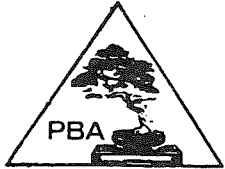


VOL. 21 DECEMBER 1991
VOL. 22 JANUARY 1992



POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

In order to get back on track with the sequencing of the Newsletter, both December 1991 and January 1992 are combined in this issue. This should be in the mail by February 13th.

For club information not listed, please call:

Baltimore (410/668-1868); Bowie (301/ 262-9633);
Brookside (301/365-7621); Chesapeake (301/261-8131);
Kiyomizu (301/645-3519); Mei Hwa Penjing (301/390-
6687); No.Va.(703/591-0864); and Washington Bonsai
(202/296-2442).

Wolf Trap Nursery provides free lecture-demonstrations on Bonsai care. These are held the last Saturday of the month from 9-10:30am. For information call 703/759-4244. 9239 Leesburg Pike, Vienna.

FEBRUARY 7 - FRIDAY

US Botanical Garden, (202/226-4082) "Plants and Gardens of China" with Lawrence Lee, Curator of Asian collections, US Arboretum. 12-1pm

FEBRUARY 8 - SATURDAY

No.Va.Bonsai Society (703/591-0864) "Tray Landscape" demonstration and workshop with Mike Kling. 10 am, Green Spring Horticulture Center."Beginner's Hour-continuation of 3 month workshop, 9 am.

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, 10300 Bushman Drive, #111, Oakton, VA 22124

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.

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PRESIDENT: Russ Kinerson; FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Chris Yeapanis; EDUCATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:
Steve Choi; SECRETARY: Julie Walker; TREASURER: Jerry Antel, Jr.; PUBLIC RELATIONS:
Tony Meyer (301) 654-1854; MEMBERSHIP: Cy Mill.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, INC.
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**TIME
CRITICAL
INFO**

FEBRUARY 15 - SATURDAY

Washington Bonsai Club (202/296-2441) "Juniperus Virginiana", Jim Sullivan. 2 pm. Administration Building, US National Arboretum.

FEBRUARY 15 - SATURDAY

Richmond Bonsai Society (804/749-4956) "Carving Feather Rock" Bill Merritt - demonstration and workshop. 7-9 pm, Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave, Richmond.

FEBRUARY 16 - SUNDAY

Baltimore Bonsai Club, (410/668-1868) "Pots II" 2pm. Clyburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Baltimore. 1-2pm beginners class.

FEBRUARY 20 - THURSDAY

Brookside Bonsai Society (301/365-7621) "Collecting Pine in Colorado" Lee Earman. 7:30 pm, No. Chevy Chase Recreation Center.

FEBRUARY 21-23 - FRIDAY-SUNDAY

The Maymont Flower Show. Richmond. For information call 804/749-4956

FEBRUARY 21 - FRIDAY

US Botanic Garden, (202/226-4082). "Succulent Plant Workshop" with Elliott Norman, horticulturist at Garden. 12-1pm.

FEBRUARY 22 - SATURDAY

US National Arboretum, "ReDesigning Bonsai in Winter: Collected Elms" Lecture/demonstration by Keith Scott, Pittsburgh, development and design of collected elms for bonsai. Admin.Bldg.1-4pm. Free

FEBRUARY 24 - MONDAY

Richmond Bonsai Society (804/749-4956) "Principals of Bonsai" Bill Orsinger. 7-9 pm Imperial Plaza - 1717 Bellevue Ave, Richmond. At same time - the Beginner's Corner "Pots, Proper Size and Where to Find".

KEITH SCOTT AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

SATURDAY FEB 22 1:00 - 4:00 PM

RE-DESIGNING BONSAI IN WINTER: COLLECTED ELMS

Put this demonstration and lecture on your calendar!
And bring a friend . . .

Keith Scott is Curator, The Phipps Conservatory Bonsai Collection and past two-term president of Bonsai Clubs International. He has collected plants in over 30 states and Canada and has written over 100 articles on bonsai. Keith has an extensive collection of over 300 bonsai in addition to those on display at the Phipps Collection.

This demonstration and lecture is sponsored by the Potomac Bonsai Association and the U.S. National Arboretum. It will be held at the Administration Building and is free of charge to the public.

FEBRUARY 29 - SATURDAY

Wolf Trap Nursery, (703/759-4244). "Repotting and Pruning Ficus and Japanese Maple" - lecture demonstration. 9-10:30am. Free.

MARCH 4, 11, 18 & 25

Brookside Bonsai Club, (301/365-7621) Beginner's sessions with Bill Spencer. 7-9:30pm. For more information call Bill at 301/871-5768. \$70

MARCH 8 - SUNDAY

Mei Hwa Penjing Club, (301/390-6687) Japanese Black Pine with Steve Choi. 2 pm. Banneker Middle School.

MARCH 8-13

Philadelphia Flower Shop, Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pa. Pennsylvania bonsai clubs exhibit at show.

MARCH 10 - TUESDAY OR MARCH 11 - WEDNESDAY

US National Arboretum, Bonsai Refinement Workshop, Staff. Tuesday 1-3pm, Wednesday 6:30-9pm, Yoshimura Center. Registration required. (202/475-4857). \$12 fee.

MARCH 12-15 - THURSDAY-SATURDAY

California Bonsai Society Show, with John Naka, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Irvine, Calif. Contact Lois & Bill Hutchinson, 18317 Colville St. Fountain Valley, CA 92708 (714/964-6973) \$99 registration.

MARCH 14- SATURDAY

No.Va.Bonsai Society, (703/591-0864). "Collecting Tips" with Fred Mies. 10am. Green Spring Horticulture Center. Beginner's Hour 9-10am.

MARCH 15 - SUNDAY

Baltimore Bonsai Club, (410/668-1868). Collecting trip. Call Mike Ramina at above number.

MARCH 19 - THURSDAY

Brookside Bonsai club, (301/365-7621) Starting Bonsai material from seeds & cuttings. Bill Orsinger. 7:30pm N.Chevy Chase Rec.Center.

BLACK PINE SEEDS

FROM JAPAN

Jon H. Underwood of the Northern Virginia club recently received, from a Japanese gentleman, direct from Japan 400 Black Pine seeds. Obviously, that number of seeds is far more than he can put to use. To defray the shipping expense, since they were sent Express Mail, Mr. Underwood is offering them at:

\$5.00 for a packet of 50 seeds

This is an excellent opportunity for hobbyists to try their hand at raising Black Pine from scratch, and the time to sow the seeds is just around the corner.

Contact:

Jon H. Underwood

703-360-0812

MARCH 21 - SATURDAY

Washington Bonsai Club, (202/296-2441) Collecting trip. Call for information.

MARCH 22 - SUNDAY

Mei Hwa Penjing, (301/261-8131) "Ume" with Dr. Wm. Ackerman, retired horticulturist of National Arboretum. 2pm. Banneker Middle School.

MARCH 24 - TUESDAY

Richmond Bonsai Society, 804/749-4956) "Three Ring Circus" styling of 3 trees by 3 beginners assisted by 3 oldtimers. 7-9pm Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave. Richmond. At same time - Beginner's Corner "Flowering Bonsai".

MARCH 28 - SATURDAY

Bowie Bonsai Club, (310/350-3586) Collection trip. For further information call Terry Adkins at above number.

MARCH 31, APRIL 2, 7 & 9

US National Arboretum, Bonsai Class for Beginners with Robert Drechsler, Curator, National Bonsai Collection, Fee - material provided. 202/475-4857. 10am-noon.

APRIL 4-5 - SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Philadelphia-Matsu-Momiji Nursery, (215/722-6286) Spring show at the Tyler Arboretum. Call for information.

APRIL 5-6 - SUNDAY & MONDAY

Brookside Bonsai Club, (301/871-5768) Chase Rosade Intensive 2 Day Workshop. Rosade Bonsai Studio, New Hope, Pa. Call Bill Spencer at above number. \$80

APRIL 8 & 14 - WEDNESDAY & TUESDAY

US Natinal Arboretum, Bonsai Refinement Workshop, Staff. Yoshimura Center (Wednesday 6:30-9pm or Tuesday 1-3pm. Reservations required \$10 fee.

APRIL 11-12 - FRIDAY & SATURDAY

No.Va.Bonsai Society, (703/591-0864). Spring Show, 10am-4pm. Green Spring Horticultural Center.

APRIL 11 - SATURDAY

Washington Bonsai Club, (202/296-2441) Refining Workshop. Richard Meszler. 2 pm. Administration Building, US Arboretum.

APRIL 24-26 - FRIDAY-SUNDAY

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Festival, Sheraton Hotel, Mihwah, NJ. Lectures & demonstrations by Hotsumi Terakawa and John Naka among others. For more information write MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies, 234 Sagamore Dr, Millburn, NJ 07041

APRIL 24-26 - FRIDAY - SUNDAY

PBA Spring Show, US National Arboretum, Administration Building and Grounds, 10am-5pm. Features exhibits, demonstrations and vendors.

