

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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SILVER SPRING, MD
PERMIT NO. 2359

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 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 Bill Hersh, 102 Devon Ct. Silver Spring, MD 20910.

ADVERTISING RATES

Monthly rates: 1/4 page - \$5.00; 1/2 page - \$10.00; full page - \$15.00 - 20% rate reduction for advertisements that run for 3 or more consecutive months.

ADVERTISEMENTS ONLY/OF ARTICLES send to the editor.

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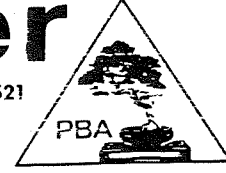
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POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION

Vol 18 No 1 January 1988

Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2 January Saturday

WOLF TRAP NURSERY (703) 759-4244, 9437 Leesberg Pike (RT.7) VA, at 11:00 a.m. "CARING FOR YOUR NEW BONSAI". Due to limited space, phone reservations are advised. (Topic and date subject to change.).SK 1

9 January Saturday

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 591-0864: Green Spring Horticulture Center at 10:00 a.m. Don Dobbins of Wolf Trap Nursery will use indoor material to make a Chinese bonsai planting on rock. The planting will be raffled at the end of the meeting. An attractively framed collection of Chinese bonsai stamps will also be raffled. Members are urged to attend so that they can place their orders for the February soil mixing/sale meeting. Also working groups, especially in black pines, azaleas and maples, will begin the 1988 workshop get-togethers planned for each meeting in 1988.

12 January Tuesday

NATIONAL ARBORETUM, 1:00 p.m., BONSAI REFINEMENT WORKSHOP. Robert Dreschler, Curator of the National Bonsai Collection, will conduct a Bonsai Refinement Workshop in which he will assist individuals in repotting or refinement of their own bonsai plants, according to seasonal requirements. Participants must bring their own bonsai plants, bonsai tools, wire, container and soil if repotting is planned. The Arboretum will provide no supplies or equipment.

REPORT of PBA BOARD MEETINGS

This publication has been remiss in the past for not reporting the goings-on at PBA Board of Directors Meetings. Now that the editor of this rag is a member of the PBA Board, it's time that readers know what transpired at the PBA Board Meetings. In an effort not to make the recaps now and in the future sound like a review of PBA Bored meetings, only significant highlights will be given periodically following the meetings. This resume covers the meetings of 2 November and 9 December 1987.

The most important function of the PBA Board of Directors is to plan the forthcoming 1988 slate of PBA events and 1988 looks like it's going to be a vintage year:

The Annual PBA Spring Show at the National Arboretum is scheduled for April 22 through 24, 1988. Members should be planning to spruce up their proposed entries as soon as possible.

The Annual PBA Auction will be held once again at Behnke Nurseries on the 14th of May 1988. One feature of interest at this time is the possible availability for auction of bonsai currently in the collection of the Henleys of Norfolk, Virginia. The collection, it is understood, consists of possibly as many as 80 trees. Whether that number will be available at the time of the auction is still unknown. More on this as time goes by.

Bonsai Master John Yoshio Naka will be visiting PBA and he will give a lecture-demonstration on Friday evening, May 20th, 1988, and a tree-critique limited to 15 trees on Saturday morning, May 21st.

The Annual PBA Beginners' Workshop will be in June 4th at the Arboretum.

One week prior to the 1988 PBA Symposium, on the weekend of 24 and 25 of September, 1988, the U.S. National Arboretum will be sponsoring Founders Day. There will be exhibits and vendor booths.

PBA has been asked to participate and this is still under consideration because of the following event.

This is the Fall 1988 biggie!!! On the evening of September 30th, 1988 there will be a dedication of the Mr. Wu Collection of Chinese Style Bonsai followed by a reception at the National Arboretum with the National Bonsai Foundation taking the lead in the ceremonies.

On Saturday 1 October and Sunday 2 October, 1988, the PBA 1988 Annual Symposium will be held at the National Arboretum. This will neatly tie the Symposium in with the dedication ceremonies and allow for a very appropriate overall Symposium-theme of Chinese Bonsai - Styling and Techniques. Future PBA Board of Directors' meetings will focus on solidifying the slate of speakers. At this time the possibilities of bringing speakers from Taiwan, or Hong Kong or Mainland China are being investigated.

It also appears that any future PBA Annual Symposiums will be best held at the U.S. National Arboretum. This seems to be the logical solution to the problem of keeping the overall costs of the Symposium to a minimum. In the past the PBA Symposiums have migrated from hotel to hotel about every third year in an effort to keep the costs down. The costs for the Symposium seem to have had a habit of increasing to an inordinate amount in a three year interval due to one or more reasons.

For those persons at the forthcoming Symposium, who wish to stay near the Arboretum, Fred Mies will request the Master Hosts Inn at 1917 Bladensburg Rd, Washington, D.C. to reserve some rooms for September 30th, October 1st. A shuttle service to and from the Master Hosts Inn will be provided. The customary night banquet, its location, etcetera, is still under consideration.

