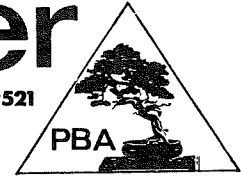


POTOMAC  
BONSAI  
ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



Winter Jasmine - Ōbai By: Katō Shudan  
Translated by: Jules Koetsch



ŌBAI - Informal Upright

As for bonsai styles one can choose from formal upright, twin trunk slanting, informal upright, multiple trunk (clump), clinging-to-rock, and semi-cascade. The informal upright style is probably the best from the standpoint of requiring the least amount of effort. Therefore that style will be described as a method for producing a styled tree from the starter tree.

Distinguished by the anticipation of Spring blossoms, Ōbai begins to bloom during the intense cold month of February, sending forth six petal flowers from tube shaped buds. Often for small and regular size bonsai, therefore, one healthy tree is planted singly in a pot.

SPECIES, PROPAGATING METHOD, TREE STYLE

Although the preference of many people is overwhelming in favor of obai, its associated species of sokei (white jasmine) and himesokei can be made into bonsai. Even though sokei and himesokei are quite similar to obai in being fragrant, the fact that they have a history of blooming in the Summer and are dormant in the Winter is considered to be a deterrent to their being more popular.

In addition, addition at the start one can use a purchased tree from which cuttings can be taken and raised into a starter tree.

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## CUTTINGS AND THE FIRST YEAR

June is the suitable time to take cuttings and place them in a prepared cutting bed, - see the diagrams. Note that the cuttings must be placed in an area with high humidity.

Having planted the cuttings, water the cutting bed until water flows from the bottom. Then place the cuttings in the shade for 10 days, - and after that put in a location where there is one-half a day shade for 15 days.

Management After The Above: Roots are emitted during July 1st to 10th, and because of that, it is time to place the cuttings outdoors, free of the high humidity enclosure and where there is good air movement. The criterion for watering the cuttings is to do it when the topsoil is dry, - about 2 times per day.

Begin to fertilize the cuttings once between August 20th and 31st. Use powdered rapeseed fertilizer and spread a thin layer between the rows of saplings. Make a similar application of fertilizer once between September 20th and 30th. Two applications of fertilizer in this year are adequate.

## SECOND YEAR TASKS

Preparations for Potting: The cutting box with the sapling trees has been resting in a greenhouse. Prepare to pot the saplings between March 10th and 20th. Use a number 4 deep, unglazed pot. Pot the trees as shown in the diagrams.

After potting the saplings, water each until it flows from the bottom and then place them outdoors on a shelf. (Please observe this warning that in this time period there may be frost and strong winds which may require that the saplings be protected at that time.) After completing the above, control the watering by doing it 2 times per day and blossoms will bloom on the flourishing branches.

Blossoming Ended - Now Prune: Blossoms stop blooming between April 1st and 10th, and when the blossoms die, they should be removed at that time. Already in this time period, new leaves have appeared on some lengths of fresh branch growth. Prune the branches so that 4 to 5 sections (leaf nodules) remain.

Fertilizing and Watering: After pruning has been completed, place the plants on tops of shelves and water with tapwater 2 times per day. When May 1st to 10th has arrived, apply 2 rapeseed fertilizer balls, each the size of the tip of your little finger. During the rainy season, remove the fertilizer balls. Apply fertilizer balls once every month until October.

Wiring of Trunk and Branches: Between June 1st and 10th apply wire so that the trunk and branches can be bent to the desired shape. When wiring the trunk, restore the shape of the tree to the design shown in the illustration and cut the head of the tree if needed.

Wire each branch so that the wire extends about halfway out on the branch to the point where the branch tapers off into a very weak end-portion. Wire is not applied to the extreme half of each branch in favor of letting them strengthen. At the same time remove branches that are opposite to other branches, i.e. bar branches. Of course use paper-wrapped copper wire. Just before the wire eats into the bark, in other words in roughly one month after wiring, remove the wire.

Cutting Unwanted Lengths from Branches: Cut the unwanted lengths from the ends of the branches. When pruning, make the cut in the empty length of the branch and not through any blossom sprouts. Do not destroy the balance of the tree with the pruning, cut small lengths off of the branches. Consequently, do not compromise by not pruning the ends to save some of the coming year's

blossoms. In the coming year when the blossoming is over, deep pruning will be done to shape the tree. Place the tree in a greenhouse between December 1st and 10th.