APRIL 25 - SATURDAY

Richmond Bonsai Society, (804/749-4956) "Informal Upright Style" Julian Adams - lecture, demonstration, workshop. Call for more information.

APRIL 25-26 - SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Philadelphia-Matsu-Momiji, (215/722-6286) Open House, Doug Signorovitch (465 Edgewood Dr. Hatfield Pa. (215/855-4519)

APRIL 25-26 - FRIDAY & SATURDAY

1992 German Bonsai Exhibition, Dusseldorf. Contact Bonsai-Werkstatt Werner M. Busch, Hammer DorfstraBe 167, D-4000 Dusseldorf, Germany.

APRIL 27 - MONDAY

Richmond Bonsai Society, (804/749-4956) "Roundtable: Pines". 7-9pm, Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave, Richmond. At same time, Beginner's Corner - "Jins and Sharis".

MAY 2-3 - SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Philadelphia-Matsu-Momiji, (215/722-6286). Open House 9am-4pm. (410 Borbeck Street, Philadelphia, Pa)

To the Editor:

On January 29, 1992, The Board of Directors of The Potomac Bonsai Association held its regular scheduled meeting and received the following report of nominees for the election of officers to be held at the annual meeting in April:

PRESIDENT

Russell Kenerson

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Yeapanis

EDUCATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Arschel Morell

SECRETARY

Julie Walker

TREASURER

Jerry Antel

This notice is pursuant to the By-Laws of The

PBA Constitution as printed below:

Section B, Voting and Elections

1. Each dues-paying member shall be entitled to one vote for the election of PBA officers and shall be entitled to one vote on all other business coming before any PBA meeting.
2. The Board of Directors shall appoint a committee to nominate officers no later than 15 January of each year. A notice of officers to be nominated, the nomination procedures and election procedures shall be published in the February Newsletter of PBA.
3. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each office and report the nominations in the March Newsletter and to Secretary and President of each club. Additional nominations supported by at least 3 PBA

members may be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee and shall appear on the ballot if submitted or posted no later than 22 March. The Nominating Committee shall prepare the list of all nominees and it shall be reported in the April Newsletter.

4. The President shall appoint a committee of three Tellers who shall prepare the official ballot. The ballot shall list all nominees previously reported and a space for a write-in vote for each office. Preferential ballots may be provided if appropriate.

5. The Secretary shall provide the committee of Tellers with the official roll of PBA members who are entitled to vote as of the closing date of 31 March.

6. Voting shall take place at the Annual Meeting. The voting shall be limited to members in good standing attending the meeting.

7. A majority of ballots cast shall be required to elect. The preferential vote shall be employed to determine the elected candidate should any candidate fail to receive a majority of initial votes. The Tellers shall report the results of the election.

Respectfully Submitted



Arschel Morell, Chairman
3000 Chestnut Ave., #106
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

CC. All member Clubs.

2/1/92

SATSUKI AZALEA

Back in 1979, the PBA Newsletter ran a monthly series of articles under the caption "Tree of the Month" which meant to predominately cover tree species native to North America. Either because of limited experience with native species or because members did not consider too many to be suitable to make into bonsai, needless to say it wasn't long before authorship of such articles dwindled off to zero. To preclude not having a Tree of the Month article, one was written by the author of this article under the title appearing above. It was out of place since Satsuki azaleas' native origin are in the Orient. The author had adapted the previous from one that appears in an excellent 3-part series of books in Japanese on bonsai, - specifically in the book "Flowering and Fruiting Bonsai - How to Create Them with Illustrations". This article was written by Mr. Takenai Moniuma.

However, that previous adaptation from the Japanese was done with a fair amount of detail left out. Now, after all those 12 years, my Satsuki azaleas have been anything less than smashing, - in fact mediocre at best. In fact they at times to get into that state of suspended animation twixt living and starting to die, - so typical of my efforts in



"SAKAKAN" Satsuki (Azalea)
Formal Upright Style

bonsai, - will they live another year? Therefore I decided to re-review the Japanese article and especially the fine print to try and detect where my procedures departed from those of a bonsai master. Since I intended to do this, I'll inflict my findings on the reader.

However, before proceeding, I'd like to mention something that might be appropriate. About 10 years ago, I had the pleasure of being introduced to a fine Japanese gentleman, Mr. Yosaburo Yamakita, living in the Osaka, Japan, area. He was bonsai hobbyist just like the majority of the readers, and his small garden in the rear of his urban home was jam-packed with azaleas everywhere on benches - some 1,000 or so. The garden received about 1/2 day full sun being shaded for part of the day by his house which he referred to as his "mountain." Mr. Yamakita had pines and the like on top of his "mountain" so that they would get a full day's sun. He allowed that conditions in Japan were ideal for propagating azaleas such as Satsuki since the time for taking cuttings, i.e. right after the flowers have faded, coincides with the rainy season in Japan. Mr. Yamakita indicated that all that one had to do was to stick the cutting in the ground and Mother nature would do the rest. No wonder he had so many. Well, he gave me some azaleas which I managed to get home to the U.S.A. unscathed. They are still living but are not growing with any propriety.

Mr. Moniuma in his article points out that azaleas are almost everyone's favorite because of the gorgeous flowers they produce. However, if one visits a bonsai nursery in Japan, the visitor will normally find no, zero, azaleas on display. After all, azaleas are a shrub not a tree and bonsai masters consider dwarfing trees instead of shrubs the real challenge. Be that as it may, I agree with Mr. Moniuma, - there's a place for a few in any bonsai collection.

Azaleas are credited with robust energy as well as being inexpensive as seedlings, easy to train, and suitable for a number of tree styles. The Japanese use Kurume and Satsuki (azalea) varieties for bonsai. The name Satsuki in Japanese translates as the 5th month. However, with the revision of the calendar in Japan, the 5th month begins

earlier in the year than it did on their older calendar. Hence, Satsukis start blooming during the middle of May and continue until mid-June. But there reader can consider using other varieties of azaleas,- many bloom in early April. Just follow the old guidance for selecting any material for bonsai,- the leaves and inter-nodal spacings should be in keeping with the projected size of the bonsai. Even though azaleas are classified in gardening books as a sub-species of Rhododendron,- azaleas certainly do not have the large leaves and large inter-nodal spacings of what nurseries sell as Rhododendrons. I've always admired the flowers on rhododendron species and have speculated on how they might be tricked into being small leaf, short inter-nodal bonsai. If anyone has anything on that subject, please let the author in on it.

TREE SHAPES and PROPAGATION

Mr. Moniuma suggests the following shapes or styles for Satsuki bonsai: formal upright, informal upright, twin trunks, sprout style (kabudachi), and bunjin with informal upright being probably the most popular. Sprout style as the name implies, is where a number of sprouts or trunks have emerged from the same root system which is typical of a number of azalea varieties.

Propagating, as alluded to previously, is without exaggeration, easy to do from cuttings and a 100% survival rate can almost a certainty provided one does not neglect to keep the cuttings well-watered.

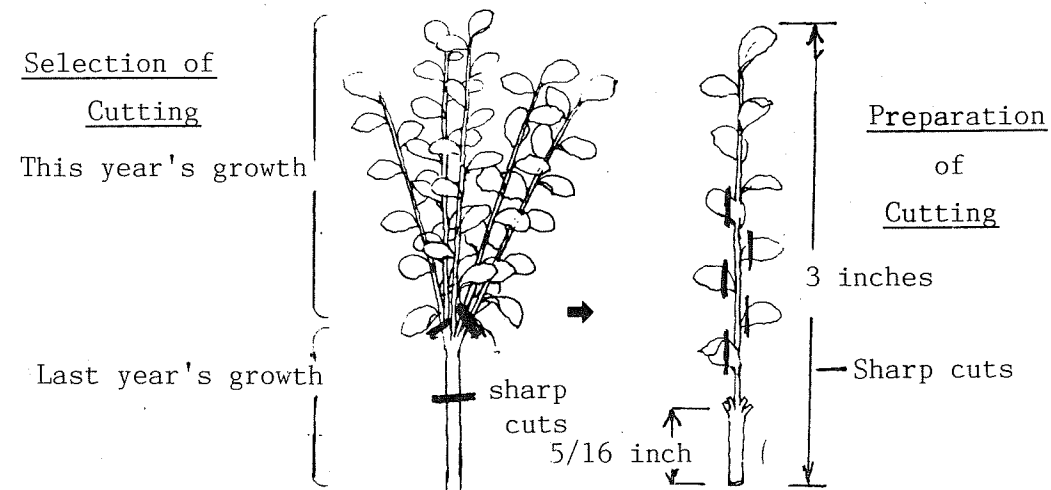
CUTTINGS and the FIRST YEAR and SECOND YEAR

Satsuki Resources In June after the blossoms have bloomed and faded, the plant is putting its energy into renewed plant growth. Accordingly, this is the time to take the cuttings which time is dependent on the azalea varietal which will be somewhere between June 11th and July 15th. Prior to taking the cuttings, one should prepare the propagating bed in either a box or a pot. Mr. Moniuma suggests using a three tiered layering of soil so that there is a perched water level. I always thoroughly soak the propagating bed so that it is easier to poke holes in it with a chopstick, - holes that will not collapse as in dry soil prior to inserting the cuttings.

