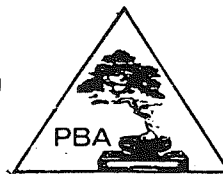


VOL. 21 NO. 5 MAY 1991

POTOMAC  
**BONSAI**  
ASSOCIATION



# Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### *DUES ARE DUE*

June is the month when the PBA memberships' annual dues are due. Please make your payments to your parent PBA Club/Society and not to PBA through Cy Mill. Subscribers can pay when their subscription runs out. See instructions on the back page of this Newsletter.

Members have noted their concerns about the seemingly late delivery of their PBA Newsletters. It would be greatly appreciated if PBA members would check as to what date this Newsletter is delivered and report it to their PBA Club or Society officers for consolidation and forwarding to the PBA Board of Directors. It's anticipated that this Newsletter will be put in the bulk mailing facility at Merrifield Post Office, Northern Virginia, on 17 June, 1991.

### SUMMER MONTHS SCHEDULES

During the summer months a number of PBA member clubs or societies forego monthly meetings either entirely or make other arrangements for get-togethers and workshops. Although this Newsletter is dated May 1991, the Calendar of Events covers July and August so that recipients of the Newsletter

PBA NEWSLETTER Published by the Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc. (PBA), a non-profit organization, in the interests of its affiliate member clubs and societies.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PBA Member Clubs/Societies: Annual subscription is included in the membership dues paid to the PBA Club or Society of your choice. Telephone numbers of points of contact for information about any member club or society and its annual dues, are listed under the "Calendar of Events" section of this Newsletter.

Subscribers: Annual subscription for 12 issues of the PBA Newsletter is \$15.00 which should be made payable to the "Potomac Bonsai Association" and sent to Cy Mill, 9229 Arlington Blvd. Apt. 160, Fairfax, VA 22031.

ADVERTISING RATES Monthly rates: 1/4 page - \$6.00; 1/2 page - \$12.00; full-page - \$19.00  
20% rate reduction for advertisements that run 3 or more months.

ADVERTISEMENTS and/or ARTICLES Please send to the editor.

EDITOR J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152; Tel.: (703) 569-9378.

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have up-to-date postings of the events. This has been the case for a number of previous issues of the Newsletter and will continue until the actual issue dates and mailings of the Newsletter are such that recipients will receive the Newsletters prior to the month appearing on the cover of the Newsletter. For example: the May 1991 issue should have been in the mail by mid-April with the May and June events. Your patience in this matter is appreciated.

The Editor.

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As mentioned above, this Newsletter should list events for July and August. Information has been received for only the clubs listed below. Readers interested in other club/societies activities can telephone the following numbers:

Baltimore - (301) 823-0863  
Brookside - (301) 365-7621  
Chesapeake - Steve Choi at (301) 266-7336  
or (202) 261-8131  
Kiyomizu - (301) 423-8230  
Mei-Hwa Penjing - (301) 390-6687  
Washington - (202) 583-2676

6 through 14 July

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4815. VISITING EXHIBIT by Virginia Bonsai Society, Norfolk, Virginia.

13 July Saturday

BOWIE (301) 350-3586. Bowie Community Center at 10:00 a.m.  
ALL MEMBERS' WORKSHOP. Bring trees and whatever else you'll need such as tools, wire, soil pot, mister, etc.

13 July Saturday

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 765-7223. Hands on experience in ROCK CARVING by Bill Merritt and on KUSA MONO (small plants) BONSAI (which includes use of moss) by Jules Koetsch. 10:00 a.m., Green Spring Horticulture Center.

14 July Sunday

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4815. PUBLIC BONSAI DEMONSTRATION in the Yuji Yoshimura Center at 1:30 p.m.

# Potomac Bonsai Association



Fall Symposium '91  
US National Arboretum  
Sept. 28-29

Marion Gyllenswan ● Larry Jackel ● Roy Nagatoshi ● Steve Pilacik

---

Registration Info: PBA Symposium  
T Holden/4337 Stream Bed Way/Alexandria VA 22306

FREE! Each attendee gets one ticket for the raffle of the demonstration plant. Tickets are also free. The demonstration is sponsored by the National Bonsai Foundation.

3 through 11 August

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4815. VISITING EXHIBIT by Mei-Hwa Penjing Society, Silver Spring, Maryland.

10 August Saturday

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 765-7223. Green Spring Horticulture Center at 10:00 a.m. BONSAI MAINTENANCE by Lynn Perry Alstadt.

