are their rules for watering, fertilizing, preventing insect damage?

It will be interesting to find out from Mr. Hu Yunhua answers to questions relative to the above and others that the audience will raise.

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BONSAI ORIENTATION PACKAGE

Last month's Newsletter contained an article about the contents of a Bonsai Orientation Package which would be presented to new members to help them get launched into the world of bonsai. Included herewith are two more suggestions for the package. Feedback from PBA members will still be appreciated.

PLANT MATERIAL FOR INDOOR BONSAI

Acacia baileyana - Golden Mimosa
Acacia farnesiana - Sweet Acacia
Araucaria heterophylla (excelsa) - Norfolk Island-pine
Bougainvillea species and cultivars
Bucida buceras - Geometry-tree, Black-olive
Bucida spinosa - Dwarf Black-olive
Busera simaruba - Gumbo Limbo or Tourist-tree
Buxus harlandii - Dwarf Chinese box
Buxus microphylla 'Compacta' - Kingsville Dwarf Box.
Buxus sempervirens - Boxwood
Calliandra emarginata - Dwarf Red Powder-puff
Camellia japonica
Camellia sasanqua
Carissa grandiflora compact nana
Carmona microphylla - Fukien-tea
Cassia marilandica - Wild Senna
Chaenomeles japonica - Japanese Flowering Quince
Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa' - Plum-cypress, "Faith-tree"
Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Squarrosa' - Moss-cypress
Cinnamomum camphora - Camphor-tree
Cissus anartica - Australian Kangaroo Treebine
Cissus rhombifolia - Grape-ivy
Citrus lemonia meyerii - Meyer-lemon
Citrus mitis - Calamondin-orange
Citrus ponderosa - American Wonder Lemon

Citrus taitensis - Dwarf otaheite-orange
Clerodendrum thomsoniae - Bleeding-heart Glorybower
Coccoloba uvifera - Sea-grape
Conocarpus erectus - Buttonwood
Cotoneaster - species and cultivars
Crassula arborescens - Silver-dollar
Cryptomeria japonica - Cryptomeria
Cuphea hyssopifolia - False-heather
Cupressus arizonica - Arizona Cypress
Cupressus microcarpa - Monterey cypress
Cycas revoluta - Cycad
Distylium racemosum
Eugenia myrtiflora - Myrtle
Eugenia uniflora - Surinam-cherry
Eurya japonica
Ficus aurea - Strangler Fig
Ficus benjamina - Weeping Fig
Ficus carica
Ficus diversifolia - Mistletoe Fig
Ficus neriifolia regularis - Willow-leaved Fig
Ficus pumila minima - Creeping Fig
Ficus retusa nitida - Indian-laurel or Banyan
Fortunella hindsii - Hong Kong Wild Kumquat
Fuchsia hybrida
Gardenia jasminoides radicans
Grevillea robusta - Silk-oak
Guaiacum officinale - Lignum Vitae, Hollywood
Hedera helix - English ivy
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis cooperi
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Snow Queen'
Ilex aquifolium 'Augustifolia' - Narrow-leaved English Holly
Ilex crenata 'Helleri'
Ilex vomitoria - Yaupon Holly
Ixora javanica - Jungle-Geranium
Jacaranda mimosifolia (acutifolia)
Jasmine dichotomum - Pinwheel Jasmine
Juniperus procumbens 'Nana'
Lagerstroemia indica - Crape-myrtle
Lantana camara
Laurus nobilis - Bay
Leptospermum scoparium - New Zealand Tea-tree
Ligustrum japonicum - Japanese Privet
Lonicera nitida Box honeysuckle

Malpighia coccigera - Singapore-holly
Malpighia glabra - Barbados-cherry
Murraya paniculata - Orange-jessamine
Myciaria cauliflora
Myrsine africana - African-box
Myrtus communis - Myrtle
Nicodemia diversifolia - Indoor-oak
Nothofagus cunninghamii - Tasmanian-beech
Olea europea nana - Dwarf Olive
Pelargonium - Geraniums (dwarf variety)
Pinus elliotii - Slash Pine
Pinus halepensis - Aleppo Pine
Pinus thunbergii - Japanese Black Pine
Pithecellobium unguis-cati - Cat's Claw or Black Beard
Pittosporum tobira
Podocarpus macropyllus maki - Southern-yew
Polyscias fruticosa - Ming Aralia
Psidium cattleianum - Strawberry-guava
Punica granatum nana - Dwarf Pomegranate
Pyracantha species - Firethorn
Quercus nigra
Quercus suber - Cork Oak
Quercus virginiana - Southern Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia - California Live Oak
Raphiolepis indica - India-hawthorn
Rhododendrum indicum and other evergreen azaleas
Rosmarinus officinalis - Rosemary
Sargeretia theezans
Schefflera actinophylla
Serrisa foetida and forms
Sparmannia africana - African hemp
Syzygium paniculatum (Eugenia paniculata australis) -
 Australian brush-cherry
Taxodium distichum - Bald-cypress
Trachelospermum jasminoides - Confederate-jasmine,
 Star-jasmine
Ulmus parvifolia sempervirens - Chinese Elm
Wisteria
Xylosma bahamensis
Zizyphus jujuba - Jujube, Chinese-date