SATSUKI AZALEAS

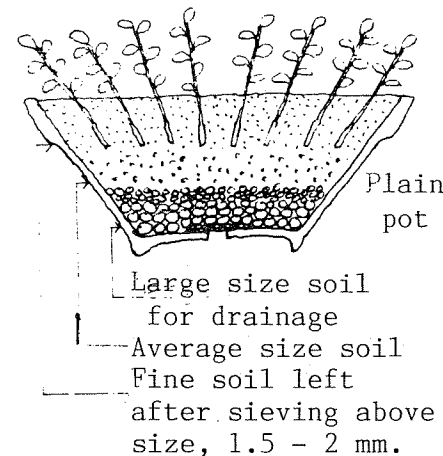
1ST YEAR

TAKING CUTTINGS - JUNE 21 to 31



The cutting is from the end of a branch and should be straight. All other branches should be removed, preferably with a sharp knife after the entire end has been removed from the branch leaving about 3/16 inch of last year's growth.

Placement of Cuttings in Propagation



Media

Insert 1/3 of the cutting into the soil with the cutting on a slant. (In this way one can exert pressure on the soil to insure that the soil is tight against the cutting. If the cutting were put in vertically, the soil could not be as easily compacted against the cutting's base.)

See Naka's or Yushimura's books for suggested soil mix.

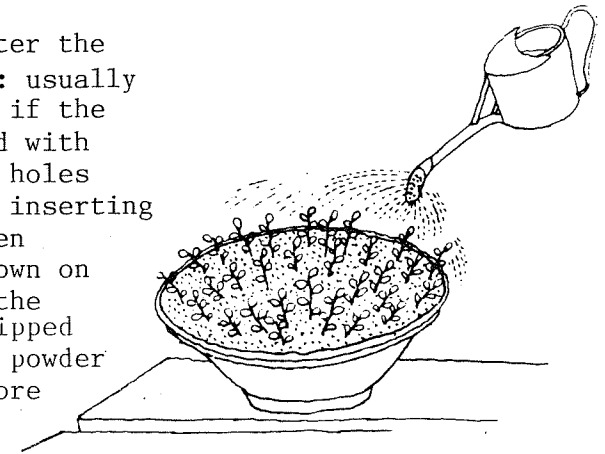
The sketches illustrate the procedure for trimming and potting the cuttings. It is recommended that the base of the cutting of the 2nd year growth be initially cut so that is longer than 1-inch. Then when the sprouts have been reduced to 2 and cut back, a sharp knife can be used to cut the base to 1-inch length. Cut ends can be dipped in a fungicide, hormone inhibitor such as Rootone being inserting them in the holes made by a chopstick. Note that the cuttings are placed in holes on a slant and not vertical. This enables you to press down on the surface of the soil and compact the soil around the end of the cutting so that there is the necessary intimate contact between soil and cutting. If the holes were made vertically, the chances of accomplishing the latter result would be reduced. After the cuttings are in place, I always give the soil one more watering.

Place the container with the cuttings in a sheltered place so that strong winds will not dry them out. For the same reason place the cuttings such that they receive 1/2 day of shade and do not get full sunlight. One way to do that is to place the cuttings so that they are shielded and shaded by tall bonsai.

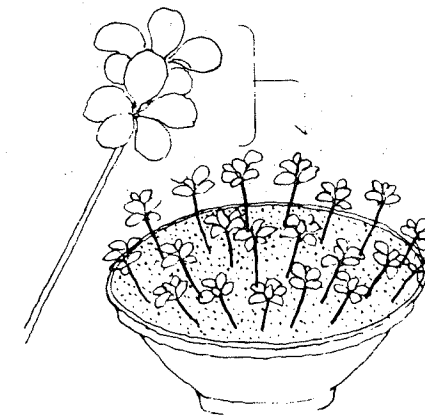
Before going further, a word about the soil mix might be appropriate. Mr. Moniuma's article suggests using what translates from the Japanese as "deer bog" soil. When one goes on a bonsai tour of Japan, one finds that the ardent Satsuki growers use Kanuma soil which is which is found in Kanuma, Japan. Neither of those facts help us in this part of the world. One can resort to either John Naka's or Yugi Yoshimura's bonsai books for azalea soil formulae. I checked with Janet Lanman and her soil mix is roughly 1/2 her standard soil mix and 1/2 peat moss. Based on that, I would be using as my standard soil mix about 6 parts Turface to 4 parts Gran-I-Grit. should equate to the standard mix above,

Management Water copiously two times perday. The cuttings will have rooted by August 11th to 20th. Somewhere between September 1st and 10th thinly spread powdered fertilizer on the surface of the soil. For this 1st year, this one application is sufficient. Provide winter protection,- place the cuttings in a greenhouse, a cold frame, a garage or a cold

Thoroughly water the cuttings. (Note: usually it works out better if the soil has been soaked with water before making holes with a chopstick and inserting the cuttings, - then pressing the soil down on them. The ends of the cuttings could be dipped in an antifungal powder such as Rootone before planting. A final sprinkling of water would complete the effort.) Continue throughout the year to keep the cutting bed well-watered even in the winter. The one-time application of fertilizer in September along with regular watering should yield a 100% survival rate.



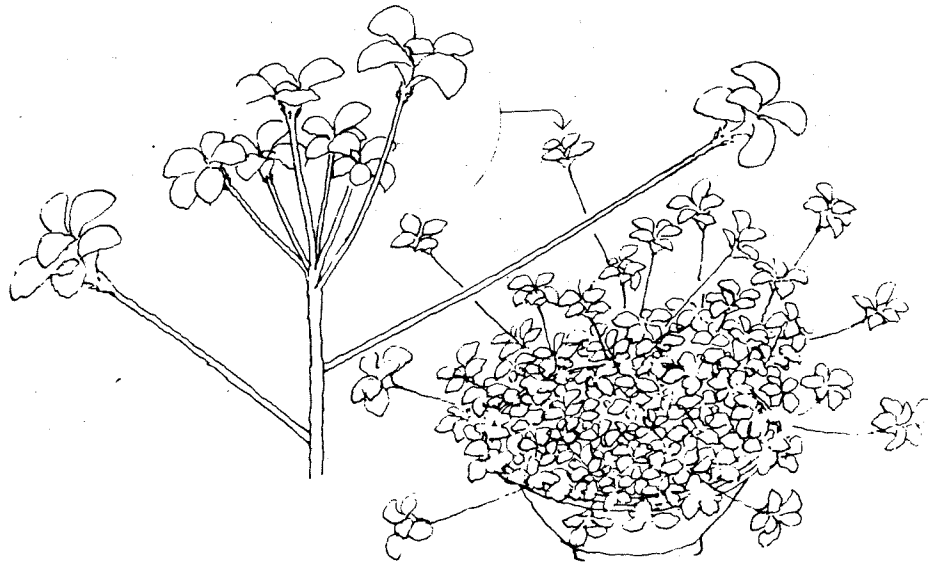
2ND YEAR



During the second year, 5 to 6 leaves will have grown on the ends of each of the saplings.

3RD YEAR

APPEARANCE - MARCH 1 - 10



By watering regularly and fertilizing once per month when specified, the saplings will elongate and sprout branches to reach lengths of about 8 inches by March 1 to 10 in the 3rd year.

place indoors, i.e. anywhere where the temperature does not go below freezing, 32°F.

Directions for the 2nd Year The saplings remain under winter protection for the months of January and February and the first part of March. Somewhere between March 21st and 31st gradually bring the saplings outdoors being careful not to expose them to any freezing temperatures.

During the March 21 to 31 timeframe, begin monthly applications of a fertilizer in powdered form and stop the procedure in October. Also at that time begin watering twice daily, - suggested times are after arising in the morning and around 3 p.m.