Also: Select Trees for August 31 through Sept. 8 Northern Virginia Visiting Exhibit at the U.S. National Arboretum.

11 August Sunday

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4815. PUBLIC BONSAI DEMONSTRATION in the Yuji Yoshimura Bonsai Center at 1:30 p.m. FREE! Each attendee gets one free ticket for the raffle of the demonstration tree.

25 August Sunday

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4815. PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION in the Yuji Yoshimura Bonsai Center at 1:30 p.m. FREE! Each attendee gets one free ticket for the raffle of the demonstration tree.

31 August through 8 September

US. NATIONAL ARBORETUM (202) 475-4815. VISITING BONSAI EXHIBIT by Northern Virginia Bonsai Society.

28 and 29 September

PBA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

See page 3 of this Newsletter and the flyer in the centerfold.

# PBA ANNUAL SPRING SHOW 1991

The PBA Annual Spring Show which was held at the U.S. National Arboretum on April 26, 27, and 28 is now history. Every year the show gets better and better, - not only the presentation but also the trees and exhibits. This year's show was by far the best.

Hence all of PBA offers a hearty vote of thanks to:

Russ Kinerson, PBA's Educational Vice President at that time, for the organization and management of the show.

All the PBA members who in one way or another helped in putting on the show.

Fortunately, the weather couldn't have been nicer for the three days which was a contributing factor to the record attendance. Another factor which contributed to the excellent attendance was the efforts of PBA's recently appointed Public Relations Officer, Tony Meyer. Tony even got an evaluation of the various avenues which he pursued to advertise the show. He had two questionnaires which were presented to attendees at the show to learn wherefrom they learned of the show. One questionnaire was for PBA members and the other was for non-PBA members. The results of Tony's survey are provided on the next page and show some interesting results.

The demonstrations, - two on each of the three days, were given in the Yuji Yoshimura Center, - a first for PBA's Annual Spring Show. The Center was dedicated last Fall and provided a welcome replacement for the

(Continued on page 8)

# PR REPORT

One thousand eight hundred visitors came to the PBA Spring Show, not including PBA members -- best attendance ever -- estimated from donation receipts.

## Why did they come?

Because they were at the arboretum anyway? Some. Eighteen percent came for this reason.

## Because a PBA member told them? Some.

Twelve percent came for this reason. PBA members actually did well in talking to people -- 32 of 40 PBA members questioned said that they told an average of 10.5 people about the show. Next time, more follow up with these people, including accompanying some to the Show, may help.

## Because they saw it in the Washington Post?

You got it. Forty-six percent saw it in the Post. Either the Home Section or the Weekend. We were in both and made the front page of the Weekend Section.

Fifty-four percent came because of print media overall, including the Post, the National Arboretum Newsletter and about four other print sources. (Over 70 press contacts were sent press releases.)

**How did radio do?** Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were sent to over 10 stations, and I appeared for an hour on Dr. Mark Cathey's garden show on WRC, Saturday April 27. Only four percent heard about the Show on the radio.

## How did our "POP AND POST" Spring Show poster do?

A complex issue. Only eight percent came because they saw the poster, although at least 12 of the 40 PBA members questioned posted one or more, and I sent them to about 50 nurseries and neighboring bonsai clubs.

I think the poster caught the attention of the Post editor and others who received it in the mail and helped us indirectly. I also think that the poster handed personally to an individual may serve as a more forceful invitation than word of mouth alone.

A few (2%) came from out of town bonsai clubs because of the mailings. A few (2%) heard about the Show from nurseries.

**Lessons learned?** The media are powerful, accounting for over 60% of visitors to the Show. Getting in the Post and the National Arboretum Newsletter is most important. The mailing list of press and radio contacts should be gradually narrowed. Mailings to Bonsai shops and out of town clubs had some impact and may have the further impact over time of building membership and building a market for the Fall Symposium. PBA membership involvement should increase, particularly the extent, frequency and forcefulness of our contact with others.

The data reported here are from an analysis of 125 questionnaires administered at the Show over three days at peak Show hours (11:00 AM - 3:00 PM). This survey is being interpreted as a surrogate for a random sample survey of non-PBA visitors to the Show. In addition, 40 PBA members were questioned about their activities to inform others about the Show.

Tony Meyer, Public Relations Officer

heretofore use of the outdoor area on the side of the Administration Building. Now demonstrators don't have to worry about shuffling around trying to find a substitute place incase of rain or how to avoid the sun in either their or the audience's eyes.

