

# Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Calendar of Events is divided into two sections. The first part lists events that will take place within an immediate two month timeframe. Those of interest to all PBA members are in the second part and PBA member club officers should note those that might coincide with their clubs' scheduled events.

### FEBRUARY and MARCH

#### 9 February Saturday

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 765-7223. 10:00 a.m. at Green Spring Horticulture Center. Fred Mies, Brookside Bonsai Society, will give a slide show on bonsai and other interesting subjects covered in his trip to Taiwan and Japan. He will discuss collecting Mountain laurel.

#### 16 February Saturday

KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230. 2:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Nature Center.

#### 16 February Saturday

WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676. 2:00 p.m. at the National Arboretum. Lecture on COLLECTING with EMPHASIS on MOUNTAIN LAURELS. Fred Mies, Brookside Bonsai Society, will be getting us ready for March, - the collecting month.

#### 17 February Sunday

BALTIMORE (301) 823-0863. Loch Raven Public Library, 1046 Taylor Ave. 1:00 p.m. BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP. 2:00 p.m. START OF MEETING. It is not too early to start thinking about SPRING!!! We are going to make arrangements

### 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: \$9.50 for 12 monthly Newsletters. Make checks payable to the Potomac Bonsai Association and mail to Gy Mill, 9229 Arlington Blvd., Apt. 160, Fairfax, VA 22031.

### ADVERTISING RATES

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### ADVERTISEMENTS and/or ARTICLES Send to the editor.

### EDITOR

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### PRESIDENT:

Bob Sitnick; FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Russ Kinerson; EDUCATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:

Chris Yeapanis; SECRETARY: Julie Walker; TREASURER: Jerry Antel, Jr.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Tony Meyer (301) 654-1854.

### POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, INC.

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3501 NEW YORK AVE. NE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

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**TIME  
CRITICAL  
INFO**

Jules & Jane Koetsch  
6709 Caneel Court,  
Springfield, VA 22152

to go on a collecting trip. For those members who have never had the experience, it is a fun time. The February meeting will be devoted to how to collect trees, what you need to bring, what to look for, what to do when you get them home. This meeting will be followed by an organized collecting trip in early March in the woods near Helen Lauenstein's home. The woods have abundant laurel and beech. It will be a fun time, especially for the newcomers.

21. February Thursday

BROOKSIDE (301) 365-7621. 7:30 p.m. at the North Chevy Chase Recreation Center. Fred Mies reports with slides on his recent, extended visit to Japan/Taiwan and the bonsai/penjing he encountered.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* OPEN TO ALL PBA MEMBERS ----FREE!!! \*  
\*

DONT MISS THIS EVENT

HOW TO GROW BONSAI UNDER LIGHTS  
\*\*\*\*\*

Who? JACK WIKLE (pronounced Why-kil)  
Has been Education Officer of the Michigan State University Hidden Lake Garden for 20 years.  
Is Editor of "BONSAI; Journal of the American Bonsai Society.  
Has grown bonsai under lights for many years.  
Has a reputation as a very interesting speaker.

What? Mr. Wikle will discuss how to grow small bonsai under normal, white fluorescent light. He is nationally known for his collection of small bonsai.

Attendees are urged to bring small bonsai so that following the lecture, Mr. Wikle will be able to comment on them.

Where? U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

When? 23 FEBRUARY 1991

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fee? FREE!!!

Bring a friend or any interested persons.

If growing small bonsai is not in your repertoire, come anyway and get some of your generic questions about bonsai and your bonsai in particular answered. You may be bitten by the bug to grow bonsai indoors,- it beats worrying about winterizing them.

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1. March Friday

UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN, Maryland Ave. and First St. SW Washington, DC (202)226-4082. TOUR OF THE U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN CONSERVATORY by Mr. Wayne Amos, Conservatory Manager. The tour will focus on the rare and endangered plants displayed throughout the U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory. Many economic plants will be highlighted. The talk will cover the care and environmental conditions needed to successfully grow such a broad range of plants.

3 and 6 March Sunday and Wednesday

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4815. 1:30 p.m. A LIVING LEGENDS presentation by Dr. H.M. Cathey, Director, National Arboretum. Join the staff and guest speakers and learn from the experts how to control insect pests and diseases and learn methods of reducing damage to your garden from deer, rabbits, moles, squirrels and other critters.

6 March Wednesday

PBA BOARD MEETING (703)237-2312. 7:30 p.m. Conduct of PBA business and planning for PBA events. All PBA member clubs are to send representatives. Anyone interested in presenting an item for consideration please contact the PBA President Bob Sitnick, at the above telephone number prior to the meeting.

9 March Saturday

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (803) 765-7223. 10:00 a.m. at Green Spring Horticulture Center. Jerry Stowell, renowned American bonsaiist and author of the books "BONSAI: INDOORS and OUT" and "The Beginner's Guide to AMERICAN BONSAI" as well as many published articles on bonsai, will lecture on NATIVE TREES AS MODELS FOR BONSAI.

13 March Wednesday

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4857. 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Bonsai Pavilion, Yoshimura Center. Fee - \$12/FONA \$10. Dan Chiplis, Assistant to the Curator, National Bonsai and Penjing Collection, will conduct a BONSAI REFINEMENT WORKSHOP. The workshop is designed for individuals who need assistance with a bonsai and have had some experience with growing them. If you need personal attention with repotting or refinement of your plant, this is the workshop for you. Materials are not provided. Registration Required  
\*Prerequisite Beginners Bonsai Class.

16 March Saturday

KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230. 2:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Nature Center.

17 March Sunday

BALTIMORE (301) 825-0863. Parkville-Carney Branch, 9509 Harford Rd. 1:00 p.m. BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP. 2:00 p.m. meeting starts. Now that we've collected our prizes (see the 17 February entry), the March meeting will critique our "finds" and give some idea as to the future of our treasures. Be prepared to work on your trees, bring your tools, wire, and anything else that may be required.

21 March Thursday

BROOKSIDE (301) 365-7621. 7:30 p.m. JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA GREAT POTENTIAL FOR BONSAI by Jim Sullivan, Bowie Bonsai Club.

27 March Wednesday

U. S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4815. 10:30 a.m. Administration Classroom. OUTSTANDING DECIDUOUS & EVERGREEN SHRUBS for the WASHINGTON D.C. AREA by Brenda

Skarphol, Horticulturist, Green Spring Farm Park. This illustrated lecture will feature outstanding deciduous and evergreen shrubs that perform well in the Washington area gardens. Landscape use and cultural requirements will be discussed. **FREE!**

March

WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676. COLLECTING TRIP with Brookside Club. For date, time and place telephone the above number.

Note: PBA members can attend any meeting of the PBA member clubs.

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FUTURE EVENTS

19, 20, 21 April Friday Evening, Saturday and Sunday  
MID-ATLANTIC BONSAI FESTIVAL, Marriott Hotel, Saddle Brook, New Jersey. See advertisement in this Newsletter.

\* 25, 26, 27 April Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
PBA ANNUAL SPRING SHOW at the U.S. National Arboretum. There will be bonsai/penjing displays by PBA clubs, workshops and vendors.

