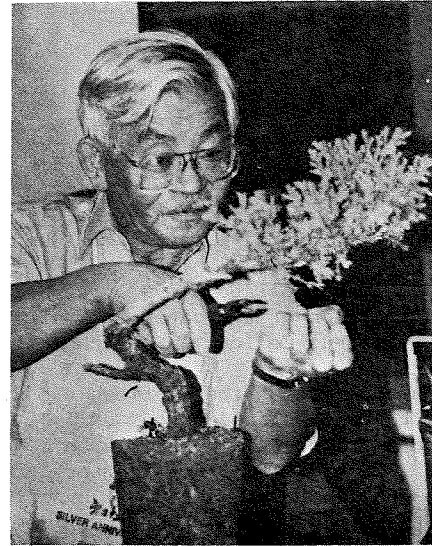


POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION
Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



JOHN NAKA TO VISIT PBA!!
Thursday March 8th 1984



John Naka Doing What He's An
Expert In, Creating and Styling Bonsai

We are pleased to announce that the world renowned bonsai artist, John Naka, will initiate the PBA Visiting Artist Program for 1984. John will conduct both a workshop and a lecture-demonstration at the National Arboretum at R and 26th Streets N.E., Washington, D.C., on Thursday, 8 March 1984.

The free lecture-demonstration will begin in the auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Do not miss the opportunity to watch Mr. Naka style a tree! His creation will be raffled at the completion of the lecture.

A working critique workshop is scheduled for 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the auditorium. This will be restricted to 15 participants. Send a \$20.00 registration fee, with checks made out to PBA, to Fred Mies, 11712 Smoketree Rd., Rockville, Md., 20854. Include your telephone number

- your registration will be confirmed by phone. Observers are also welcome - and anyone who is interested please send \$5.00 as a registration fee to the above address. Observers should also include their telephone numbers to insure notification of any last minute adjustments in scheduling.

Is participant in the workshop is permitted to submit one tree for Mr. Naka's styling advice, and assistance in refinement. There will be no repotting, but John will offer advice as to the details of the Spring potting of the tree. A second or alternate tree can be brought to the workshop, but only with the understanding that one tree is guaranteed John's attention, and the second will be considered only if time permits. **PLAN AHEAD!** Make sure that your special problem tree is accessible from Winter storage on 8 March.

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As also noted in another article in the Newsletter, John Naka will be donating one of his famous creations, Goshen, to the National Bonsai Collection on Wednesday, 7 March 1984. John is scheduled to present a lecture at the Philadelphia Flower Show on Sunday, 11 March. This year the theme of the show is "A Trip To The Orient" and three of Naka's trees, as well as several from the National Collection will be on display the the show from Sunday 11 March through Saturday 17 March 1984. For information on the John Naka visit, please call Fred Mies (301) 299-6194

American Bonsai Pavilion Update

The National Bonsai Foundation is proud to announce that it has signed a contract with the reknowned architect and landscape designer Masao Kinoshita to design the American Bonsai Pavilion. He will also develop preliminary plans for the long-term future growth of the area thus insuring the graceful integration of all the facilities that could eventually comprise the Bonsai Complex at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Mr. Kinoshita is associated with Urban Design Collaborative International, Inc. He designed and supervised the construction of the Japanese Pavilion and garden that currently contain the Japanese Bonsai Collection at the National Arboretum.

The planning schedule calls for the construction of the American Bonsai Pavilion to begin by July 1985 and for it to be completed by May of 1986. If these ambitious plans are successful, the American Pavilion could be dedicated at the A.B.S/B.C.I. Convention in July of 1986, the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the Bicentennial gift of bonsai from the people of Japan in 1976.

Janet Lanman

Reception to Honor John Y. Naka

The National Bonsai Foundation Inc. and Friends of the National Arboretum and the Potomac Bonsai Association are co-hosting a reception in honor of John Yoshio Naka to be held at the U.S. National Arboretum on Wednesday, March 7, 1984 at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Naka is one of the most famous bonsai artists and teachers in the world. He is donating his renowned masterpiece bonsai "Goshin" to the National Bonsai Foundation and it will be a major feature of the proposed American Bonsai collection to be developed at the Arboretum.