The demonstrations were well-attended and on Saturday and Sunday there was standing room only. Jim Doyle from Nature's Way nursery, inc., 1451 Pleasant Hill Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112 (717-545-4555), did the major demonstration on Saturday afternoon. PBA tries to have a prominent bonsai person from outside of PBA to conduct a demonstration on Saturday afternoon. Jim styled a Mountain Hemlock.

+--+--+

## ORCHID PENJING

Aki Hung of the Mei-Hwa Penjing Society provided a very interesting diversion from all the bonsai and accent plants at the last PBA Annual Spring Show. He displayed Orchid Penjing for the Mei-Hwa Penjing Society. He kindly submitted the write-up on the following page which accompanied the display.

Unfortunately the orchids were not in bloom but that did not distract from the graceful beauty of the penjing. Growing flowering plants in penjing or bonsai pots and/or trays is practised in China and Japan. The Japanese call the process Kusa mono bonsai or plant bonsai. Not only do the Kusa mono bonsai provide attractive stand-alone displays but they also can be used as accent plants. Like some bonsai and penjing, the kusa mono look their best when in bloom if flowering plants are used. Look forward to an article in a future PBA Newsletter on the subject.

The Editor

## ORCHID PENJING

(From Mei-Hwa Penjing Society)

The Cymbidium orchid with its fragrant flowers has been cultivated by the Chinese for over two thousand years. It is the favorite subject of Chinese poems, essays and brush paintings.

In penjing, it has long been proclaimed that the Cymbidium orchid is the King, the flowering apricot (mume) is the Lord, the pine is the Earl, and the bamboo is the Man of Virtue. During the Ching Dynasty (ca. 1796) Su Ling wrote a two-volume book on penjing. In his classification of penjing plants, he listed Cymbidium orchid along with chrysanthemum, Narcissus and Acorus as "The Elegant Four" among herbaceous penjing plants.

As in Chinese brush painting, the Cymbidium orchids are grown in a shallow pot with the rock in penjing to present a contrast of toughness and gentleness. They are also planted alone in cascade pots. Examples of Cymbidium orchid penjing can be found in Dr. Yee-sun Wu's book "Man Lung Artistic Pot Plants" (pages 116, 284, 285, 316 and 326).



(From Dr. Wu's book)

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 I/we wish to attend:

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 Potomac Bonsai Association  
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Saturday Program ONLY	\$65	\$65	_____	State _____ Zip Code _____
Sunday Program ONLY	\$65	\$65	_____	

Workshops listed on front:	Participate	Observer	Number	Total
Roy Nagatoshi (Workshop Sat)	\$75	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Marion Gyllenswan (Workshop Sat)	\$75	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Steve Pilacik (Workshops Sun)	\$75	\$10	_____	\$ _____
			Total	\$ _____

- Check PBA Club
- Baltimore Bonsai Club
  - Brookside Bonsai Society
  - Bowie Bonsai Club
  - Mei-Hwa Penjing Society
  - Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
  - Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
  - Chesapeake Bonsai Society
  - Washington Bonsai Club