\* 26 April Saturday  
PBA ANNUAL MEETING at the U.S. National Arboretum. Members can participate in old and new business and the election of the '91-'92 PBA Officers. Free buffet dinner to all attendees.

\* 25 May Saturday  
PBA ANNUAL AUCTION at Behnke Nurseries. Starting time is 10:00 a.m. This will be a banner auction since there will be well-developed bonsai from the collections of Bob Coates and Dennis R. Hamel (both now deceased) and possibly from that of Ruth Lamanna on the auction block.

(Continued)

\* These will be covered in more detail in the appropriate issues of the PBA Newsletter.

5 thru 8 June

American Bonsai Society ABS '91, Park City, Utah. It's the annual ABS bonsai symposium. For more information contact The Bonsai Club of Utah, P.O. Box 58975, Salt Lake City, UT 84158.

24 thru 28 July

Bonsai Clubs International IBC '91, Birmingham, England. It's the annual BCI symposium. Flyers accompany this newsletter.

\* 28 and 29 September

PBA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM, U.S. National Arboretum. Theme is UNUSUAL BONSAI - i.e. driftwood, windswept, clump.

\* See footnote on previous page.

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## NOMINEES FOR PBA OFFICERS '91-'92

Every year at the PBA Annual Meeting an election by PBA members is held to determine the PBA officers for another year. This year the election will be on April 26th, - see the Calendar of Events for more details. These officers comprise the PBA Board of Directors which maps out the destiny of PBA for another year. The duties of the PBA Board of Directors are to implement the provisions of the PBA Constitution and By-Laws which in part involve planning the year's PBA events which include the bringing into the area prominent guest lecturers on bonsai, holding the Annual PBA Spring Show and the Fall Symposium where vendors bring things bonsai as well as the Annual Spring Auction, and publishing the PBA Newsletter.

The following lists the slate for '91-'92 members of the PBA Board of Directors. These people are all volunteers and give freely of their time. Anyone wishing to run for any position listed below can be nominated at the PBA Annual Meeting, - I'm certain that none of the people on the slate will object.

## NOMINEES for '91-'92 PBA BOARD of DIRECTORS

President - Russ Kinerson (Northern Virginia)

First Vice President - Chris Yeapanis (Northern Virginia)

Educational Vice President - Steve Choi (Chesapeake)

Secretary - Julie Walker (Washington)

Treasurer - Jerry Antel Jr. (Brookside)

Membership - Cy Mill (Northern Virginia)

Public Relations - Tony Meyer (Bookside)

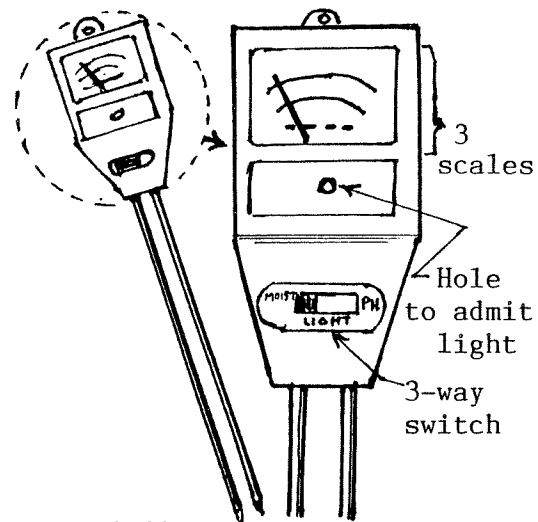
Editor PBA Newsletter - Jules Koetsch (Northern Virginia)

## BEST ILLUMINATION FOR YOUR BONSAI

Foreword: It is obvious with the forthcoming lecture, "HOW TO GROW BONSAI UNDER LIGHTS", to be given by Mr. Wikle, that it seemed appropriate to update the readers on the current thinking on this matter. Paul Lesniewicz in his book "INDOOR BONSAI", covers the most important elements in siting one's bonsai indoors: - temperature, lighting and dryness of the air where the bonsai is situated indoors. Of those three elements, the amount of light on your bonsai is the one that is the hardest to measure. Thermometers record the temperatures, and hygrometers can detect the moisture in the air but the amount of light striking a bonsai especially if it is placed by a window can be very misleading. If the bonsai is situated by a south facing window where sunlight can strike it unhampered by any overhang or trees partially or fully shading the bonsai, one has the ideal location for light. Even then one must be careful since moving the plant away from the window into the room will reduce the intensity of the light quite rapidly since it varies inversely as the square of the distance and not inversely as the distance from the light source.

Persons who cannot provide a sunny, south-facing window where sunlight is present as long as possible may face the

the dilemma of how to provide enough light. Then there's the executive who thinks that cute bonsai will survive in the office perched on his desk or office furniture. Albeit there are some plants that might survive under such hostile conditions,- Ficus benjamina, for one, comes to mind. The remedy is to provide artificial light. A fixture such as the type of tabletop fluorescent light fixture shown in the last issue of the Newsletter would suffice to augment any other light.



Can the amount of light hitting the bonsai be measured? One item available commercially is shown in the adjacent sketch. There is the added bonus with such a meter for the 3-way switch not only lets one measure the light intensity but in each of the other two positions - the Ph or the moisture. Pointing the meter directly at the sun outdoors and then positioning the meter at the bonsai pointed at the impinging light, will give you an idea of how much light is striking your bonsai. Taking measurements at

different times of day will indicate when it may be necessary to turn on the artificial light.

If one can locate a lightmeter which is now outdated with modern cameras that automatically adjust opening and speed, one can take a reading holding it about 8 inches from a white sheet of paper outdoors to get the reading for the sunlight and repeating the procedure at the bonsai to ascertain the difference in the amount of light.

The January 1986 issue of the PBA Newsletter contained an article "INDOOR BONSAI LIGHTING" which covered the aspects of the subject and concluded with the following:

1. Use a combination of Cool-White and Warm-White fluorescent tubes in equal quantities for normal wintering of your bonsai. (These are the most economical forms of lighting.)
2. Use a Standard Gro-Lux and a Wide Spectrum Gro-Lux where seed germination or seedling growth is desired.

3. Keep the lamps on for periods of time that may vary from as little as 6 hours a day where there is some natural light, to 10 to 16 hours when there is no outside light. Use a timer to set the time interval and maintain it from day day.

4. Place the top of each plant about 4 to 8 inches below the light tubes. Distances can be adjusted for the light fixtures by hanging it on chains which can be set into hooks in the ceiling, and for the plants by raising them individually on wood blocks, bricks, or inverted flower pots.

5. Paint or cover the top of each table with something white. If Perlite is available, some Perlite can be spread over the surfaces of the soil in the pots.

The following article appeared under the title "BEST ILLUMINATION for YOUR BONSAI" ("ECLAIREZ MIEUX VOS BONSAI!") in the Soci t  de Bonsai de Montr al Bulletin, Vol. XII No.1, Septembre 1990. The author is Linda Champagne. Apologies are in order for the translation from the French,

Jules Koetsch

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All persons creating bonsai share some uncertainties,- those possessing greenhouses and those growing them in apartments where the principal limitation is the luminosity in the apartments.

