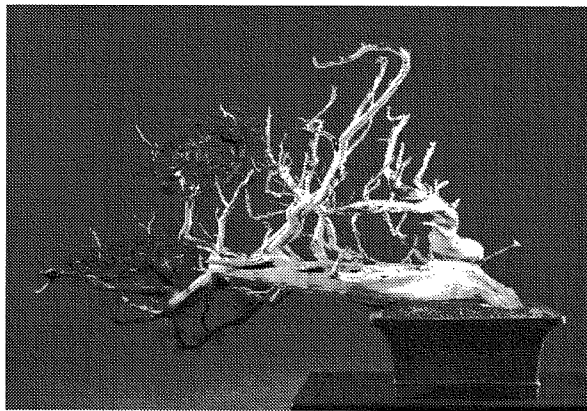


## WAYS TO PRODUCE JIN AND SHARI

by Jules Koetsch

The December 1993 issue of PBA Clippings contained an excellent article on how to prepare an area and then apply lime-sulphur to dead wood on living trees. John Y. Naka in his book *BONSAI TECHNIQUES: PART I* describes how to create jin and shari. What follows has been adapted from a chapter written by Chishou Seifu for *BONSAI - Training Methods - Ways to Enhance Them*, Ogawa Mo



Chinese Juniper with extensive Jin and Shari by Kimura.  
*continued on page 5*

## Yuji Yoshimura Rock Planting Demonstration

Sponsored by PBA  
Sunday, March 13, 1994  
Report by Janet Lanman,  
Brookside Bonsai Society

Yuji Yoshimura, sometimes called by his students the "Father of Western Bonsai," demonstrated the planting of a large Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergiana*) on a rock slab. Present in the National Arboretum Auditorium were over 300 fascinated observers.

The tree was grown from seed, is about 35 years old and about 30" tall. The rock slab is 3' long. At the start of the demonstration the tree appeared loosely shaped but had an interesting

*continued on page 4*

## PBA Seeks Site for Material Storage

PBA is in need of a storage facility for material owned by the association and used by all member clubs. Items such as the educational exhibit designed by Alan Giese and the table mats and backgrounds used for the Annual Show and Symposium are two examples.

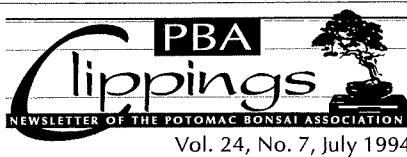
The PBA board has approved rental of and is searching for a storage facility located in an accessible area. This solution would cost the association approximately \$600 per year.

An alternative plan would be to acquire a moveable storage shed (approximately 8' x 10') to be placed on a member's property. Member clubs would gain access by appointment and the shed could be moved easily to another site when necessary. This solution would be less costly than the rental of a storage facility.

Members interested in providing a space, please contact PBA President Chris Yeapanis, (703) 591-0864 (after 12 Noon, please).

## In This Issue

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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 on the last page of this newsletter.

Non-Member Subscriptions: Individuals residing within the Baltimore, Washington, D.C. or 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 US \$15.00 (US \$35 for International Mail) which should be made payable to the Potomac Bonsai Association and sent to Beth Potratz, 1101 Pekay St., SW, Vienna, VA 22180.

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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 . . .

July brings hot and often humid weather to the Washington, DC area and in turn dampens one's energy to do anything. In such moments of zero productivity, one's mind seems to drift off and take an inventory of the successes and failures of the past year and even reflect on those trees in the collection which still seem to be getting nowhere. There's nothing like the spring flurry of reporting, styling, restyling activities to bring out the best and worst of one's collection. Why don't plants sprout branches and spread out heavy roots in conformance with what every bonsai book considers attractive styles? Like the old saying - they haven't read the book. After some coaxing, some species get it. After many years in a pot and top heavy with foliage, a miniature leaf Japanese maple has finally decided to sprout braches along what has been a bare section of its trunk.