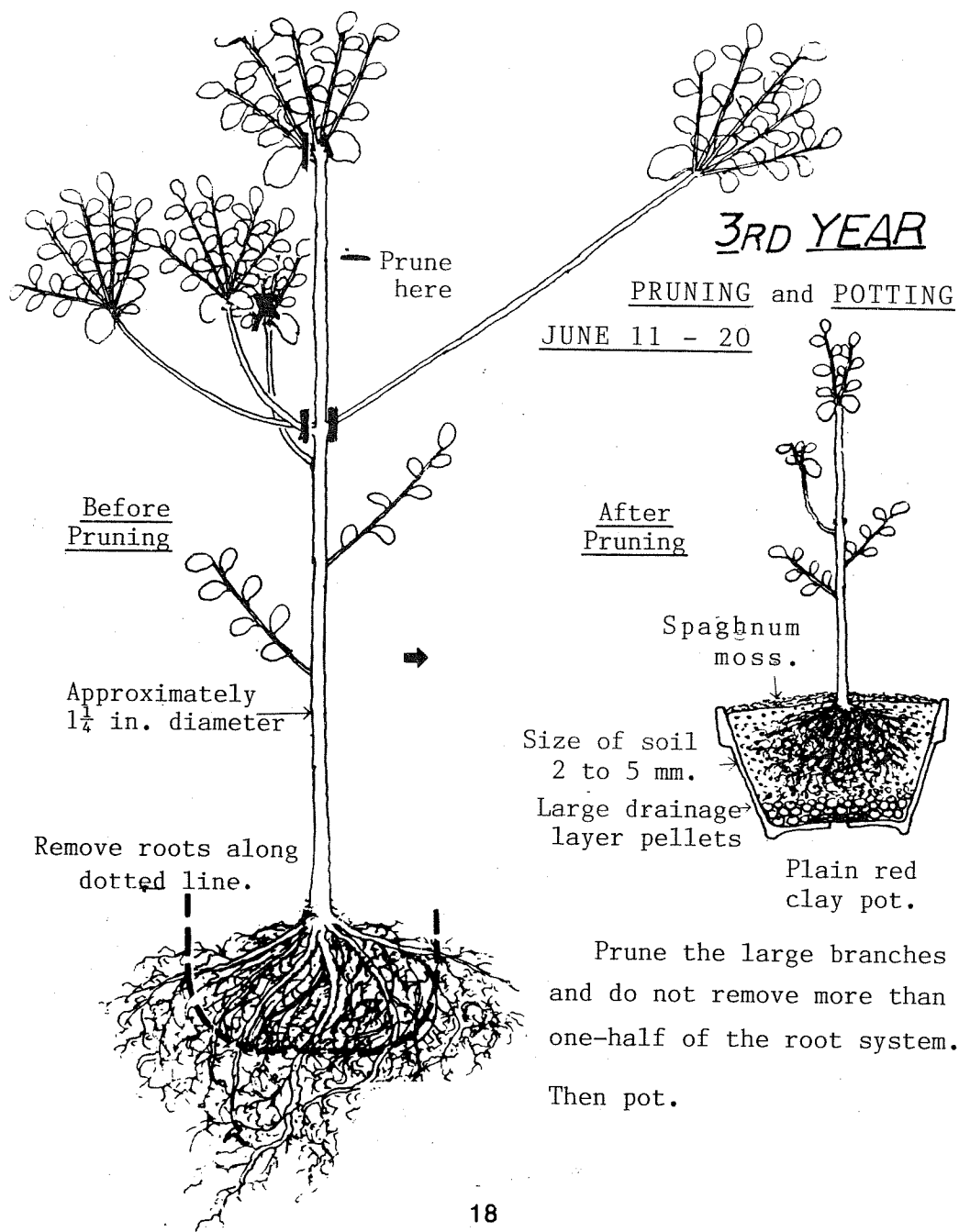
THIRD YEAR TRAINING and POTTING

The procedures scheduled for the 2nd year are repeated in the 3rd year until the month of May is reached when monthly fertilization is halted.

Potting and Follow-on Management In the 3rd year, June is the month to prune and repot since the branch structure has developed to the point where the branching has developed to the point where one can select those branches that will define the final shape and style of each plant. This all takes effect after the flowers have died.

First the ungainly, long branches are removed to leave the desired branches. Where the remaining branches have sprouts emanating from their tips, the sprouts are reduced to two in number and also where branch length is to be retarded, the sprouts are cut back to where 2 to 3 leaves remain. Also 1/2 of the root mass is removed.

After potting the plants and thoroughly watering them, spread a thin layer of sphagnum moss that has been thoroughly pre-soaked in water over the surface of the soil in each pot. The sphagnum moss should have been passed through a 1/8 inch mesh screen before it is soaked in water. The plants are kept out of direct sunlight for 2 weeks. Afterwards, the plants are gradually brought back to a position on top of a table. The Japanese translates literally as "placing on top of a shelf" but no indication is given as to whether the "shelf" does or does not receive a full day of sunlight.



Since the same Japanese wording is used for pines, I assume it means a full day of sun. 30 days after potting, place 1 to 2 fertilizer balls on each pot and replace them with fresh ones every month remembering to locate the replacement balls in spots other than where the prior balls were. And of course do not fail to water 2 times per day.

FOURTH YEAR -- WIRING and PRUNING

At the very same time the plants first start their exodus from winter storage, i.e. between March 21st and 31st, the branches are wired.

Wiring When the Japanese article was written, aluminum wire for wiring bonsai was still a newcomer on the scene and copper wire was the old standard. To use it on plants with tender bark such as azaleas (and maples, etc.) Mr. Moniuma advises that the accepted procedure of wrapping the wire with paper the thickness of cigarette paper be carried out before wiring the branches. In the ensuing years, use of the aluminum wire, anodized with a copper coating, began to be accepted as a replacement for the paper wrapped copper wire in that no wrapping was needed. However, in using aluminum wire, one will have to use a thicker diameter wire than the 2mm copper wire recommended by Mr. Moniuma.

There is an article appearing in the January/February 1992 Volume XXXI no. 1 issue of Bonsai Clubs International magazine with the title "Common Sense Approach to Cultivating Your Satsuki Bonsai and The Importance of Knowing Your Tree" by Mr. Isamu Emoto. Mr. Emoto writes the following, "I recommend copper wires rather than aluminum types. You will need five different sizes of wire (for his older trees) to fit the varying thickness of the branches to be wire. Aluminum wire tends to fit the branches too tightly and risks causing wire damage to the bark, and it also lacks the resilience of copper wires." The translation from the Japanese is interesting in that no mention is made of paper-wrapping the copper wire to prevent bark damage. As for aluminum wire fitting the branches too tightly, the author disagrees. First in using aluminum wire, it must be thicker in diameter than copper wire for the same holding power. It is that thicker diameter that prevents the wire from being coiled as tightly

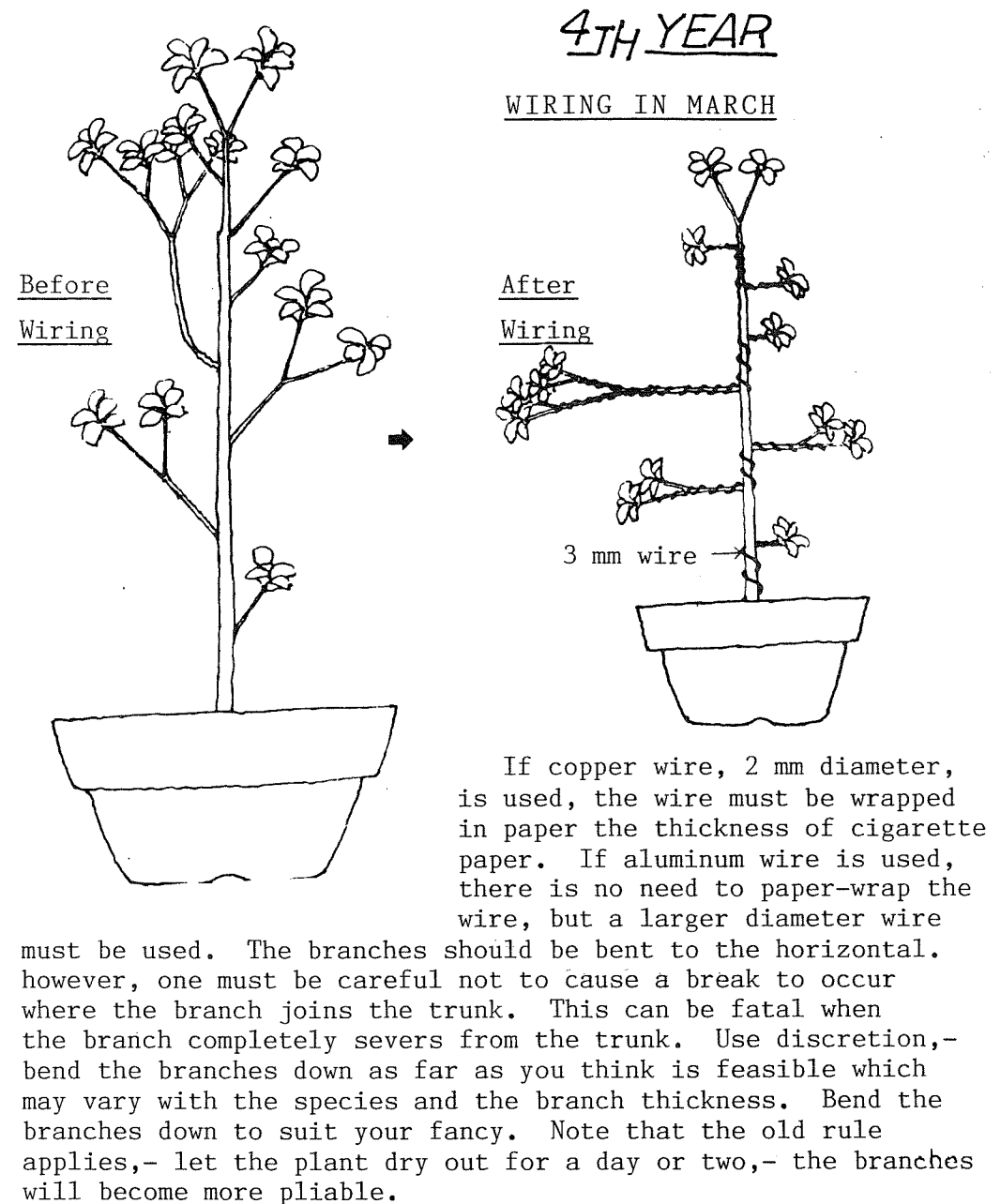
as the copper wire. At any rate, the argument over the pros and cons of each type of wire will go on and on. A person will use whatever is on hand and if the suggestion made in the November 1990 Newsletter of pushing together with your two hands as the wire is wrapped around the branch or trunk, is followed there is little likelihood that the wire will bite into the bark but in turn leave the paper-thin space or gap between the wire and the bark as recommended by Japanese bonsai masters.