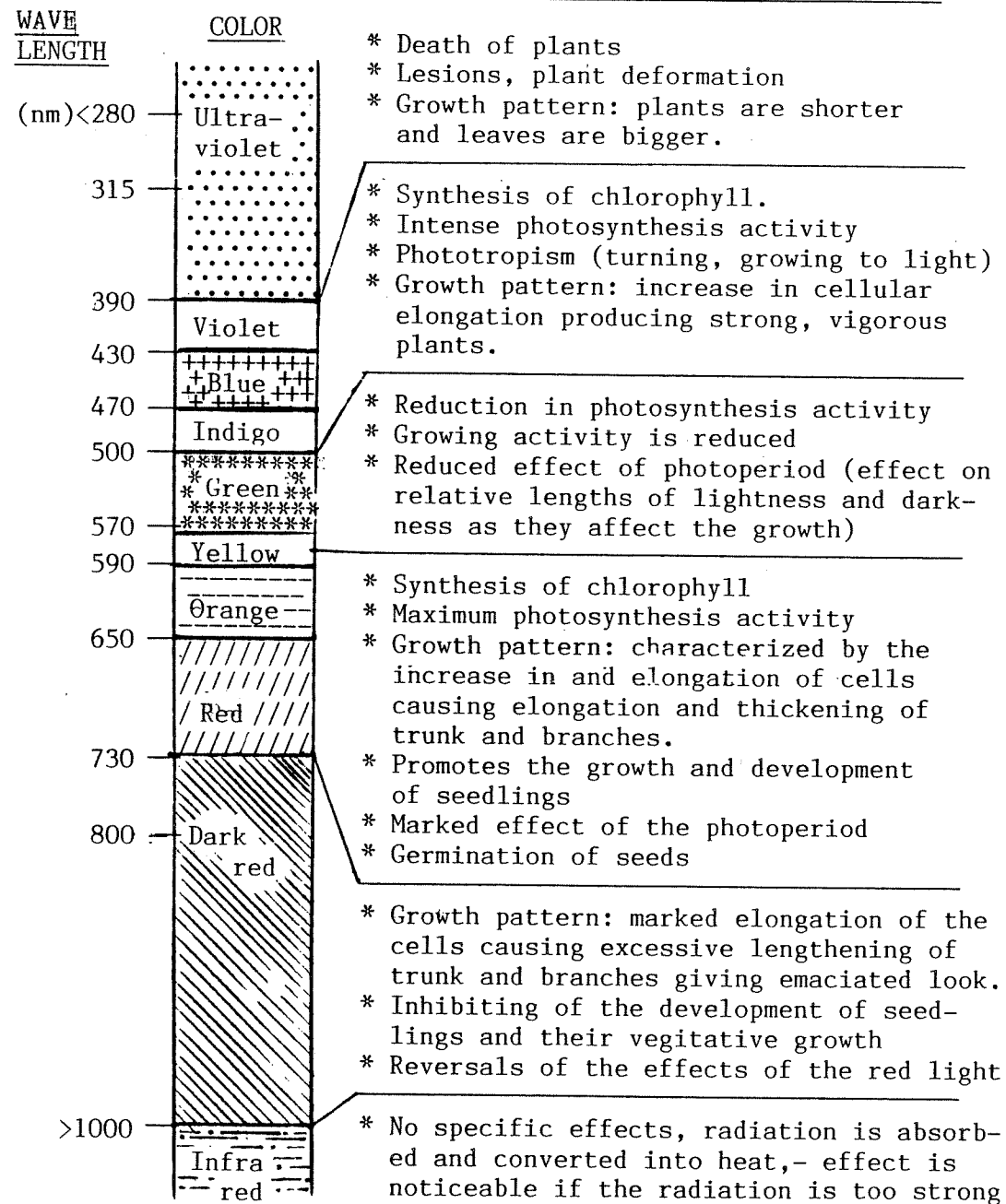
What can people in apartments do for a remedy to low luminosity? Discontinue growing bonsai? That is to deny a **direct answer** to the question. This article offers more than one solution as a remedy to the defective lighting that may agree with your budget.

Why in fact should the lighting be questioned? In what manner do the plants react to the light? The radiant energy in light is categorized according to different wave-lengths and that radiant energy is the number one source of energy for photosynthesis. (The wave-lengths form the spectrum of light.)

#### PROPERTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPECTRUM OF LIGHT

Not all of the wave-lengths in the spectrum of light are captured by plants. Some plants are very specific as to which they choose. However, if the source of light does not provide energy in the wave-length necessary for growth in

DIAGRAM SHOWING EFFECT OF DIFFERENT WAVE-LENGTHS OF LIGHT



Indigo = Blue-green

1 nm = 1 billionth of a meter

a certain plant, the plant will begin to not thrive normally and will manifest a certain absence of growth evident in its emaciated trunk and branches and discoloration in the foliage. The plant deviates to one with frail branches and dropping of leaves.

TYPES OF LIGHTING

1- Incandescent:

These lamps are habitually used for home-lighting. They are available in power up to 1000 watts and have a variable life expectancy.

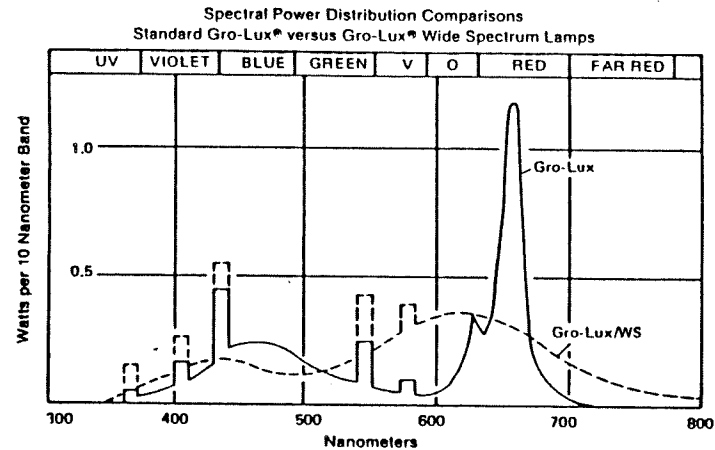
Advantage: None

Disadvantages: These lamps provide only a feeble amount of illumination. Only 6.5% of the electrical energy is converted into visible light and 93.5% is emitted as heat. Its light spectrum is chiefly situated the red wave-lengths and almost certainly results in the elongation of the branches and the growth of rail shoots. The heat is equally damaging to sensitive plants.

Cost: The purchasing price is too high and the light fixture can be found principally in hardware stores.

2- Fluorescent Tubes

The glass in these tubes as with other lamps with glass containers, absorb the ultra-violet radiation but the remaining wave-lengths in the visible spectrum are emitted from the fluorescent tubes. The life expectancy of fluorescent tube lights is between 7,000 to 10,000 hours. As can be seen from the accompanying graph for Sylvania fluorescent Gro-Lux and Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum (WS) tubes, the amount of light emitted throughout the visible spectrum is not uniform but has peaks and valleys. The overall efficiency of the tubes is 13% to 20% compared to visible or natural sunlight. The tubes need a fixture which must be installed and the complete array,- tubes and fixture, are a clumsy pair to say the least.