On the other hand, after getting 6 hornbeam, about 7 feet in height and trunk diameters of about 2 inches at their bases, from Russ Kinerson's backyard before he moved, I cut them down to no more than a foot high. I put them in makeshift 24 by 18 inches container. They formed a halfway decent grove planting. I do a lot of grove planting to get rid of varieties where I have more than one. That way the shortcomings in the trees as stand-alones can be offset by lumping them together. My main concern all winter long was whether or not my efforts would be in vain. Finally somewhere around the beginning of last April buds started popping out all over the hornbeams, - on the trunks and on the stub branches. If all goes well, I should have no trouble selecting branches to keep. Unfortunately that doesn't work for all species. It would be nice in this day of genetic engineering of tomato plants and who knows what else, for someone to come up with a way of getting plants to sprout buds and grow branches where we'd like them as well as dwarf the leaves. Outside of grafting I do not know of any way to get a new branch starting at or near a desired location on a tree trunk. Will scrubbing the trunk with water and a brush help stimulate suppressed buds to emerge? If nothing else it should keep the plant happy.

If anyone has any ideas on how to get suppressed buds to pop where one wants a branch let me know. There's probably a Japanese presently working on solving how to grow branches where one wants them and how to dwarf leaves.

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.  
(215) 663-1678

**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) 554-3045

**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) 543-7433

*Organizations sponsoring regular events of interest to PBA members:*

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

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

## JULY

## ETCETERA

Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society 2-10  
Annual show at National Arboretum

Saturday 9  
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
Boston Ivy workshop with Hal Mahoney, 12 PM.

Kiyomizu Bonsai Society  
No meeting this month.

Sunday 17  
Baltimore Bonsai Club  
Annual Summer party at Helen Lauensteins, 1 PM.

Thursday 21  
Brookside Bonsai Society  
Behind the scenes tour of the Bonsai Museum at the National Arboretum, 6:30 PM. Meet at the Yoshimura Center.

Saturday 23  
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society  
Picnic, Trident Maple forest workshop and Auction.

## AUGUST

Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society  
Kiyomizu Bonsai Society  
No meeting this month.

Saturday 13  
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
Members collections tour.

Sunday 14  
PBA Auction

Sunday 21  
Baltimore Bonsai Club  
Meeting at Helen Lauensteins, 1 PM.  
Bring past years' charter trees and receive a new one. Workshop and raffle.

## Virginia State Fair Bonsai Exhibit

Member club **Richmond Bonsai Society** invites all PBA members residing in the State of Virginia to submit entries for the Virginia State Fair. Chris Cochran reported on this opportunity at the June PBA board meeting.

The fair is scheduled for September 24-25, 1994. The bonsai exhibit will be in the horticulture pavilion and will be near the Rose exhibit which is the only other non-agriculture display.

Ribbons will be awarded in the following categories: Formal Upright, Informal Upright/Slanting, Semi-Cascade, Cascade, Literati, Grove, General and Suiseki.

The general rules are as follows:

1. Bring entries to the Horticulture Pavilion between 8-10 AM, Saturday, Sept. 24, 1994. Entries may be picked up at the same location following the 2-day show, on Sunday, Sept. 25, 1994, after 9 PM.
2. Entries should be labeled with name of owner, classification, species, source of the material and age on tags provided by the Richmond Bonsai Society (RBS).
3. Stands may accompany tree or will be provided as far as possible by RBS. If the owner provides a stand, it must be clearly labeled with the owner's name.
4. Neither RBS nor its representatives shall be liable for loss or damage to exhibits, personal property, nor injury sustained by exhibitors or visitors.
5. Exhibitors may enter 1 species per class.
6. Judge's decisions are final.

Receive entries, Saturday, Sept. 25, 8-10 AM from Carolina Avenue, Outer Gate 6, General Parking. Proceed to Exhibitor Gate and Horticulture Building.

Judging - Saturday, Sept. 24, 11 AM.

Please call Richmond Bonsai Society club contact for additional information.

## Tips For July Bonsai Care

### Watering:

Do any overhead watering before 10:00 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. to prevent sun damage to the foliage. Do not overhead water after 5:00 p.m. as the moisture on the foliage may cause fungi to form. When the day is very hot and especially if it is a dry one, the plants may need two waterings.

### Fertilizer:

Some people feel that fertilizing the bonsai during July and August stresses the plants too much. If you are not of that school of thought, fertilize according to your schedule if you're using fertilizer balls or liquid fertilizer. If using liquid fertilizer, ro-

tate between different brands and include a fish emulsion.

### Wiring:

Check to see that none is digging into the bark. Wiring may be done on the coniferous species.