"Goshin" and two more of Mr. Naka's masterpiece trees will be on exhibit at the Philadelphia Spring Flower and Garden Show in March of 1984. Three trees from the Japanese Bonsai collection at the U.S. National Arboretum will also be on display.

"Goshin"

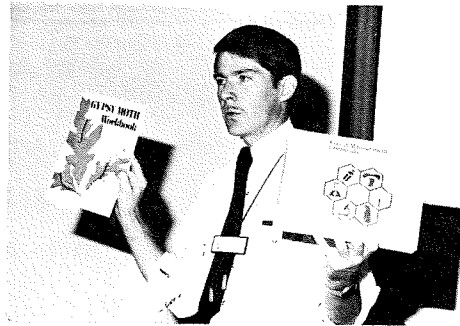
John Y. Naka created the world famous bonsai "Goshin" in 1964 as a seven tree forest style. The oldest and largest tree in the group was trained in 1954. The bonsai is now made up of eleven trees of varied ages.

The plant material is juniperus chinensis var. foemina (foemina juniper). The height of the main tree is 48" and the container is 32" long.

The title "Goshin" means protector or spirit guard.

The Beauties and The Beasts or Native Deciduous Bonsai and Their Insect Pests

BY: DENNIS R HAMEL



Mr. Dennis R. Hamel Lecturing
(Photo by Howard Clark)

Preface: The following, in part, is a transcript of the lecture which Mr. Hamel gave at the 1983 PBA Symposium last Fall. It acted as the catalyst to trigger-off the providing of an interim pesticide prevention schedule to be replaced at a later date by one which Bill Merritt has been working on. It should be pointed out that you will find in reading Mr. Hamel's lecture that he does not believe in preventative spraying or dusting. This must be left to the reader's discretion since using a pesticide in anticipation of and prior to a pest attack may unduly sap the tree's strength as well as kill predators of the

pests - when, after all, no pests may eventually strike. This must be weighed against applying a pesticide after the bonsai have been partially or severely damaged from pest attacks. The Japanese by and large as well as a number of the U.S.A. bonsai professionals schedule the applications of pesticides to correspond to the periods when the pests are expected to put in an appearance.

I know you're here because you want to know about the "Beauties and the Beasts". Beauty to my way of thinking is a fine bonsai. Beasts are what often come to feast! Today, I will talk to you primarily about the latter-- beasts of the order Insecta. You see as mentioned in the introduction, I come somewhat qualified to talk to you about insects. (Dennis is a Pesticide Specialist, Forest Pest Management, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.) I am an entomologist: I study insects. When I was growing up, my mother told me there were three kinds of sex-- the male sex, the female sex, and the insects! Unlike Alfred Kinsey, who undertook in-depth studies of all three, I have concentrated on the latter. So today we're going to talk about "The Beauties and the Beasts" or as I have alternately titled my presentation - "Native Deciduous Bonsai and Their Insect Pests".

As you know, during this symposium we are focusing our attention on five native species which can be encouraged into suitable bonsai specimens: apple, beech, hawthorn, hornbeam, and maple.

During this part of the program, we will see and discuss pests that are often a problem on those species; methods that can be used to control them; and benefits that sometimes can accrue from what we often consider serious pest conditions. When discussing control alternatives, I will discuss tactics in 3 main categories: Chemical, Manual, and Biological. In discussions of the Chemical alternatives I will use common names of active ingredients not trade names. (A crossover to trade names will be given in the article which follows this one.)

When dealing with my bonsai and potential pest problems, I follow the 3-M Principle. I'd like to encourage you to do the same. My three M's are Maintenance, Monitoring, and Movement.

By Maintaining my bonsai-growing area clean, - free of dirt, leaves, and decaying vegetation, and by providing for a free flow of air, I find that insects are less likely to find safe haven among my specimens. Also, by maintaining my plants in a vigorous and healthy condition, they are better able to withstand the onslaught of pests.

Monitoring bonsai plants for signs of insects and diseases is the second important M. Frequent inspections are essential and not time consuming if done in conjunction with the other required tasks of bonsai culture, such as watering, pruning, pinching, trimming, and repotting. During Monitoring, some insects will be easy to see, others not so easy. Later, I will describe some common pests that you may encounter. The reason that I have chosen the pests that I have is because they all have the potential to be pests on the plant species under discussion at this symposium.