Graph showing the spectrum emitted by two Gro-Lux fluorescent tube lights taken from the Sylvania Catalog.

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Disadvantages; The fixture is an encumbrance and the amounts of light emitted in parts of the spectrum may be insufficient for some plants. The tubes cost in the neighborhood of \$2.00 Canadian (about \$1.75 American) without the large fixture.

- a- Cool-white tubes: provide a pretty good balance in the blue and red ranges of the spectrum.
- b- Warm-white: chiefly emits in the red range.
- c- Daylight: emits mainly in the blue range.

It is preferable to combine Warm-white with Daylight to have a good balance. If a 4-tube fixture is used, the author feels that it is all right to put a mix of all three types of tubes in the fixture so that the foliage and especially the flowers look good to the human eye.

There also exists two other types of fluorescent tube lights especially for lighting plants:

d- Spectralite: Covers the complete spectrum with uniform intensity. (\$20.00 Canadian or \$17.25 American per tube.)

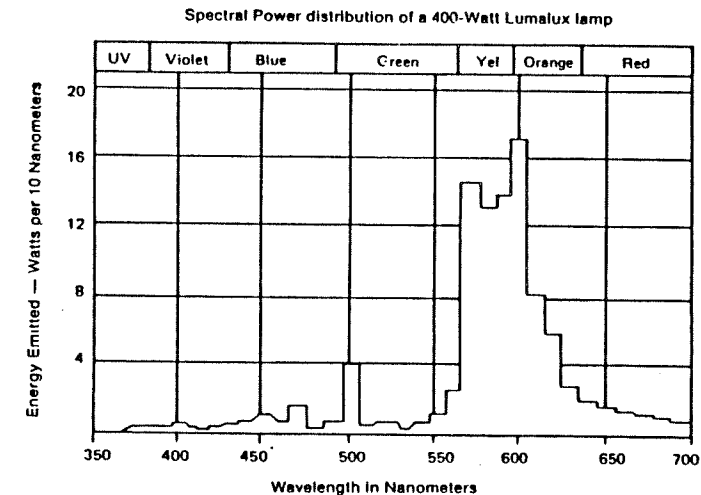
e- Power Twist: Wide spectrum plus long-life. (\$23.00 Canadian or \$19.80 American.)

### 3- Mercury Arc Lamps

These lamps operate by means of an electronic discharge. They possess an efficiency of between 13% and 20% compared with visible light and the units chiefly emit in the blue range and very much in the ultra-violet range (between 400 and 700 nanometers). These lamps are not recommended for home-use.

### 4- High Pressure Sodium Lamps

Data indicates that these lamps have an efficiency of 25% when compared to the visible spectrum. These lamps produce light chiefly between the 400 nm and 700 nm range



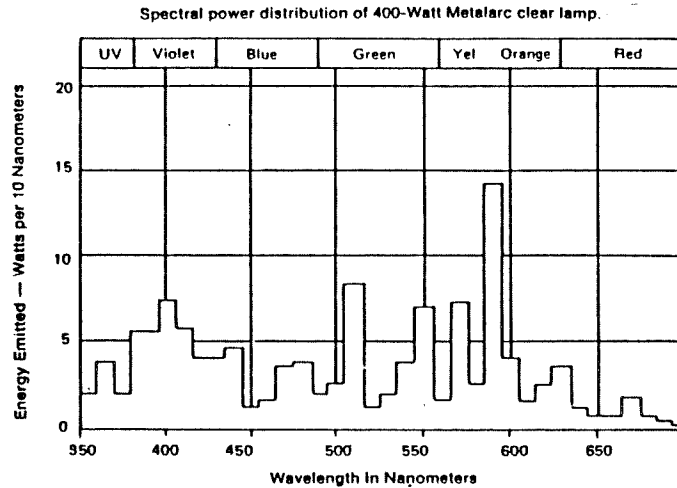
as shown in the above graph.

These lamps require a special transformer to be part of the installation. The resulting fixture weighs about 15 lbs and costs between \$185.00 and \$200.00 Canadian (about \$160.00 and \$173.00 U.S.). The 400 watt bulb costs \$32.00 Canadian (about \$27.00 American). One must be very careful in handling the bulbs since they can be easily exploded. Both the lamps

and the fixture should be scrapped at an environmental disposal point.

### 5-Metal Arc Street Lamps

Finally there is the latest in modern technology,- illumination from a metal arc in halide. These lamps discharge light that is continuous throughout the spectrum plus they produce more light in the desirable ranges than the high pressure sodium lights,- i.e. halide lamp emissions in the red between 600 and 700 nm, the far red (700 to 800 nm) and in the blue (400 to 500 nm). By comparison, the high pressure sodium lamps emit light especially in the yellow-orange and not much in the red wavelengths.



In addition the base of this lamp provides a self-contained light diffuser whereas the high pressure sodium lamp requires an external adapter.

Studies are now underway to measure the results that the use of these lamps in greenhouses will produce. I had an opportunity to observe the comparison of sodium versus halide lamps at the Horticultural Exhibition at St. Hyacinth in November '89 and the results seem to be quite interesting.



## The Only Fluorescent Light that Accurately Duplicates Sunlight

If you grow plants indoors, you know there's just no substitute for natural outdoor light. Sunlight is full-spectrum light. It contains all the colors and energies in perfect harmony—yellow, orange, red, blue, green, and ultraviolet.

Vita-lite is the world's only patented, balanced fluorescent light that simulates the full spectrum of sunlight. Vita-lite provides all colors, including near ultraviolet, in the same proportion as outdoor light. In national tests, other indoor lights could replicate only 60% of the sun's rays; Vita-lite provides a full 91%.

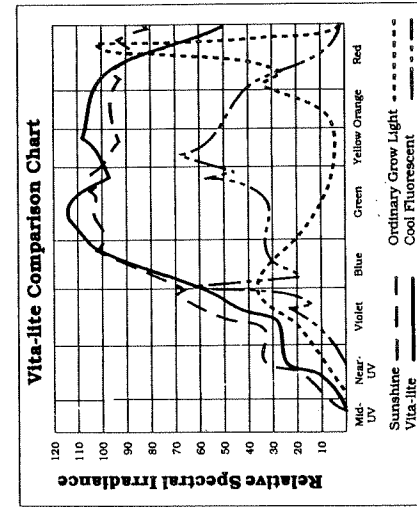
Your plants will notice this difference! You'll see healthier, more vigorous growth,

and enhanced germination, flowering, and fruiting. People thrive under Vita-lites too! Tests have shown that people feel more relaxed and alert when they work under the cheery white light from a Vita-lite tube.

Vita-lite's patented "power twist" bulb also generates 15% more light than regular fluorescent bulbs, yet uses no additional energy. And, each tube lasts up to 24,000 hours—that's more than 3 times longer than an average fluorescent tube.

Vita-lites fit all standard 4' fluorescent fixtures. The 40-watt power twist tubes are 48" long and come only in packs of 6.

**3-295 Vita-lite, 6 tubes . . . . . \$89.95**





These halide lamps emit light that seems to be indeed white-blue and the illumination is remarkable. It is something to follow-up on.