## THIRD YEAR MANAGEMENT

Even in the third year one can see a reasonable number of blossoms. Please enjoy the pleasure of viewing the yellow blossoms to your heart's content.

Pruning of Spent Blossoms: The blossoms will finish blooming in the April 1st to 10 timeframe and pruning is then in order. Trim the top (wick) and also cut a little off from the tip ends of all the branches.

When pruning has been completed, place the plant outdoors on a shelf. Be vigilant in watering 2 times per day. Between May 1st and 10th apply 2 kneaded rapeseed fertilizer balls. This year as in the 2nd year, apply fertilizer until October on a monthly basis.

Wiring of Small Branches: During June 1st to 10th, wire one-half the length of each new branch with paper-wrapped copper wire. See the illustration to understand what to do. Bend the branches so that they droop slightly downward. Wiring the small branches finally gives the tree its basic shape. After the wire has been on about one month, remove the wire.

## FOURTH YEAR - PLACING IN A BONSAI DISPLAY POT

Placing in a Bonsai Pot: Prepare to repot the trees while they are still in the greenhouse and just before they begin to bloom, - somewhere between February 1st and 10th.

To harmonize with the shape of the potted tree, a shallow, elliptical or oval pot should be selected. Choose a white pot to match the yellow color of the blossoms. Place the plant in the pot as shown in the illustrations, and then return the potted plant to the greenhouse.

Soon blossoms will appear. As in the 3rd year, remove the blossoms as soon as they die, and prune immediately after the blossoming has finished as in the 3rd year. Between April 1st and 10th place the bonsai outdoors on a shelf and water 2 times per day. Begin fertilizing following the same procedure as for the 3rd year, - applying the same size fertilizer balls at the rate of 2 per month until October.

Pruning New Twigs: New twigs are pruned between June 1st and 10th. Prune so that only 1 to 2 segments remain on each branch, and this will permit new growth to occur without upsetting the overall balance of the tree. This pruning of new growth is continued in the 5th and following years at the same time and in the same manner. During November 1st to 10th cut-off the unwanted ends of the branches.

## FIFTH YEAR AND THEREAFTER - MANAGEMENT

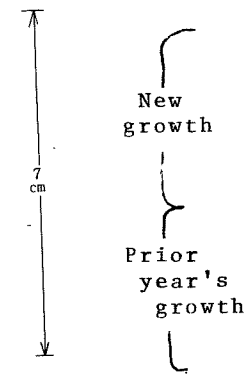
With the 5th and subsequent years the same procedures as for the 4th year are carried out. Because the growth of a young obai is rapid, do not fail to repot every year.

If the roots are not reduced during each annual repotting, and if the branch ends are not reduced, the plant will develop aerial roots because of the insufficient amount of fertilizer. Hence these aerial roots must be removed.

Protection Against Insect Damage: Gunbai mushi adhere to the undersides of the leaves and insecticide should be applied in the month of June to prevent them from appearing. Also during the Winter use lime-sulfur to get rid of konogara mushi.

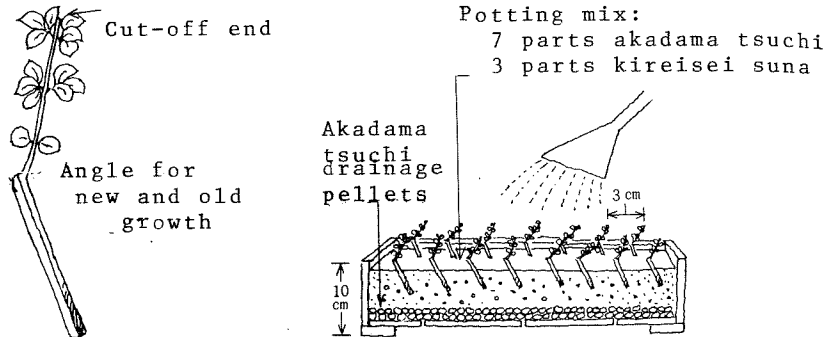
OBAI

FIRST YEAR



The above shows the shape of the new growth relative to the prior year's growth

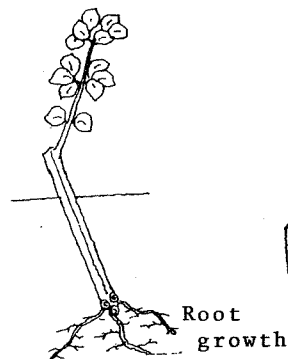
METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING CUTTINGS - June 1 to 10



