


JANE D. KOETSCH

PBA

Clippings

NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION



ISSN 0160-9521

Gardenia Bonsai

Part 2

by Jules Koetsch

Ed: Last month dealt with developing a purchased or collected gardenia. This month continues with a discussion of starting a gardenia from cuttings.

STARTING a GARDENIA from a CUTTING

As always when one is prone to do any serious pruning, it is the early springtime. Cuttings from a preponderance of trees and shrubs tend to root with good probability during the months of June and July. Hence, that is the reason the author of reference 5 suggests taking and planting the cutting in the middle of June. However, do not despair, give the cuttings from

continued on page 6



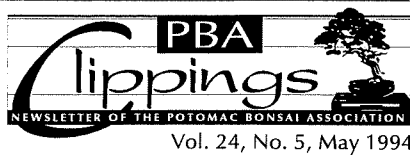
Gardenia Bonsai

PBA ANNUAL AUCTION

Dawn Rose Building
Behnke's Nursery
10:00 AM, May 14, 1994
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Please send ad/articles to the editor: J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152; (703) 569-9378.

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From the Editor . . .

PLANT SURVIVAL:

Now that it is May the daily assessment of one's bonsais' health should have indicated ample new growth that is if they are happy with their life-styles. It doesn't take long by bonsai standards,- at the most 3 years, for a person to note that a bonsai just isn't putting out new growth. Not long thereafter, the bonsai will have departed to bonsai heaven where a fair number of my past efforts are now residing. Such events besides driving one to drink also make one go on a quest for answers and turn to the literature on bonsai of which there is now an ample supply. The literature covers in depth the aspects starting or developing a bonsai but does not present the side of the story as to what to do when the bonsai starts showing signs of failing health. ostensibly if the advice is followed, the bonsai will thrive. However, arriving at a solution as to what needs to be corrected can run you into a quandary. It doesn't take long for the bonsai neophyte to recognize the truth of the statement that Jerry Meyer uses to lead off the chapter "The Watering Dilemma" in his book *The Bonsai Book of Practical Facts* : "The bonsai art form is replete with contradictions." He follows that statement with a number of examples. A 3 part series of articles just concluded in the spring 1994 issue of "BONSAI: Journal of the American Bonsai Society" by Jack Wikle titled "Watering

Quotes and notes" is a comprehensive compilation covering all the contradictions and paradoxes of watering by categorically listing quotes on the subject from some 50 references. Then there's an article by Jerry Meislik in *BONSAI: Journal of the American Bonsai Society*, 24(1), 1990, which as the title infers, disclaims some accepted practices of bonsai. All in all there's no end to articles on bonsai. It's always interesting and beneficial to read articles on bonsai as well as those pertaining to growing potted plants to either reinforce old ideas or change them. In spite of much literature on the subject, I find a hang-up arises when I cannot detect from a plant's symptoms while alive or in the forensic analysis, after its demise, as to what caused such an unwanted state of affairs. Checking back in the literature one is faced with the task of trying to relate recommended bonsai practices with the symptoms. This sometimes can lead to conjecture since no direct cause and effect relationship for ailing plants is directly spelled out, at least not in the books in my limited library. One finds oneself in a position similar to Agatha Christie or Inspector Morse trying to solve a murder mystery. Among the few books on bonsai in my library John Naka's *BONSAI TECHNIQUES I* has the only advice concerning what to do with a sick bonsai. Maybe somewhere there's something like a chart showing what actions in the care of a bonsai can ultimately lead to its poor health and death. Can this be done in a general way or it too complex.