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Postscript: The author, Linda Champagne, in the above article did mention the power twist fluorescent tube which is shown on the preceding page along with the proclaimed spectrum as illustrated in the graph. If the data on the graph is correct, the power twist tubes may be worth the difference in price over the cool or warm white tube, - i.e. about \$16. for one power twist tube versus about \$3. for the others.

One caution is that the tubes like the headlights on your automobile or any other lamps, gradually lose their intensity. To maintain their effectiveness, the tubes should be replaced as often as perhaps once a year depending on the annual hours of usage.

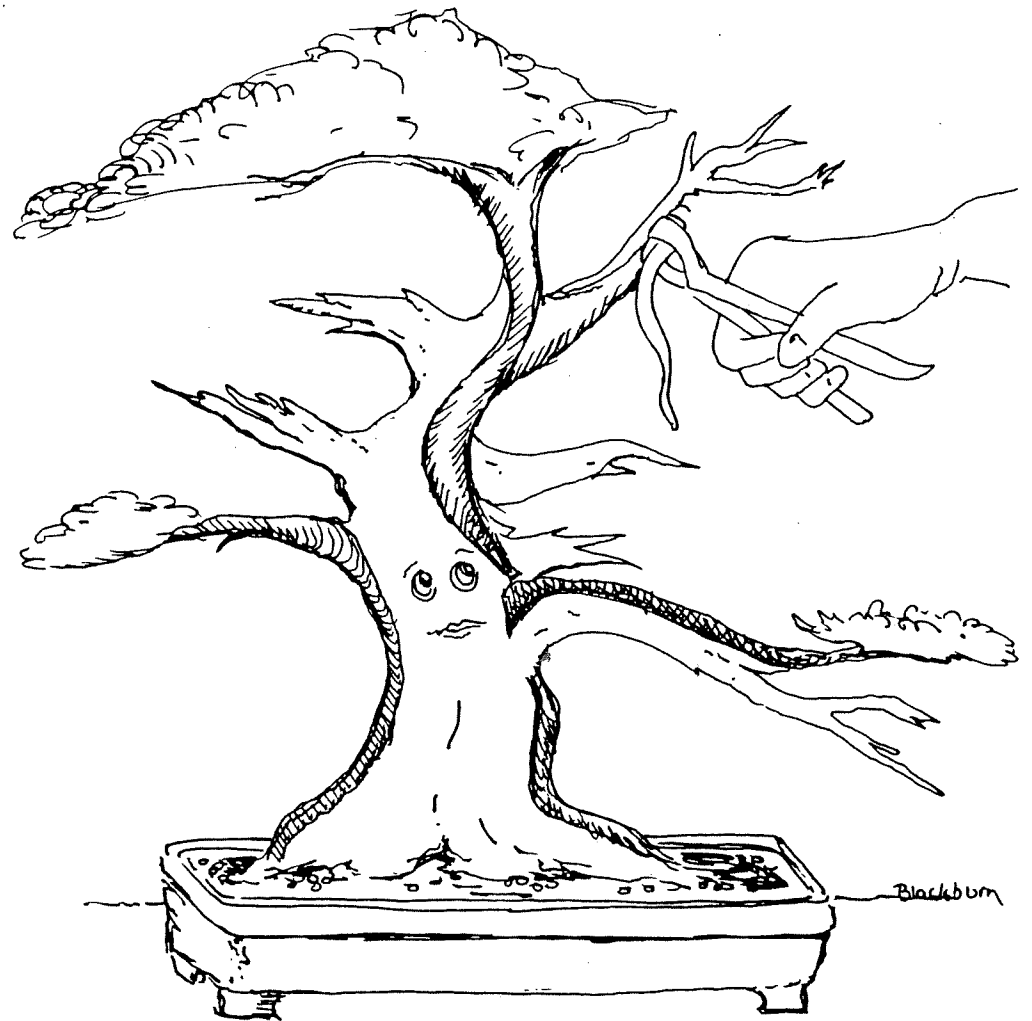
The writeup and pictures for the power twist tubes came from the Gardener's Supply Company catalog out of 128 Intervale Road, Burlington, VT 05401.

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## DRIFTWOOD ON NATIVE TREES

At the November meeting last year of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society, Tom Young gave very interesting presentation on Driftwood on Native Trees. Tom Young was a member of the Toronto Bonsai Society which from my visits to some of the bonsai collections of members of that club and seeing Tom's bonsai, I can report that they are quite skilled in the art.

The presentation began with Tom covering the handout which is reproduced herewith.

