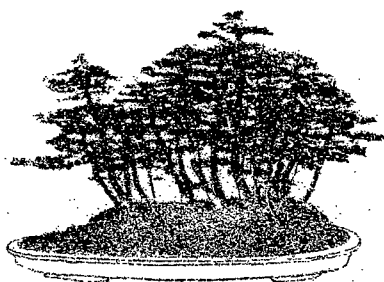


## Forest Plantings: Part 2

PBA Spring Show  
April 23-25  
U.S. National Arboretum



Part 2 continues an investigation of forest plantings. The following is in part translated from portions of KouKou Shoujikichi's book *BONSAI FOREST PLANTINGS: A STUDY OF MANY SUBJECT PLANTINGS*.

### STRUCTURING A FOREST PLANTING

If you ignore the structure and natural growth habits of the raw materials, you cannot hope to do a good job. A difficult but most significant factor is the ability to visualize the possibilities or future development of the raw materials. It is important to select the sequence in which to plant the trees, to work to visualize the scene in its best presentable form, the joining together of the raw material and their placement, and to grasp without doubt the environment and predisposition of specific tree species in nature.

*continued on page 8*



The PBA Annual Spring Show is just around the corner. Check to make sure the "POP and POST" poster (with correction for auction as noted below this article) from last month's newsletter has been placed in a conspicuous place. Strong attendance at this event will increase support and awareness for both the National Bonsai Collection and PBA.

*continued on page 6*

## NOTICE!!!

The date for the PBA Auction at Behnke's was incorrect on the Spring Show poster. The correct date is Saturday May 29. Please update any poster on display and mark your calendar for the correct date. Additional information on the auction in this issue.

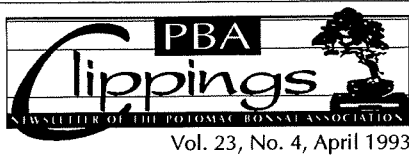
## PBA Auction Saturday, May 29

The annual PBA auction is just around the corner. The format for this year will be the same as last year. Bidding cards will be issued for the auction. Be sure to go to the registration table to sign up for a bidding card. There will be no consignment table. Any item for sale should be made available for auctioning. Items delivered for the auction must be accompanied by written information for the auctioneer.

*continued on page 5*

### In This Issue

Forest Plantings: Part 2	1
PBA Auction	1
PBA Spring Show	1
Calendar of Events	3
PBA Bonsai Class	4
Annual Meeting	6
Fake Rocks	10



Vol. 23, No. 4, April 1993

The PBA Newsletter (ISSN 0160-9521) is Published by the Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc. (PBA), a non-profit organization, in the interests of its affiliate member clubs and societies. Copyright 1993 PBA.

#### 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.

Non-Member Subscriptions: Individuals residing within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area or the Philadelphia metropolitan area are encouraged to become members of a club to receive the newsletter. Annual subscription for 12 issues of the *PBA Clippings* only is \$15.00 which should be made payable to the Potomac Bonsai Association and sent to Beth Potratz, 606 N. Hudson, Arlington, VA 22201.

#### Advertising Rates:

Monthly rates: 1/2 page, \$7.50; 1/4 page, \$12.50; 1/3 page, \$15.00; 1/2 page, \$25.00; full-page, \$40.00. 20% discount for advertisements that run 3 or more months. Direct inquiries/copy to: Jeff Stephanic, 1305 Bayliss Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 671-6881 or (202) 994-9052.

Please send articles to the editor: J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152; (703) 569-9378.

#### PBA Officers:

<b>President</b>	Russ Kinerson
<b>Vice-President</b>	Chris Yeapanis
<b>Educ. Vice-President</b>	Arschel Morell
<b>Secretary</b>	Julie Walker
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jerry Antel, Jr.
<b>Public Relations</b>	Tony Meyer (301) 907-0992
<b>Membership</b>	Beth Potratz
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Jules Koetsch

#### PBA Clippings staff:

Editor	Jules Koetsch (703) 569-9378
Assoc.Ed./Art Dir.	Jeff Stephanic (703) 671-6881 (202) 994-9052
Calendar Editors	Hal Wise Judy Wise
Asst. Editor	Beth Potratz

## From the Editor . . .

Well, for once the weather gurus were right on track. While I'm writing this editorial on Saturday, March 13, their zealous predictions were precursors of this mother of all snowstorms. Under such conditions it's hard to focus on bonsai thoughts for April even though the Vernal equinox is one day more than a week away.

One of the thoughts that should be uppermost in a bonsai addicts mind at this time of year is when and how to fertilize the bonsai. In settling on a fertilizer routine/schedule, one usually begins with assessing last year's triumphs and tragedies. Questions always arise. Did I fertilize too often or at the wrong times? Did I apply too strong or too weak an amount of fertilizer, *etcetera*? There are enough iterations involved in fertilizing that you more likely than not will find two bonsaiists not agreeing on a common technique just as it is hard to find two agreeing on soil mixes. One need only to refer to Jerome Meyer's *The Bonsai Book of Practical Facts* to discover the many sided facets of fertilizing bonsai. The reader is advised to read Meyer's chapter on fertilizing. However, this editor is going to add some thoughts gleaned by past exposure to the subject at numerous bonsai demonstrations and workshops.

It seems to be an indisputable rule that fertilizing should be started around the time this article is being read (early April) or even earlier. However, contrary to all advice that plants need no fertilizing during the winter months, some people feel that evergreens, especially pines, do not go completely dormant but evidence a low level of activity that invites applying some half-strength liquid fertilizer once in January and again in February.

In addition, there is the admonition of a Japanese bonsai master that Americans do not fertilize enough. In response, and what some might consider overkill, a method of applying fertilizer balls bolstered by a weekly application of liquid fertilizer has been devised and tried. The bonsai prospered. Note that fertilizer balls should be replaced each month with new ones but spotted in different locations. If the balls are left on longer than a month they will crumble and cause a scum to form on the surface of the soil which doesn't look attractive and may lead to root rot. Jerome Meyer also advises that natural fertilizers are not effective if used with soils such as Turface unless some organic matter such as peat moss or fir tree bark has been added. However, some organic matter will be produced in time by a tree potted in a Turface type soil and organic fertilizers will become effective after an initial period of time and inorganic feeding.

As for liquid fertilizer with or without the fertilizer balls, I use it at the full strength stipulated on the label for outdoor in-ground plantings. I've been admonished in the past to not fertilize before making certain that the soil is not dry. Hence, to be on the safe side, I always water before applying the liquid fertilizer. The point that still vexes my conscience is that if the soil has absorbed the initially applied water, how can any liquid fertilizer be retained? Perhaps that is why one can get away with a full strength application of the liquid fertilizer because it's strength is diluted in the already wet soil. Anyway, my luck is such that when I apply liquid fertilizer it is bound to rain that night or the next even though it has not been forecast.