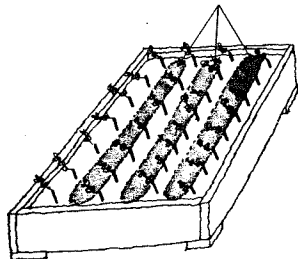
Space the cuttings 3 cm (1-1/4 inches) apart and insert them on a slant to no more than 1/3 of their overall length.

ROOT GROWTH

July



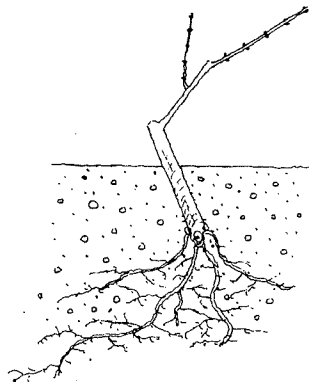
APPLYING FERTILIZER - August 20 - 31



Pinch powdered rapeseed fertilizer with your fingertips and spread thin layers between the rows of cuttings. Repeat the operation once more, one month later.

SITUATION ON DECEMBER 1 to 10

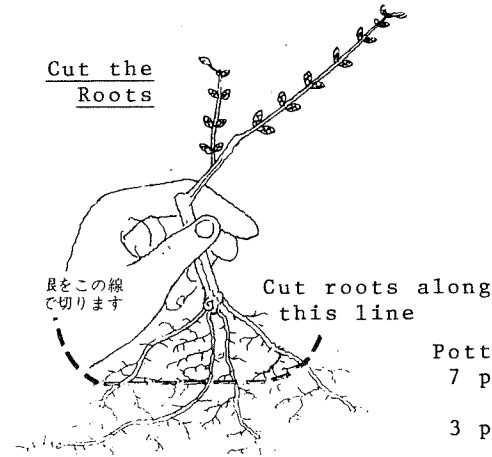
The cuttings will have shown some growth by December 1st to 10th and should be placed in a greenhouse at that time.



SECOND YEAR

POTTING - March 10 to 20

Cut the Roots



Un glazed Number 4 Pot

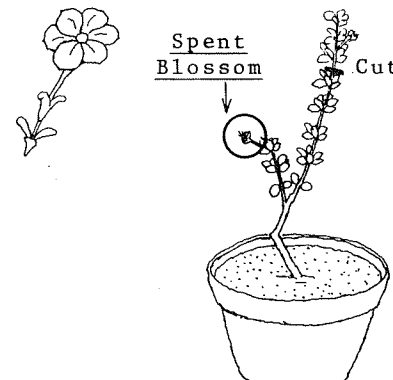
Potting mix:  
7 parts akadama tsuchi  
3 parts kirei seisuna

Akadama tsuchi drainage pellets

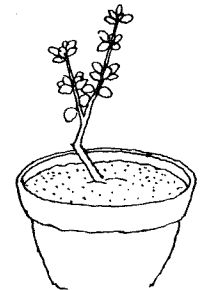
Remove all the old soil and cut the roots so that no less than 1/3 of the roots remain. After potting and watering thoroughly, place the plant outdoors on a shelf.

REMOVE SPENT BLOSSOMS, PRUNE AFTER ALL BLOSSOMS FADE - April 1 to 10

Obai Blossom



After Pruning



On the healthy branches 2 to 3 blossoms will have appeared and faded while other blossoms are opening. Remove the dead blossoms as soon as they die. Prune after all the blossoms have bloomed and died.

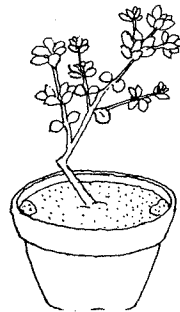
SECOND YEAR (Continued)

FERTILIZING - May 1 to 10



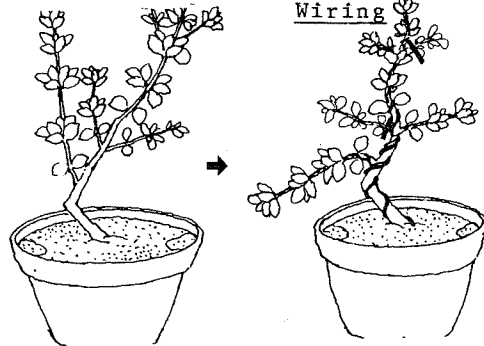
Place 2 rapeseed fertilizer balls, each the size of the tip of your little finger, once per month until the end of October.