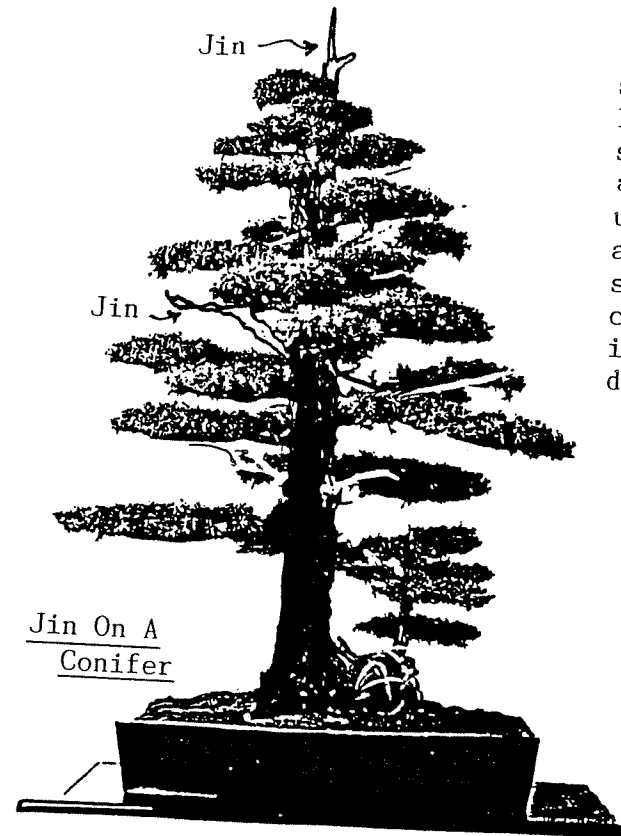


It's a good thing I'm not the shy type

## CARVING TECHNIQUES

MAIN TECHNIQUES ARE: JIN  
SHARI  
SABAMIKI  
RYU-BOKU

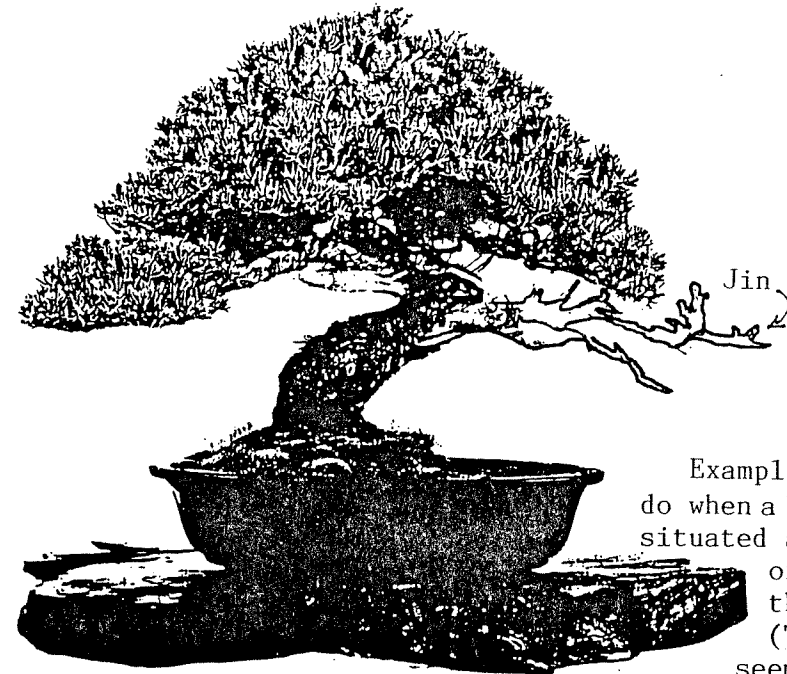
JIN- Can be used to represent an aged tree that has been hit by lightning. The jin can be simple or complex.  
Can be used to accent a design with dead branches etc..  
In this case it is called IKARJIN (anchor of God).



Both jins can be produced by carving, rubbing down with sandpaper and then coating with lime sulphur solution which should be performed when the air temperature is high. (High air temperature is high. (High use a hair-dryer to blow hot air on the freshly lime-sulfured surface.) Black ink (India ink) can be added to the lime sulfur in small amount to get a slightly darker effect. The jin will dry out to a gray/white color as appropriate. It is important to position jin branches immediately after carving and before it dries out. Use wire for positioning the branch.

Ikarjin and jin can be combined on the same tree and sometimes it is mandatory in order to achieve the required overall effect.

Jins are normally only used on evergreens/conifers.



Example of what to do when a branch ideally situated at the outside of the bend in the trunk dies. (This always seems to happen to branches on my trees.)

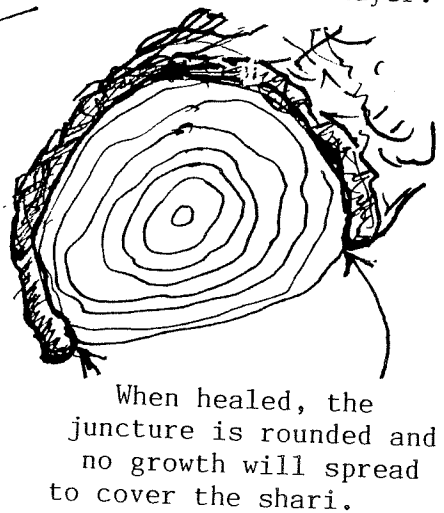
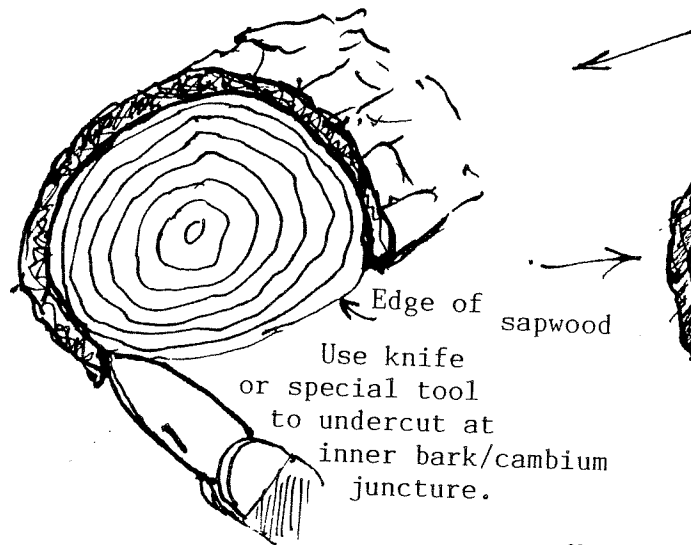
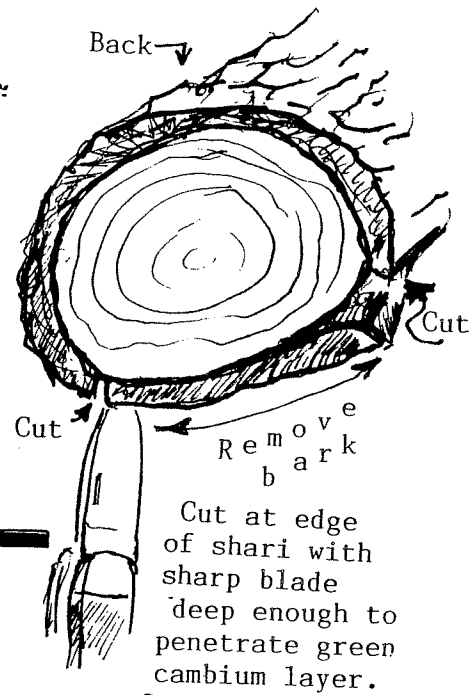
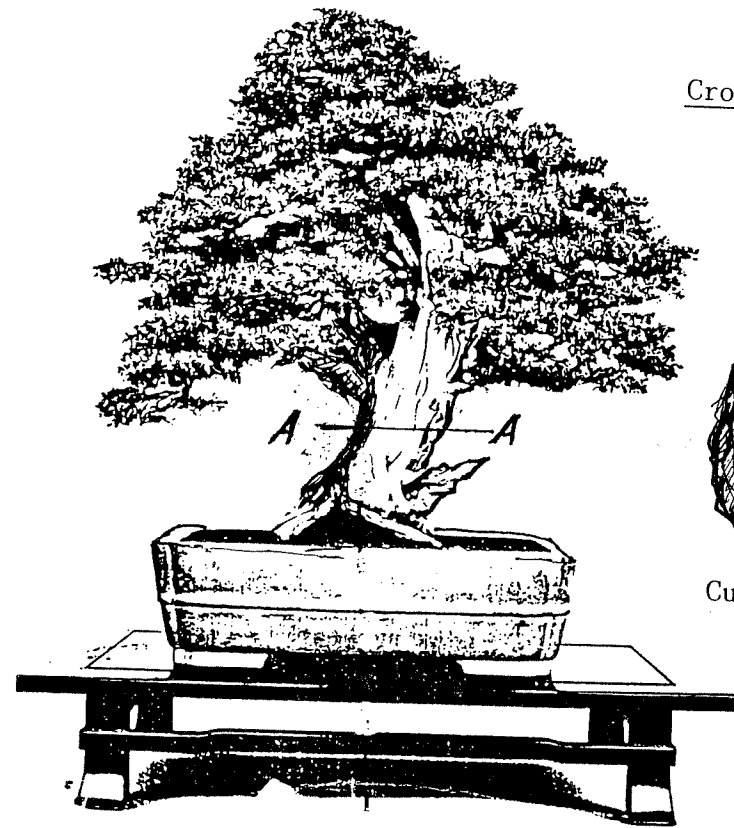
SHARI- (Japanese SHARI-KAN or URO - translates into English as Buddha's bones or saint's relic.)

Produced by peeling bark longitudinally down a section of the trunk, a branch or an exposed root. Finish peeling the bark before ground level is reached or rotting will occur. Finish off the edges as indicated below, especially for Junipers. Coat with lime-sulfur as for jin.

