

Newsletter

Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia • Vol 1, No 6 • October 1971

October, November Meets Will Be Workshop Time

Location for both meetings will be the Brookside Botanical Gardens, Wheaton Regional Park, 1500 Glenallan Ave, Wheaton. See map on page 6.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7:30 p. m.

A workshop devoted to basic bonsai techniques, set up in response to repeated requests by PBA beginner members, Cliff Pottberg, assisted by Dottie Warren and other volunteer experienced members,

September Meeting

The officers and Directors of the PBA met at noon on September 26 for a regular business meeting. Topics discussed were:
 • PBA Bonsai Show, April 1972. Ruth Lamana announced assistants will be Molly Hersh and Dottie Warren; other committees and work assignments will be announced as specific details are worked out. Publicity will be handled by Jim Newton and Charlene Olsson. It is planned to invite the Japanese Ambassador to the show. Additional details can be expected in November.

• It was recommended that the PBA Annual Meeting be held concurrently with the organization's bonsai show and anniversary month in April.

• President Jim Newton presented a recommended functional breakout of areas needing attention in normal operation of the

(See SEPTEMBER..., page 3)

will supervise work on creating a bonsai, including:

- Selecting a tree from nursery stock. Suitable material in nursery cans will be available - San Jose junipers (Juniperus japonica san jose) - 10-12 inches tall, trunk about three-quarters inch.
- Relation between top and root pruning. Although October takes second place to the spring season as time for potting, hardy conifers have every chance of flourishing after an October potting if post-potting care and attention are followed religiously.
- Using tools. Appropriate tools, on loan from members for the evening only, will be available to participants for use.
- Pot selection. Participating members may bring their own (6-8 inch diameter round or approximately 8 x 5 inch rectangular or oval, 2-4 inches deep is recommended, although an alternate bulb pan of same dimensions will suffice; even a larger clay or plastic training pot will tide you over until next year when it will be safe to repot). Eight-inch diameter plastic containers will be available at cost for those who need them.
- Soil preparation. Top soil and terragreen will also be available, and correct mix proportioning will be discussed, as well as sifting methods.
- After-potting care: where to keep the (See MEETS..., page 2)

PROBLEMS...

(Continued from page 7)

even killed. Leaves coming in contact with the salt crust on rims of clay pots can cause some rotting effect. These problems can be avoided by soaking pots in water before reusing, and can be eliminated in the case of tender seedlings and cuttings by using cans or plastic containers.

There are several factors to consider in preventing salinity:

- Rainfall or irrigation with deionized water will wash salts down and leach them from container soils. This treatment is very effective because with deionized water no other salts are introduced.
- Use amounts of water in excess of plant requirements. The poorer the water used in irrigation, the greater excess must be used, and the more frequently leaching must be done.
- Keep the soil moist so that salts are diluted and plant injury minimized.
- Provide good drainage so salts may be washed away. Keep drainage holes open in pots and make sure cracks in benches let salt-laden water drain away from the pots. With poor drainage salts remain in place and concentrate from surface evaporation.
- Provide shade and high humidity for salinity-sensitive trees to reduce water loss from leaves and salt accumulation therein.

Ginkgos (ginkgo biloba) need deep pots.

- Use fertilizers in small (or dilute) quantities as often as needed, interspersed with liberal waterings. This will keep salts at a low concentration. (Next issue: Soil and Soil Mixes)

Classified

RATES

Free to paid-up PBA members; non-members: \$1 per line per issue; \$2.50 per line per three issues (same copy). Make check to Potomac Bonsai Association, mail copy and check to James R. Newton, Newsletter Editor, 5565 Columbia Pike, #802, Arlington, Virginia 22204.

DWARF POMEGRANATES, some potted, in bud, 1 yr old, 4-10", \$1 ea.

BLUE MOSS CYPRESSES, some potted, 1 yr old, 8-12", \$1 & \$2 ea.

SARGENT JUNIPER, 5 yrs old, 12", \$5.

JAPANESE MAPLE, 4 yrs old, 10-12", \$3 ea.

SOIL SIFTER FRAMES, wood, approx 12"x16", \$2 ea or three for \$5.