GROWTH - May 20 to 30



Water 2 times each day and make one application of fertilizer every month, and the foliage will grow rapidly.

Before Wiring



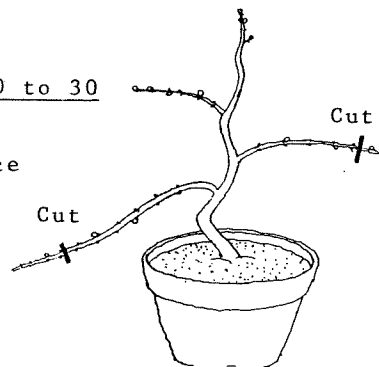
After Wiring

WIRING - June 1 to 10

Apply paper-wrapped copper wire to the trunk and branches. Wire the trunk in order to bend it as shown in the diagram. Wire the branches after the trunk has been wired. Bend the branches slightly downward. In one month remove the wire.

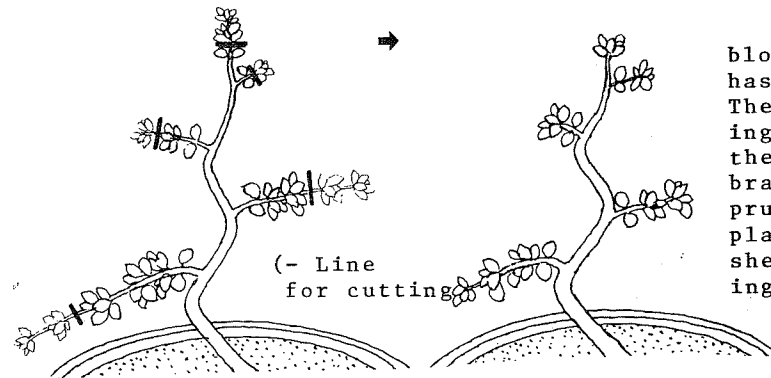
LIGHT PRUNING - November 20 to 30

Do not cut where the blossoms are located, but cut in the space between the blossoms. Cut any excess growth.



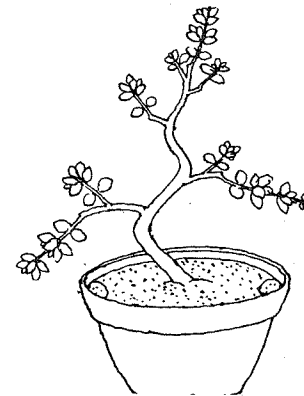
THIRD YEAR

PRUNING AFTER BLOSSOMING - April 1 to 10



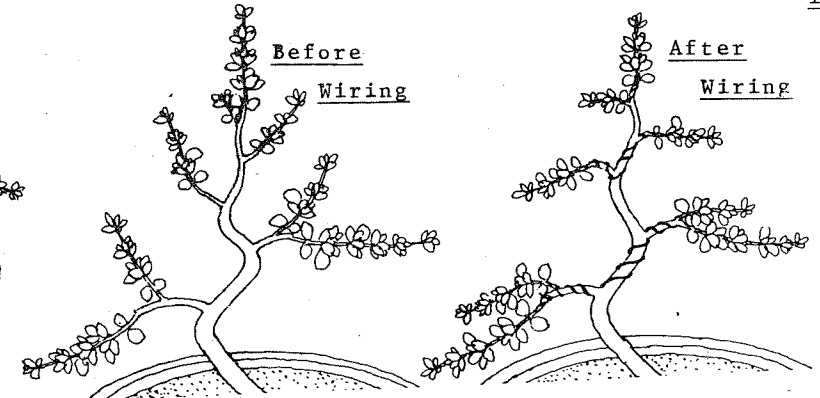
Remove every spent blossom as soon as it has finished blooming. Then prune. This pruning includes topping the tree and pruning branches. After the pruning, place the plant outdoors on a shelf. Continue watering 2 times per day

FERTILIZE - May 1 to 10



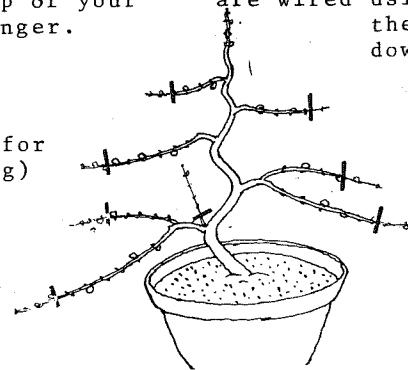
Fertilizer ball, place 2 every month the size of the tip of your little finger.