SOIL

ADDITIVE TABLE

Material—contains %	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potash
Sudbury Nitrogen	46	—	—
Sudbury Phosphorus	—	46	—
Sudbury Potash	—	—	46
Animal Tankage	8.0	20.0	—
Bloodmeal	15.0	1.0	.5
Bone Meal	4	25	—
Castor Pomace	5.5	1.5	1.0
Cocoa Shells	2.7	1.5	2.7
Coffee Grounds (dried)	2.0	.3	.5
Cottonseed Meal	8.0	2.5	1.5
Cow Manure	.6	.2	.5
Cowpea, Vetch or Alfalfa	3.0	.5	2.0
Fish Scrap	8.0	13.0	4.0
Fly Ash	—	—	12
Granite Dust	—	—	5
Greensand	—	1.5	7.0
Ground Mineral Phosphate	—	29	—
Guano	12.0	8.0	3.0
Hen Manure	1.1	.8	.5
Horse Manure	.7	.3	.6
Hoofmeal & Horndust	12.5	1.5	—
Incinerator Ash	.2	5.0	2.0
Milorganite	6.0	3.0	—
Nitrate of Soda	16	—	—
Peanut Shells	3.6	—	—
Phosphate Rock	—	30	—
Pig Manure	.5	.3	.4
Seaweed	1.5	1.0	5.0
Sheep Manure	.8	.3	.9
Slag	—	8.0	—
Sludge	6.0	3.0	—
Steer Manure	.8	.3	.4
Sugar Wastes	—	8.0	—
Sulphate of Ammonia	21	—	—
Super Phosphate	—	18	—
Tobacco Stems, Powder	3.3	—	7.0
Triple Super Phosphate	—	47	—
Wood Ashes	—	1.5	8.0

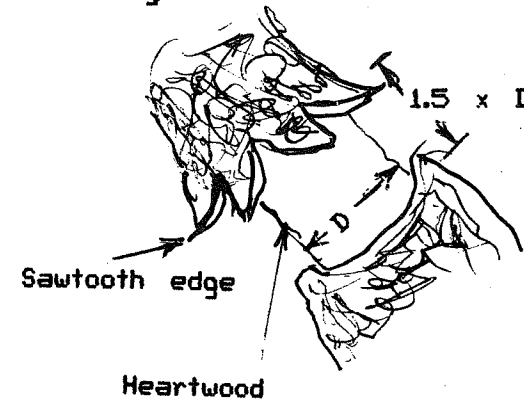
pH

TREES AND SHRUBS

Alder	5.5 - 6.5	Magnolia	5.0 - 6.0
Ash	6.0 - 8.0	Maple	6.0 - 8.0
Beech	6.0 - 7.0	Mockorange	6.0 - 8.0
Buckeye	6.0 - 8.0	Mountain Ash	4.0 - 5.0
Chesnut, American	5.0 - 6.0	Oak, Pin	6.0 - 7.0
Chesnut, Oak	5.5 - 6.5	Oak, Scarlet	6.0 - 7.0
Colorado Spruce	6.0 - 7.0	Oak, Scrub	4.0 - 5.0
Cypress	5.0 - 6.0	Pecan	6.0 - 7.0
Dogwood, Flowering	6.0 - 7.0	Pine	5.0 - 6.0
Elder	6.0 - 8.0	Poplar	6.0 - 8.0
Elm	6.0 - 8.0	Pricklypear	5.0 - 6.0
Eucalyptus	6.0 - 8.0	Rhododendron	5.0 - 6.0
Euonymus	6.0 - 8.0	Shagbark Hickory	6.0 - 7.0
European Mountain Ash	6.0 - 8.0	Spicebush	5.5 - 6.5
Fir	5.0 - 6.0	Spiraea	6.0 - 8.0
Forsythia	6.0 - 8.0	Spruce	5.0 - 6.0
Hawthorne	6.0 - 8.0	Sumac	6.0 - 8.0
Hazelnut	6.0 - 7.0	Tulip Tree	6.0 - 7.0
Hemlock	5.0 - 6.0	Walnut	6.0 - 8.0
Honeysuckle	6.0 - 8.0	White Oak	5.5 - 7.0
Juniper	6.0 - 7.0	Willow	6.0 - 8.0
Linden	6.0 - 8.0	Willow, Creeping	5.0 - 6.0
Locust	6.0 - 8.0	Wisteria	6.0 - 8.0