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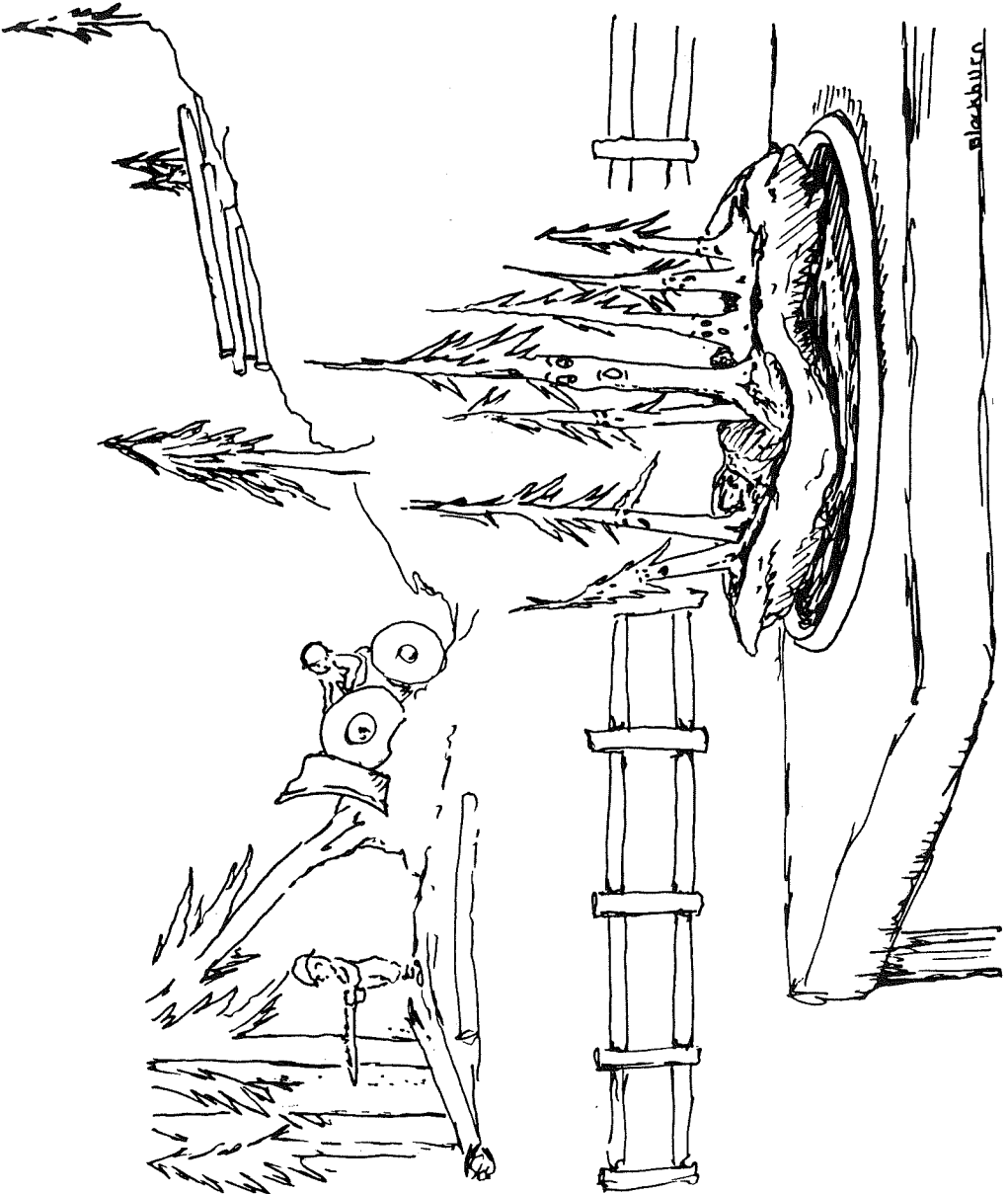
# BOUGAINVILLEA FOR BONSAI

By MIKE KLING, Miami, FL  
 March 1991

Bougainvillea is a woody vine, originally from South America, now widely distributed worldwide throughout the tropics. Several species are cultivated, among them B. Glabra, B. spectabilis and B. peruviana. In addition, Bougainvillea cross breed easily, resulting in a wide variety of flower colors and sizes. Colors include red, rose, pink, mauve, purple, orange, gold, white and blends, with intensities ranging from electric to pastels. Some varieties change color as they mature and fade and some will have two colors. "Surprise", for example will bloom with white and purple flowers (including some individuals with both colors) on the same plant. Most bougainvilleas have thorns, some of which can be quite nasty. "Pink Pixie" is a small leafed, small flowered variety that is thornless, compact and blooms at lower light levels than most other varieties. By the way, what we call flowers on bougainvilleas are actually bracts, or modified leaves, and so can be reduced slightly in size. The real flower is small, tubular, usually yellow and located inside the cluster of bracts.

Flowering occurs all year, - heaviest in winter. Longer nights than days brings on blooms if temperatures are favorable. 85°F days with nights below 70°F will encourage seasonable blooming. In more tropical areas with less day length and temperature variations, flowering is more constant. In these places, severe pruning can be used to encourage heavier blooming and leaf growth. Drying plants to the point of wilting and leaf loss in cool temperatures,

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then increasing heat and water has been used successfully indoors up North to force flowering.