Sharis are mainly used on conifers.

The best time of year to make an extensive shari is during the winter months. Where there may be concern about the tree losing too much moisture through the shari part, moist sphagnum moss can be kept over the shari by first tying it in place with string and then wrapping tree tape around it. The moss should be periodically checked to insure that it that it has not dried out. Moss and tape can be removed when the tree has gotten over the initial shock.

Cross-Section Thru A-A



Now the tedious work begins - carving the deadwood.

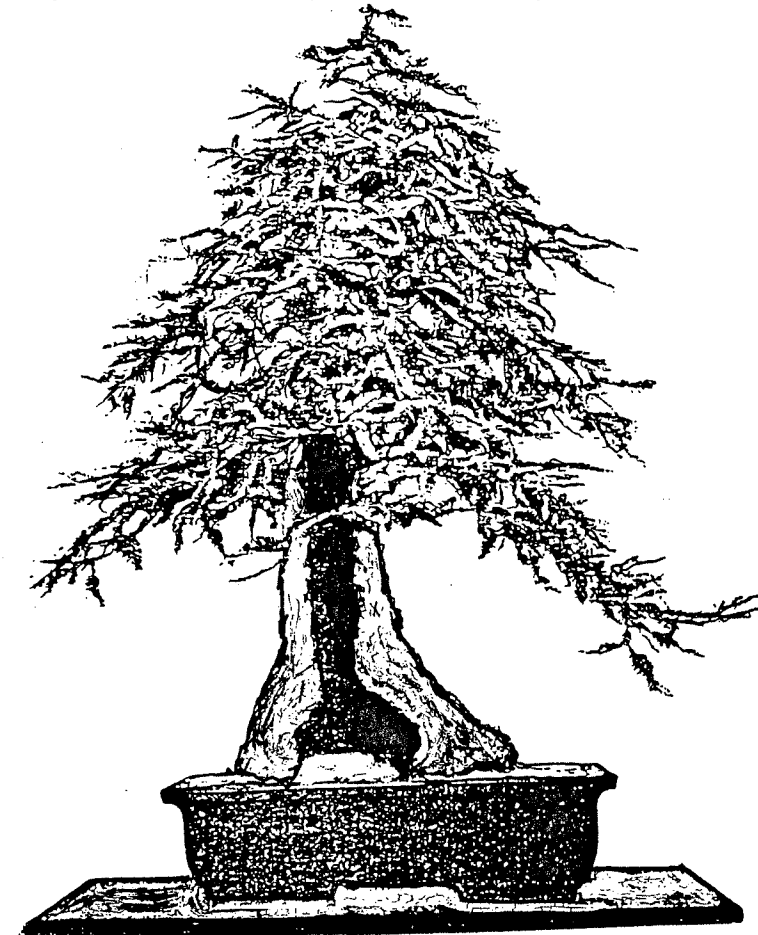
SABAMIKI- (Hollow trunk)

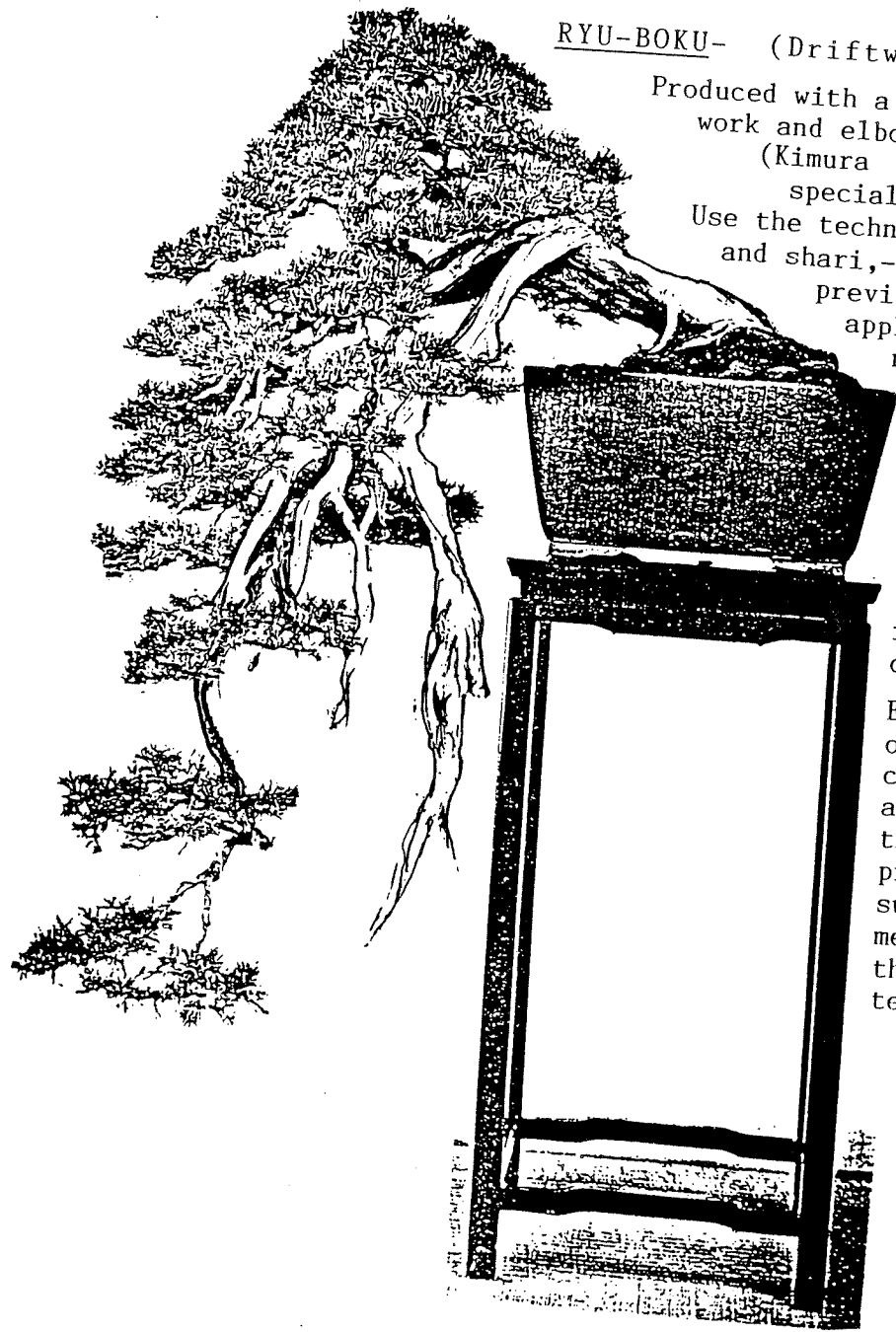
Produced by heavy carving out of the tree down to and into the heartwood. It is important to relate sabamiki design to trunk line. It is a major advantage in styling the tree if a main branch has to be removed from the front of the tree.

Sabamiki can be used on deciduous as well as conifers.

Finish off the edges and coat with lime-sulfur as for the jin. It is important to leave a run-off for water at the base of the carving. Stop carving before reaching ground level. Sabamiki can be used at any height but it normally is most effective at the lowest level.