WIRING MAIN AND SIDE BRANCHES - June 1 to 10



In the second year the trunk and the branches were wired. In the third year the small branches are wired using one wire for two branches. Bend the side branches to achieve a slightly downward appearance. Apply wire to the small branches to achieve the basic shape.

(- Line for cutting)

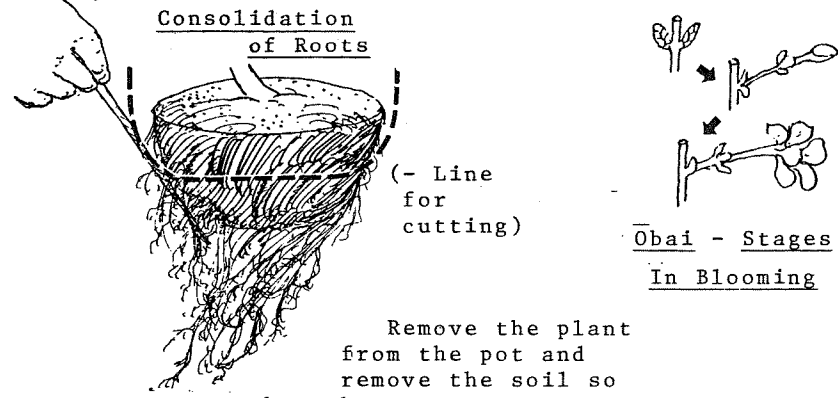


LIGHT PRUNING - November 20 to 30

In order to prevent the main and side branches from growing to unnecessary lengths and thereby destroy the balance of the tree, remove a small length from each of the tip-ends of the branches.

FOURTH YEAR

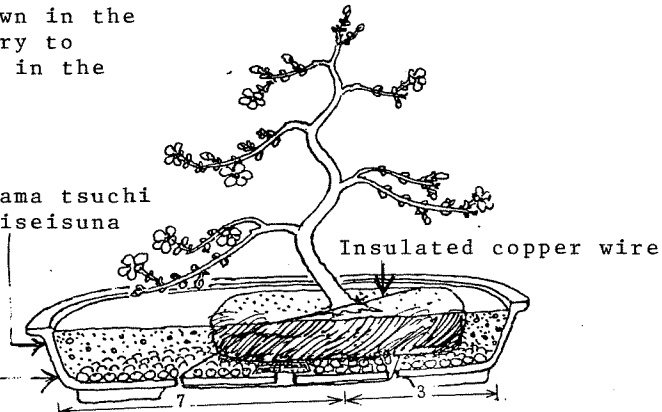
PLANTING IN A BONSAI DISPLAY POT - February 1 to 10



Remove the plant from the pot and remove the soil so that the roots can be cut as shown in the diagram preparatory to arranging the plant in the pot.

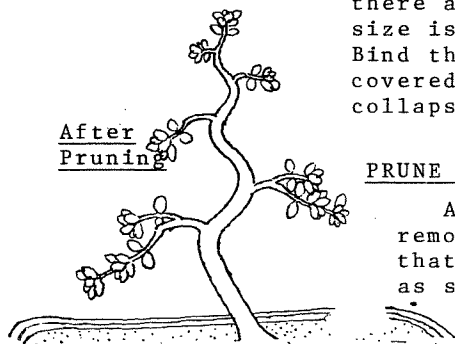
Potting mix:  
8 parts akadama tsuchi  
2 parts kireiseisuna

Akadama tsuchi  
drainage pellets



Before the flowers begin to blossom, there are many buds. Note that the pot size is more than ample for the root spread. Bind the root ball to the pot with plastic covered wire to prevent the tree from collapsing in the pot.