Pruning is the method of choice for training bougainvillea. Wiring can be tricky, as bougainvillea branches are brittle and snap and wire-damage easily. They bud back readily and will force dense canopies. When cutting shoots and branches thicker than a pencil, leave a  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inch stub (increase the length between the two dimensions with thickness of the branch) to discourage die-back. As the stub dries out, it can be progressively removed to be safe. Bougainvillea heartwood is soft and punky, rotting easily thus making large trunked specimens good for hollowed trunk (uro, shari) styles. Lime-sulphur (full strength) is a good way to preserve the exposed deadwood. Always provide a drainage area in hollowed trunk areas where needed so water does not accumulate and pool on the deadwood. Bougainvillea respond very well to reduction pruning (clip and grow) methods and may be drastically pruned without problems.

Bougainvillea cuttings root readily in sandy, well-drained media as do ground and air-layers. Cuttings may be 6 inches or more in diameter so that large vines, if you're lucky enough to collect them, may be sawed into many large trunked cuttings. Bougainvillea can be collected easily (with permission!) and larger ones can be found in older neighborhoods. (The author is obviously referring to very warm climates since bougainvillea is only hardy outdoors as far north as Zone 10 which is the lower tip of Florida, Texas and some parts of California. Hence the plant is strictly a candidate for indoor bonsai or for winter protection where the temperatures do not fall below 30 to 40°F.) Digging (or collecting them) is much easier than convincing home owners to part with them. Warmer times of year are the best for propagating, digging and transplanting/root pruning. Nurseries in the tropics carry many varieties of bougainvilleas and are the place to obtain specific varieties and colors. To save time, buy a large specimen and prune back heavily, then re-grow, or visit a bonsai nursery and buy a specimen already cut back, flushed out and adapted to a smaller pot.

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Bougainvillea bonsai should be kept in full sun to maximize growth, leaf reduction and flowering. Soil should drain quickly since soggy soil will rot roots, inhibit growth and flowering. Let the soil dry between waterings, especially in Fall and early Winter to encourage blooming. Feeding with a balanced fertilizer in Spring and Summer will promote dense leaf growth, while low nitrogen, high potassium and phosphate fertilizer in the Fall and Winter will bring on the blooms. Bougainvillea is a fairly heavy feeder, so make sure their their food is available with a time-release fertilizer (fertilizer balls, Osmocote, etc.) or by frequent applications of liquid fertilizers.

A good wholesale source for partially trained bougainvillea, especially the uncommon Pink Pixie, is the Bonsai Bench, 25601 S.W. 137 Avenue, Princeton, FL 33032. Your local bonsai dealer or garden center can order for you. For further information on bougainvillea, see the magazine WORLD TROPICAL FORUM, Spring1990, Winter 1990, and Winter 1991. Back issues are availabe from the publisher, at \$6.25 each, postpaid. Order from: World Tropical Bonsai Forum, 138 S.W. 138 Street, Miami, FL 33176.

(Note: The book Man Lung Artistic Pots Plants has a photograph (black and white) of a very well-styled bougainvillea,- see page 148.

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Editor's note: It was a very pleasant surprise to get a telephone call from Mike Kling, the author of the above article, announcing that he is now a resident of Northern Virginia. This should be of interest to many of the older members of PBA. His address is Rt. 1, Box 26-A, Boston, VA 22713, telephone (703) 547-2319. It is good to have Mike back in the PBA fold.

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The China Bonsai Company is a division of China Best, Inc., Seattle, Washington and Canton, China. The purpose of the China Bonsai Company is to represent directly, selected Chinese Bonsai nurseries to the American Bonsai nursery community. The Company, a licensed importer, is committed to expanding the American Bonsai collectors' appreciation and understanding of the major styles of China's Bonsai schools and, in particular, Guangzhou's Ling Nan School of Bonsai.

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## NOTICE!

During the PBA Auction held on May 25, 1991, a tree (auction item #96) was auctioned off for \$160. The tree was a Trident Maple in a brown pot. It was about 16 to 20 inches tall. There was a small boxwood in front of the tree. When the successful bidder went to pay for the tree, it had disappeared.

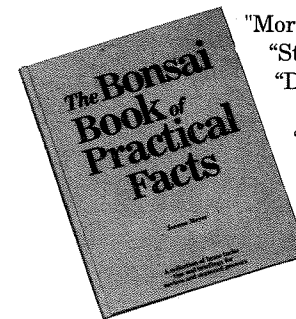
PBA hopes that someone accidentally picked up the tree and took it home.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of this tree, please contact Jerry Antel at (301) 320-5251.

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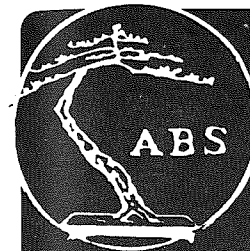
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