Reading the labels on different brands of water soluble chemical fertilizers one finds that their chemical analysis can differ in the micro-nutrients present. Hence some bonsaiists rotate feedings of liquid fertilizers between 2 or 3 brands. Seaweed is also a recognized source for micro-nutrients. The recently marketed product "Roots" can be used to provide these micro-nutrients to the plant.

One method not covered in *The Bonsai Book of Practical Facts* is one where the fertilizer is applied via a drip watering system. If any reader has such a system in operation, a description of how it performs would be welcome for a future issue.

In conclusion, if you're wondering what I plan to do, I intend to use fertilizer balls replaced once per month in conjunction with a weekly liquid fertilizer application. The liquid fertilizer will be reinforced with "Roots". Readers are invited to submit their comments, suggestions and fertilizer procedures for publication in the *PBA Clippings*.

Jules Koetsch

## PBA Appoints New Data/Membership Manager

Cy Mill, our longtime membership/database manager is relinquishing his duties. The new manager is Beth Potratz whom many know as an active volunteer at various PBA functions. PBA has been and continues to be grateful to Cy for his active contribution to the love and promotion of bonsai appreciation. The Mill's are currently in the process of relocating to Charlottesville, Virginia and will be missed.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meeting location and club contact number for additional information is as listed unless otherwise noted in calendar listing. A member of any one club is eligible to participate in any PBA or PBA member club event.

Baltimore Bonsai Club  
Cylburn Arboretum  
(410) 668-1868

Bowie Bonsai Club  
Bowie Community Center  
(301) 350-3586  
(202) 667-1010

Brookside Bonsai Society  
North Chevy Chase Recreational Center  
(301) 365-7621

Chesapeake Bonsai Club  
Paca Garden, Annapolis, MD  
(301) 261-8131

Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society  
Pennypack Watershed  
Willow Grove, PA  
(609) 753-0311

Kiyomizu  
Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD  
(301) 645-3519

Mei-Hwa Penjing Club  
Bowie Community Center  
(301) 390-6687

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
Hidden Oaks Nature Center  
Annandale, VA  
(703) 591-0864

Washington Bonsai Club  
U.S. National Arboretum  
(202) 296-2441

Organizations sponsoring regular events of interest to PBA members:

Richmond Bonsai Society  
Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave.,  
Richmond, VA  
(804) 749-4956

U.S. Botanical Gardens  
(202) 226-4082

U.S. National Arboretum  
(202) 475-4857

## APRIL

Saturday-Sunday 3-11  
National Arboretum Bonsai & Penjing  
Museum, *Visiting Bonsai Exhibit*, Bowie  
Bonsai Club, 10-3:30 pm. Free.

Saturday 3  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
*Forest Bonsai Workshop*, Dan Chiplis,  
Assistant Curator of Bonsai Collections,  
10:30-2:30 pm. Registration required.  
Fee: \$65.00. (202) 475-4857.

Sunday 4  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
Bonsai Docent on duty, 1-3 pm.

Sunday 4  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
*Forest Bonsai Workshop*, Dan Chiplis,  
Assistant Curator of Bonsai Collections,  
10:30-2:30 pm. Registration required.  
Fee: \$65.00. (202) 475-4857.

Sunday 4  
Brookside Bonsai Society  
AM-PM collecting trip with Bill Spencer  
for Laurel, Beech and Hornbeam.

Wednesday 7  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
*Bonsai Refinement Workshop*. National  
Bonsai Collection Staff assists those with  
experience growing bonsai, 6-8:30 pm.  
Prereq: Begin. bonsai class. \$12, \$10FONA.  
Registration required. (202) 475-4857.

Sunday 10  
Mei-Hwa Penjing Society  
Call for information.

Saturday & Sunday 10-11  
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
*Annual Spring Show*, 12-5 pm.  
Please note change of meeting location  
to Hidden Oaks Nature Center (Fairfax  
County, 703-941-1065.)

Sunday 11  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
*Bonsai Demonstration*  
Bowie Bonsai Club demonstrates styling  
and potting bonsai, 1:30 pm.

Tuesday 13  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
*Bonsai Refinement Workshop*. National  
Bonsai Collection Staff assists those with  
experience growing bonsai, 1-3 pm.  
Prereq: Begin. bonsai class. \$12, \$10FONA.  
Registration required. (202) 475-4857.

## APRIL

Saturday 17  
Brookside Bonsai Society  
AM club meeting to select bonsai for PBA  
Spring Show and BBS shows at McCrillis  
Gardens & National Arboretum.

Sunday 18  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
Bonsai Docent on duty, 1-3 pm.  
*Bonsai Demonstration*  
Bowie Bonsai Club demonstrates styling  
and potting bonsai, 1:30 pm.

Thursday 22  
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society  
Guest speaker: Dorrie Froning, Editor of  
*Mame Bonsai Growers of America*, 7-9 pm.

Fri., Sat., Sun. 23-25  
PBA Spring Show at National Arboretum,  
10:00 - 5:00 pm.

Monday 26  
Bowie Bonsai Club  
*Azaleas*, 7 pm.

## MAY

Saturday-Sunday 1-9  
National Arboretum, Bonsai & Penjing  
Museum  
*Visiting Bonsai Exhibit*, Northern Virginia  
Bonsai Society, 10-3:30 pm. Free.

Sunday 2  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
Bonsai Docent on duty, 1-3 pm.

Sat-Sun 1-2  
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society  
Open House 9am - 3pm, Matsu-Momiji  
Nursery, Steve Pilacik, 410 Borbeck St.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19111, (215) 722-6286.

Wednesday 5  
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center  
*Bonsai Refinement Workshop*. National  
Bonsai Collection Staff assists those with  
experience growing bonsai, 6-8:30 pm.  
Prereq: Begin. bonsai class. \$12, \$10FONA.  
Registration required. (202) 475-4857.

Saturday 8  
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
Beginner's Hour, 9-10 am.  
*Forest Workshop*, Russ Kinerson, 10-11am.