LAYERING AND SHOUHIN BONSAI

The last two issues of the PBA Newsletter covered the aspects of making shouhin bonsai from cuttings, — a way to utilize any material pruned from other bonsai when styling them. Air-layering is not only another way to get a shouhin bonsai which is further developed than one obtains from cuttings, but it is also useful to offset the unattractive juncture between the stock and the scion in a grafted tree. In the latter case, air-layering is done above the juncture of the graft so that the bulge of the graft can be eliminated when roots have been established on the scion section of the graft.

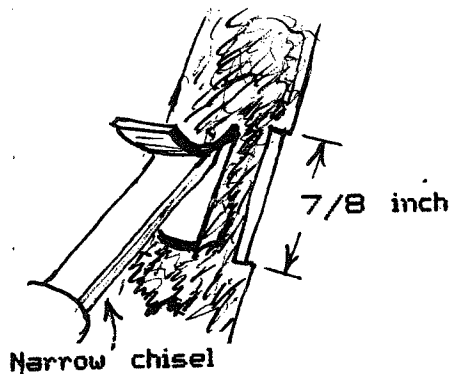


The ring-barking method of air-layering consists of peeling off a ring of bark which is 1.0 to 1.5 the diameter of the trunk or branch where the new roots are to grow. Mr. Mikio Oshima, a Japanese bonsai master, in his lectures at Bill Valvanis' Bonsai Design Symposium last September indicated that he does not air-layer any branch or trunk which is less than the thickness of one's index finger.

The above diagram shows a saw-tooth edge made in the bark, cambium, and into a portion of the sapwood. The cuts must be deep enough to prevent any healing and in the case of some species of deciduous trees the cuts must be wider and deeper. The serrated edge is peeled back to allow pushing shredded sphagnum moss under the points.

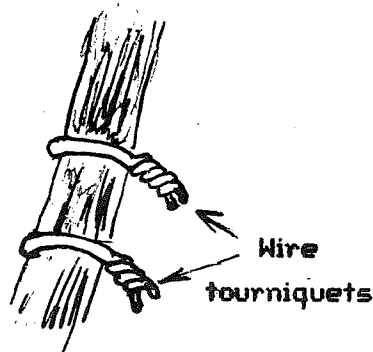
Another method used for black pine and white pine is stripping-up. As shown in the sketch on the next page, a small chisel is used to remove strips of bark and leave others intact so that the vital processes can continue above the cut. This technique is supposed to take less time for the establishment of black and white pine roots than for the ring-barking method.

The chisel only goes deep enough to cut slightly into the wood. A third method used only for evergreens is shown below which consists of wrapping a wire at the point where the roots are desired and a second wire about 1.5 diameters below the first wire. The wires are tightened in place. In all three methods described above, shredded sphagnum moss

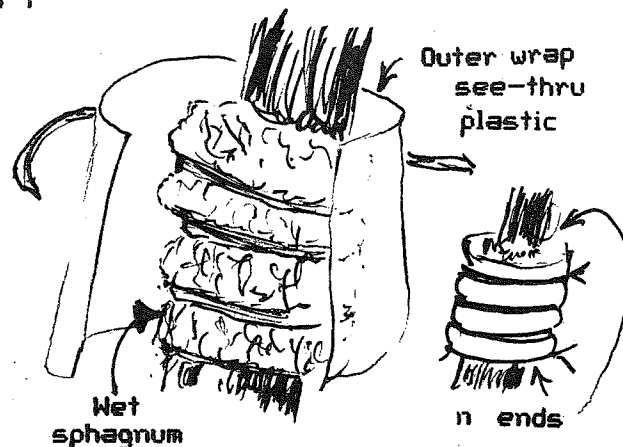


that has been soaked in water is placed around the section to be air-layered. The moss is tied tightly in place with raffia or bio-degradable twine so that it does not move from the point where the roots are to emerge. Mr. Oshima does not completely wrap the moss in a plastic bag so that any rotting of the new roots is prevented. He simply wraps a clear piece of plastic around the moss and again ties it in place with raffia or twine.