Mike Ramina, Baltimore Bonsai Club, is heading up the PBA Board of Directors' Nominating Committee, - candidates for the 1988 - 1989 Board of directors to be elected at the Annual PBA Meeting at the time of the PBA Spring Show.

Now you have an idea of what transpires at the PBA Board of Directors meetings. A member of your bonsai club has a representative on the Board and should represent your interests. This does not exclude any member from attending a Board meeting and making his or her views known. However, any votes to bring some proposal into being are reserved for PBA Board members and your club representative has one of those votes. To find out when a PBA Board Meeting is to take place, contact your local club representative. The PBA Board of Directors exists only to serve the PBA members.

SEPT. 30TH - OCT. 2ND 1988

WASHINGTON, D.C.

PENJING. THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM, PRESENTS ITS

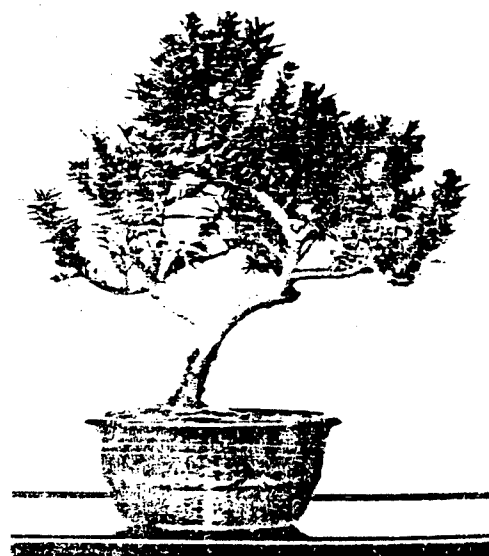
**13th Annual Symposium
on the
Art of Penjing.**

THERE WILL BE LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, VENDORS, AND MORE...THE U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM WILL DEDICATE AND PRESENT FOR THE FIRST PUBLIC VIEWING A COLLECTION OF PENJING WHICH HAS BEEN DONATED BY MR. YEE SUN WU.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL OR WRITE CHRIS YEAPONIS, 4228 BERRITT ST., FAIRFAX, VA 22030 VA 22030, (703) 591-0864.

JAPANESE YEW, - KYARABOKU MAKING SHARI © JIN

This article covers the development of a yew into a bonsai with jin and shari. A Japanese article was used as one of the sources of information and the plant material addressed therein is Kyaraboku which reference 1 describes as *Taxus cuspidata* variation



Starter yew

umbraculifera. (Reference 1 is an invaluable source of bonsai information and its Appendix 3, Basic Data on Bonsai Plants, lists 340 Japanese plant names with their English counterparts along with notes on the individual care of each.) This yew is a clone in the Japanese yew family, - so named since it is native to Korea and Japan. Japanese yew is found in nurseries in this area and is popular as a foundation plant or around entrances since it makes a low spreading bush which is about 10 feet wide and 3 feet high. It is listed as being hardy as far north as zone 4, - average annual minimum temperature of -20 to -10 degrees Fahrenheit and a southernmost boundary just north of New York City.

Reference 2 has a picture of *Taxus cuspidata* along with 14 other species of yew.

The adaptation of the Japanese article contained herein, describes a method for determining whether a yew is male or female. Reference 3 gives another way one can tell: "Each yew tree is wholly male or wholly female. Male trees bear in spring, dainty clusters of yellow flowers that shed golden, windborne pollen. On female trees small green bud-like female flowers develop, after fertilization, into conspicuous rose-red berries, ripe in Autumn. Each berry has a green cup-shaped base, a circular aril of pink, soft, sticky, sickly-flavored sweet pulp, and an exposed single central seed, hard and greenish black. Birds swallow pulp and seed, voiding the latter

unharmd. Seeds sprout, eighteen months after ripening, as seedlings bearing only two star-shaped seed leaves."

Note that bark, seeds and foliage are poisonous to man.

Reference 4 indicates that yews prefer alkaline soil and do not grow well under conditions where azaleas would prosper. Also noted in reference 4 is that yews are subject to infestations of certain insects and a disease. The pests include black vine weevil, brown snout beetles, Taxus mealybug, Pulvinara scale and Fletcher scale. The disease is Rhizoctonia root rot. Reference 4 lists pesticides and a fungicide as control measures of the pests and diseases. The Japanese article does not indicate any specific pest or fungus, - only that something should be done during the July - August timeframe.

The following article is an adaptation of one written by Mr. Seiichi Suzuki with the title "Kyara, Designing a Tree with Jin and Shari". The article appeared in Japanese in the publication "Directions for the Preparation of Pine and Conifer Bonsai with Illustrated Explanatory Notes.