Movement is my third important M. When I find a bonsai that is infested with insects, my first action is to move it away from other bonsai to prevent the pest infestation from spreading. Moving a plant allows you to isolate the problem and take whatever measures are appropriate until control has been achieved. When this occurs, then the 3M Principles is practiced in reverse. Move your plant back. Monitor it closely, and Maintain it as before.

Another important principle in pest management is that in order to manage pests they must first be present and you must be able to identify them properly. Frankly, I find maintenance spraying with pesticides unconscionable when no pests are present. Spraying by the calendar (for example on a weekly or monthly schedule) in my opinion neither benefits bonsai nor the environment. Pesticides have their place in any pest management program but should not be relied upon exclusively. Say, for example, that you have a beautiful maple tree bonsai. Regular pesticide treatments of a well maintained and adequately monitored tree would, I believe, do more harm than good. However, should a pest such as larvae of the gypsy moth occur on a tree, pesticides might be appropriate.

But let's look at all of the alternatives. Besides the use of available pesticides such as acephate, carbaryl, diflubenzuron, and trichlorfon to control the gypsy moth, there are other alternatives such as:

Chemical: acephate, carbaryl, diflubenzuron, trichlorfon

Manual: burlap banding, hand picking, male trapping

Biological: bacteria, viruses, parasites, predators

This latter tactic, the use of native, naturally occurring predators and parasites, is one of the very good reasons why pesticides should not be used indiscriminately: pesticides can kill beneficial organisms as well as target pests. The gypsy moth, for example, has a number of natural enemies, which should be encouraged or at least certainly not destroyed through indiscriminate pesticide applications. Adults, like the male gypsy moth are eaten by various natural enemies like, birds, rodents, and other insects. So, too, are gypsy moth larvae, which are attacked and eaten by the colorful calosoma beetle called the "caterpillar killer". (Note: sketches of the most likely insects and pests to afflict a bonsai in the Washington, D.C. area are included in the follow-on article.) Others are parasitized by flies like the tachinids. These are beneficial "beasts", and they should be recognized and protected.

But let's say you're on vacation and your friends don't know much about the gypsy moth or the care of bonsai. Should they be prepared for a verbal onslaught from you should you return to find that the gypsy moth has done a leaf-pruning job on your tree? Or can you accept the fact that Mother Nature is working with

you and has done a thorough leaf-trimming (a la gypsy moth gourmet), soon to be followed by a fine crop of smaller leaves? Would the end result be much different from your own leaf trimming practises?

At various times of the year, other caterpillars can have similar effects on nearly all kinds of native deciduous bonsai. Spring cankerworms and fall cankerworms, as indicated by their common names, are the harbingers of Summer and Winter, respectively. Their depredations on a bonsai could be most disheartening to the potential exhibitor in a seasonal show. Likewise bagworms and tent caterpillars can be devastating to bonsai.

Control alternatives for all of the above caterpillars are similar to those described for the gypsy moth. They include:

Chemical: acephate, carbaryl, malathion, trichlorfon
Manual: hand picking
Biological: bacteria, predators, parasites

Always remember that if you choose pesticides as your control alternative, protect the environment. Use pesticides safely by following label directions.

Caterpillars, which are leaf-chewing insects, are but one kind of pest of native, deciduous bonsai. Other leaf-chewing pests include beasts like the colorful Japanese beetles, and the more drab June beetles. During their immature as well as their adult lives, these insects can be very destructive to plants. Grubs of these beetles live in the soil and feed on tree roots while the adults, upon emergence from the soil, feed heavily on the leaves.

Control of grubs is best conducted by either physically eliminating them during soil preparation; at the times of repotting; or by adding milky spore disease to soil to prevent their development. Adult beetles, although they can be controlled by pesticides, are easily handpicked. Another method of protecting valuable bonsai is to cover them with netting at critical times.

Another leaf-altering pest that I have encountered on my own bonsai as well as on those of friends, include the leafcutting bee.