The sphagnum moss must be kept wet and this can be done when the parent tree is watered and or more often if necessary. Roots should start emerging from the bottom of the plastic wrapping and also appear through the wrapping in three to five weeks for deciduous trees and for young pines—two to three months. If more



rootage is desired, the plastic wrapping can be removed, more moss tied in place, and the plastic again tied in place. When sufficient new root growth has developed, the air-layered section is removed from the parent tree by cutting through the trunk or branch near the upper edge of the ring but not so close as to harm the new roots.



OLD CHINESE PROVERB

At IBC '86, John Yoshio Naka opened one of his lecture/demonstrations with an "Old Chinese Proverb" which he attributed to having been published in "Shibui Bonsai" which is published by Shibui Bonsai Kai, Johannesburg, South Africa. Recently Molly Hersh and Jo Finneyfrock gave me some of the issues of "Shibui Bonsai" and lo and behold the proverb appeared on page 7 of the April 1986 issue. However, John took some literary license with the proverb and being a bonsai fancier, I like John's version better. John Yoshio Naka's version is as follows:

If you want to be happy
for an hour

get drunk.

If you want to be happy
for three days

get married.

If you want to be happy
for eight days

kill your pig and eat it.

If you want to be happy
forever

do bonsai

The original version published in "Shibui Bonsai" differs only in the last statement which reads, "If you want to be happy forever, **make a garden.**"

MASAHIKO KIMURA - THE MAGICIAN

The advertisement on the facing page appeared in Golden Statements January/February 1987. The periodical is an excellent publication of the Golden State Bonsai Federation which represents some 48 bonsai clubs in the State of California. Yes, bonsai is BIG in California.

Masahiko Kimura is indeed the pioneer of new techniques for creating bonsai and it is gratifying to see that Golden State has taken the bull by the horns so to speak and has made the necessary arrangement for Kimura-sensei to present a program to them. Perhaps some of the PBA members will want to attend the program. Otherwise, we will await the English translations of Kimura-sensei's bonsai tapes which PBA will purchase.

APOLOGY

The editor is apologizing for the lack of clarity in the typed copy for the last two PBA Newsletters. The ribbon in the printer had been re-inked too heavily in spots. It finally occurred to me to hand-wind the ribbon through some paper towels to even-out the ink. I'm still getting acquainted with the computer and its printer as a word-processor, and I hope you will be patient with me.

Jules Koetsch

The Magician is Coming to California!



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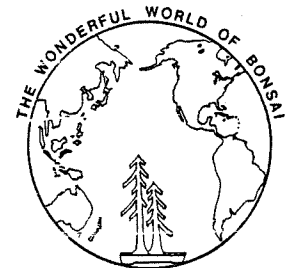
The Magical Technician of Contemporary Bonsai

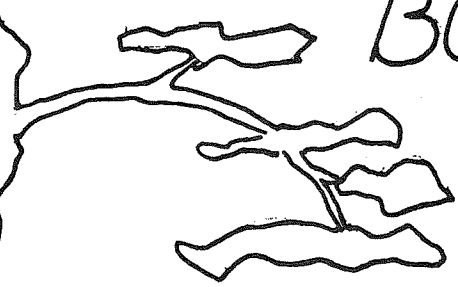
Masahiko Kimura is the world's most famous contemporary bonsai artist. Known as "The Magical Technician of Contemporary Bonsai" he will perform his bonsai magic on center stage of the Grand Theater. Kimura-san will be accompanied by Susumu Sudo, the famous bonsai master and owner of Chikufu-En in Japan. John Naka, "The Shogun of American Bonsai" will translate for the magician's demonstrations.

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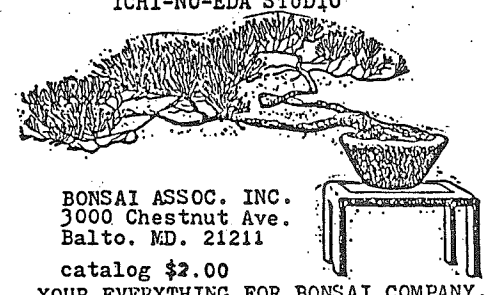
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