PURCHASE of the TREE and the FIRST YEAR

Purchase of the Tree: It is suggested that the tree be purchased between February 20th and March 10th.

Removing Unwanted Growth: Immediately after procuring the tree, the trick is to remove the unwanted growth. In the process maintain the symmetry of the tree when cutting branches. Dispose of any big branches that are out of place. In addition reduce the height of the tree to about 12 inches (30 cm.)

The removal of branches and part of the trunk are done with the object in mind to leave enough material on which to do the jin and shari in the ensuing or second year. With this in mind the design of the tree illustrated herewith shows stubs of 2 to 3 cm (about 1 inch) left on any thin branch beyond where a remaining side branch is located and 5 to 6 cm (2 to 2-1/2 inches) on the thicker branches and also where the trunk has been cut through to shorten it. See the accompanying figures.

Potting: Immediately after the above pruning has been done, the tree should be potted.

Once the plant has been potted, it should be watered until water runs out of the hole in the bottom of the pot. Then place the plant and pot outdoors under a bonsai table. Note once again that winters in parts of Japan are not as severe as in this area and one should use judgement as to whether or not there will be an unusual drop in temperature which warrants giving the plant some temporary protection. Furthermore, the plant should be watered when .7 of the topsoil appears dry.

Further Management: Between April 1st and 10th place the plant on top of a table outdoors in a location where there is good air movement.

Between May 1st and 10th place 2 fertilizer balls (each the size of the tip of one's small finger) on the surface of the soil in the pot. Between September 1st and 10th repeat the operation but place the balls in spots other than where the previous ones were located.

SECOND and THIRD YEAR OPERATIONS

Making the Shari and Jin: Once the shari and jin have seasoned and are white in appearance on a beautiful tree, the character of the tree is enhanced.

By the second year the jin and shari can be made since about one year has elapsed in which the parts to be made into shari and jin have died and have dried up. The jin and shari should be done during January or February while the plant is still dormant and under winter protection.

After the jin and shari have been completely carved, lime-sulfur (Orthorix is one brand-name) is brushed on the jin and shari to preserve the wood from rot and also make it attractive. Some people do not feel that the stark, white coloring that the lime-sulfur solution tends to leave, once it has dried, is not natural looking. Hence they may mix black and white water color pigments to get the desired shade of gray and paint this over the lime-sulfur once it has dried. The general rule is to apply lime-sulfur only to the wood once it has dried. I understand that Dan Robinson applies lime-sulfur immediately to a jin or shari area right after making the jin or shari on live, undried wood. In addition some people recommend that the best results are obtained when the lime-sulfur is applied on a hot day and in bright sun. This is highly impossible in

some months, especially January and February, and it has been suggested that a hair-drier be used to heat the jin and shari areas. Lime-sulfur on the jin and shari should be renewed from time to time to prevent wood rot and also renew the appearance of the jin and shari. Try not to let the lime-sulfur solution get on anything else but the jin or shari areas,— it stains and isn't healthy for the root system.

Between April 1st and 10th place the plant outdoors on top of a bench. Repeat the first year operations with the addition of the cutting of sprouts between May 20th and 31st and using insecticide in July-August the July - August timeframe. Branches are wired between October 1st and 10th.

The third year finds one doing the same things at the same times as in the second year with the exception that wiring is not repeated in October.

FOURTH YEAR and THEREAFTER

Repeat the third year operations in the fourth and subsequent years: applying water, fertilizer and insecticide as well as pruning and wiring to establish and maintain the desired tree-style

Jules Koetsch

References

1. The Japanese Art of MINIATURE TREES and LANDSCAPES by Yuji Yoshimura and Giovanna M. Halford; Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, VT; 1957.

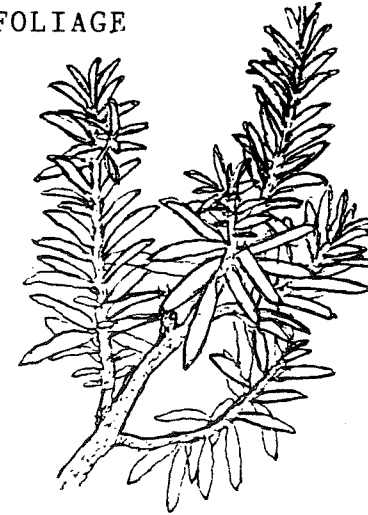
2. ORNAMENTAL CONIFERS by Charles R. Harrison; Hafner Press, New York, NY; 1975

3. The TREE KEY by Herbert Edlin; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY; 1978.

4. WYMAN'S GARDENING ENCYCLOPEDIA by Donald Wyman; Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.; 1977

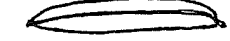
KYARA (Umbrella Yew)

KYARA FOLIAGE



LEAF OF MALE TREE 5/8 in.