### Insecticides and Diseases:

Be alert for any infestations and use the appropriate insecticides and fungicides. Usually a good dousing with a water spray in the late afternoon will discourage any insects from making a permanent roost in your bonsai. Good air movement often prevents any fungi from forming.

### Potting:

Avoid potting at all costs unless plant is ailing or tropical.

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## Yoshimura Demonstration

*continued from front page*

base and trunk. Mr. Yoshimura severely pruned and wired the tree creating a clear, simple soaring line. As he worked he explained the reasons for his actions. He then attached the tree to the rock with anchored wires, muck and moss. The finished creation is dramatic and refined. Dan Chiplis, Assistant Curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum assisted the master.

The event was particularly significant because it was sponsored by the Potomac Bonsai Association. In 1972 this organization had arranged for Mr. Yoshimura to do a demonstration at the National Arboretum in conjunction with one of their first Bonsai Shows. Dr. Creech, newly appointed Director of the Arboretum was present

and later had several conversations with Mr. Yoshimura and some PBA members about the appropriateness of having a Bonsai Display at the Arboretum. They spoke about a collection of Japanese trees and also American bonsai. From this grew the National Bonsai Foundation which cooperates with the Arboretum in developing the Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Mr. Yoshimura has been from its beginnings an Honorary Director of the National Bonsai Foundation.

Mr. Yoshimura is the proprietor of the Yoshimura School of Bonsai in Briarcliff Manor, New York. He is the author of the bonsai bible, *The Japanese Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes*, published in Tokyo in 1957. It is in its 39th printing!

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## Jin and Shari

*continued from the front page*

Don, Tokyo; 1991. It adds some information to that already presented in the previous articles and should round out the details of creating and protecting dead wood on bonsai.

### SHARI and JIN

Shari is the Japanese name for deadwood on the trunks of bonsai. It literally translates as "bones of the Buddha." Jin is the Japanese name for dead branches or tips of branches and literally translates as "god." Jin and or shari when done on a bonsai should intensify the appeal or interest in the bonsai and thus promote its artistic value. The jin or shari should

harmonize with the species and style of tree. As John Y. Naka points out, the jin and shari should have the appearance as if they were the result of natural causes as found on a similar tree in the wild. Hence, when creating shari, one must recognize that the most likely cause for that to be present on a naturally growing tree is that it was struck by lightning or the trunk was sandblasted on one side by predominant winds.

In either case the shari does not stop part-way down the trunk but extends from top to bottom. One piece of advice is to not extend the shari below the top surface of the soil otherwise you'll be continually fight-

ing to reduce wood rot in a deadwood area under the soil. As for jin, this can be done to the top of the trunk of a tree to indicate that either old age or severe winter conditions took their toll on the tree's top.

### TIME for CREATING JIN and SHARI

The Japanese author contends that it is difficult to have good conformity with nature as to when it is a good time to create jin or shari. Unless a portion of the tree has died of its own accord, shari and jin are created unnaturally. The recommended time for shari is between January and the end of March just before the sprouts emerge. Jin is habitually done any-time.