continued on next page

continued from previous page

MAY		MAY		ETCETERA
Sunday	9	Saturday	22	April 14, 15, 21, 22, 1993
Brookside Bonsai Society		Northern Virginia Bonsai Society		EHORT 120 – Introduction to Bonsai.
BBS show at McCrillis Gardens		Bruce Baker workshop, 1-5 pm. Registration required. Fee.		USDA Graduate School Evening Programs. Course addresses the history, art and cultivation of bonsai. Primary instruction is hands-on experience creating a miniature potted tree from nursery stock. Students observe instructor demonstrating the pruning, styling and potting for bonsai, then practice the techniques with instructor's assistance. 6:00-9:00 pm. Yoshimura Center at National Arboretum. Call 202-690-4280 for information and registration.
Sunday	9	Sunday	23	April 16-18, 1993
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center		Northern Virginia Bonsai Society		Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies 10th Annual Symposium featuring Ben Oki, Horst Krekeler, Hal Mahoney, Katherine Shaner and Bruce Baker. For information write or call: Kurt Wittig, 17 Old Mill Drive, Denville, NJ 07834, 201-361-6642.
<i>Bonsai Demonstration</i> , Basic demonstration of styling and potting by knowledgeable bonsai enthusiast, 1:30 pm.		Bruce Baker workshop, 10-2 pm. Registration required. Fee.		May 27-31, 1993
Tuesday	11	Sunday	23	IBC and World Bonsai Convention <i>New Horizons</i> including Saburo Kato, John Naka, Yuji Yoshimura and many other world class bonsaiists. For more information write or call: Registrar, Robert Hutchinson, 7900 Mindello, South Miami, FL 33143 U.S.A., 305-665-2950.
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center		National Arboretum Yoshimura Center		
<i>Bonsai Refinement Workshop</i> . National Bonsai Collection Staff assists those with experience growing bonsai, 1-3 pm. Prereq: Begin. bonsai class. \$12, \$10FONA. Registration required. (202) 475-4857.		<i>Bonsai Demonstration</i> , Basic demonstration of styling and potting by knowledgeable bonsai enthusiast, 1:30 pm.		
Sunday	16	Tuesday	27	
National Arboretum Yoshimura Center		Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society		
Bonsai Docent on duty, 1-3 pm.		Tree critique/Workshop		
Thursday	20	Saturday	29	
Brookside Bonsai Society		Behnke's Nursery, Dawn Rose Building		
Beginner's Corner, 7-7:30 pm.		11300 Baltimore Ave. (U.S. 1), Beltsville, MD. (301) 937-1100		
Bruce Baker will discuss development of Yew ( <i>Taxus</i> ), 7:30 pm.		PBA Annual Auction, 9-12 Noon		
Saturday	22	Monday	31	
Brookside Bonsai Society		Bowie Bonsai Club		
Bruce Baker workshop, 8:30-12:30 pm. Registration required. Fee.		<i>Pines</i> , 7 pm.		

## INTRODUCTION TO BONSAI

Sponsored by the Potomac Bonsai Association

The purpose of this course is to introduce the participant to the Art of Bonsai. The following will be included:

The History of Bonsai

Major Style Groups

Wiring and Other Training Techniques

Potting, Soil and Care

Included in the fee will be 1 *Juniper*, pot, soil and wire. The participant will style, wire, train and pot the bonsai by the completion of the course.

The course will last for four weeks and will be held from 7-9 PM on four weeknights in May. There will be three groups limited to twenty participants each. One group will meet Monday nights, one group Tuesday nights and one group Wednesday nights. Exact location of the classes will be determined based on the number of registrants.

Fee: \$50.00. Open to ALL full PBA members.

To register: Contact Bill Spencer at (301) 871-5768 or send a check payable to the Potomac Bonsai Association to: Bill Spencer, 13708 Sloan St., Rockville, MD 20853.

## PBA Annual Auction

**Location:** Dawn Rose Building, Behnke's Nursery

**Time:** 10:00 AM

It is once a year that one has the opportunity to get some real bargains and rare finds. Yes, it's the Annual PBA Auction at Behnke's Nursery. This is an opportunity to get items such as:

Trained bonsai	Starter Stock	Pots
Wire	Tools	Books
Suiseki	Etc.	

The format will consist of an auction only with no consignment sales. In addition, there will be a bidder registration with numbered bidding cards issued. Godfrey Trammell will once again coordinate this event and he is in need of a few volunteers to help organize the auction. Please call (202) 606-4571 and volunteer to help.

### Schedule:

8:00 am	Behnke's Nursery opens.
9:00-10:00 am	Bidder registration Delivery of items for auction. Each item must be accompanied by a written description for the auctioneer which should include if applicable: 1. Where and when acquired 2. Common and botanical name 3. Age 4. Minimum bid, if any
10:00 am	Auction begins
12:00 Noon	End of auction.

The auction will be held rain or shine. The location is in the Dawn Rose building, second floor. Guide signs will be posted. A 15% commission on all sales will go to PBA. Once again, PBA is grateful for the generosity of Behnke's Nurseries in offering, at no charge, their facilities for this auction.

## Brookside Bonsai Society Beginner's Bonsai Class with Bill Spencer

The class will be held Tuesday evenings, March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 from 7-9 pm. The classes will be held at the home of Janet Lanman, 9120 Burdette Road, Bethesda, MD.

Classes will cover the basic bonsai styles, pruning, wiring and potting. Students will take a tree from raw nursery stock to a potted bonsai.

Classes are limited to 10 participants. Fee: \$50.00.

To register, please call Bill Spencer at 303-871-5768.



### Azaleas & Rhododendrons

*No Doubt the Largest Selection in the Area*  
Over 150 varieties, many new introductions.

Choose while they are coming into bloom.

### Japanese Maples

Beautiful accents

'Bloodgood' • 'Aconitifolium' • 'Laceleaf'  
'Garnett' • 'Crimson Queen' • 'Everred' • 'Viridis'

### Roses

Over 325 varieties to choose from.

All are potted, #1 plants, not packaged  
Hybrid teas • Floribundas • Grandifloras • Climbers  
Meidilands • Miniature & "Baby" Tree Roses

**55 varieties of "Old Fashioned Roses"**  
This should please many collectors.

### Evergreens

*Broadleaf and Needle Varieties*  
*Looking for something different?*

Exciting selection of unusual and dwarf evergreens. For foundation planting and in rock gardens; or as accent plants, there are no finer evergreens to plant than the dwarfs - Don't hide your home behind unsuitable evergreens - very little trimming, years of enjoyment.

### Perennials-1800 varieties-in pots

SPECIALISTS in the newest varieties and old favorites.

### HOUSEPLANTS

**African Violets • 'We're known for our violets'**  
10,000 sq. ft. GREENHOUSE filled with Tropicals, Cacti,  
Bonsai, Pottery, Baskets, Fountains, Statuary,  
Garden Ornaments and much more.

#### BELTSVILLE, MD

Garden Center • 301-937-1100

FTD Florist • 301-937-4032

Landscape Contracting • 301-937-4035

11300 Baltimore Ave. (U.S.1)

2 miles North of Exit 25A Capital Beltway

Largo, MD

Garden Center • 301-249-2492

700 Watkins Park Drive

Between Central Ave. & Route 202

**Open Daily 8 AM to 7 PM • Sunday 8 AM to 5**

**"Known for Quality Plants"**

## PBA Annual Meeting

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Date:** Saturday, April 25, 1992

**Place:** U.S. National Arboretum  
Administration Building, basement  
classroom.

**Buffet:** Free eats - Chinese carryout

PBA members may bring a companion of their choice. The guest may be a non-member.