← 1.5cm →



(Full size)



Cross-section (Enlarged)

LEAF OF FEMALE TREE

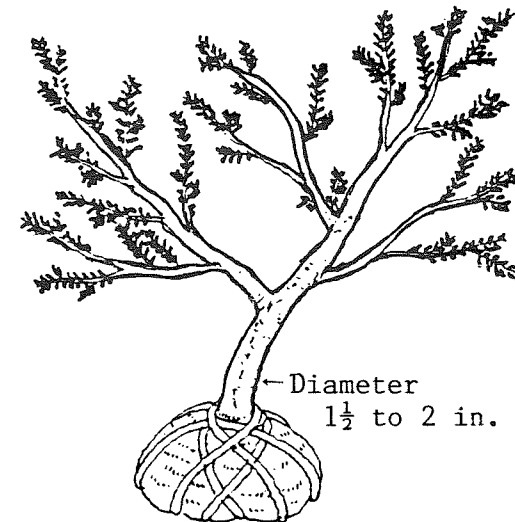
← 1.5cm →



(Full size)



Cross-section (Enlarged)



← Diameter

1½ to 2 in.

FIRST YEAR

PURCHASE TREE

February 20 - 28

Because of the leaves being thinner, it is suggested that a female tree be purchased. The tree should be about 10 years old with good taper to the trunk. Height is not important

IMMEDIATELY AFTER PURCHASE
REMOVE UNWANTED BRANCHES

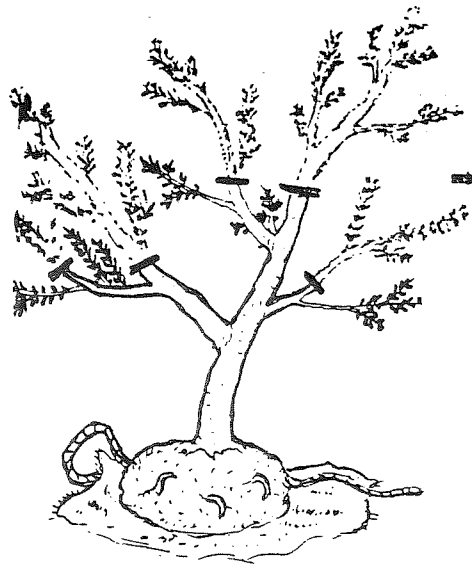
(Cut at these lines —)

In cutting branches retain symmetry in the design. The trunk to be, is cut so that 30 cm (12 in.) remain. The thick branches and trunk are pruned to leave stubs of 5 cm (2 in.) from the cut to the next branch. This distance is reduced to 2 cm (7/8 in.) for thinner branches.



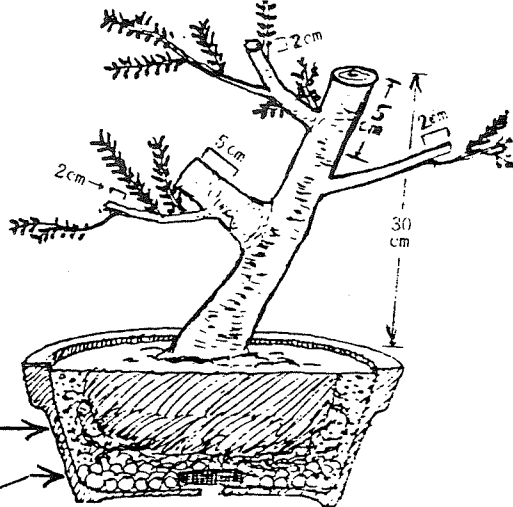
Use an unglazed training pot of about 8 to 10 inches. After potting the yew, water until it flows from the hole in the bottom of the pot. Immediately place outdoors under a bonsai table.

Soil mix: 7 parts Turface,
3 parts Gran-I-Grits }
Drainage layer- large Turface.



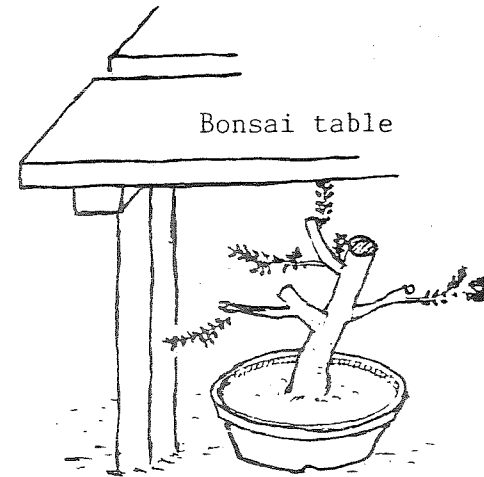
PREPARE THE POT & POT
IMMEDIATELY AFTER
REMOVING THE BRANCHES

Taking the root size into account, shorten thick roots and leave the thin roots. Remove about one-third of soil from the edge of the roots.