The leafcutting bee is unique in that it does not consume the leaves it collects but rather it forms them into cylindrical leaf chambers. It is within these cylinders that the female deposits a bit of pollen upon which she lays an egg. From this egg a new bee will develop. Anyone whose bonsai, especially local red maple, have leaves with circular and oblong cutouts should surely suspect the presence of leafcutting bees. Control is not recommended, since this insect is much more beneficial (from a pollinization standpoint) than the loss of a few leaves. If it is essential that a tree chosen by leafcutting bees be protected, it should be moved to another site or covered with netting until the bees' brief leaf collection period is over.

More annoying to me than most of the pests discussed so far are snowy tree crickets. Related to grasshoppers, these lime-green to brownish tree climbers are not only nosy at night, but they also feed rather heavily on the upper epidermis of my favorite bonsai. In natural forests, I am unaware of those insects being a pest, but to bonsai growers, snowy tree crickets can cause considerable loss of leaves and plant esthetics. Control recommendations include:

Chemical: Carbaryl, Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, Malathion
Manual: Hand picking
Biological: Predators

In addition to leaf-chewing pests of native deciduous bonsai, probably the next most important group are insects that suck leaf and stem juices of trees such as the apple. Examples of this type of insect include the colorful and

active leafhoppers. The wedged-shaped leafhoppers hop about feeding on plant sap, often leaving behind leaves that lose color and turn whitish. This is usually followed by a general loss of plant vigor. These hoppers are quite often vectors of plant diseases. Closely related to the leafhoppers are tree-hoppers and much larger cicadas (sometimes called locusts or 17-year locusts). These cause damage not by sucking on plant tissue but by inflicting branch damage as they lay their eggs. The nymphs of the cicadas, which spend anywhere from 7 to 17 years in the soil, can also damage tree roots. Control alternatives of these pests include:

Chemical: Carbaryl, malathion
Manual: Sticky boards
Biological: Predators

Also closely related to leafhoppers, treehoppers, and cicadas-- but much less active--are aphids, which frequently infest elm bonsai. Sometimes called plant lice, aphids are often overlooked on bonsai since they frequently occur on the undersides of leaves. It is here that they suck plant juices, causing leaves to curl. Aphids also produce a sweet liquid called honeydew. This often attracts ants, and what ants don't eat usually forms a sticky covering on nearby plant parts. Frequently, this honeydew ferments and molds, causing a black, sooty film, which is unbecoming on any bonsai.

Some species of aphids have rather complicated life histories. Take for example, the woolly apple aphid. Common wherever apple is grown, these aphids overwinter as eggs on elms. In springtime, eggs hatch and the aphids feed on the young elm leaves causing the leaves to twist and curl. The next generation is winged and migrates to apples and hawthorns, where the aphids feed on trunks and branches, often covering them with cottony masses that enclose the purplish aphids. In Autumn, the aphids work their way to the roots, where they often inflict severe injury before migrating back to elms. Control alternatives for aphids include:

Chemical: Acephate, malathion, nicotine, soap
Manual: Hand washing
Biological: Lacewings, lady beetles

Insect scales are another important group of bonsai pests. They come in two varieties: soft scales and hard scales. All of them are sucking insects that can take on a variety of shapes and sizes and occur on a variety of native, deciduous bonsai. If a plant doesn't respond to watering or unexpectedly wilts, check for scales. Sometimes scales look like woolly apple aphids, as for example the cottony maple scale. The cottony maple scale could also be confused with mealybugs which also suck plant juices and sometimes occur abundantly along and among the crotches of branches. Control alternatives for scales and mealybugs include:

Chemical: carbaryl, diazinon, dormant oil, malathion
Manual: Q-tips and alcohol
Biological: Parasites, predators

We've looked at leaf-chewing insects and sucking insects, but there is one additional group of insects that growers of native, deciduous bonsai must be aware of--the borers. Frequently, the larvae of borer beetles are within the bark of like the apple. For example, the larva of the flatheaded apple borer looks like a horseshoe nail. A hint of their presence in collected material is fine sawdust and sap along a trunk or major branch. Uncontrolled, these larvae will cause eventual branch death, with subsequent emergence of metallic-like adult beetles ready to attack other trees. Borers can be controlled by pushing a wire into their holes to crush the larvae. Pesticides, like lindane, can also be used judiciously.