### TREE SPECIES for JIN and SHARI

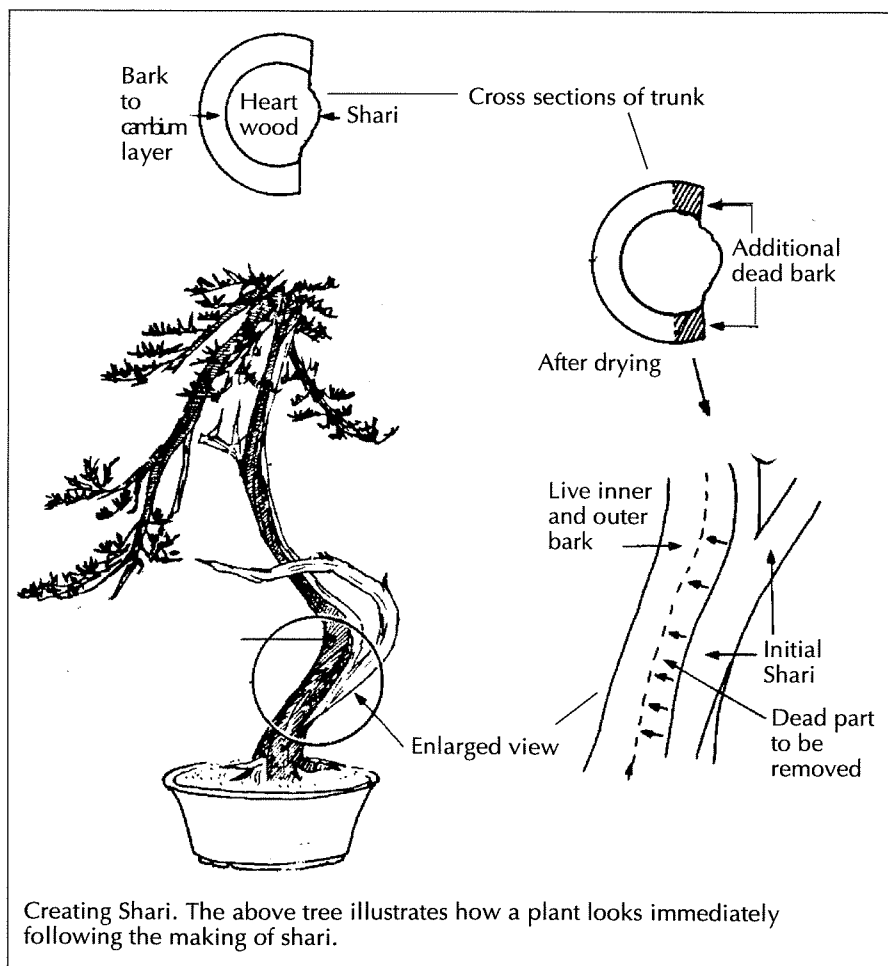
One frequently finds jin and shari on coniferous trees such as black pines, white pines, yews, shimpaku and other junipers. As for deciduous trees, the only one cited by the Japanese author is ume or Japanese apricot or plum.

### TOOLS NEEDED

In some instances a number of the same tool in diverse sizes may be needed to tackle different sized areas where the jin or shari are to be made. The tools should include a branch cutter, a knife, a sawer with a tapering blade (I've found that a hacksaw blade works very well), a variety of files and chisels of different sizes and shapes, and a mallet to use in conjunction with the wood chisels. Note that sandpaper is not suggested. Also, the modern use of rotary tools makes them likely substitutes for files, chisels and also sawers but not in every case since the tree's structure may inhibit getting into some locations.