As John Naka pointed out, "The most difficult task in growing bonsai is to keep them alive." Saburo Kato has mentioned that bonsai will add 10 years to your life. Recent studies tend to show that using one's brain may offset the advance of Alzheimer's disease and I'm in the dangerous age bracket. Hopefully the daily task of trying to keep my bonsai alive and ferret out how to keep them healthy from the literature as well as a slowly growing background of do's and don'ts based on experience will add that 10 years to my life. Any chart such as mentioned above may decrease the amount of exercise that my brain will be subjected to and I'll come up short of that added 10 years. In any case I like what the Irishman said, "If I knew where I am going to die I wouldn't go near the place." I'm looking for that place, but I'm still going to exercise my noggin by doing bonsai.

Jules Koetsch

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
3rd Sunday, 1 PM
(410) 668-1868

Bowie Bonsai Club

Bowie Community Center
Last Monday, 7 PM
(301) 350-3586
(202) 667-1016

Brookside Bonsai Society

North Chevy Chase Recreational Center
3rd Thursday, 7 PM
(301) 365-7621

Chesapeake Bonsai Club

Paca Garden, Annapolis, MD
2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM
(301) 261-8131

Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society

Pennypack Watershed, Willow Grove, PA
4th Thursday, eve.
(609) 753-0311

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
(301) 645-3519

Lancaster Bonsai Club

Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA
2nd or 3rd Wednesday, 7 PM
(717) 653-9102

Mei-Hwa Penjing Society

Bowie Community Center
2nd Sunday, 1 PM
(301) 390-6687

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 12 Noon
(703) 591-0864

Richmond Bonsai Society

Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave.
4th Monday, 7 PM
(804) 353-6674

Washington Bonsai Club

U.S. National Arboretum
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
(202) 296-2441

Organizations sponsoring regular events of interest to PBA members:

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

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

MAY

- Sunday 7
Kiyomizu Bonsai Society
Indoor/Tropical workshop at Joan Stephens. Plants available at cost.
- Sunday 8
Brookside Bonsai Society
BBS Show at McCrillis Gardens, Bethesda, MD.
- Saturday 14
Behnke's Nursery, Beltsville, MD.
PBA Annual Auction, Dawn Rose Bldg., 9-12 NOON.
- Saturday 14
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
No meeting this month.
- Saturday-Sunday 14-15
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Matsu-Momiji Nursery Open House, 410 Borbeck St., Philadelphia, PA, (215) 722-6286, 10 AM - 3 PM.
- Thursday 19
Brookside Bonsai Society
7 PM - Beginners' corner.
7:30 PM - Club business.
7:40 PM - Lierati style with Jack Billet.
- Saturday 21
Washington Bonsai Club
Refining workshop, Bill Spencer, 2 PM.
- Sunday 22
Baltimore Bonsai Club
Trip to Longwood Gardens, visit with Doris Froning. For more info call Cindy Blackburn: 410-747-4319.
- Thursday 26
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Speaker: Steve Wisniewski.

JUNE

- Saturday 11
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
Annual outing at the home of John Simpson.
- Thursday 17
Brookside Bonsai Society
???

- Saturday 18
Kiyomizu Bonsai Society
Workshop to make slabs from molds at Chuck Birds.
- Saturday 18
Washington Bonsai Club
Azalea Workshop, Arschel Morell - Bonsai Associates, Inc.
- Thursday 23
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Tree workshop to prepare for mall show.
- Saturday-Sunday 25,26
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Willow Grove Mall Show.
- Sunday 26
Baltimore Bonsai Club
Workshop at Mike Ramina's, 1 PM.

ETCETERA

May 7 and 8, 1994
The Annual Show of the Fresno Bonsai Society will be held on May 7 and 8 at the Fresno City College cafeteria at Maroa and Weldon Streets in Fresno, CA. Hours: 10 AM to 4 PM both days. There will be a bonsai demonstration both days at 2 PM as well as raffles and plant sales.

May 14 and 15, 1994
The Satsuki Aikokai Association of Sacramento will hold its annual show at the Sacramento Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816 on May 14 and 15, 1994. The show will be open from 10 to 5 both days, and there will be a large number of azaleas for sale. For information, call 916 488-6142.