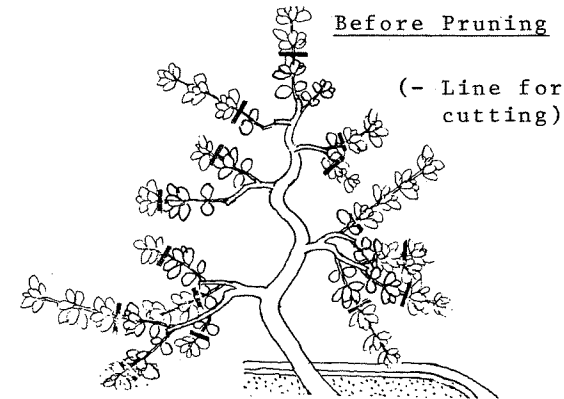
After Pruning



PRUNE FADED BLOSSOMS April 1 to 10

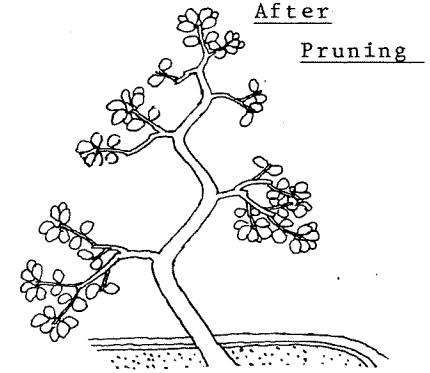
After the blossoms have faded, remove all of the dead blossoms so that all the branches can be trimmed as shown in the diagram. Once the pruning is finished, place the plant outdoors on top of a shelf.

Before Pruning



(- Line for cutting)

After Pruning



In the June 1 to 10 timeframe, new growth will have extended sufficiently so that it can be cut so that 1 to 2 leaf segments remain. Because one uses the above technique to consolidate the plant, it is not necessary to wire after the third year.

IMPORTANT PBA EVENTS FOR 1984

- \* John Naka has donated his famous forest planting, Goshen, to the National Bonsai Foundation for the American Collection. In honor of this generous gift, the Foundation is sponsoring a reception for John at the U.S. National Arboretum at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 1984. Goshen will be on display. All PBA members are invited.
- \* The PBA Spring Show will be held at the Arboretum on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 27, 28, and 29, 1984.
- \* The PBA Spring Auction will be held at The Behnke Nursery on May ,1984.
- \* The PBA Fall Symposium will be held at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel on Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21, 1984.

Please note the dates and plan your calendar so that you can participate in the events.

Bill Merritt  
President of PBA

John Naka March 8th

John Naka will visit the PBA for an advanced styling workshop in the afternoon and a demonstration in the evening of March 8th. Details in upcoming newsletters. Mark your calendar now!!!!

After the 4th year:  
Repeat the 4th year  
Repot every year

OBAI - WINTER-BLOOMING JASMINE

MONTH/DAYS	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH
Feb 20 - 28				Put in a bonsai pot. Blossoms open. Remove spent blossoms
Mar 10 - 20		Pot. Place outdoors on top of shelf. Water enough.		
Apr 1 - 10		Remove spent blossoms	Prune Place outdoors on top of shelf Water enough	
May 1 - 10		Begin fertilizing once per month		
Jun 1 - 10	Take cuttings, place in full shade	Wire trunk and branches	Wire main and side branches	Use insecticide Prune new top (wick)
Jun 20 - 30	Half a day shade			
Jul 1 - 10	Place outdoors on a shelf. Roots emerge. Water thoroughly.	Remove wire		
Aug 20 - 31	Fertilize			
Sep 20 - 30	Fertilize			
Oct 20 - 31	Stop fertilizing			
Nov 20 - 30		Remove unwanted lengths of branches		
Dec 1 - 10	Put in a greenhouse			

## A Bonsai Cruise

My first convention in California was the Golden State Federation's Annual Convention in November 1983 aboard the ocean liner Queen Mary now moored in Long Beach, California, Harbor. It was an adventure in itself - playing with original plumbing in the tub, getting lost on the ship while trying to take a shortcut, just staying aboard her though she no longer sails the Seven Seas. I also got plenty of exercise wandering from the demonstration rooms up three flights of stairs and down a long hall to the bazaar and exhibit rooms.