Please note on the diagram depicting the wired branches that a single wire has been used wherever the distance along the trunk is not too great, to wire two branches.

Mr. Moniuma suggested bending the branches to a horizontal position. Branch bending on azaleas must be approached with extreme caution because the branches themselves tend to become stiffer the older they get and after a few years of aging will readily break like a dead twig when pressure is applied to change their shape. In bending azalea branches, most of the trouble occurs where the branch either joins a larger branch or the trunk. One must guard these areas carefully when trying to adjust branch angle and even when putting on the wire. Once again as when applying the wire, one presses together with one's hands while bending the branch to keep it under compression thereby reducing the possibility of branch breaking. (This also was pictured in the November 1990 issue of the Newsletter.) In any case, bend the branch down as far as you think is practical yet still be aesthetic.

As soon as one notices that the wire is biting ever so slightly into the bark, the wire should be removed. If one must do the removal before October when the wire is removed in preparation for winter coming, and the branch does not stay in position, rewiring is in order, but the wire should be applied so that it does not lie over the same path as the previous wire.

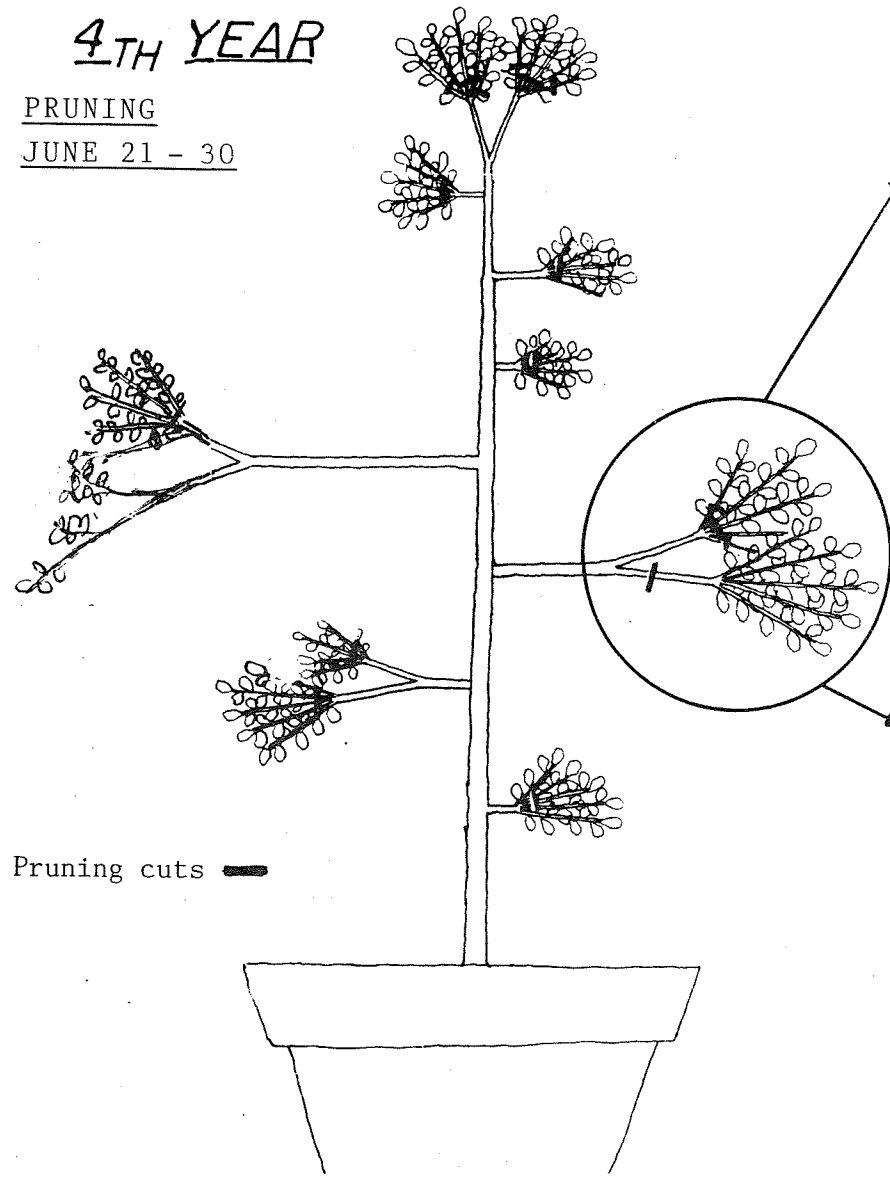
Thinning Out and Switchback Pruning After the flowers are spent, between June 21 and July 10, it is time to prune using the pruning techniques of thinning out and switchback pruning, - the third techniques, i. e. branch pruning, was done in the 3rd year.



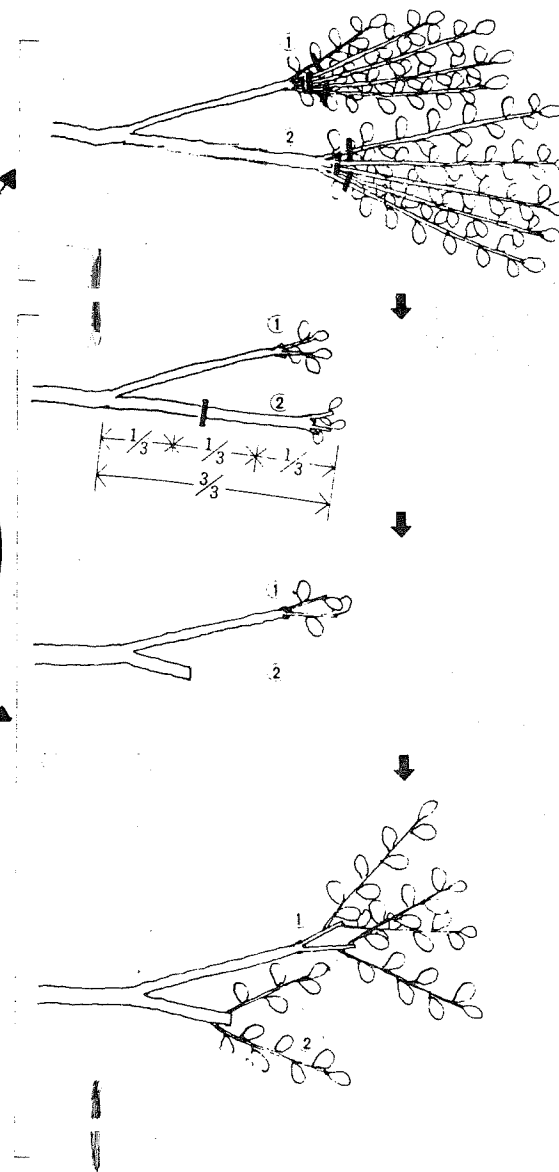
4TH YEAR

PRUNING

JUNE 21 - 30



During this time-period, all the branches are thinned out as shown in detail on the right for one of the sections circled above.



Sprout Selection for Thinning-Out

Remove all except the outside twigs as shown, i.e. (1) and (2) remain.

Then prune the ends of (1) and (2) so that the lengths that remain have 2 to 3 leaves on them.

Back Pruning (same pair of twigs.)

Cut the longer twig so that 1/3 of the length from tip to fork remains.

Appearance Right After Back Pruning

Branch (1) had been previously thinned out and cut back.

Branch (2) after the back pruning.

Appearance of the Survivors

About 2 months after above.