May 21 and 22, 1994
The public is invited to the Hillsborough Bonsai Society's 26th Anniversary Show on May 21st and 22nd at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA. Hours: 11 :00 AM to 5:00 PM both days. Admission free. Demonstrations will be given both days at 2 PM. You are encouraged to bring your own tree for expert advice

continued on next page

ETCETERA

and attention. Benefit drawings, plant sales, and door prizes will also be offered.

For further information: contact George Belden at 510 482-6070.

June 11 and 12, 1994

The Bonsai Society of San Francisco Annual Show will be held June 11 and 12 at the San Francisco County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers), in Golden State Park at 9th avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA. Exhibition, plant sale, docent tours, door prizes; free admission. For information, call 415 2885-6807.

June 18 and 19, 1994

The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society will present its 25th Anniversary show at Mitchell Hall at the Denver Botanic Gardens, 1009 York Street in Denver on Fathers Day weekend June 18 and 19. The show will be open to the public from 9:00 to 8:00 on Saturday and 9:00 to 4:00 on Sunday. Over 100 trees will be on display. A special feature of the show will be native Ponderosa Pine, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Englemann Spruce and Lodgepole Pine. Some of these trees have been collected from the mountains of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming with estimated ages of over 200 years.

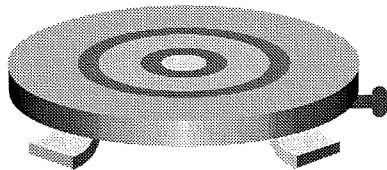
Not only will trees be displayed, but also there will be six demonstrations during the two day show. Educational exhibits explaining what a bonsai is, how the age of collected trees is estimated and techniques used in bonsai culture are additional features.

June 23-26, 1994

Three Rivers Bonsai presented by The American Bonsai Society and the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Featured speakers: José Cueto, Norman Haddrick, Keith Scott, Alex L. Shigo, Ph.D. Workshop leaders: Kelley Adkins, Randy Clark, Dorie Froning, George Gray, Marian Gyllenswan and Lynn Porter. For info contact: Della L. Griffiths, 1824 Village Road, Glenshaw, PA 15116; phone: 412-486-1916.



Plum tree from *The Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting*



TURNTABLE

by Sensei Sam

Information, questions or just plain talk should be mailed or phoned to Todd Ellis at 4621 Whitaker Place, Woodbridge, VA 22193, Phone: 703-878-7887.

Sensei Sam is in seventh heaven because his Wisteria is blooming this year for the first time. I've had this tree for 4 years; a collected specimen from Chuck Bird's. What kills me is that I pruned it back this early Spring and there's no telling how many blooms I cut off... bonsai; a constant learning experience. May I add that Spring is nothing short of spectacular this year!

This month's question came from an admitted "computer novice." His letter was very humble, because he used his home computer. Sir, Sensei

Sam doesn't even own a typewriter, so rest assured -that your letter was received gratefully. He purchased a 4 foot Ficus benjamina and wants to prune its seven trunks. Is Spring the right time to take them all back to the appropriate size?

I love Ficus bonsai and have raised a few. My largest tree is now 4 feet tall and started out as a 10 foot giant. I bought the tree in the Summer and cut off 6 feet, then cut the root ball in half with a saw. I then bare-rooted the tree to get off all the old potting soil. The tree grew like a weed. I later learned that I was under watering my Ficus and now the tree really grows like a weed.

If your tree is growing vigorously now (lots of new growth) then cutting it back should be no problem. How-

ever, I would leave some healthy leaves on it for good measure. In the Summer, if the tree is healthy, then you could cut off everything down to the trunk because Ficus will bud back with a vengeance. You can also do some mild root pruning, if you leave foliage. I would wait until Summer if you want to cut off major roots or do a severe root pruning. If this ficus is being kept in a heated greenhouse, and is growing vigorously, then you can treat it as if it were Summertime.