Besides insects, there are a few other pests that can affect bonsai. Related to insects but having eight legs instead of the requisite six for insects, are the pests known as mites. Taking a variety of shapes, mites are most frequently microscopic. In spite of their small size, they can be quite damaging to bonsai. Their feeding results in the upper surfaces of leaves appearing grayish and finally brown. The presence of fine, silvery webbing between the leaves is also a sign of mites.

Control of mites is often difficult, and any infected plant should be isolated immediately to prevent their spread. Control alternatives for mites include:

Chemical: Chlorpyrifos, dicofol, dormant oil, dimethoate
Manual: Hand picking
Biological: Predators

Due to the fact that we water our bonsai frequently, another group of pests which like moisture and our trees includes the molluscs.

Particularly troublesome to me, slugs and snails usually feed during the night and evade me by day. Frequently, the results of their feeding are indistinguishable from leaf-chewing insects; but more often than not the tell-tale signs of a slime trail identifies the culprit properly. Control alternatives include:

Chemical: Metaldehyde, methiocarb
Manual: Hand picking
Biological: Ashes, beer, fruit halves

The final pests I'll bring to your attention are more of a nuisance than a real threat to bonsai. Earthworms, millipedes, and sowbugs are often found associated with bonsai soil; however, they primarily feed on decaying plant material either in the soil or associated with the bonsai planting. Earthworms do cause unsightly castings on bonsai soil surfaces and can block drainage holes; therefore, they should not be encouraged. Likewise, the millipedes and sowbugs, although not directly damaging to bonsai, can deplete soil organic matter and therefore should not be encouraged. Immersing trees and pots in water for several minutes will cause all of those organisms to seek drier surfaces from which they can be picked-off and destroyed.

The pests we've discussed here today can be particularly troublesome to bonsai, but with the variety of control options that I've described, I hope that I've instilled in you the fact that by practicing the 3-M Principle of MAINTENANCE, MONITORING, and MOVEMENT, in conjunction with the use of appropriate control strategies, you can practice a concept called Integrated Pest Management. IPM is really nothing more than a conscious decision-making process designed to result in the use of the best control techniques available for any particular situation. Using IPM, you can grow native deciduous bonsai and protect your Beauties from the Beasts.

SORRY! but space did not permit including the follow-on article for bonsai insect pests. The descriptions of pest, pictures, schedule and insecticides will begin in the next issue of the Newsletter.



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HOW TO GET THERE

October 24, 1983

Mrs. Jean C. Smith
P.O. Box 1326
Ft. Walton Beach, Fl. 32549

Re: Air Transportation for members of
Bonsai Clubs International and
American Bonsai Society.

Dear Jean:

At your request, our firm has negotiated a preferential zone fare for the attendees of IBC '84 in Seattle from Eastern Airlines. The zone includes Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. The fares are GUARANTEED NOT TO INCREASE but must be purchased 60 days prior to departure. Also, PLEASE NOTE, in the unlikely event of fare decrease tickets will be re-issued and difference price refunded.. because Eastern WILL match its competitors!

The Rules on the fare are:

For a 7-day stay or more the fare from any of the above named states is maximum \$399.00
Less than a 7-day stay, the maximum fare is \$449.00
It does not matter which day of the week you travel.
There is no minimum group size required.
Travel Adventures must do the ticketing.

Here is HOW it will work: Attendees should call 1-800-327-1295 Nationwide or in Florida call 1-800-432-1217 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A DELEGATE TO IBC '84. At the time of making their reservations they will have to request that they be invoiced for the ticket or they will have to give Eastern Airlines a Credit Card Number along with the date that they wish the ticket to be issued.

Jean, I think that your members would also want to know that we have been in business in Ft. Walton Beach for 14 years, that we are fully bonded and are American Travel Service Representatives. We have been handling your business and personal travel for years as well as assisting you with all of your SPEAKER'S BUREAU TOURS for the Bonsai Societies of Florida. We will certainly look forward to working with you and your Bonsai friends on this project.

Sincerely,

EXTRA!

Peggy L. Wise
Peggy L. Wise
President

BWI has been added to the special fare zone, so you now have a choice of flying from Dallas National or Baltimore - Washington International.