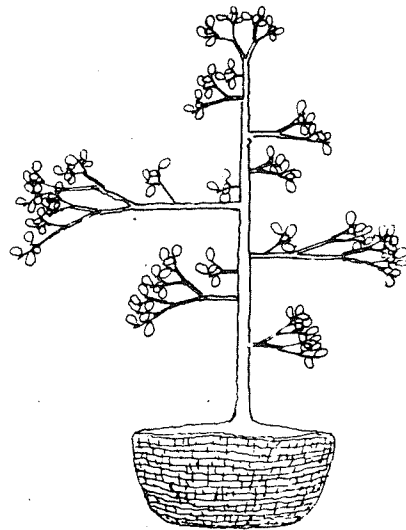
Note that on branches (1) and (2) wherever the pruning cuts were made, there are now two branches emanating from those places.

The back pruning follows the thinning out of the sprouts. The direction of branch growth can be controlled by which branch is back pruned.

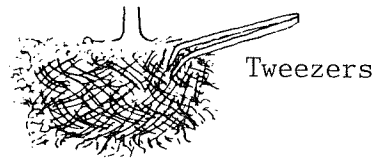
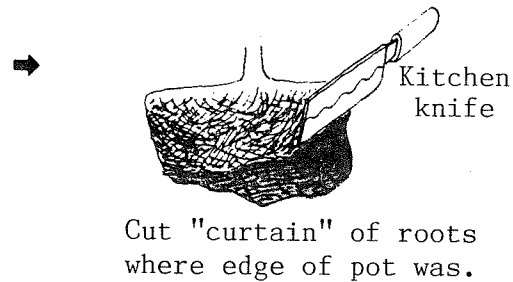
5TH YEAR

REPOTTING

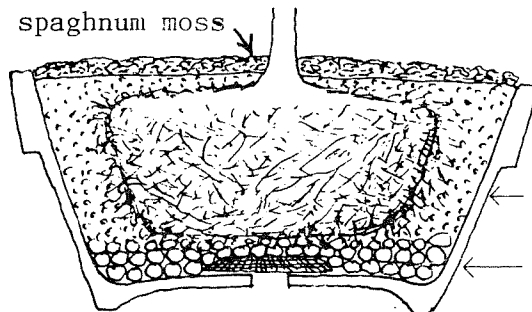
JUNE



Plant removed from 4 inch pot and showing the results of the 4th year's pruning



Layer of sieved sphagnum moss



Unglazed 7 inch pot

2 - 5 mm size soil particles

Drainage layer, large size particles, - pellets.

The diagrams show how branch pruning is done, - 2 outside sprouts are left and cut back to where 2 to 3 leaves remain. Switchback pruning, also shown, shortens a sidebranch and is one way to modify the direction of branch growth as well as keep the length of a branch in check. If one does not do the above pruning, one will not be able to control the distribution of energy in the tree so that it goes to enhancing the desired parts of the tree versus causing scraggy, unwanted growth so that the tree grows into a beautifully shaped one.

FIFTH YEAR - REPOTTING

First of all, in march wire the branches so that all the new growth which has a tendency to turn upward, are bent to the horizontal before they have hardened to a point where they will break when bent.

Repotting Remove all dead flowers as soon as they die and do all the necessary pruning as prescribed for the 4th year. At this time one should consider fixing the limit of the tree height to what is desired. By now the tree diameter near its base might be around $\frac{3}{8}$ inch and its height may be around 24 inches.

Immediately after repotting, place the plant on a table outdoors and carry on as in the 3rd year.

6th and 7th YEAR

Repotting is not done again until the 8th year. However, in its place when the flowers have faded, and add about 1 inch of soil to the top of the soil in the pot. Azaleas have a tendency to predominately grow roots close to the surface of the soil and the above procedure will insure their not drying out.

in the 7th year there will be a number of long branches running amuck and those should be removed in march prior to placing the plants outdoors on tables. Also thin out the growth in the top branches if it has become too dense.

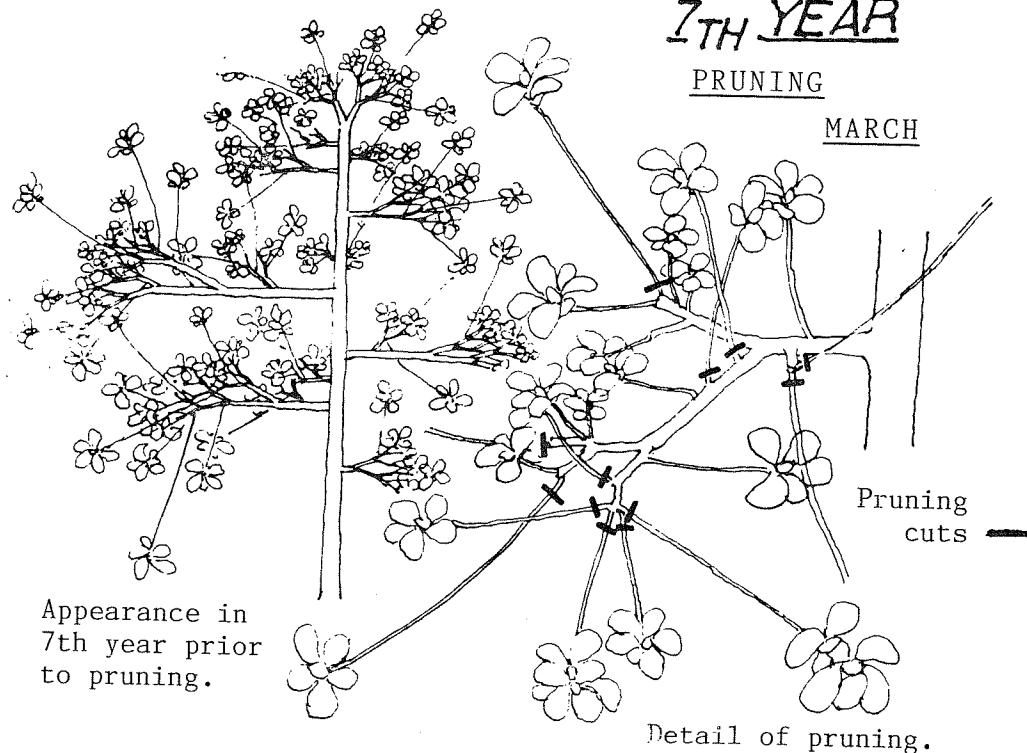
POTTING in a BONSAI DISPLAY POT 8th YEAR

The procedures for caring for the plants during the 8th year are identical to those in the 7th year with the added

7TH YEAR

PRUNING

MARCH



Appearance in
7th year prior
to pruning.

Detail of pruning.

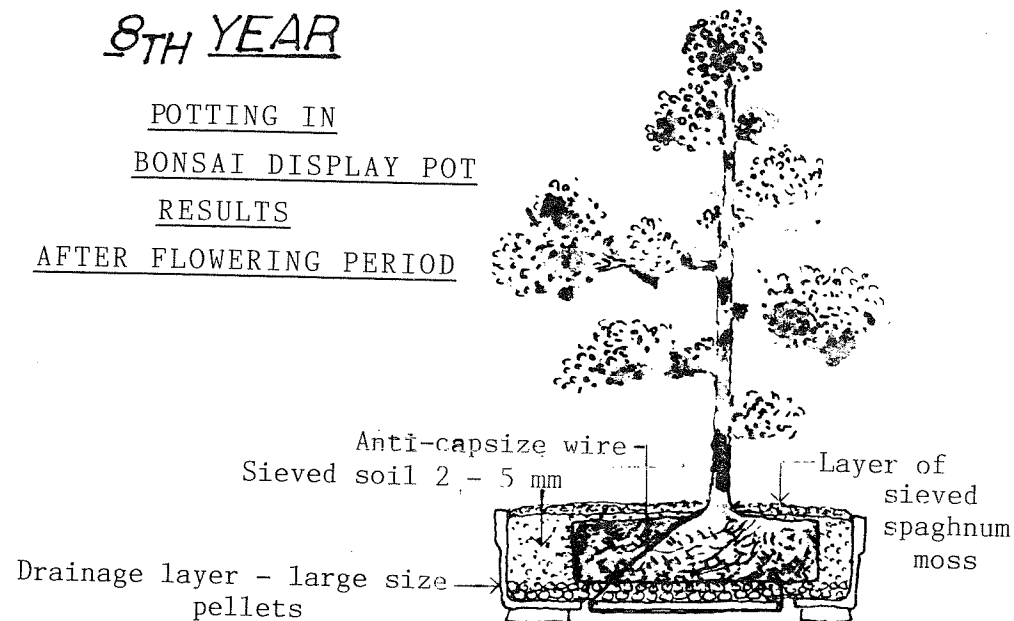
8TH YEAR

POTTING IN

BONSAI DISPLAY POT

RESULTS

AFTER FLOWERING PERIOD



Anti-capsize wire

Sieved soil 2 - 5 mm

Layer of
sieved
sphagnum
moss

Drainage layer - large size
pellets

feature of repotting the plants in bonsai display pots.