If you decide to wire the tree, then keep a close watch on it so it doesn't grow into the bark before your eyes. I usually wire my branches with loose coils to allow me to keep it on longer.

Good luck and please let me know how your tree is doing.

Tips For May Bonsai Care

By now the chances of there being any frost has well passed and indoor plants can be safely moved outdoors.

Pruning: Heavy pruning, that is pruning of established branches that are unwanted should have been done. Sprout pruning is the order of the day to keep the new growth from becoming too leggy. **Sprout prune** Hinoki cypress, Sawara or blue moss cypress, Hemlock, Juniper, Larch, Spruce and Yew, Hackberry, Beech, Weeping willow, Andromeda, Japanese apricot, and Azaleas. For azaleas, one should do it after flowering to get the full benefit of the flowers. New growth of Japanese maples can also be removed or cut back.

Repotting: Hinoki cypress, pines, and Junipers (except for Shimpaku) can be done in the early part of the month. Azaleas can be repotted after they flower, - towards the end of May.

Wiring: Always check the wiring to see that it is not digging into the bark of the bonsai. Wiring can be done on Hinoki cypress, Junipers, black pine, Crab apple, and Japanese Apricot.

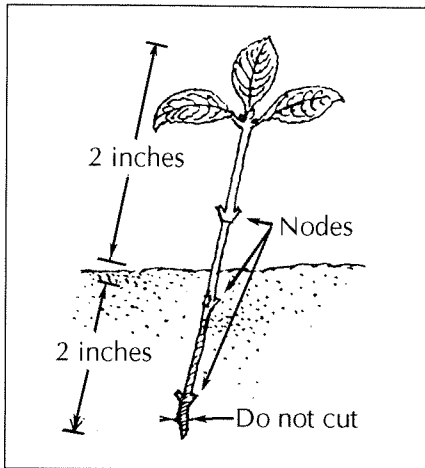
Fertilizing: Fertilizing routine should have been started last month. Continue for all plants.

Watering: Be certain to check the plants on a daily basis to ascertain that they have adequate water. If the soil mix and location of the plants is correct the bonsai should require watering once per day. The preferred time is in the morning up to about 10:00 a.m. Avoid very late in the afternoon waterings, - after 5:00 p.m. as the plants will not assimilate as much water as they would earlier in the day since they are entering their periods of rest. The latent water can lead to root rot.

Gardenia Bonsai, Pt. 2

by Jules Koetsch

the April 1 to 10 pruning a try. Chances are that some will root.

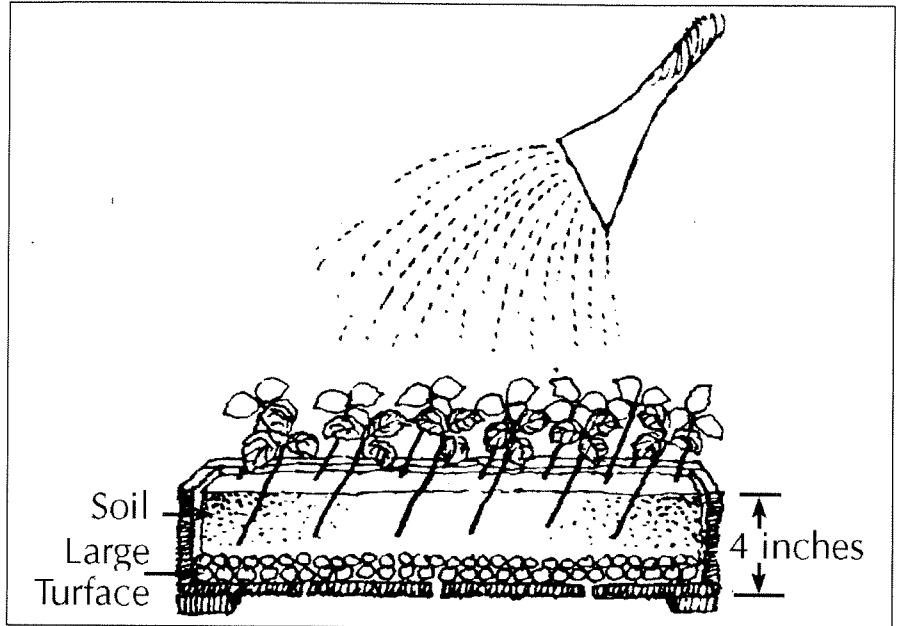


April 1 to 10 The cutting as shown should include 3 nodes where the leaf groups have been removed. This will allow for an overall length of about 4 inches.