Try and add some mystery to the hollow.





RYU-BOKU- (Driftwood)

Produced with a lot of hard  
work and elbow grease.  
(Kimura the magician's  
specialty.)

Use the techniques of jin  
and shari,- all the  
previous comments  
apply. Study  
nature's

examples  
and try to  
reproduce  
these  
effects.

Very  
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# ENTOMOLOGIST DENNIS HAMEL

Many of us who knew Dennis Hamel were shocked to learn of his demise at a rather young age. Dennis was a proponent of natural pest controls and lectured to the PBA clubs on that subject. The following obituary appeared in the Sunday, January 13, 1991, edition of The Washington Post.

Dennis R. Hamel, 46, an entomologist and pesticides specialist who had worked for the Agriculture Department's Forest Service since 1974, died Jan. 10 at Arlington Hospital. He had AIDS.

He was an authority on the use of pesticides in forestry and had lectured internationally on the topic. He received a 1986 Presidential Award for Volunteerism and a 1982 Agriculture Department Superior Service Award.

He was a member of the entomological Society of America and the American Forestry Association.

He wrote several books for the Forest Service and had contributed articles to such journals as the American Entomologist.

He was also the author of the Gypsy Moth Workbook, a publication for children.

At the time of his death, he was working on an almanac of the world's insects.

Mr. Hamel, a Falls Church resident, was a native of St. Ignatius, Mont., and an Army veteran. He was a graduate of the Montana State University and received a master's degree in entomology from Texas A&M University.

He worked for the Forest Service in Montana before coming here in 1978.

His hobbies included stamp collecting and gardening. He had written magazine articles on those topics and belonged to several organizations devoted to those endeavors, including the Potomac Bonsai Association.

(Continued)

His marriage to Molly Hamel ended in divorce. Survivors include his companion of 11 years, David Alligood of Falls Church; a son, Anthony, of Clarkston, Wash.; his parents, Robert and Esther Hamel of St. Ignatius; and a sister, Kay Kelley of Billings, Mont.

+--+--+

Donations in his name can be made to the Whitman Walker AIDS Foundation, 1407 S St., NW., Washington, D.C. 20009

(Continued from page 22)

After covering carving techniques, Tom induced audience participation by soliciting comments on redesigning trees whose pictures were projected on a screen by means of a Vu-Graph and transparencies. Branches could be inked in on the transparencies as well as covered up to modify their shapes.

Lastly, Tom Young showed slides of outstanding trees in the wild and carved by the natural elements as only nature can so capably do. The slides were photographed at Dead Horse Point State Park near Moab, Utah. The park overlooks the Colorado River and is nestled in the Rocky Mountains. It must have been very difficult for Tom to resist temptation and not illegally make off with any of the far too numerous collectable, dwarfed trees in the area.

As Warren Hill reminded us at the last symposium:  
"ONE TRIP TO THE WILD IS WORTH 10 WORKSHOPS."

## ODDS AND ENDS

### 1991 VISITING EXHIBITS AT THE NATIONAL BONSAI AND PENJING MUSEUM

Bob Drechsler, Curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum, is continuing the Visiting Exhibits program which he inaugurated last year. PBA member clubs have been sent information on what to do to sign-up for the 1991 program.

Of interest to the readers should be the dates when various clubs will display their members' bonsai/penjing. The dates are given below. It should be noted that on the last days for the exhibits, a short demonstration on creating a bonsai will be given after which the bonsai or suitable bonsai material will be raffled at no charge to members of the audience, - one raffle ticket free to each person. It is understood that these demonstrations have been very popular drawing up to about 60 people.

(Continued page 26)

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Exhibit #	Dates
1	April 6 - April 14
2	May 4 - May 12
3	June 1 - June 9
4	July 6 - July 14
5	August 3 - August 11
6	August 31 - September 8
7	October 5 - October 13
8	November 2 - November 10

**IF YOUR FICUS DROPS A LOT OF LEAVES, IT MIGHT NOT BE YOUR FAULT**

Low light levels in homes and offices can aggravate ficus leaf drop problems, but the major factor appears to be how the plants are produced. Standard commercial practice for growing weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*) and Indian laurel (*Ficus retusa*) includes several weeks in full sun to produce large stems and dense foliage, followed by several weeks of acclimatization to shade. The problem with this scheme, according to University of Florida researchers, is that the resulting plants tend to shed their leaves unless the acclimatization period is extended for several months (for small plants) to a year (for large plants). Commercial ficus growers now are being urged to lengthen shade-acclimatization periods. It probably will be a while before most ficus plants available for purchase have had long acclimatization periods. In the meantime, give your leaf-droppers more light if you can.

Source: "Research Reinforces Shade-Grown Ficus Advantages," Interior Landscape Industry 7(6), June 1990, 18. (American Nurseryman Publishing Co., 111 N. Canal St., Suite 545, Chicago, IL 60606.)

The above appeared in "Plants & Garden News" Vol. 5 No. 3/1990, published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225-1099.

(Continued on page 28)

## COMING IN APRIL... MID-ATLANTIC BONSAI FESTIVAL

The eighth annual symposium featuring a program of American and International stars with demonstrations, lectures, workshops

- Harry Tomlinson - Master from England, two demonstrations
- Roy Nagatoshi - A popular California bonsai artist, two demonstrations
- Marion Borchers - Tropical plant specialist, demonstration and bonsai critique
- Lynn Perry - Seasoned in horticulture, lecture/demonstration and bonsai critique
- Marion Gyllenswan - Recognized stylist, lecture/demonstration

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- Harry Tomlinson
- Marion Borchers
- Roy Nagatoshi

(Limited to ten registrants each)

**Dates:** Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday, April 19, 20 and 21, 1991

**Place:** Marriott Hotel, Saddle Brook, NJ

**Cost:** Full registration, \$100 including buffet lunch on Saturday; for Friday evening and Saturday, \$70 including lunch; Sunday only, \$40.

**Watch for reservation forms. For more information, contact:**

**Gunnar M. Berg, 73 Van Allen Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, 201-652-6844**

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
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| Bonsai Society of Lehigh Valley (PA)     | Long Island Bonsai Society (NY)  |
| Bonsai Society of Greater New Haven (CT) | Pennsylvania Bonsai Society (PA) |
| Bonsai Society of Greater New York (NY)  | Suffolk Bonsai Society (NY)      |
| Brandywine Bonsai Society (PA)           | Susquehanna Bonsai Society (PA)  |
| Great Swamp Bonsai Society (NJ)          | Wallingford Bonsai Society (PA)  |
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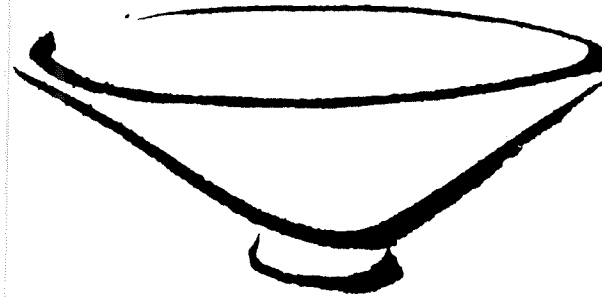
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