FLOWERING CRABAPPLE, 5 yrs old, 12", \$3.

DWARF JAPANESE AZELEAS, Flame & Rosea, from root cuttings, 50¢ & 75¢ ea.

DWARF INDICA AZELEAS, 5-10 yrs old, 4-6", \$1 & \$2 ea.

(Note: All of above have been root and top pruned; all are in excellent health.)

DOTTIE WARREN

14712 Harold Rd, Silver Spring, Md.
384-9292

FIRST CLASS

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
 c/o Leo J. Meyer
 1109 Palmer Road
 Oxen Hill, Maryland 20022



*Tues. Morn.
 11:00 a.m.
 Coleville - Benton
 becomes
 Left on Rt. 29 -
 Briggs Change -
 1 mile to 8th
 Left 9th*

MEETS...

(Continued from page 1)

tree; how to treat it; what protection will be needed.

All members wishing to participate in the potting should contact Molly Hersh at (301) JU9-3725 as soon as possible so that sufficient stock and supplies can be obtained.

Cost to participating members will be \$2.50, which will cover acquisition of tree stock, soil, terra-green, pots, etc.

Experienced members willing to bring tools for loan that night and assist in helping beginners get started should contact Jim Newton at (703) 671-3290.

There will be something for all. Those members not wishing to actively participate in the workshop session are urged to bring a tree to both show and use in an informal tree clinic. Style, problems, favorite techniques that work, seeking advice -- all aspects of the bonsai art will be fair game.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 7 p. m.

E. Felton Jones, American Bonsai Society Director and well-known Atlanta bonsai expert, will lecture, demonstrate and conduct a workshop on styling bonsai. He can take up to 15 participating students only, so reservations must be on a first

BROOKSIDE BOTANICAL GARDENS
Hours of Operation

Monday thru Saturday.....9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday.....1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Evenings, holidays.....By appointment

come, first served basis. Members desiring to take advantage of this learning opportunity should contact Bill Craig at (301) 730-0538. Reservation deadline is October 27.

Observers, an unlimited number, may attend to watch only.

Cost is \$10 per participant and \$5 per observer. These charges will go to cover Felton's fee and transportation.

Each participating member must furnish his own tree, tools, and the supplies necessary for styling a bonsai. This includes wire in gauge(s) suitable for the size tree brought, as well as wire cutters, pruning shears, sissors, etc. Some tools and wire will be available, but in limited quantities.

This workshop, which will take the

Bonsai License?

If you happen to be driving in Maryland, around the Silver Spring area, and happen to pull in behind a big white Cadillac and notice a peculiar license plate, you're not seeing things. You're seeing it right:



The plate belongs to two PBA members, Molly Hersh, PBA Director and Treasurer, and Jo Finneyfrock, who share a home at 102 Devon Court, Silver Spring.

When Maryland opened its licensing rules up earlier this year, Jo immediately put in their request. It was approved and the result is seen frequently on area roads and streets. And under the state's law, no one else can own the same combination of six letters on one plate.

The only other known instance of this devotion to bonsai was a similar South Carolina plate once owned by the late ABS Director Cad Brunns.

The Maryland plate is white on blue; several other PBA members are green with envy.