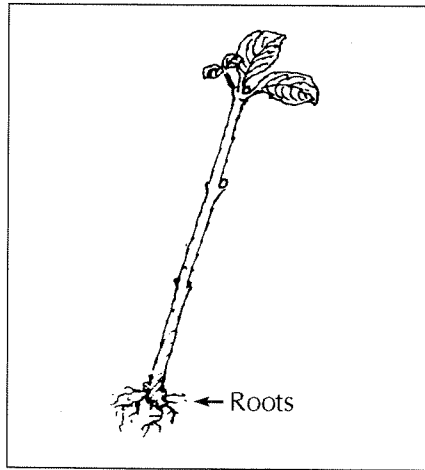
Cut the end of the stem off with a very sharp knife.

The bottom is covered with a thin layer of Turface which can be the size that did not go through a screen with a mesh of 12 openings or less per inch. The soil media is whatever has passed through a 12 openings per inch screen. The author of reference 5 suggests a soil mix equivalent to half Turface and half Gran-I-Grit which would tend to hold less water than the 7 parts Turface and 3 parts Gran-I-Grits suggested for the established plant. The author of this article soaks the soil media before inserting the cuttings. A chopstick is used to make a hole on a slant in the soil. The reason for the slant is that once the cutting has been placed in the hole the crucial part of making firm contact between soil and stem can be readily achieved by pressing down on the surface of the soil with one's thumb or finger.

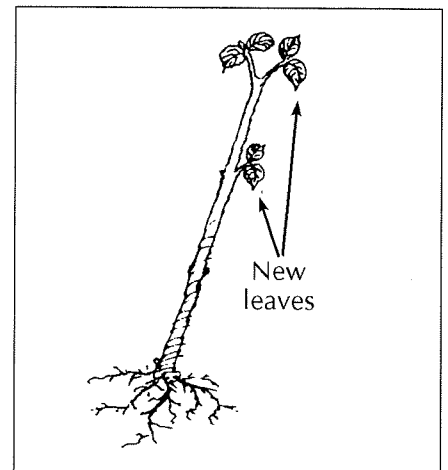
Before inserting the cutting into the hole made by the chopstick in the soil, the end of the cutting could be dipped into Rootone to prevent fungus from establishing itself around the end of the cutting and killing any chance for



The container should be ready before the cuttings are taken. The depth of the container should be about 4 inches.



August 1 - 10 The cutting should be developing roots as shown above.



September development should approximate illustration.

roots to appear. Spacing between cuttings should be at least 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches. Water the cuttings after they have been planted. Place the container where it will receive 1/2 day shade. Make certain soil stays moist during the ensuing months.

Jul. 1 - 10 Apply liquid fertilizer.

Aug. 20 - 31 Apply liquid fertilizer.

Sept. 20 - 30 Apply Liquid fertilizer.

October provide winter protection before the first frost.