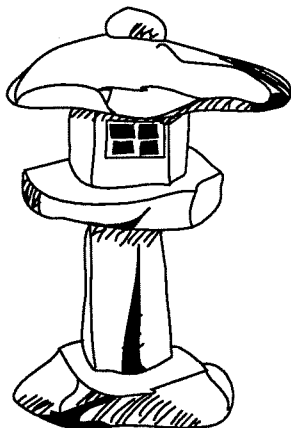
Why not plan to spend Saturday afternoon at the Arboretum. Attend the 2:00 pm lecture/demonstration (free), see the show, tour the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection, and shop at the vendor's booths. Afterwards, attend the PBA Annual Meeting and enjoy a free Chinese dinner.

The PBA Annual Meeting is where members may vote for the 1993-1994 PBA Officers. Nominees may be proposed from the floor.

The current nominees are:

- President**  
Chris Yeapanis
- First Vice-president**  
Todd Ellis
- Educational Vice-president**  
Arschel Morell
- Secretary**  
Julie Walker
- Treasurer**  
Jerry Antel, Jr.

See you at the PBA Annual Meeting.



## PBA Spring Show, April 23-25

*continued from front page*

Following is a review of the volunteer and tree submission guidelines for the show. A complete description of the PBA Spring Show may be found in the March issue of *PBA Clippings*.

### Delivery:

All trees shall be delivered on Thursday, April 22, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### Required Label Information:

Labels containing background information for each of the trees will be laser printed by Jeff Stephanic. Member clubs should forward label information to Chris J. Yeapanis (see contact information in coordination section) no later than April 17. Last year, there were many last minute submissions of data which resulted in some label errors. Timely submission of data will ensure time to produce accurate and attractive labels for a quality show.

Please list information for all material according to the sample data card on this page. Better yet, photo copy the sample data card and fill in the blanks.

### PBA Member Volunteers Needed

Help is needed from PBA members to produce a successful show. The PBA An-

nual Spring Show is one event that helps build PBA membership. Increased membership enhances program development for PBA and member clubs. Volunteers are needed for the following:

Setting up the show.

Dismantling the show.

Collecting donations at the entrance of exhibit during show times.

**Each club must arrange for monitors and maintenance of their club trees.**

### Coordination

All PBA member clubs should solicit volunteers for the above activities. It is recommended that each PBA club appoint a member to coordinate the selection of items for the club display, submit display information on time and recruit volunteers for show activities.

Questions relating to the organization of this event should be directed to the 1993 PBA Annual Show coordinator:

Chris J. Yeapanis

4228 Berritt St.

Fairfax, VA 22030

Work (301) 590-8580 after 5 p.m.

Home (703) 591-0864

### Sample Data Card

Owner's name and telephone number will not be displayed to visitors. It will be used only if the owner must be contacted.

Name of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

### Bonsai and Accent Plants:

Botanical Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Training: \_\_\_\_\_

Bonsai Style: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: Seed  Air-layered  Graft  Cutting  Nursery Stock

Bonsai in Training  Collected  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Special care notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Suiseki:

Type of Stone: \_\_\_\_\_

When and where found: \_\_\_\_\_

Wood used for the display stand: \_\_\_\_\_

# Forest Plantings: Part 2

continued from front page

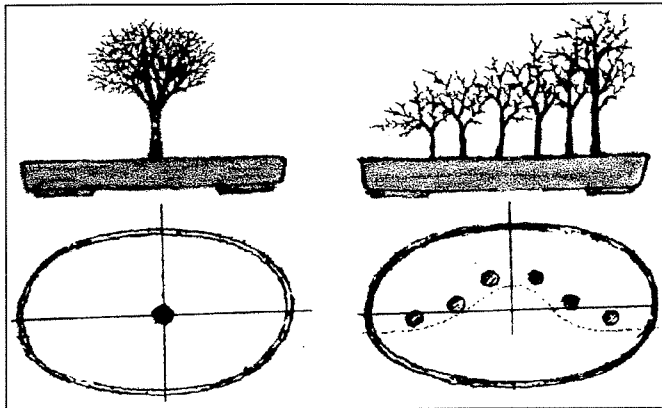


Figure 1.

In essence, it is seeing what you want in the raw materials you select "because one can collect any number of young trees, careful thought must be given to determine which of those trees might best be suited when first grouped in patterns of three and next into the overall forest planting or 'block,'" so that you can begin to cull out the shapes you want.

The general classification and ranking of trees is in groups of three.

## BLOCK OF A SINGLE GROUP OF TREES (Figures 1 & 2)

In the single group forest planting all the trees are gathered closely together in one spot in the pot and the middle of the pot is left void of any trees. On the subject of plant trunks, use dexterity so that the space between the trunks is such that the branches do not touch. It is good if there are a number of spare branches on the trees. (These can be removed to permit fitting adjacent trees without having branches contacting one another.) For a slanting trunk design, absolutely all of the trees must give an impression that they and their tops slant uniformly in the same direction otherwise the impression is not a favorable one. For a scene where the trees stand erect, to unify the whole composition the spaces between the trunks must be adjusted to permit branches which are opposite each other on separate trunks to be able to grow in the directions in which they are headed. It is important, in order to have a balanced or harmonious composition, that the outline of the group as a whole flows in a complete circuit.

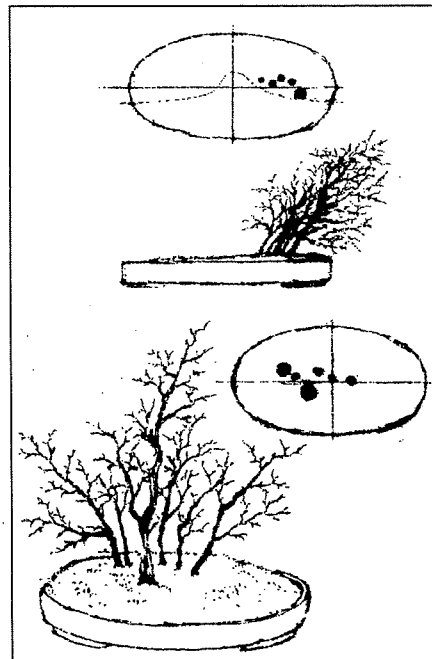


Figure 2.

Then the good points to keep in mind for a single group planting are:

- Out of a large number of trees from which to select raw material, only a few are suited for combining into a forest planting.

- The plants are placed so that they are not located in the precise center of the pot but are offset with an empty space. (The

ground slants downward from the trees.)

- The soil around the master tree should contrast with that around the other trees to emphasize the master tree's individuality.

- In using bunjin style material, the branches are few in number and contrast between the master tree and the other trees is obtained through different thicknesses of the trunks and secondly the branches.

## BLOCK OF TWO GROUPS OF TREES (Figure 3)

The area around the center of the pot is left clear to give the impression that in that place a path, a stream, low ground and the like is what joins the two groups together. The shorter trees are placed to the back so that a feeling of depth is developed.

An effective presentation is where one has a feeling that a lane exists in the midst of a peaceful forest with the trees lining the pathway or instead of the pathway that there is a small stream.