NEED COPPER WIRE? CALL YOUR ORDER NOW

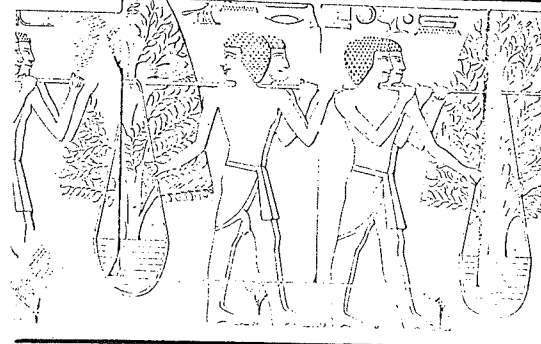
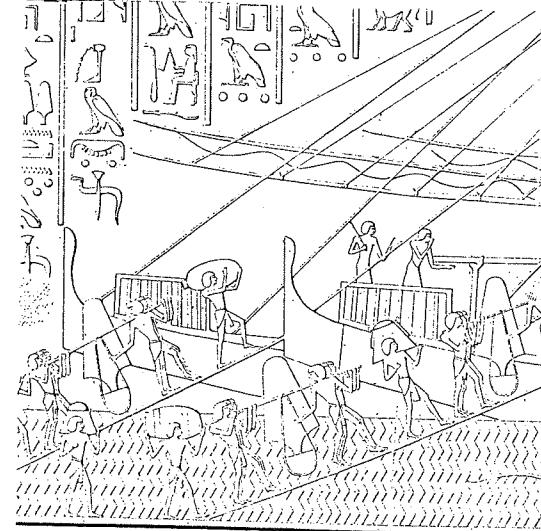
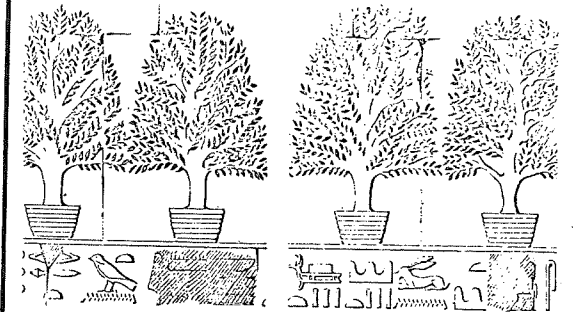
Any bonsai grower knows how hard it is to find copper wire in the larger gauges (lower numbers). Now an alert PBA member has located what appears to be a good source for wire, available up to #8 gauge

Since purchase is by the pound, a consolidated buy would be the most feasible. PBA members wishing to stock up on these hard-to-get gauges, call Jim Newton at (703) 671-3290 and place your order.

place of the regular third-Sunday November meeting, is a golden opportunity to receive firsthand styling information, plus personal assistance from a recognized expert in the art. Felton's credentials are impeccable, being studies under both John Naka and Toshio Sabumaru, themselves acknowledged bonsai masters in the California area.

Tree Potting Is Ancient Art

Although we look on bonsai as an art originating in China and finding its way across the sea to Japan, culture of container-grown plants was nothing new when those two oriental cultures took it up, witness glyphs recorded in the Temple of Hatshepsut, Deir el-Bahri, near Thebes some 3,500 to 4,000 years ago. At right, frankincense trees growing in pots. Below, both show frankincense trees in containers being introduced to Egypt from the Somali Coast. (Borrowed from "The U. C. System For Producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants," University of California Division of Agricultural Sciences, September 1957, from Baviile, 1913.)



SEPTEMBER... (Continued from page 1)
Association. Officers will study appropriate nominees for each function.

- Ruth Lamana recommended that each regular PBA meeting include some portion having to do with bonsai educational topics.
- PBA membership in the Bonsai Society of Greater New York was discussed. The benefits are numerous, not the least being an excellent BONSAI BULLETIN put out by that group. The Treasurer was ordered to initiate such membership.
- Molly Hersh reported on contact with the Brookside Botanical Gardens as a permanent meeting place. (See President's Report, page 4.)
- Meeting time change agreed upon: from 2-5 p.m. on the third Sunday of January, March, May, July, September and November; and from 7:30 p. m. on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Treasurer's Report - September 26, 1971 Receipts

Raffle of cotoneaster (donated by Dottie Warren), raffled at 7/25/71 meeting	\$20.00
Dues for 1971	94.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$114.00

Expenditures	
None	\$ 0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 0.00

Balance on Hand \$114.00

Respectfully Submitted
Molly Hersh, Treasurer
(See SEPTEMBER..., page 5)

●●●●●PAID YOUR DUES?●●PLEASE DO!●●●●●

President's Report

When the Board of Directors selected me as your first President, I accepted with a feeling of being out of my depth, not in the organization of the Association, but in the degree of experience one would normally expect a president should have. Your faith in me is gratifying, but the record has to be set straight: I am only a novice in the art of bonsai. There may be times when my ignorance will show. I expect this to happen, and accept the probability because I also believe that what I can offer the group is something a more experienced bonsaist might not have to the same degree: a sense of specific direction.