PLACE UNDER A TABLE OUTDOORS
IMMEDIATELY AFTER POTTING

Place the plant under a bonsai table outdoors immediately after potting. When the top of the soil appears dry, merely water- nothing more.

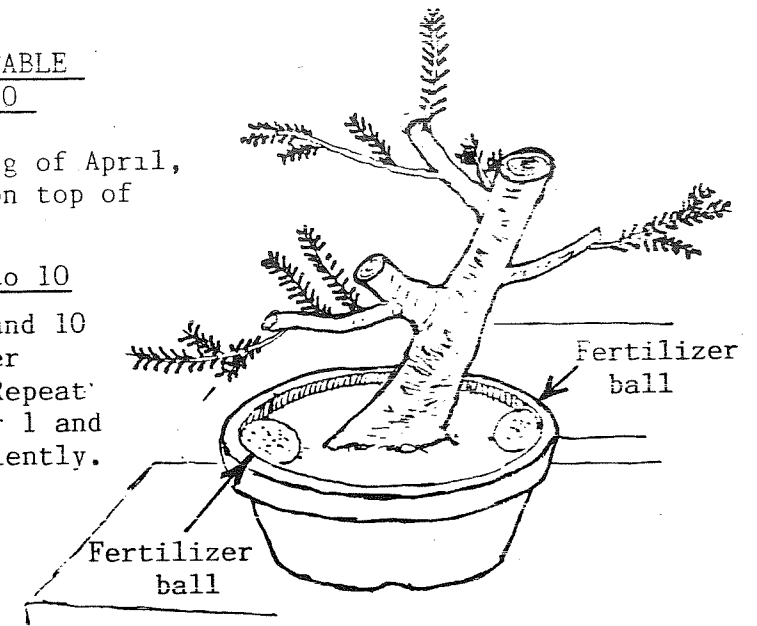


PLACE ON TOP OF TABLE
April 1 to 10

In the beginning of April, place the plant on top of the table.

FERTILIZE May 1 to 10

Between May 1 and 10 place 2 fertilizer balls as shown. Repeat between September 1 and 10. Water sufficiently.



SECOND YEAR

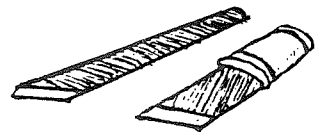
MAKING SHARI AND JIN
January or February

Consider How to Make the
Shari and Jin

Study the tree to determine how to do the shari and jin on the 5 cm (2in.) and 2 cm (7/8 in.) stubs.



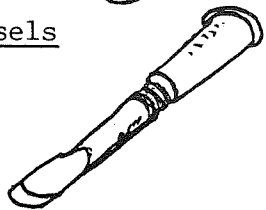
NECESSARY TOOLS



Incision Knives



Chisels



Before doing the shari and jin, prepare the incision knives and chisels, - sharpen if necessary.

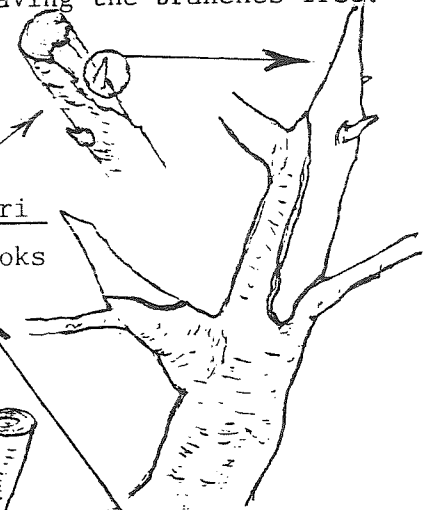
Fix the Tree with Cord

So that the tree does not shift when working on it, bind the tree to the pot with cord by tying the base of the trunk and leaving the branches free.



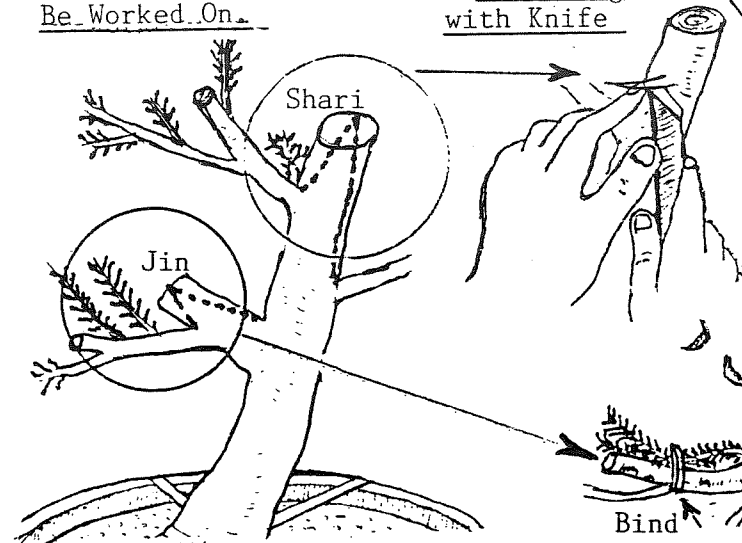
Improving
the Shari

Because this stub looks good, let it remain.