### APPLYING LIME-SULFUR

When to apply lime-sulfur solution is after the dead wood has thor-

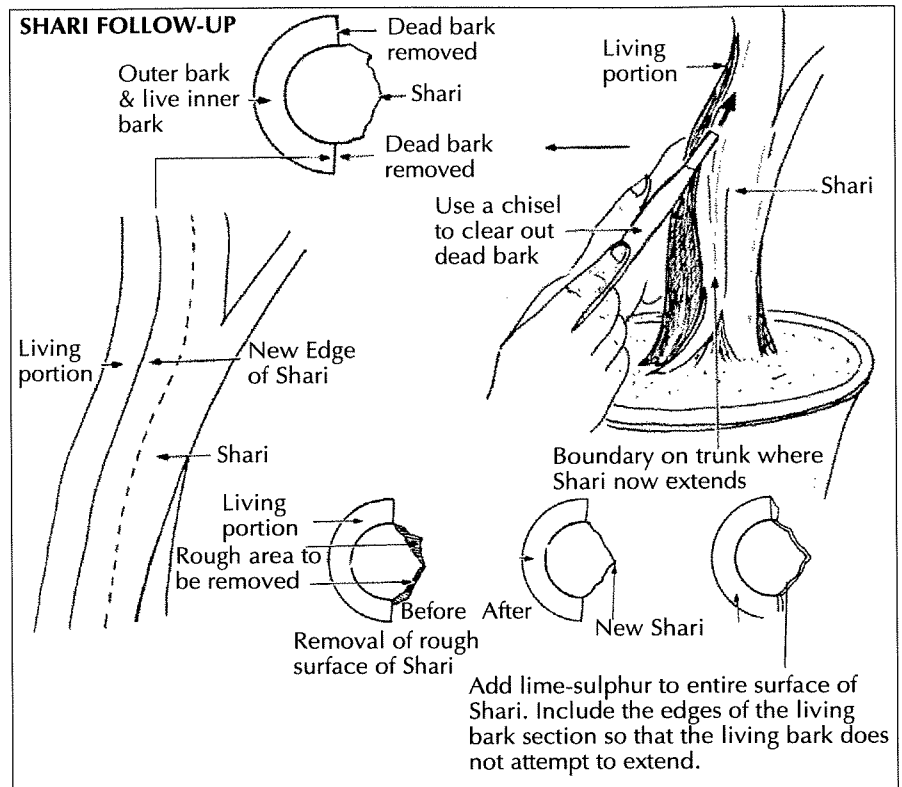


## Jin and Shari

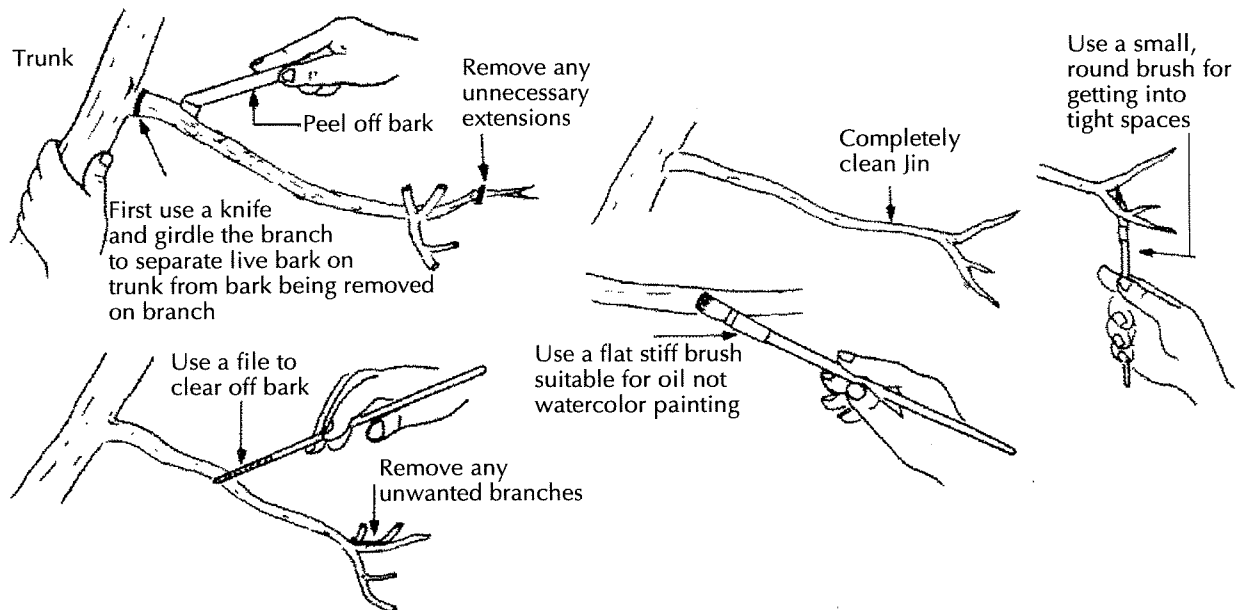
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oughly dried. If the lime-sulphur is applied immediately after the bark has been stripped off of living wood, the lime-sulphur may get into the sap and cause the jin or shari, it is best to wait until the wood has thoroughly dried otherwise the tools, especially the rotary ones, will be hard to use effectively on the "green" wood. The Japanese author suggests applying 2 to 3 coats of lime-sulphur for one treatment. Let the coats dry between applications.

For an additional source of information on jin one can also refer to Jerome Meyer's book *The BONSAI BOOK of PRACTICAL FACTS*.



## CREATING JIN



For branches where the bark has been completely removed, there is no cambium layer to transport the lime-sulphur to the rest of the tree causing it to possibly die. Hence one may apply lime-sulphur right after removing the bark.

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# Potomac Bonsai Association Membership Application

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**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

Family Membership

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Baltimore Bonsai Club

Bowie Bonsai Club

Brookside Bonsai Club

Chesapeake Bonsai Society

Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

Lancaster Bonsai Society

Mei-Hwa Penjing Society

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

Richmond Bonsai Society

Washington Bonsai Club

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Office (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB

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

Elaine Kendall, (410) 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) 554-3045

## 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

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