You see, when I became interested in bonsai and found there was no organized bonsai effort in the Washington metropolitan area, I searched for a way to obtain the training and experience I knew I needed. I'm still searching.

Part of my search has borne fruit: the PBA exists. Now we need a permanent home for the PBA. We may have found it in the Brookside Botanical Gardens, the site of our October and November meetings.

I had the pleasure of talking at length with the Garden's director, Carl Hahn, on October 1. I was most encouraged by his cooperation and willingness to listen to my proposition, which is that the PBA in effect adopt Brookside as its headquarters and grow with the Garden. Mr. Hahn is quite amenable, but pointed out that the decision is not his alone. I assured him that PBA's purpose is twofold: to advance the art of bonsai and to contribute

to the community's intellectual and artistic fund of knowledge. These, I think are vital purposes of any volunteer organization like ours.

The relationship, of course, has to be mutual. We'll have to give in order to expect to receive. Mr. Hahn has already suggested lectures and demonstrations of bonsai as part of the Garden's programming of events. Also, he mentioned the desirability of a bonsai show at the Garden. I tentatively agreed, of course, and offered, pending club approval, PBA for a second bonsai show in May 1972.

So, you see, I'm trying to involve this group of ours in activities that will
(See PRESIDENT'S..., page 5)

To Serve You

As you've no doubt already noticed, the Newsletter has expanded in the number of pages (6 to 8), even if size has decreased. This is accomplished by reduction of full size copy (8½ x 11 inches per page) by about 20 percent so two pages now fit on 8½ x 14 inch paper stock.

The reason? It's cheaper - two pages printed on both sides compared to three pages on both sides for the previous six page issue. That's good, but.....

It also means more copy is needed! That's where you come in. Items are urgently needed -- articles, drawings, features, cartoons, reports -- anything at all if it pertains to bonsai.

Will you help? You don't need to be a professional journalist. Write your idea up in any format; we'll put it in the right format for the Newsletter.

We'd prefer it written, but if you have something you'd like to contribute but just can't get pencil and paper together, call or write the editor.

Most particularly, we'd like personal experiences -- tips, descriptions of useful techniques you've discovered, how-to details, sources of bonsai stock, tools, books. We need long items, short items, and anything in between.

Will you help? It's your Newsletter.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia

Published solely in the interests of members of the Potomac Bonsai Association by

James R. Newton, Editor
5565 Columbia Pike, Apt 802
Arlington, Virginia 22204

PRESIDENT'S...

(Continued from page 4)

achieve the purposes stated in our constitution and will also establish the PBA as a responsible member of the community.

Now, as your President, my searching is going to involve you all. I give fair warning on that point. And it will be my contribution to bonsai in this area, or so I sincerely hope, that when I step down there will be a viable, active, growing association of persons serving this area's bonsai needs.

But I reiterate, none of you are going to be left completely alone. One principle I believe in very strongly is that the only way to a successful organization is through involvement. This is particularly true of a volunteer organization, for a person joins such a group for only one reason: satisfaction. The only way to give each person satisfaction is to provide activities in which he desires to participate. The only way to get those activities in gear is to recruit people, volunteers all, to develop them and run them and improve them.

Yes, you'll be called on. There are many areas from which to select the type of activity to work in: new club, membership, hospitality, speakers bureau, publicity, advertising, program, exhibits, teaching, field trips, library, audit, supply, fund raising -- and this is just a partial list!

Think about it. And when you attend meetings, think about the behind-the-scenes work involved in setting each session up. Will you help? You must help. For without your help, this organization will wither like an unwatered bonsai.

James R. Newton
President, PBA

.....GIVE AWAY.....GIVE AWAY.....GIVE AWAY.....

Back issues of HORTICULTURE Magazine for the past 4 or 5 years. If interested you may call Dottie Warren (301) 384-9292.

PLAN NOW FOR
PLAN NOW FOR
PLAN NOW FOR
PLAN NOW FOR
PLAN NOW FOR

KC in 72

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Annual Chrysanthemum Show will be held on October 23 and 24 at the Falls Church Community Center. This year's show is sponsored by the Potomac Chrysanthemum Society and the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society.

Classes in chrysanthemum bonsai will be conducted and chrysanthemum bonsai will be exhibited.