Then some of the points to keep in mind for a two-group forest planting are:

- Separate the master or number 1 (biggest) tree in one group and the next biggest or number 2 tree in the other or secondary group.

- The soil around the master tree group is mounded so that it appears to be distinct from the soil mounded around the secondary group.

- Collect in the individual groups those trees whose trunks slant in similar ways.

continued on next page

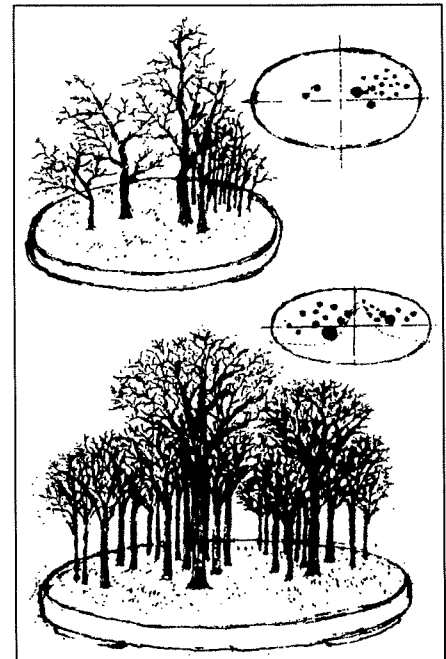


Figure 3.

# Forest Plantings: Part 2

continued from previous page

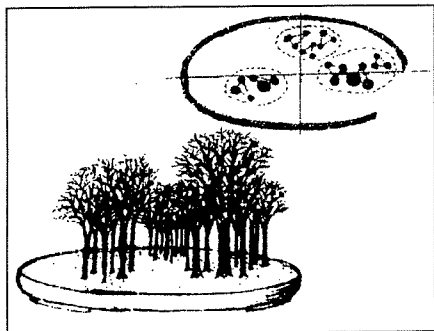


Figure 4.

## BLOCK OF THREE GROUPS OF TREES (Figure 4)

Consolidate the biggest trees in the group with the master tree. Place the second or third largest tree in the second grouping along with some of the larger trees. The third group is placed in its own mound to the rear to give the feeling of depth.

In order to distinguish the space that is to represent an opening into the forest, do not plant the trees individually but bring them close together in groups of three and then into the larger group.

The results can express a gentle, deciduous forest, a remote mountain forest, or a shrine garden. (Figure 5)

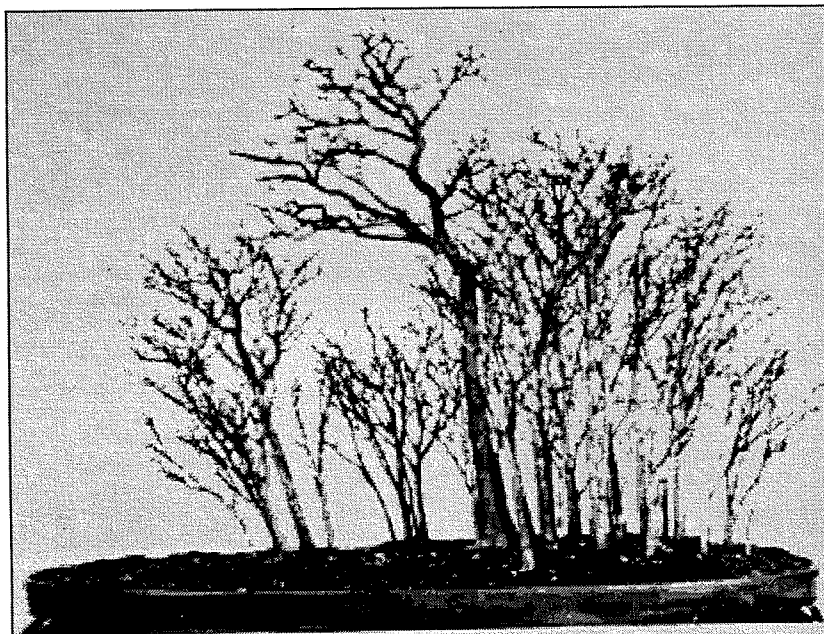


Figure 5.

## POINTERS ON GROUPING TREES

A single bonsai pot is a small world to plant a forest, its size being limited by the dimensions of the pot, particularly in the frontal width. The subtlety in the finished forest planting stems from the way in which the trees are placed or positioned in the pot. With that in mind, the positioning of the trees, avoid placing any trees in the exact center of the pot. Controlling where the trees are to be placed is a knack. (See Figures 6 – 10)

Disposing of the trees by placing them in a limited space in the center of the pot and thereby bisecting the pot in half is to obliterate any tendency that the result will be a majestic scene modeling Mother Nature. It is preferable to have a collection of trees on the right going to the right with many plants included, to be balanced by a grove extending to the left.

In the case of the above, the decision on which side is to be the dominant one (right or left) is based on one's own preference. When doing a forest planting, having selected various trees based on how healthy they appear and on how they might fit together, the next step is to select the main tree based on the appearance of its trunk, especially its thickness and height, and its branch locations.

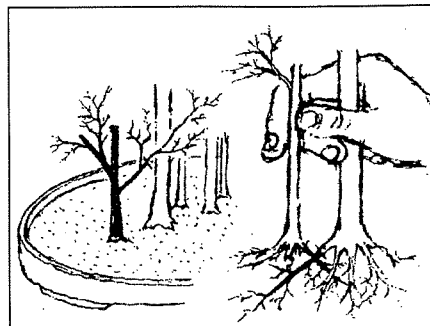


Figure 6.

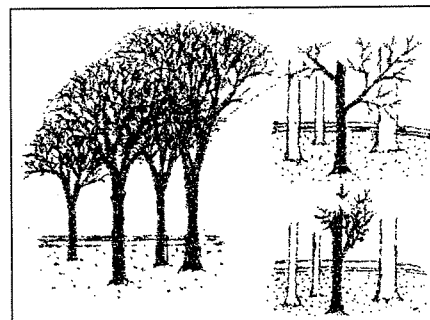


Figure 7.

Without question, view the pot directly from the front and decide as to whether the main tree should be placed in one of two places, either left or right of the center of the pot (see last month). Emphasis is also given to having a few select branches extending toward the back. Once again, avoid placing the main tree in the center of the pot, (see last month). Circular or oval pots, pots with four corners, hexagonal pots and so forth are usable with some emphasis on their being deep enough to plant somewhat in depth.

However, having selected the main tree, it stands to reason that the remainder of the raw materials will not have an equal amount of branches emanating from both sides. Then choice of the trees is based primarily on the shapes of their trunks. With this in mind, it is easy to choose trees that go together in a forest planting, that is they differ very little in overall appearance relative to their trunk shapes. Ordinarily, the many trees selected are not opposite in general appearance to the main tree.