And what trees were in the exhibit! Californians do things in a big way and their trees reflect it. I don't think there was one there that was less than a two-man bonsai, discounting one name display. My favorites, of course, were the California junipers, and some of them were humongous\*, potted in small bathtubs. Even I was overwhelmed and, considering my propensity for collecting trees that, once I get them home, are too big for me to handle by myself, - that's saying something.

It occurred to me, however, as I was putting my own trees away for the Winter, that the reason Southern Californians can handle those big trees is because they don't have to handle them. Their trees stay out on benches all year long. If I had to haul half-a-dozen or more monsters the size of theirs in and out of storage twice a year, even I would think twice about owning them. Why not? I think twice about getting rid of some of my big bonsai as it is, and have come within aces of "dumping" them at the auction more than once. Let someone with more brawn and less brains wrestle with them, I tell myself.

So why have so many of them remained in my yard and so few shown up on the auction block? Does this mean I lack both brawn and brains? Possibly but there is some method in my madness, or at least some rationalizing. First, as the eternal optimist, I tell myself that soon (next Spring in fact) these trees will be ready to go into bonsai pots out of the training boxes they have been in. These pots will be considerably smaller than the present wooden boxes (which will be dismantled and reassembled on a smaller scale so I won't be tempted again), and in a smaller container the trees will be more manageable. Second, these trees are really some of the best in my collection. Why should I get rid of my best trees simply because they're rather on the large size?

My New Year's resolution, though, is no more oversized trees. From now on anything I get will have to be Mary-size. And it's a resolution I intend to keep - right up until the next collecting trip.

Mary Holmes

Editor's note: \*humongous is not in the dictionary, at least not in all those which I have at home. It is a colloquialism chosen of late by a number of people including radio and TV announcers to signify immensity.

## Snips and Slips

### NEW SOURCE OF NITROGEN FOR PLANTS

The September/October 1980 issue of "THE GARDENER" published by the Men's Garden Club of America, reports the discovery of a new, innovative use for a classic household product. Unflavored gelatine can be an excellent source of nitrogen for nourishing house plants. According to research findings released by Knox Gelatine, Inc., when given to plants on a regular basis, Knox Unflavored Gelatin will make plants greener, fuller and healthier.

To apply, dissolve an envelope of unflavored gelatine in one cup of hot tapwater and then add three cups of cold water. Use this mixture once a month as part of your normal watering/feeding schedule. The gelatine gradually releases nitrogen into the potting medium and thus functions as a time-release source of the nutrient, making it more difficult to damage house plants by over application.

Submitted by Bill Daly, Northern Virginia.

### IT WORKS , IT WORKS !!!

While grooming a tree for a recent show, I bemoaned the fact that I cannot get moss to grow well on my tree-soil. I remembered a trick that I had read about - using dried moss, and wondered if the trick would work using undried moss. I collected some moss from the cracks in the sidewalk, placed it on the soil surface, covered the moss with cheesecloth and fastened it down with wire staples to press the cloth and the moss tightly together onto the soil-surface. A daily spraying with fish emulsion (a dilute solution) completes the job. In about 5 days the moss will have started to grow through the cheese cloth. You can then remove the cheese cloth as I did, because of a show deadline, or you can let the cheese cloth rot. TRY IT , IT WORKS !

Submitted by Arschel Morell, Baltimore

## Calendar of Events

8 January BOWIE (301) 262-8578: Bowie Community Center at 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday Workshop and discussion of indoor bonsai. Bring indoor plant material, tools and supplies.

14 January NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 920-8361: Green Spring Park  
Saturday Horticultural Center at 10:00 a.m. SOILS: senior members will relate their experiences with soil-mixes, what soils work best for cuttings, air-layered roots, species of trees and the like. In addition, the principles of forest/group plantings will be presented/demonstrated.