Interested PBA members wishing further information should contact Louise Branstead, (301) 656-0698.

SEPTEMBER... Continued from page 3)

The regular PBA meeting convened at 2:15 p.m. at the National Arboretum auditorium. Following announcements by the President, Ruth Lamana was introduced as moderator of the day's session. Twenty-five members were present.

Ruth conducted an informative period on Japanese and American five-needle pines, using as living examples six trees provided by she, Evelyn Solf, and Jim Newton. The trees included a Limber Pine, two Japanese Five-Needle Pines, a Sugar Pine, a White Pine, and a Bristlecone Pine. A question and answer period followed.

Ruth then talked about theory, techniques, and practical methods of preparing bonsai for winter. Included were the primary practices of digging in and using a cold frame.

Jim Newton followed with tips on wintering bonsai by apartment dwellers, basing his talk on personal experiences last winter on an eighth-floor balcony.

A raffle was held, the prize being a Sargent juniper donated by Dottie Warren. Money from chances, sold for 75 cents each or three for \$2, netted \$33 for the PBA treasury. Winning ticket was held jointly by Molly Hersh and Jo Finneyfrock. Drawing was performed by the son of A. L. Jagoe.

REMINDER...

October is the month for removing the wires from deciduous bonsai. Also, for checking wires on conifers, and loosening or removing any that are beginning to bite into the bark.

MEET YOUR BOARD-----

CLIFTON POTTBURG

Born in Baltimore twenty-seven years ago, Cliff attended a Massachusetts boarding high school. He graduated from St. Marks in Southboro in 1962.

The son of a chemical engineer, Rolf Pottberg, Cliff started out to follow in his father's footsteps. He attended Columbia University with a chemical engineering major. It took three years for him to discover he really did not want to go that way. He left college to work as a chemist for a marine paint supplier in hometown Baltimore. This lasted about a year.

A stint behind the footlights followed, a period of letting talents have reign, as Cliff took up semi-professional acting with the Vagabond Theater, the oldest Little Theater Group in the U. S. He still trods the boards in this organization's thespian endeavors.

About this time, in 1965, he found his first bonsai book in his parents' home. It was July, he recalls, the hottest time of the year, but he conducted his first bonsai creation with a local nursery tree despite the wrongness of the year. He

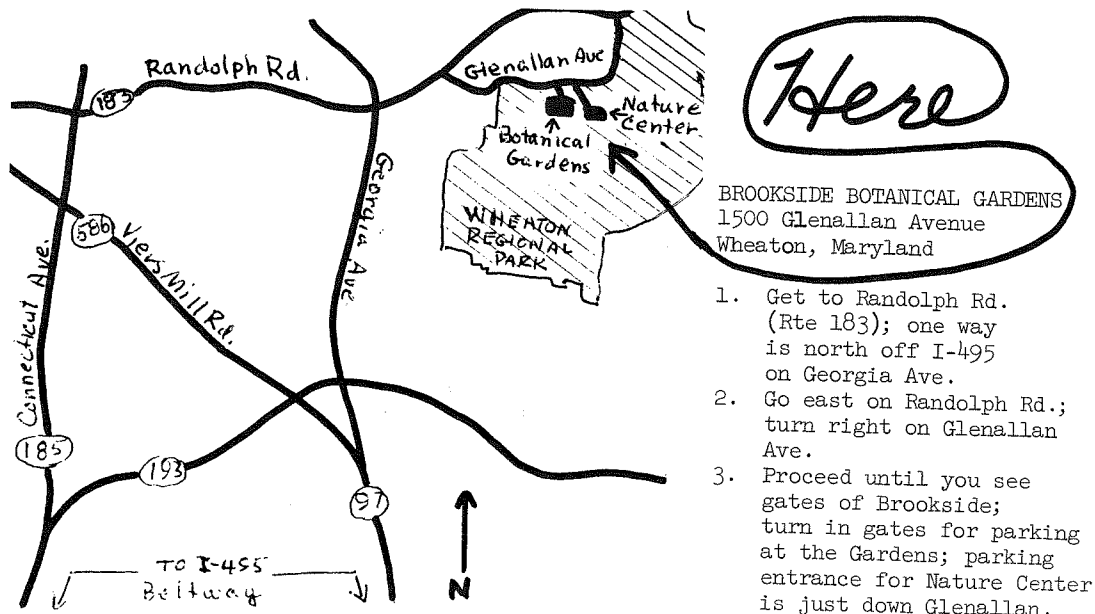
proceeded to whack off about two-thirds of both top and roots, washing the roots completely bare to boot. Then he stuck it in a pot and expected the poor mutilated thing to grow.