Now, in the search for raw materials one must recognize that depending on the material selected, the seedling trees will



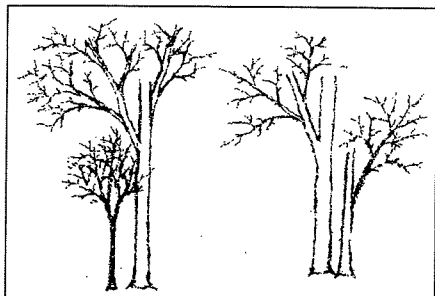


Figure 8.

eventually grow in trunk size, especially trunk thickness. To maintain the main tree as the dominant tree, structure the main tree and the relationship of the other trees to the main tree with the above hypothesis in mind. In short, this means considering the number of trees that are to be grouped together and how they will grow if they are healthy. Then open up the spacings between the trees somewhat so that the ultimate version you visualize can be achieved yet the initial placement is close enough to allude to the final result. Then the effort will be a success.

The locations of the accompanying trees is based on the proximity to the main tree that one selects in the design. However, the trees are first grouped by threes planted in unequal sided triangular patterns. Using those patterns or groupings of 3 trees per grouping a good arrangement can be made when they are together in the final arrangement.

Concerning the arrangements of trees in a woods, all kinds of patterns have been observed since away back in time, and it appears that from a standpoint of simplicity to divide the trees into groups and separate them as shown in part 1 of this article, March 1993 *PBA Clippings*.

Yet, it's hard to say how many of the arrangements of forest plantings are changed into uninteresting ones when inferior articles are used.

In favor of harmony, unification and variation, all trees should be from one plant variety or cultivar so that the material can be joined together with the trunk shape of the main tree. Below is an outline of what should be understood when doing a forest planting: (Please also refer to the illustrations)

- At the time you decide to make a forest planting, collect trees with a vigorous growth of roots since many roots will have

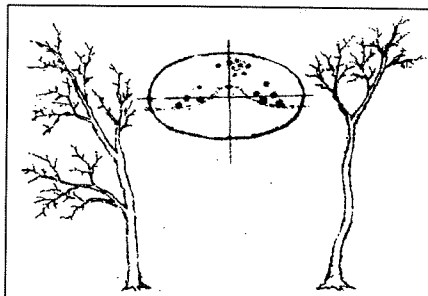


Figure 9.

to be removed in consolidating the arrangement.

- When viewing from the front of the pot, shorten the width of the robust branches by Pruning so that the branches do not interfere with the trunks of adjoining trees.

- Change the height of each tree provided the undulations in the heights of the soil in the pot are taken into account.

- For the trees placed on the outside of the planting, those with branches emanating around the trunk and those with branches that may lie on the inside trees, try to shift them around so that some of those branches point rearward to give a feeling of depth.

- At the time when one is fitting together the roots of a big and smaller tree, pay attention to not having the head or top of the small tree cross into the foliage of the big tree. If there is no void or space between them, it will not look attractive.

- Even for trees with an unfavorable balance of more branches on one side than on others, skillfully fitting them together in a forest planting can prove to be to your advantage in that it makes use of material that could not stand alone as a bonsai.

- One can look forward to producing a forest planting with ease when there are trees whose lower branches are strong. These can be placed on the outside of a plant grouping. Those trees without lower branches can be placed inside of a plant grouping.

- There may be trees which are not erect and may have bent or twisted trunks which are to be included in the planting with trees that are erect. This can create the problem of intersecting trunks which is difficult to handle even in a forest planting. The general rule is to avoid any intersecting or crossing trunks patterns in placing the trees.

- Small branches will eventually grow and lie on one another. It is easy to consolidate the arrangement by pruning.

- Even though one views the forest planting from the front with the many trees placed so that they do not lie directly behind each other, one should also look at the planting from the top to see that no trees are on a straight line left to right parallel to the front of the pot.

- One is limited in seeing distance by the depth of the pot. One must employ the law of perspective, big trees grouped in the front of the pot and small trees to the rear. Sketch the way the plants are to be arranged and the impression of a big scene will be easily achieved.

- A forest in nature is a mixture, the amount of weak trees present depends on the location and the species. It is a good idea to approach making a forest planting by considering the scene in nature that you wish to copy.

- The heights of the trees should be graduated from the center downward to the smaller trees on both sides of the planting. Then any whims of the moment that may intercede to change the basic design can be suppressed. □

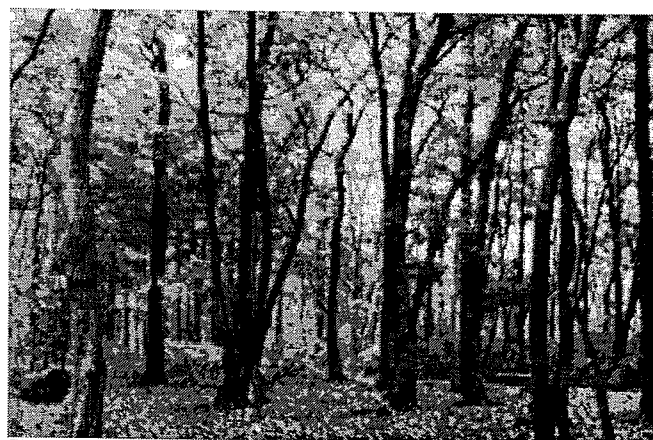


Figure 10.

## Fake Rocks

### Making Rock Slabs from Molds with Keith Scott

Keith Scott, Curator, Phipps Conservatory Bonsai Collection, Pittsburgh, PA conducted a workshop on making cast slabs for the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society during the February meeting. Keith gave an informative and enjoyable presentation using molds from slabs he acquired in Japan. Quality rock slabs may well cost hundreds of dollars and a method of reproducing a particularly well structured slab has obvious advantages both aestheti-

cally and economically. Keith estimates that an average size cast slab should cost no more than \$8-\$10 to produce and the molds may be used many times before they deteriorate. Following is a brief material list and Keith's brief directions.

Several club members are currently rounding up materials to begin production. *Clippings* will track their progress and provide a report on their successes.

Jeff Stephanic

#### MATERIALS

Cement Fondue (94 lb. bag)

LaFarge Calcium Aluminates

Foot of Ohio Street

Chesapeake, VA 23324

(804) 543-8832

Fine Sand - Play, Blasting Sand, Silica - Approx. 150 lbs. for 10 molds

Reinforcement Screening - Fiberglass, Aluminum, "Saran", Shade cloth

Latex molds of Natural Stones

Chicago Latex Products

Shaumburg, IL

Mixing Tubs

Mixing Tools

Fine sand for under mold to form concave area (50 lb.)

Fondue Colorant (Smith's colorant or concrete colorant)

Water

Plastic sheet to cover wet slabs castings

Plywood support for sand and cast mold during curing

Wet rags to cover curing slabs

Knife or scissors to cut plastic and screening

Masonry drill for drain holes in cured slab

#### LATEX MOLD DIRECTIONS

Build up mold with 5-6 thin layers of latex.