Continued on Page 15

## JIU-SAN BONSAI

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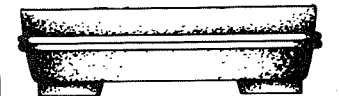
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# January and February Schedule

**Key:**

- |                       |                         |                                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| B - Buy tree          | OB - Open branches      | Sp - Spray foliage                 |
| C - Cut-off leaves    | ON - Remove old needles | V - Best viewing time              |
| D - Leaves fall off   | PB - Prune branches     | W1 - Return to once a day watering |
| F - Fertilize         | PS - Prune sprouts      | W2 - Water 2 times per day         |
| I -Use insecticide    | R - Repot               | W3 - Water 3 times per day         |
| HS - Half a day shade | RW - Remove wire        | Wi - Wire                          |

- Bl - Flowers bloom  
 F\* - Small quantity of fertilizer  
 G - Put in greenhouse or under shelter  
 RL - Remove leaves  
 W1\* - Water but mainly mist  
 2W - Water every other day

CONIFERS	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Cypress		
Hinoki	- - - -	I, PB
Sawara	- - - -	I
Hemlock	- - - -	I
Juniper		
Needle	W1*	I, W1*
Shimpaku	R, Wi, W1	I, R, Wi, W1
Larch	- - - -	I
Pine: Black	W1	I, ON, PB, Wi, W1
Corkbark	W1	Wi, W1
Red	W1	- - - -
White	G, PB, Wi, W1	I, PB, R, Wi, W1
Spruce	G, W1	G, I, Wi, W1
Yew	- - - -	F, I
FLOWERING		
Andromeda	G	G
Apple, crab	G, 2W	G
Apricot		
Japanese	Bl, G	Bl, G
Azalea	G, 2W	G
Cherry	G, 2W	G, 2W
Forsythia	G,	G
Quince	G	G, 2W
Tea, bohea	G	G
Winter		
jasmine	G, 2W	G, 2W
Wisteria	G	G

DECIDUOUS	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Beech, white	G, I, Wi, W1	G, RL, W1
Elm, Chinese	G, I, Wi	G
Ginkgo	G	G, I, PB
Hackberry	G, I	G
Hornbeam	G, I, PB, Wi, W1	G, PB, W1
Ivy, Boston	G, I	G
Maple		
Japanese	G, PB, Wi, W1	G, PB, W1
Trident	G, PB, Wi, W1	G, PB, R, Wi, W1
Weeping willow	G, I,	G, PB
FRUIT BEARING		
Cotoneaster	F*, G, I	G
Gardenia	F, G, I	G
Holly	F, G, I, 2W	G, 2W
Ilex, dwarf	F*, G, I, 2W	G, 2W
Pomegranite	F, G	G, I
Pyracantha	F*, G, 2W	G, I, 2W

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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21 January WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676: National Arboretum in the Saturday Activities Building near the gate at 2:00 p.m. SUISEKI: Vince Covello will be our guest lecturer. He will demonstrate the basics of suiseki with some of his prize rocks. Bring your own viewing stones for viewing and critiquing.

26 January BROOKSIDE (301) 593-4681: Argyle Community Center Thursday at 7:30 p.m. WINTER ACTIVITIES. Bill Merritt will visit and give us ideas for Winter activities. Tool sharpening and soil preparation are two of the many activities that can be done when you cant work on plants. So if Spring always catches you by surprise, plan to attend and get some valuable pointers. R A F F L E ! ! !

29 January KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230: At 2:00 p.m. at the home of Sunday Joan Stevens, - ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING, bring your ideas and desires for programs at this year's meetings.

10 February BOWIE (301) 262-8578: At 7:30 p.m. --- This is the Friday monthly meeting and is scheduled on Friday night instead of Sunday so that you can "SPEND AN EVENING WITH VINCE COVELLO" at his home to view his suiseki (rock) collection and discuss the relationship of bonsai and suiseki. Attendance is limited to 15 people so get your's in early by telephoning (301) 262-8578.

11 February NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 920-8361: Green Spring Park Saturday Horticultural Center at 10:00 a.m. This will be a LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION to prepare members for a month by month program of workshops starting in March using live Japanese maples or acer compestry maples starter trees suitable for development into bonsai. These starter trees will be at just the right age to begin training them as bonsai. Workshops throughout the year will include coverage of what is to be done at that time to the trees.

18 February WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676: National Arboretum at 2:00 Saturday p.m. INDOOR BONSAI and PREPARING FOR A COLLECTING TRIP.

23 February BROOKSIDE (301) 593-4681: Argyle Community Thursday at 7:30p.m. BONSAI FILM FEST. Films of bonsai and possibly slides. RAFFLE!!!

26 February KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230: All members are urged to Sunday attend the 29 January meeting to know what the topic for the meeting on this Sunday will be!

For information on the following clubs telephone the following:

ANNAPOLIS (301) 263-3995

BALTIMORE (301) 669-1847