It did! Although later, when he knew better, he realized he should have been surprised the tree flourished. It's still doing fine.

Coincidence, or fate, took a hand in Cliff's life about this time. Quickly hooked on bonsai, Cliff took to dealing with the Pielke Landscaping Company's nursery as a source for the plants for his new hobby. Early in 1970 he noticed a Help Wanted sign in the nursery window. It stayed there through several trips back, and in July that year, on an impulse, Cliff applied for the job -- and was accepted. Today he works as a Pielke Landscaping Company landscape designer.

Single, Cliff says he has plenty of prospects, but so far has managed to avoid being landed.

A Founding Member of the PBA, Cliff was elected to the first Board of Directors in August this year.



Problems Maintaining Healthy Potted Trees

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a series based on and discussing implications to bonsai growers of data contained in "The U.C. System For Producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants," published by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of California Division of Agricultural Services.)

What are salts? They are chemical compounds consisting of an acid part, or ion, and a basic part, or ion. For example, common table salt - sodium chloride - consists of one acid-forming ion, chloride, and one basic ion, sodium, which combine in chemically equivalent quantities to form a neutral salt. Some other common acidic ions are sulfate, nitrate, phosphate, and bicarbonate. Common basic ions are calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and ammonium.

Any basic ion may combine with any acidic ion. Thus, a great variety of salts may be formed.

HOW SALINITY PROBLEMS ARISE

All nutrients needed for plant growth are absorbed by plants in the form of salts or their ions. Some salts contain no plant nutrients, others contain nutrients essential to the plant, and are beneficial in proper amounts. All salts, however, are harmful beyond the small quantity needed for growth.

Problems arise when concentration of

soluble salts in the soil moisture reaches levels that are harmful. Causes include:

- Excess chemical and organic fertilizer. Chemical fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate, and potassium sulfate, are already in the form of salts soluble in water. Organic material such as blood meal and leaf mold, become mineralized through decay processes, and the nutrients finally converted into salts. Where the two types are applied, the slower breakdown during cool conditions may not endanger plants, but with return of warm weather, accelerated decay processes may produce a sudden excess of water-soluble nitrogenous compounds that can cause salinity injury.
- Improper irrigation practices. As explained in Part 1 (September issue of this Newsletter), failure to pay proper attention to leaching may cause buildup of salts in the root zone. Practically all irrigation waters contain salts, sometimes in injurious amounts. This accumulation, added to that of fertilizers, may result in dangerous levels if periodic leaching is not practiced. Injury is aggravated by letting a saline soil become somewhat dry.

- Poor drainage and soils initially high in salts constitute further hazards. Poor drainage restricts leaching, thus aiding in salt accumulation. Soils, peat, leaf mold, compost, manure, and similar materials high in soluble salt content can cause serious tree losses. Manure, particularly, should be used carefully. Many feed lots use salt-grain mixtures to fatten livestock. This salt is present in the manure scraped up, dried, and sold. Add the urine accumulated in surface manure by the evaporation of water, and extremely high salinity levels can result.

- Used clay pots may also contribute to the salinity problem, since moisture evaporation on the outside surface leaves behind the soluble minerals in concentrated form. Roots coming in contact with the pot may be injured and (See PROBLEMS..., page 8)



Words From The Wise

From the pages of the Sunday Star for August 8 come the following wise words:

"London (AP) - Want to live longer? Take up gardening.

"David Hessayon, doctor of biology and horticultural expert, told the Royal Horticulture Society:

"Gardening has prevented more nervous breakdowns and has prolonged more lives than any other single activity."

Since bonsai can be loosely classified under gardening, welcome to the long-lived club!