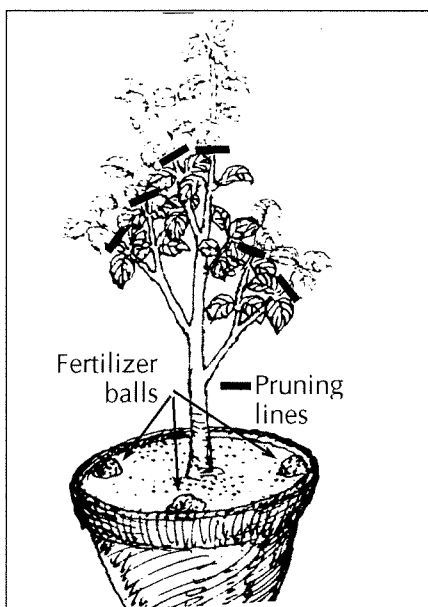
2nd YEAR

April 1 - 10 Remove from winter protection and place in a location where there will be 1/2 day shade. Protect the plants from strong breezes. Watering: begin a regimen that keeps the soil moist. Fertilize: use liquid fertilizer.

June 1 - 10 Apply liquid fertilizer.

September 1 - 10 Last application of liquid fertilizer.

October - Once again put in winter protection before the first frost.



4th YEAR 5th YEAR 6th YEAR

April 1 - 10 Prune back where no additional branch lengthening is desired. Thin out the foliage by removing one or at the most two years growth.

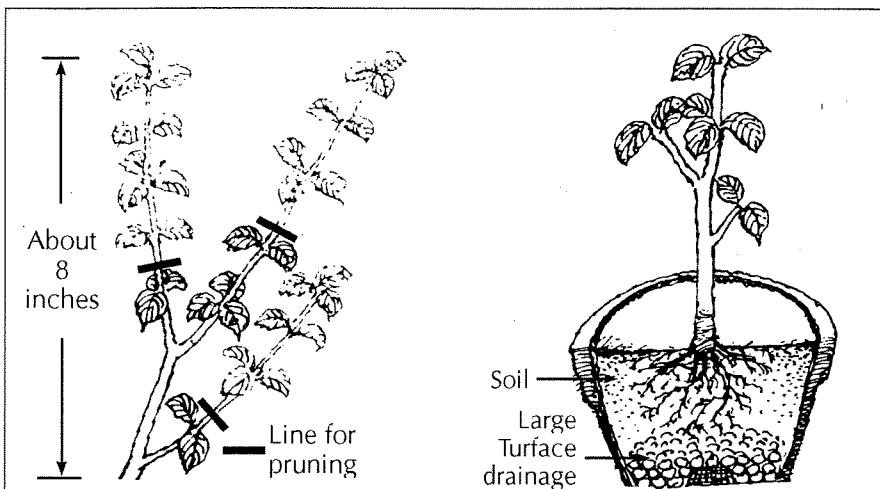
Place outdoors in 1/2 day shade.

Begin watering schedule.
Fertilize - 3 balls

June 1 - 10 Fertilize - 3 balls.

August 1 - 10 Fertile - 3 balls.

October 1 - 10 Last 3 fertilizer balls for the year. Put under winter protection before first frost.



3rd YEAR

April 1 - 10

On the left is shown the amount of growth on the cuttings

Prune so that only 1 or 2 sets of leaves remain.

Pot the plant after it has been pruned. Use a 4 inch diameter clay pot.

This time the author of reference 5 suggests using a soil mix of what might be equivalent to 7 parts Turface and 3 parts pine or fir bark in place of the 3 parts Gran-I-Grits.

Place the plant outdoors so that it receives half-a-day shade. Start watering schedule.

May 1 -10: apply no more than 3 fertilizer balls. July 1 -10: apply 3 fertilizer balls. September 1 - 10: Last application of 3 fertilizer balls for the year.

October: put under winter protection before first frost.

7th YEAR

This is the year for putting the plant in a bonsai display pot. Follow the instructions for the 7th year as given for the purchased or collected tree. From here onward the yearly operations are the same.

References:

1. *WYMAN'S GARDENING ENCYCLOPEDIA*: by Donald Wyman; MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc.: New York, N.Y., 1977.

2. *FOR HAPPY GARDENIAS, DRINK MORE COFFEE*: Patti Hagan: A New Look at Houseplants: Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record Vol. 49, No. 4, 1993.