Mark the Parts to
Be Worked On.

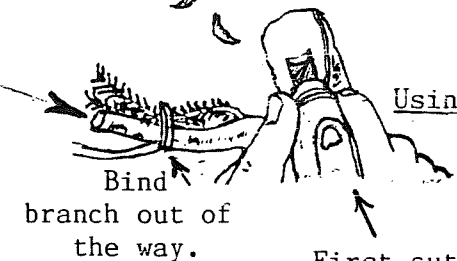
Whittling
with Knife



When using a chisel, a stub branch can be made.

Cover the shari and jin by brushing on a lime-sulfur solution.

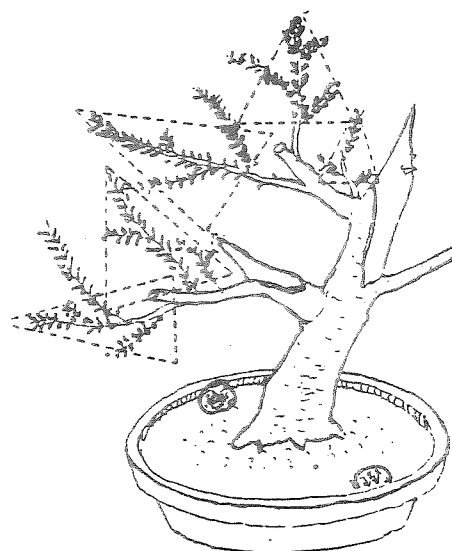
Using a chisel



Outline the entire parts to shari and jin.

First cut off the bark with a knife. Then use the chisels.

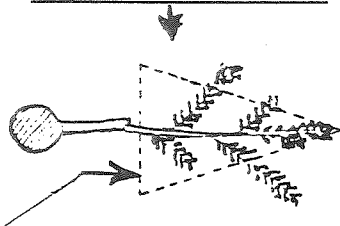
CUT SPROUTS - May 20 - 31



A Branch

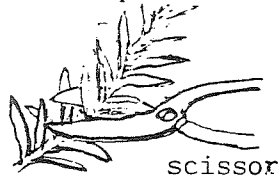
The tips of the sprouts and branches are cut with a scissor to form triangular shapes.

Top View of Branch



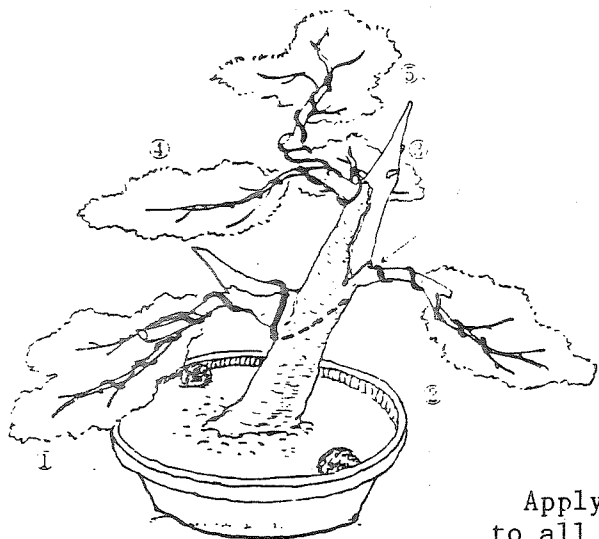
Remove all that is outside of the triangle.

Cut sprout with



scissor

The above shows how to shape a branch. Visualize the triangle pattern and cut the sprouts to conform.



Apply number 12 or 14 copper wire to all the branches and bend the branches slightly downward from the horizontal.

KYARA (UMBRELLA YEW)

BONSAI CARE TABLE

	YEAR		
	First	Second	Third
Jan or Feb	Make the Jin or Shari		
Feb 20 - 28	Purchase tree and remove unnecessary branches. Pot and place outdoors under a table. Water.		
Mar 1- 10			Pot in bonsai display pot.
Apr 1 - 10	Place Outdoors on Table-Top Water		
May 1 - 10	Fertilize		
May 20 - 31		Cut Sprouts	
Jul - Aug		Insecticide	
Sep 1 - 10	Fertilize		
Oct 1 - 10		Wire branches	
Dec 1 - 10	Insert in a Greenhouse		

In the 4th year and every year thereafter repeat the tasks listed for the 3rd year except that repotting is done every 3rd year.