That Time Of Year

Here it is just barely past Christmas, but by the time you read this it will be February with only a short month to go before the sap rises and we get the almost uncontrollable urge to work on our trees, or at least go collecting. In the meantime, though, it's not even far into 1984, - the - Christmas tree is still fresh, and the ground is frozen like tonight's dinner that you forgot to take out of the freezer last night. Christmas carols are still ringing in my ears; I'm still getting a few cards, and I haven't yet quite recovered from attending several weeks ago, a fine concert of the Choral Arts Society singing Handel's "Messiah". "The Messiah", to me, is Christmas. I get caught up in it, and to hear it live, done by an incomparable choir, where you sit there surrounded by glorious music that goes in, around and through you is an experience to savored and treasured. How anyone could ever tire of it, EVER, is beyond me.

But on this night it is another piece of music that draws my attention, - a "must listen to" piece. Why? I don't know. Maybe, like the New Year, it's a looking forward and a looking back. The music? Aaron Copeland's "Appalachian Spring".

The looking forward is not so difficult to understand. Despite the current frigid weather, Spring will come and I'll welcome it with open arms. I was eyeballing the local forsythia bushes tonight as Galahad (Mary's dog) and I were taking our evening constitutional, contemplating the best time for a little midnight marauding with a pair of branch cutters. (The bushes have set their flower buds by now, three weeks indoors in water will bring them into delightful bloom while Winter storms rage outside.) After all, Spring is part of the music's title.

But why back? That takes a little more explaining. Back a hundred years ago, I spent several Summers in a place called Keene Valley, New York, in what was called, at the turn of the Century, a Summer "cottage" (which is bigger than any of the houses most of us now live in). Keene Valley, in case you've never heard of it, is right in the heart of God's country in the Adirondack Mountains - the high peak area. This "cottage" which I am sure is still there, was located about one quarter of the way up a shoulder of Porter Mountain and looked out over the valley and had a glorious view of the mountain a cross - Spread Eagle. I climb those mountains, and how I wish I'd known about bonsai then because my collection would now contain some gorgeous trees that I'm sure I'd never find again. This house was owned by the grandmother of a friend of mine and was filled with laughter, fun, adventure, and love. One of Granny's favorite records was Appalachian Spring and we played it often. I've come to associate it with Keene Valley and with Granny, and sharp and sweet memories come back when I hear it. It's not a "ghost" of Christmas past, but a memory of those loved, whom I'll never see again (Granny died several years ago), but who are still loved. It's a happy looking back not a sad one.

But now, having looked back, I can look forward. Before long the sun will warm my face and the trees will burst into leaf over my head (and at my feet, before I get a chance to spot them), and the flies will invade the house through the open back door, and in the meantime, now that the record's over, I think I'll go raid the forsythia bushes.

Mary Holmes

What Price Bonsai?

"The things we'll do for a tree." Those were the words of my hostess as I was barely able to close my suitcase for the flight home, having managed to get a large set of pots in it by packing once-neatly-folded clothes around them for protection. They'd been relegated there with the hope they were well-enough protected to withstand the tender mercies of baggage handlers because of the tree. Not just any tree, mind you, but a California juniper.

The story begins the first Friday in November when I boarded a plane for California and the Golden State Bonsai Convention. They've been having conventions for years and I've been tempted to go for years, but this one was special. This one was aboard the Queen Mary, and I was not about to miss it. It was all I could have hoped for and then some. What a treat. (What an adventure.)

Now I'd no intention of bringing a California juniper home. I did put some raffle tickets on one with no hope of winning. (I didn't.) It was after the final brunch, when the convention was all over, that someone mentioned that they were going collecting. Click! That did it. Suddenly I had to have one, and the fact that I was staying a few more days made it possible. I couldn't manage the collecting trip, but I knew just where to go to get one, -- Harry Hirao. I'd heard for years that he collected more California junipers than anyone, and a few questions here and there and a phone call to Harry confirmed that he did sell some of his trees.