Let dry between layers.

After second layer place "nylon stocking" or other lightweight flexible screening for reinforcement and immediately apply third layer.

Mold release on stone is usually not necessary but may be used.

#### CAST SLAB DIRECTIONS

Place mold over sand mounds (for concave planting depressions) on board.

Pre-cut screening to shape of mold/molds.

Prepare fondue - mix dry 3 parts sand to 1 part fondue.

Add colorant if desired.

Add water - mix to a paste (keep out small dry bits).

Apply first layer of fondue in mold (should be somewhat thin and wet).

Apply second drier layer approx. 1/8" to 1/4" thick. Very important to work mixture into sides of mold.

Apply screening; pat firmly into surface of fondue to ensure contact.

Apply drier layer of cement mixture over screening.

Try not to overflow mold.

Smooth surface.

Cover with wet rags then plastic sheet and let cure for 24 hrs. When fondue has set up, tap top of mold with board to flatten highest point to provide stability for planted slab.

Allow to cure slowly (covered with damp cloth and plastic) for several days.

Carefully peel off mold and drill drainage and/or tie down holes.

#### Advertise in PBA Clippings

Be seen by hundreds of bonsai enthusiasts in the Baltimore, Wash., D.C. and Greater Philadelphia metropolitan areas.

Monthly rates:

Full Page	40.00
1/2 page	25.00
1/3 page	15.00
1/6 page	12.50
1/12 page	7.50

20% discount for three or more months.

For advertising guidelines contact:

J.L. Stephanic  
1305 Bayliss Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
(703) 671-6881.

## Lee's Timeless Trees

Specializing in Rocky Mountain Conifers  
Also, a full line of products

Wilson Lane & MacArthur Blvd.  
Bethesda, MD

Please Call for Days & Hours  
**(301) 984-1520**



We Welcome The Opportunity To  
Show You Our Definition Of Quality

**Growing:** Japanese Maples  
Dwarf Conifers  
Pre-Bonsai  
(over 7 acres under production)

**New Studio:** Classes, Tools, Pots, Lanterns,  
Stands, Supplies, Plants



1451 Pleasant Hill Rd  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Open Daily 9-5, Closed Sunday  
717-545-4555

**MATSU-MOMIJI  
NURSERY**

*Bonsai-  
In The Japanese Tradition...*



Your Nursery  
for  
Pines and Maples

**Descriptive Catalog \$2.00**  
Lessons - Demonstrations  
Consultations - Bonsai

Steve Pilacik  
P.O. Box 11414  
Philadelphia, PA 19111  
Tel: (215) 722-6286

**A treasury of problem-solving  
tips and pointers  
never before put into print**

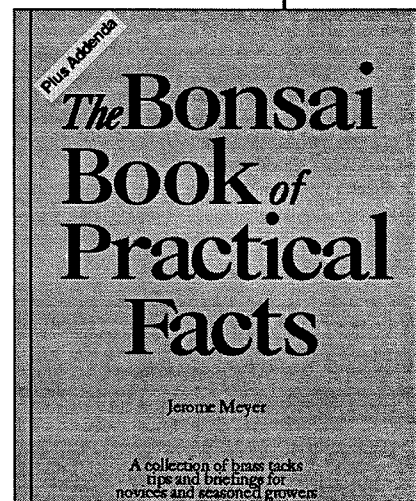
**The Bonsai Book of Practical Facts**  
by Jerome Meyer

The companion book  
for other bonsai titles

FIFTH PRINTING  
PLUS ADDENDA

Order from your book dealer, bonsai  
vendor or direct from publisher, \$17.95  
plus \$1.75 postage (New York residents  
please add sales tax).

The Purchase Publishing Co.  
Main P.O. Box 569  
Purchase, NY 10577

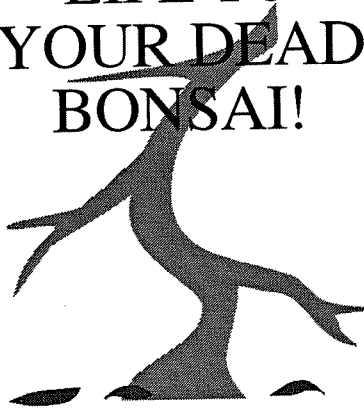


**ginza**  
 "THINGS JAPANESE"  
 BONSAI AND KEBANA  
 SUPPLIES  
 POTS • TOOLS • BOOKS  
 VASES • SUIBAN • BASKETS  
 IRON AND STONE LANTERNS  
 BONSAI MINIATURES



**ginza**  
 1721 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W. DC  
 Between R & S - 2 blocks N of  
 Dupont Circle Metro (Red Line)  
 OPEN 7 DAYS-VISA/MC  
 202-331-7991

## GIVE NEW LIFE TO YOUR DEAD BONSAI!




We will buy dead bonsai.  
 Looking for exotic shapes  
 with lots of character.

Steve: (202) 363-6305

(301) 229-3546

Linda: (202) 337-8146



**THE  
AMERICAN  
BONSAI  
SOCIETY**

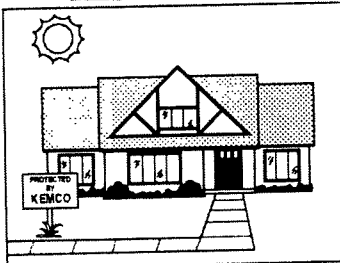
- ☑ Quarterly Journal
- ☑ Four Newsletters
- ☑ Lending Library
- ☑ Slide Program & Video Rentals

Excited about Bonsai?  
 Join Us!

Send name, address, and check,  
 \$20 individual, \$22 Couple  
 Checks should be in U.S. dollars  
 and payable to ABS

Mail to ABS, P.O. Box 358, Keene, NH 03431

### RESIDENTIAL



- 24 Hour Protection
- Intruder & Fire Systems
- Bonsai Specialist
- Interior Motion Detectors
- Duress
- Insurance Savings

*Wireless / Hard Wire Systems  
 Dependable, Affordable, Easy to Use*

## KEMCO

Alarm Co., Inc.

Protect What You Can't  
 Afford to Lose!