WINTERING THE NATIONAL COLLECTION

The National Bonsai Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum is public property and one of the dictums accompanying that is that the bonsai are to be available year-round for public viewing. For those who have not seen the National Bonsai Collection in winter storage the pictures on the next two pages show how the bonsai were stored over the preceding winter. All the bonsai are moved into the longest part of the display area. As you can see, there is a temporary bench of lattice work on cinder blocks to accommodate the trees that cannot be fitted on the permanent bench. Large ceramic water containers are positioned at each end of the room. In their small way they act as ballasts to hold the heat when the temperature drops, besides giving off moisture and also providing a source of water which may have stood for a day or two and rid itself of chlorine and the like.

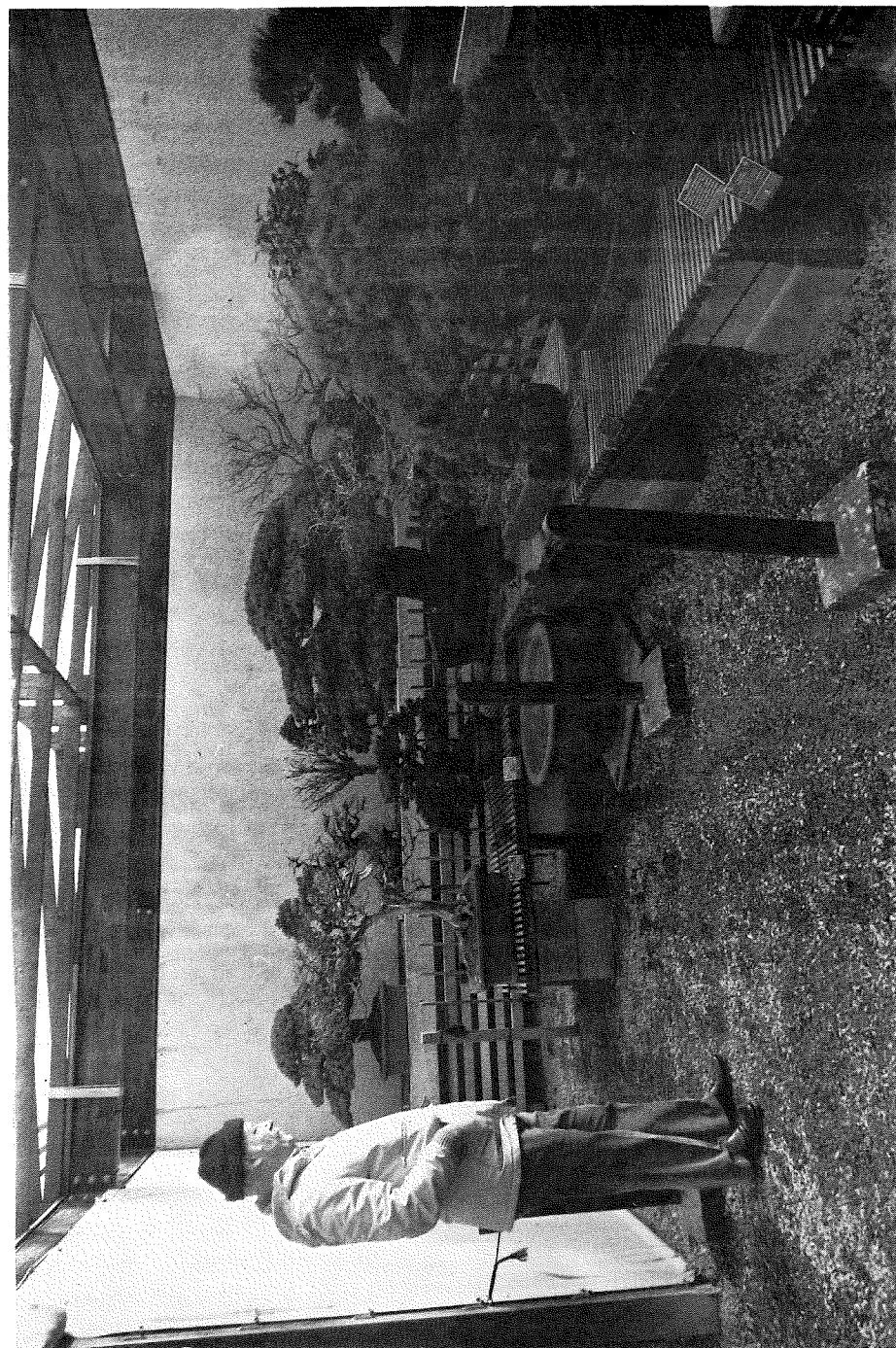
The normally open roof has been covered with white plastic to keep down the heat entering on strong sunny days and heat loss on cold days and nights. The large openings leading into the storage space can be closed-off by dropping the roll-up canvas curtains. In the first photo, Bob Dreschler, Curator of the National Bonsai Collection, and the author are standing under a curtain. The second photo shows the opposite end of the area with the author standing in front of one of the lowered canvas curtains. The interesting point is that the room is not entirely sealed air-tight. A vent in the peak of each wall at opposite ends of the room are left open to permit air circulation.