The pot can be either round, rectangular, or oval in shape but it should be somewhat deep. The pot's color should harmonize with the magnificence of the azalea petals. The glazes should be subdued and unglazed pots are admissible.

Place the newly potted plants immediately on a table outdoors.

As in the years past continue the same procedures making certain to carry on with the correcting and touching up operations. Repot once every 2 years.

INSECT and DISEASE DAMAGE and DEFENSE

Mr. Moniuma included in his article, something about insect damage and the defenses against the various types. however, it is difficult to establish any one to one correspondence with all of their insect names, at least for the author. So to keep everything in one place the following has been extracted from "Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia - Revised and Expanded Edition" by Donald Wyman, MacMillan Publishing Co., New York, 1978.

Azalea bark scale - a small scale with white woolly covering, clusters in the axils of the branches and weakens the plants where numerous. Use malathion or parathion

Azalea lace bug - a black and white sucking insect on the underside of leaves often is abundant on the evergreen variety of azalea. Infested leaves show a mottled discoloration on the upper side. There are 3 or more generations annually. Sprays of methoxychlor are effective and good control of the first generation eliminates later treatments.

Azalea leaf miner causes yellow leaves which fall off prematurely. Use malathion when necessary.

Flower spot - a fungus which spots and completely collapses the flowers, speeds rapidly under favorable conditions so that the flowers of a large planting may be destroyed in a few days. hand picking the infected flowers and renewing mulch annually help to reduce infection. Spray with thiram.

Rhododendron wilt, caused by a fungus attacking the roots and lower stem, is a serious disease of young plants, particularly hybrids. Die back in the form of water-soaked areas on leaves and cankers on wood may kill branches or the entire plant. Cut and burn infected branches and spray with fungicide ferbam, copper sulfate or zineb.

At least 7 different fungi may cause leaf spots which are controlled by timely sprays of fungicide ferbam

Bud blast or bud blight prevents blooms from opening normally. Picking and burning infected blooms and resulting seed pods is advised. Also one can try applications of benomyl.

RETROSPECTIVE

At the beginning of this article I mentioned that a detailed review of the article by Mr Moniuma may give me insight into what could be done to improve the state of my Satsuki. Here's what I'm going to do this year.

Instead of giving the plants filtered sunlight, give them, as near as possible, a full day of sun. This will be very difficult since my bonsai are located where they can get about 4 hours of full sun.

Add the 1 inch covering of soil in June.

Keep a thin layer of sphagnum moss on the surface of the soil.

Keep up the watering regimen.

Follow the once per month replacement of fertilizer balls and forego the weekly application of a liquid fertilizer. The article by Mr Emoto, referenced previously, states that over feeding makes for weak and mis-shaped flowers and it can even invite diseases.

I hope the article will be of some value to the readers and encourage those who have not added an azalea to their bonsai collection to do so. And for those who have, they may find some hints on how to improve their azaleas.

Jules Koetsch

SATSUKI AZALEA SCHEDULE OF WORK/EVENTS

DATES	YEAR				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
March 21 - 31	1/2 day shade	Place outdoors on table			
	Water copiously when first put outdoors				
	Start once per month application of fertilizer				
	Apply wire				
April 21 - 30	Fertilize				
May 15 - 20	Flowering begins				
21 - 31	Fertilize	Stop fertilizer	Fertilize		
June 16 - 20			Prune, repot, out in shade		
21 - 30	Take cutting, plant, place 1/2 day shade. Water good.	Fertilize		Prune Fertilize	Stop fertilizer, Prune, repot 1/2 day shade
July 1 - 10			Return to table		Return to table
21 - 31	Fertilize				
August 11 - 15	Cuttings rooted.				
16 - 31	Fertilize				
September 1 - 10	Fertilize				
October 16 - 31	No more fertilizer				
					Remove wire
December 1 - 10	Place in a greenhouse or indoors in cool place				

6th YEAR

In June cover the surface roots under about an inch of soil.

Repeat the 5th year operations during the 6th year.

7th YEAR

Prune in March.

Repeat 6th year operations.

8th YEAR

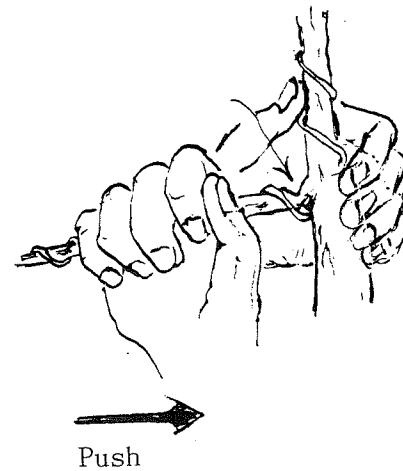
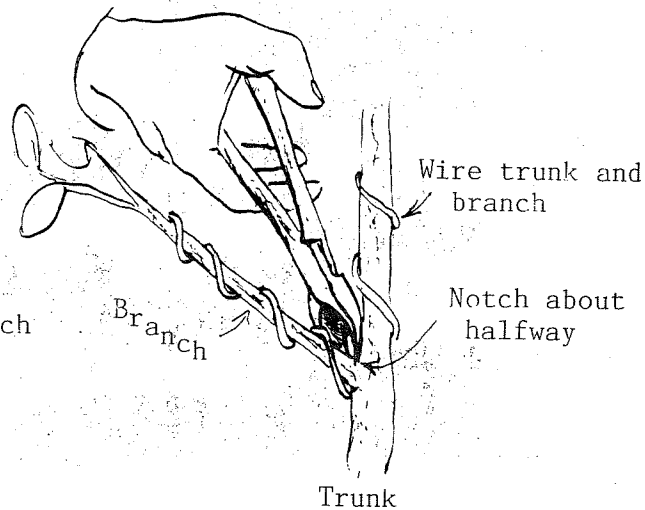
After the plant has flowered, repot it in a bonsai display pot.

Repeat the 7th year operations.

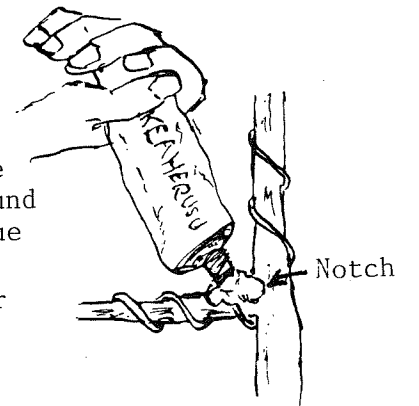
After the 8th year, from the 9th year onward, repot every 2 to 3 years. Every year repeat the 7th year operations.

BENDING OLD BRANCHES

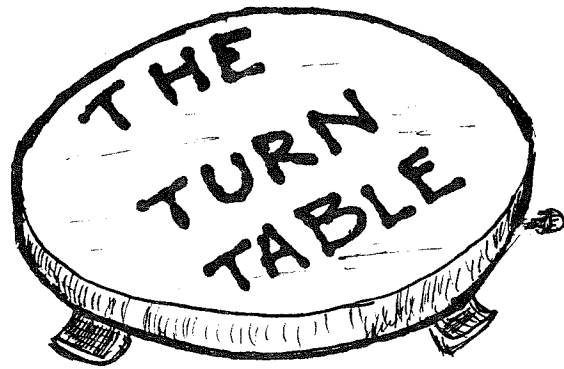
Branches older than 4 years may be too stiff to bend without completely breaking them off at the trunk. To prevent this, first wire the trunk and branch. Then using a branch cutter, notch halfway through the branch at the trunk.



Using both hands, one on the trunk and the other grasping the branch, apply a compressive force at the notch to limit the amount of separation between trunk and branch.



Finally, one can seal the wound with Elmer's Glue or any Japanese product made for that purpose.



By SENSEI
SAM

I have not received an answer to the question as to whether a fungicide needs to be added to the standing water in indoor humidity trays. I do not know for sure but I do not add a fungicide to my trays. I do get algae and some insects so I periodically clean the trays. If someone has an answer please write in.

Editor's comments: I agree with Sensei Sam's comments. I usually put pebbles in the humidity trays to enhance evaporation. Cleaning is done by putting the pebbles in a large kitchen sieve and dipping them into a solution of Chlorox and water. The only time serious buildups of fungi should occur is when the bonsai are fed their fertilizer while over the trays. The fertilizer which settles in the trays will accelerate any fungi buildup and create some pretty weird stuff. Fertilize the plants off of the trays with a liquid fertilizer and do not return them to the trays until no more solution comes out of the drainage holes.

The following is from a letter received in January

I acquired a 10 gallon aquarium with hood and heater and set up a mini-greenhouse for Serissas during the winter. I wasn't getting growth on the established plants and the cuttings were not taking. I put a plant lite in the hood and added foil to reflect the light. The potting mix I use is a mix of sand, composted dirt, and sphagnum moss.

I initially kept the hood closed but a fungus formed on the soil. The solution was to keep the hood open for ventilation.