Perhaps I should digress a bit and explain why I had to have this particular species. To me the California juniper has always been the epitome of American bonsai - the king with no pretenders to the throne. Maybe it's a remnant of pioneer spirit, but the successful struggle for survival so evident in those fantastically twisted trunks seems to symbolize the best in American spirit. Whatever..... They are, however, noted for having a very marginal survival rate in the East, so I decided that my purchase should be small and relatively inexpensive - in the nature of an experiment. If it survived I could then go back and get one of the big, beautiful twisted ones I so much admire. As it was, the one I got, while not a knock-out (yet!) is very nice, with a lot of potential that I intend to bring out once I get it well-established back here. But back for the moment to California.

Harry's back yard is not to be believed. Not large, it is completely covered, wall to wall, with trees, 99% of which are Californian junipers of all shapes and sizes. I'd thought I'd died and gone to bonsai heaven. After what seemed like hours of happily wandering around this paradise, drooling over this one and coveting that one, resisting somehow, the siren call of a couple of gorgeously twisted big ones, I finally made my selection, and thus begins the real tale.

Lest any of my readers think that I forgot that November is not the time of year to introduce a tree born and raised in Southern California to the vicissitudes of a Maryland winter - not so. I was perfectly aware of the problems I was letting us both in for, or so I thought. I couldn't leave it outdoors, at least not for the first winter. First though I had to get it home. Easy enough. Put the whole thing in a garbage bag and carry it on the plane. After all, it was only three feet tall and weighed a lot less than the pots I originally intended to carry on the plane. I do so love to watch bored airline personnel faces as they discover they really haven't

seen everything after all. You'd think with all the bonsai nuts flying in and out of California and other parts of the country we'd be a familiar sight by now. My mother after all, recognized the tree before she saw me at the airport, and remember, the tree was wrapped in a garbage bag.

Once home, though, I had some tough decisions to make: do I put the tree in someone's unheated porch or garage where it would probably still freeze but get better protection than outdoors, or do I find a heated greenhouse where it would probably get too much humidity? I opted for the former, but the tree scotched both those ideas.

One thing I'd heard repeatedly in California was that California junipers like to be dry, and that probably more of them died from overwatering than anything else. Mine was planted in pumice, but when I removed the garbage bag I found muck in the bottom of it. Bad news. How much of the soil was muck I didn't know and a consultation with Ruth Lamanna, the only one I know of in PBA who has had a California juniper for years, confirmed my fear that I had no choice but to repot. As it turned out the soil was mostly pumice, but the root tips were in soggy soil - enough to have caused damage under the circumstances. Fortunately there were lots of roots and I had a bonsai pot into which the tree would go. Repotting, however, meant my bonsai couldn't be moved to a greenhouse or unheated porch. That tree was going to have to spend the winter IN MY HOUSE - in the coolest place I could find.

There's not much question that the living room is the coldest room in the house, but it's not intentional on my part, and freezing in there just to accommodate a tree, even a California juniper, is not my idea of how to spend the next six months. The second bedroom (Galahad my dog's room) can have the air vents (almost) closed off and one window left ajar without unduly tripping the thermostat. I can't shut the door and open the windows because I do use the room, but it was the only real choice I had.

That decided, I still had to worry about enough moisture for the foliage. Several pots of water placed under the tree were not enough to satisfy me, so I tore strips off an old towel, soaked them, and hung them on some of the jinned branches. My concern was rewarded when the strips dried out in a few hours, so I took some cheesecloth, soaked it, and draped that over dead top branches. That dries out even faster but does keep the towelling strips from drying out so fast. Three times a day I soak everything. Hauling out an old mirror and covering some cardboard with aluminum foil to further reflect the light from my grow-light completed the process. The pure pumice the tree is (re)potted in drains in a flash but absorbs enough water to keep the "soil" barely moist. Right now I have to water every two to three days, and it'll be six months (when the tree can go outside) before I have to worry about having to water every two to three hours. By then I'll think of something else.

The things we'll do for a tree.