3. *THE NEW GARDEN ENCYCLOPEDIA*: editor E.L.D. Seymour: Wm. H. Wise & Co., Inc., 1946.

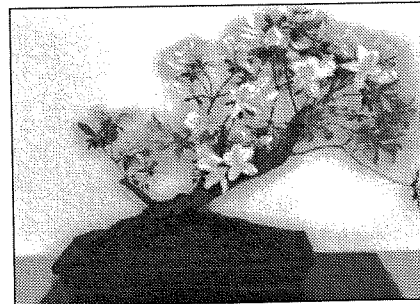
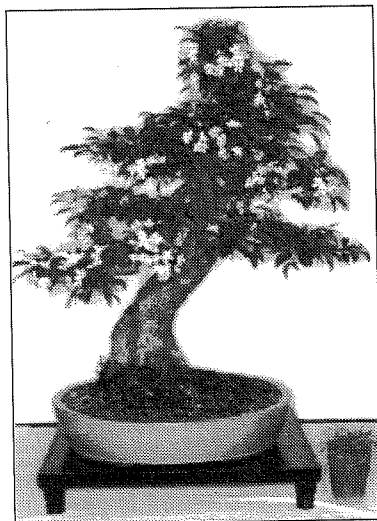
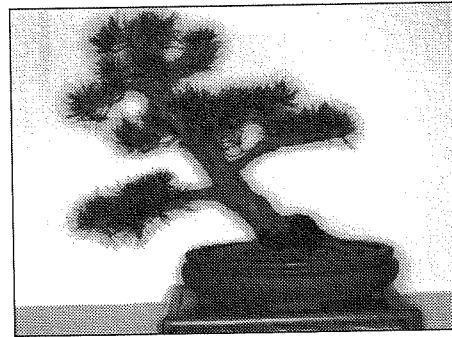
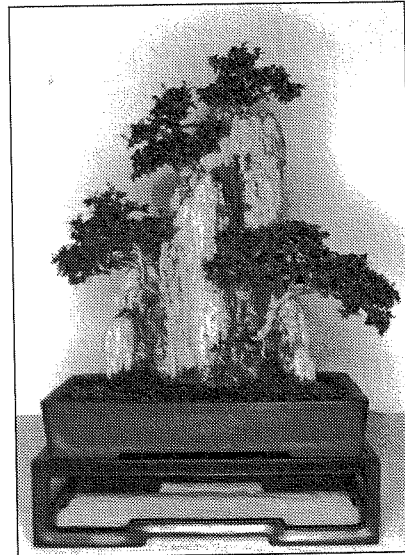
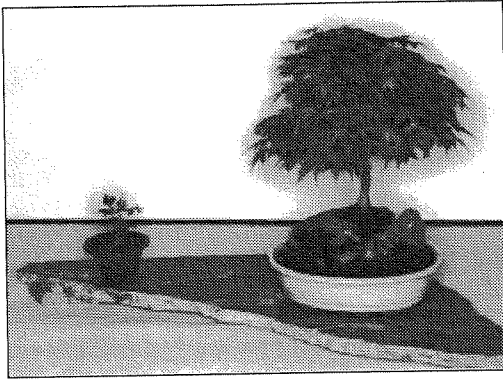
4. *INDOOR BONSAI*: Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record Vol. 46, No. 3: 1990.

5. *KUCHINSHI* (gardenia) Upright trunks, Sprout Style: by Budai Moubu: Directions for the Preparation of Flowering and Fruiting Bonsai with Illustrated Explanatory Notes: in Japanese 1974.

6. *THE JAPANESE ART OF MINIATURE TREES AND LANDSCAPES*: by Yuji Yoshimura and Giovanna M. Halford: Charles E. Tuttle Company: Rutland, Vt.: 1972.