Three gas-fired heaters are thermostatically controlled to keep the temperature in the enclosure from dropping below about 34- degrees Fahrenheit. One heater's blower is on continually, heat or no heat required, to maintain air-movement.

One can draw some very pertinent applications of the above to the winterizing of a private collection in this locale. Usually bonsai will withstand most of the winter temperatures in this area until there is that one very, very cold snap where the temperature drops below 0-degrees Fahrenheit for a day or two. This can do-in a bonsai that has only been buried in the ground or mulched over. It is strongly advised that if you have any bonsai of value that at least a coldframe or some equivalent be made,- see the "Handbook on Dwarfed Potted Trees"; Brooklyn Botanic Garden; page 39. The cover should be made so that it can be tilted open to allow air circulation when the temperature is above freezing. By all means do not neglect watering the bonsai.

Jules Koetsch





ANNOUNCING THE SECOND ANNUAL WINTER BONSAI RETREAT

"Tray Landscapes, bonkei, saikei and microenvironments"

You are invited to attend another in-depth study weekend in Florida in February. All of the attractions which made our first conference such a resounding success will be retained.

- study by immersion of a single facet of the art
- an elite group of vendors
- a high-level exhibit of bonsai
- workshop activities of a level heretofore unattainable
- the Conference Proceedings, a publication including the text of all programs

THE TOPICS

Each program will be devoted to another aspect of tray landscapes including: the use of the effect of water; of rocks; of secondary plantings; of color; of texture; composition; creation of depth; transferring two dimensions to three; choosing a tray; the art of display; topography; technical aspects of the planting; computer simulation; and others.

THE SPEAKERS

Our speakers have been confirmed, and they will be Dr. Leon Snyder, Dr. David Andrews, Marian Borchers, Marion Gyllenswan, Mike Kling, Cliff Pottberg and the landscape painter Robert Butler.

THE WORKSHOPS

A three day workshop! After the other programs on the first day, we will design and plan our landscapes with our workshop leader. On the second day we will choose our materials and on the third day we will execute! Attendance in the workshop is free to all conference participants; however the materials cost will depend strictly upon the design and size of landscape that is decided upon with the workshop leader. There will be a limit to ten participants in each workshop with observers allowed.

The conference will be held, as last year, in the excellent facilities of the Admiral Benbow Inn in Tampa, Florida. Room rates are extremely reasonable.

THE DATES ARE FEBRUARY 26-28, 1988

For further information, contact Cliff Pottberg or Mike Kling at The Ranch Nursery, (813) 856-3378 or Alexis Bearer at (813) 862-7582.

The registration is \$195, with a \$35 discount until ~~December~~ ^{January} 1. You may reserve a place at the conference with a \$50 deposit, and a \$20 deposit toward the materials fee of the workshop if you wish to actually create a landscape in the workshops. The deposits are refundable until February 1.

.....
 Yes, here is my deposit of \$50, please reserve my place

Please send me more information about "The Florida Conference on Tray Landscapes"

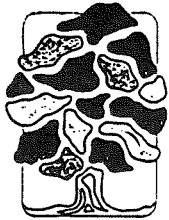
Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: Florida Bonsai Retreat, P.O. Box 5204, Hudson, Florida 33567

For reservations, contact the Admiral Benbow Inn, 1200 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33607
 Telephone: In Florida 1-800-282-7569; Outside Florida 1-800-237-7535



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VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180

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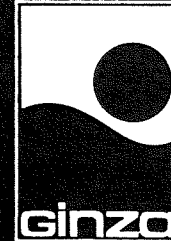
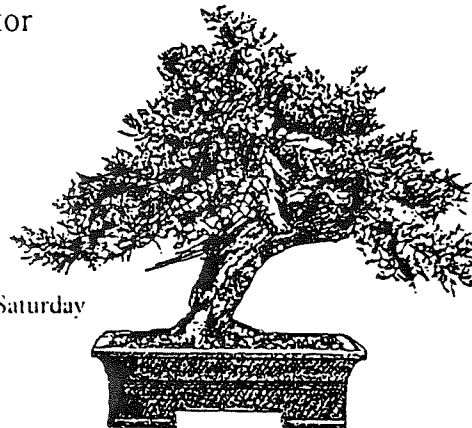
- **STARTER BONSAI**—large selection of both indoor and outdoor material
- **TOOLS**—Masakuni, Kiku
- **POTTERY**—Tokoname, Seto, Hotoku and other imports
- **BOOKS**—many titles to choose from
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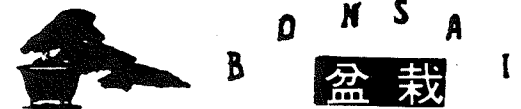
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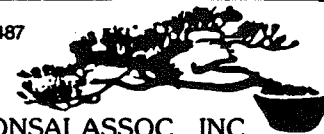


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