(301) 779-7989

1-800-AA-KEMCO

(1-800-225-3626)

### COMMERCIAL



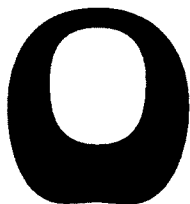
- Burglar/Fire Alarms
- Closed Circuit TV
- Access Control Systems
- Temperature / Power / Monitoring
- Opening / Closing by User Reports
- Waterflow Monitoring Systems

*UL Approved Equipment, Licensed & Insured  
 Serving the Metro Area Since 1973*



Exceptional stands and accessories from the studio of David Knittle

Erie, PA  
(814) 774-4722



**Don Gould . Bonsai and Ikebana Containers**

The spirit of great age in American stoneware

Pittsburgh, PA  
(412) 682-8066



*Imported by Jim Doyle*

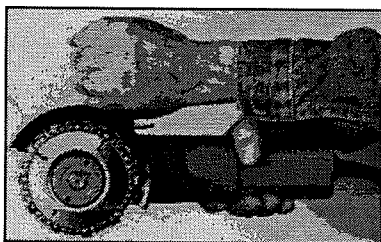
Durable tools for your timeless art

Harrisburg, PA  
(717) 545-4555

Keystone Arts is a cooperative venture offering a single resource for the finest in stands, pots and tools. Send for our free color catalog:

**Keystone Arts**  
131 Morewood Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**WHY USE A DANGEROUS CHAIN SAW TO CARVE YOUR BONSAI?**



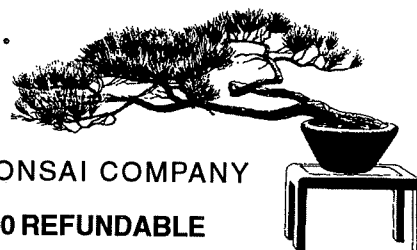
Be safe. The LANCELOT cuts, carves and sculpts wood in any direction. Excellent for controlled mass removal, shaping without burning, and working in confined areas. No kickback or binding. Consists of chain saw circler mounted between two stainless steel discs. Fits 4" or 4 1/2" disc grinder.

**\$32.95** each, plus \$3.00 S&H  
Replacement chain:  
**\$17.00** each, plus \$3.00 S&H

**R & D Supply Co.**  
1310 Apple Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 588-7296

**BONSAI ASSOC., INC.**

3000 Chestnut Avenue, #106  
Baltimore, Maryland 21211  
(301) 235-5336



YOUR EVERYTHING FOR BONSAI COMPANY

CATALOG \$2.00 REFUNDABLE

**BOOKS TOOLS INSTRUCTION**  
**PLANTS SOIL COMPONENTS LECTURES, DEMOS**  
**POTS ANNEALED COPPER WIRE**

Call or write for current schedule of classes



**BONSAI**  
**盆栽**

**E & A BONSAI HOUSE**

16505 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
(301) 384-9879

## **THE CHINA BONSAI COMPANY**

### **“The Historical Roots of Bonsai are in China”**

The China Bonsai Company is a Chinese Company located in Guangzhou, (Canton) China, with international sales and wholesale distribution in Seattle, Washington. One of the most important purposes of the company is to increase, outside China, the appreciation and understanding of the major bonsai (Penjing) schools and related products. The company is also equally committed to exporting only exceptional quality products, ongoing customer services, and the most competitive pricing for the American and Canadian wholesalers, retailers and mail order customers.

### **PRODUCTS**

**Direct export from China for Wholesalers, Retailers and Mail Order Customers**

#### **Monthly bare-root shipment from China to Seattle**

- \* China Bonsai trees:
  - Master pieces by China masters
  - Aged bonsai
  - Nursery stock

#### **Wholesale & Mail Order distribution from Seattle**

- \* China Bonsai pots
- \* China Bonsai hardwood Stands
- \* China Bonsai stone landscapes
- \* China Bonsai stones
- \* China Shiwan figurines
- \* China Bonsai publications
- \* China (Japanese Style) stone lanterns & basins

### **ASSOCIATIONS**

The China National Penjing Masters  
The China National Penjing Association  
The Bonsai Clubs International (member)

**wholesale & mail order  
catalogue available \$3.00**

**THE CHINA BONSAI COMPANY**  
North America Sales Office  
14627 18th Ave., S.W.  
Seattle, WA 98166  
Phone: 206-439-0729 Fax: 206-439-0726



SINCE 1972

# WOLF TRAP NURSERY

---

VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180

## *Your Bonsai Specialists . . .*

- **STARTER BONSAI**—large selection of both indoor and outdoor material
- **TOOLS**—Masakuni, Kiku
- **POTTERY**—Tokoname, Seto, Hotoku and other imports
- **BOOKS**—many titles to choose from
- **CLASSES**—held at the nursery on the last Saturday of each month, by Martha Meehan

**(703) 759-4244**

9439 LEESBURGH PIKE (RT. 7)

*3½ MILES WEST OF  
TYSONS CORNER*

HOURS: 8:30 am–6:00 pm Monday thru Saturday  
10:00 am–6:00 pm Sunday



# Potomac Bonsai Association Membership Application

Welcome! We conduct a Spring Show and a Fall Symposium as well as other events. PBA is made up of the clubs listed to the right. Join one club and be eligible to attend any club meeting in addition to receiving the PBA Newsletter monthly. Residents of the Potomac Region are expected to join a club to receive all membership benefits. Individuals beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to the PBA Newsletter.

To become a member, call the contact person of the nearest club for current rates and where to send your dues. For subscription to the PBA Newsletter only, mail a check (payable to PBA) for \$15.00 to Beth Potratz, 606 N. Hudson, Arlington, VA 22201.

*Regular meeting times and places are listed. Meeting times and locations are subject to change, call first! Events are listed in the monthly PBA Newsletter.*

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual                | <input type="checkbox"/> Family                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription Only      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Bonsai Club     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bowie Bonsai Club                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Brookside Bonsai Club  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chesapeake Bonsai Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiyomizu Bonsai Club   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mei-Hwa Penjing Society   | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Virginia Bonsai Society    | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Bonsai Club |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

- BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB**  
 Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD.  
 3rd Sunday, 1PM  
 Elaine Kendall, (301) 426-5421
- BOWIE BONSAI CLUB**  
 Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD  
 Last Monday, 7 PM  
 Terry Adkins, (301) 350-3586
- BROOKSIDE BONSAI SOCIETY**  
 North Chevy Chase Recreation Center, Chevy Chase, MD.  
 3rd Thursday, 7:30 AM  
 Jerry Antel, (301) 320-5251
- CHESAPEAKE BONSAI SOCIETY**  
 Paca Garden, Annapolis, MD  
 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
 Stephen Choi, (301) 261-8131
- GREATER PHILADELPHIA BONSAI SOCIETY**  
 Pennypack Watershed, Willow Grove, PA  
 4th Thursday, eve.  
 Larry Chiger, (609) 753-0311
- KIYOMIZU BONSAI CLUB**  
 Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD  
 3rd Saturday, 2 PM  
 Joan Stephens, (301) 423-8230
- MEI-HWA PENJING SOCIETY**  
 (Chinese language spoken)  
 Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD  
 2nd Sunday, 1PM  
 Akey Hung, (301) 390-6687
- NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY**  
 Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale, VA  
 2nd Saturday, 10 AM  
 Chris Yeapanis, (703) 591-0864
- WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB**  
 U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.  
 3rd Saturday, 2 PM  
 Julie Walker, (202) 547-8497

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, INC.  
 % U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM  
 3501 NEW YORK AVE., NE  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 MERRIFIELD, VA  
 PERMIT NO. 659