PBA Gallery

A collection of trees from PBA shows. How about sending in a photos of your prize trees for a PBA Gallery section? Send 3 1/2" x 5" photos in color or black and white. Some correction can be made while scanning but dark, blurry photographs are difficult to retouch. Please include some information on the tree, pot, age, etc. Please include SASE if you would like the photographs returned.



PBA ANNUAL AUCTION

Dawn Rose Building, Behnke's Nursery, May 14, 1994

It is time for the PBA Annual Auction once again, and with it the opportunity to thin out your stock and turn them into hard cash or add to your collection!

The format will consist of an auction only, with no consignment sales. 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 with the auction. Please call (202) 606-4571 and volunteer to help.

The following changes will be made to the auction procedure this year to alleviate the problem of too much material being placed on sale which, in the past, has resulted in an overly long auction and abnormally low prices for the final items sold:

1. To sell items at the auction you must be a member of a PBA affiliated club.
2. A limit of 7 (seven) "Lots" will be allowed each seller. A "Lot" may consist of more than one item but everything in that "Lot" will be auctioned at one price.
3. The PBA commission will be increased from 15% to 20%, all of which will go into the PBA Treasury.
4. The auction will end at 12:00 Noon.

Each seller will be given an individual registration sheet with seven numbered lines for a written description of each item to be sold: Where and when acquired; Common and botanical name; Age; Minimum bid, if any. In addition, there will be tags, with corresponding numbers, to be tied on each auction item.

Schedule:

- 8 AM Behnke's Nursery opens.
 9-10 AM Bidder registration. Delivery of items for auction.
 10 AM Auction begins.
 12 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. The Behnke's Nursery is located at 11300 Baltimore Avenue (U.S. 1), 2 miles north of Capitol Beltway Exit 25A, Beltsville, Maryland. Once again, PBA is grateful for the generosity of Behnke's Nurseries in offering, at no charge, their facilities for this auction.



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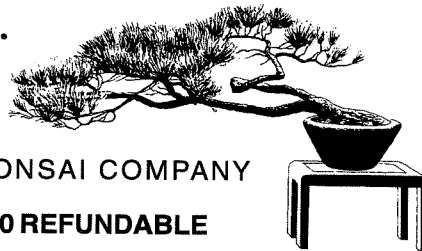
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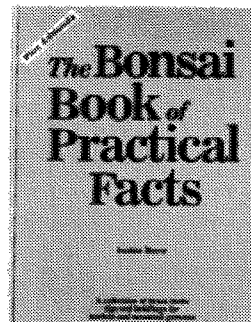
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Welcome! We conduct a Spring Show and a Fall Symposium as well as other events. PBA is made up of the clubs listed to the right. Join one club and be eligible to attend any club meeting in addition to receiving the *PBA Clippings* monthly. Residents of: Baltimore, MD; Lancaster, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Richmond, VA and Washington, D.C. metropolitan regions are expected to join a club to receive all membership benefits.

To become a member, call the contact person of the nearest club for current rates and where to send your dues.

Individuals beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to the PBA newsletter, *PBA Clippings*. For subscription to *PBA Clippings* only, mail a check payable to PBA for \$15.00 (U.S. \$35.00 for international subscription/postage) to Beth Potratz, 1101 Pekay St., SW, Vienna, VA 22180. For additional information, call Beth Potratz: (703) 255-9386.

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

Individual Membership

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Cyburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD.
3rd Sunday, 1 PM
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 PM
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

LANCASTER BONSAI SOCIETY

Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA
2nd or 3rd Wednesday, 7 PM
Thomas Gillin, (717) 653-9102

MEI-HWA PENJING SOCIETY

(Chinese language spoken)
Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD
2nd Sunday, 1 PM
Akey Hung, (301) 390-6687

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY

Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 12 NOON
Judy Wise, (202) 260-7109

RICHMOND BONSAI SOCIETY

Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave., Richmond, VA
4th Monday, 7 PM
Chris Cochrane, (804) 353-6674

WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB

U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
Julie Walker, (202) 547-8497

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