The Serissas are still growing sporadically, leaves turning yellow and falling off, and cuttings not taking.

If there are any comments or suggestions I would greatly appreciate the help.

Editor's question - Are the cuttings in containers or is the soil covering the bottom of the tank? If the latter is what exists, then my suggestion is to plant the cuttings in some type of starter pots.

Bill Daly, Northern Virginia, offers the following suggestions. The propagating soil should be sterile, - i.e. sand or fine sized Turface to prevent fungus. The soil temperature should preferably be around 75°F, - roots wont form if the soil temperature reaches 80°F or higher. The cover should be cracked open so that humidity is high in the aquarium.

There was a suggestion that reviews be made of the vendors advertising in the Newsletter. I have not talked with PBA officers about this, but I would think this could cause problems with PBA and its advertisers. If anybody would like information about vendors, please ask at the club meetings, - at least you should hear about the vendors.

Please send all questions no matter how simple or difficult, because our readers come from all skill levels. If no answers are forthcoming from our readers, I will answer the question or forward it to an expert in PBA. The answers will be published on a later date. So send your questions now!

The suggestions can be anything no matter how simple

The address to send your questions, responses, and suggestions is listed below:

Sensei Sam
4228 Berritt Street
Fairfax VA 22030

Well, that's the column for this month. Please send those letters.

Thanks

サン先生

PBA SYMPOSIUM SURVEY RESULTS

The September 1991 Newsletter included a questionnaire for PBA members to make suggestions about future PBA symposia. **Who responded?** There were 58 respondents, representing about 12% of members. Of these, 40% had attended five or more symposia; 39% had attended one to five symposia; 21% had not attended any. Responses were analyzed according to these experience levels.

What did respondents think about the two-day length of the symposium and time of year for holding it? All respondents except one thought that the two-day length was O.K. All except eight thought that the time of year was O.K. Of these eight, those who gave reasons for wanting to change cited work conflicts, religious holidays and the fact that Spring is a better growing season.

When respondents did not attend past symposia, why? The leading reasons were scheduling conflicts, including work and time constraints (14), cost (8), lack of interest in the program (4) and personal reasons such as illness (3).

A series of open-ended questions were asked about how to improve symposium events.

How can the overall agenda be improved? Fifteen respondents -- all with symposia experience -- made suggestions. Five wanted to add some events for beginners (such as demos and workshops). Two wanted a greater number of workshops and fewer demos. One respondent recommended that there be a large number of workshops -- 8 to 10 -- so that every participant could attend one, claiming that this was feasible with only 80 to 100 participants.

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How can plenary demonstrations be improved? Thirty-two respondents -- all with symposia experience -- made suggestions. Thirteen wanted the "BCI Birmingham method" described by Jules Koetsch (October 91 PBA Newsletter): a brief plenary introductory lecture by each demonstration artist followed by work on demonstration material by all artists all day simultaneously so that participants might join in at will, followed the next day by a plenary concluding session. Nine respondents wanted to improve the quality of lighting or sound, recommending the use of wireless mikes, floodlights, video camera on hands and rearrangement of the lecture room sideways with seats in a semicircle so that more participants could see. Several wanted demos to be less of a self-centered "show" for the artists and more of an educational experience for participants, with structure, clarity and handouts. One respondent suggested a four-person roundtable with the same or different plant material.

How can workshops be improved? Thirty respondents -- all with symposia experience -- made suggestions. The leading issues were better plant material and lower cost (11). Three respondents wanted more time allocated to each workshop so that all participants could finish their projects and receive feedback about the completed effort. Another wanted less generic talk about bonsai from the artist and more focus on getting to work. Other suggestions included the use of more locally available material; reminding participants to bring their own supplies such as wire, soil and tools; providing the artist with an assistant; the taking of "before" and "after" photos; and the issuance of an observer pass for entry to all workshops.

Speaking of cost . . . A large minority -- 22 respondents spread evenly across all experience levels -- felt that the symposium entrance fee was overpriced, and three respondents suggested \$50 as an alternative to the present \$85 PBA member fee. A majority -- 34 respondents (14 among the most experienced; 15 with one to four years of symposia experience; five with no symposium experience) felt that the symposium workshops were overpriced.

This opinion was reinforced by responses to other questions about the workshops which expressed concern about the quality of plant material for the workshops in relation to the workshop cost (11). Three respondents suggested a low workshop entrance fee of \$25-\$35 with the cost of plant material being additional and according to actual cost; one suggested a high and low material cost option; another wanted the option for members to bring their own material. This overall concern about cost is a shift from the last opinion survey about the PBA symposium conducted by Bill and Jacky Spencer (reported in the October 1984 PBA Newsletter) in which 83% of 99 respondents felt that the registration costs were about right. Perhaps this shift is a reflection of today's economic situation.

Suggestions for social activities . . . Three respondents asked "What social activities?" Two said they weren't interested in any; another thought that banquets cost too much, particularly with guests subsidized; another did not like the quality of box lunch. On the positive side, three wanted a cash bar or reception on opening night; two said they loved the banquet; two wanted a collecting trip added to the agenda, perhaps with picnic.

These responses differ in spirit from the 1984 survey about the symposium when 49% considered the banquet "absolutely necessary" and 76% found the food and beverage costs about right. Perhaps today's responses reflect the relative reduction of social activities in recent years, so that familiarity with them is less, as well as the present economic situation.

Everyone wants to show off. All except ten respondents wanted some form of PBA bonsai display as part of the symposium. Reasons for this included the creation of more interest, educational value, encouragement to new members, greater involvement of the public and club pride. One respondent wanted a juried show with ribbon awards. Reasons against having a display included the fear of dividing attention in too many directions and concern that the display would be lost among the other events.

Vendors are appreciated. "The more the merrier," according to thirteen respondents. Other "mores" in relation to improving vendor offerings included the wish for more tools, books, wire, etc., more and better quality stock, more variety in vendors from year to year, more starter material, more tropicals and more time to shop. One respondent suggested building vendors more into the program and another recalled the days when vendors did demonstrations at their booths.

Location, location, location . . . A clear majority (38 respondents across all experience categories) favor the National Arboretum as the location for the symposium. Reasons given include cost (7), atmosphere (6), proximity to the collection (5), parking (2) and the ability to maintain focus on bonsai (2). A strong minority (16) wanted to try a hotel or other location as in times past. The reasons? Interestingly enough, almost the same reasons given by those who favored the Arboretum: cost (less expensive at a hotel) and the focused atmosphere which a hotel would provide.

Future symposia themes . . . Respondents were asked to suggest themes for future symposia. Forty-two respondents showed great diversity, suggesting twenty-two alternatives. Most alternatives were simply different plant species (Maple, Pine, Azaleas) or stylistic preferences (cascade, forest planting, rock planting). Some clusters of responses indicated trends: more emphasis on "local" trees that could be collected or purchased easily (7); more emphasis on "tropicals" (7); inclusion of horticultural topics such as propagation, air-layering, grafting and insect/disease control (4); more emphasis on artistic skills such as "hiding defects," "tricks of the trade," "Phoenix grafting" and "advanced techniques" (4). Other topics mentioned included mame and flowering trees.

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"What single change in the PBA Symposium would you most like to see?" Twenty-five respondents reinforced various ideas expressed earlier: reduce cost (2); follow the ICA-Birmingham agenda (2); include events for beginners (2); include a juried display of bonsai and improve lighting at the demos. New suggestions also emerged: hold an auction to pay for symposium costs; reduce attention given to the raffle process at demos (2); make everything "First Class" (2); provide a concession table with coffee; give scholarships; make a yearly award for excellence in bonsai; and get a new caterer.

Conclusions. Shining clearly through this diversity are some underlying trends. Members want the Symposium to involve them in practical instruction which they can apply to themselves, locally, at affordable cost. Response trends in favor of the ICA-Birmingham style of agenda, in favor of more workshops and in favor of some display of PBA bonsai point to the wish for more direct, "hands-on" involvement by all participants. Response trends in favor of offering events for beginners, increasing options for the quality and cost of workshop materials and maintaining variety among vendors support continued effort to enable individuals to tailor their participation in the Symposium to their own learning needs and pocketbooks. Finally, the sparse and divergent responses about social activities in contrast to the strong supportive opinions voiced in the 1984 survey indicate the need to pay more attention to social opportunities of modest cost which might facilitate learning and engender the "Association" dimension of the Potomac Bonsai Association.

Tony Meyer, PBA Public Relations Officer

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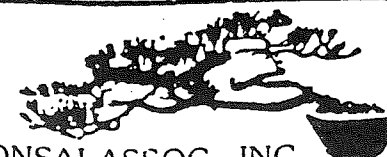
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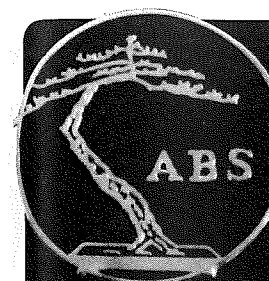
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