Mary Holmes

922-9310



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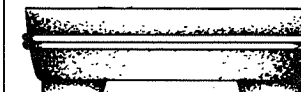
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February and March Schedule

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Key:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| B - Buy tree | OB - Open branches | RL - Remove leaves |
| B1 - Flowers bloom | ON - Remove old needles | RN - Remove new needles |
| F* - Small amount of fertilizer | P - Prune | RW - Remove wire |
| G - Put in under shelter or in greenhouse | PB - Prune branches | Sp - Spray foliage |
| Gr - Do grafting | PS - Prune sprouts | V - Best viewing time |
| I - Use insecticide | R - Repot | W1 - Water once per day |
| HS - Half-a-day shade | RB - Remove dead blossoms | W2 - Water 2 times per day |
| | RG - Remove from greenhouse | W3 - Water 3 times per day |
| | | 2W - Water every other day |
| | | Wi - Wire |

CONIFERS	FEBRUARY	MARCH	DECIDUOUS	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Cypress			Beech, white	G,RL,W1	B,R,RG,RL
Hinoki	I,OB	B, F,R,Wi	Elm, Chinese	G	B,R,RG
Sawara	I	F,R,Wi	Ginkgo	G,I,PB	R,RG
Hemlock	I	F,OB,R,Wi	Hackberry	G	B,R,RG
Juniper			Hornbeam	G,PB,W1	B,R,RG,W2
Needle	I,W1*	- - - -	Ivy, Boston	G	R,RG
Shimpaku	I,R,Wi,W1	F,R,Wi	Maple		
Larch	I	F,Wi	Japanese	G,PB,W1	B,PS,R,RG,W2
			Trident	G,PB,R,Wi, W1	B,R,RG
Pin: Black	I,ON,PB,RN	F,Gr,PB,Wi, W1	Weeping willow	G,PB	R,RG
	Wi,W1				
Corkbark	Wi,W1	F,I,Wi,W1			
Red	W1	F,R,Wi,W1			
White	I,PB,R,Wi, W1	F,PB,R,Wi, W2			
Spruce	G,I,Wi,W1	F,R,RG,Wi, W1	FRUIT BEARING		
Yew	F,I	PB,Wi	Cotoneaster	G	R,RG
			Gardenia	G	R,RG
FLOWERING			Holly	G,2W	Gr,R,RG,W1
Andromeda	G	I, RG	Ilex, dwarf	G,2W	Gr,P,RG
Apple, crab	G,2W	B1,Gr,R,RG, W1	Pomengranite	G,I	RG
			Pyracantha	G,I,2W	PB,R,RG,W1
Apricot-	B1,G,2W	Gr,PB,R,RB, RG,W1			
Japanese					
Azalea	G,2W	RG,W1			
Cherry	G,2W	R,RG,W1 or W2			
Forsythia	G	I,PB,R,RG			
Quince	B1,G,2W	I,R,RB,RG, W1			
Tea, bohea	G	I,RG			
Winter					
jasmine	B1,RG,2W	I,R,RB,W1			
Wisteria	G,I	G,R			

10 February BOWIE (301) 262-8578: At 7:30 p.m. ---This is the monthly meeting and is scheduled on Friday night instead of Sunday so that you can "SPEND AND 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. There are a number of openings available.

11 February NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 920-8361: Green Spring Park 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 maple starter trees suitable for development into bonsai. These starter trees will be at just about 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 p.m. Saturday INDOOR BONSAI and PREPARING FOR A COLLECTING TRIP.

23 February BROOKSIDE (301) 593-4681: Argyle Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday BONSAI FILM FEST. Two films will be shown: "Bonsai" from the Japan Information Bureau, - a truly beautiful film, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Film "Bonsai". RAFFLE !!!

26 February KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230: Topic will be determined at the Sunday 29 January meeting.

7 March John Yoshio Naka Reception at 8:00 p.m. at the National Arboretum. See article in this issue of the Newsletter for details

8 March John Yoshio Naka Workshop 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the National Thrusday Arboretum and John Yoshio Naka Demonstration at 7:30 p.m. at the National Arboretum. See the front page of this issue of the Newsletter for details.

17 March WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676: Collecting trip. Details will Saturday be worked out at the 18 February meeting.

18 March BOWIE (301) 262-8578: Collecting trip in place of the normal Sunday 11 March monthly meeting. For time and location telephone the above listed number.

22 March BROOKSIDE 9301) 593-4681: Argyle Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday The circus is coming to town!!! This month we have the pleasure of announcing a THREE RING CIRCUS. Plant material will be coming from Florida courtesy of Fred Mies. Finished bonsai will be RAFFLED!!

For information on the following clubs telephone the following:

ANNAPOLIS (301) 263-3995

BALTIMORE (301) 669-1847