

## ARE YOU A BONSAI JUNKIE?????????

By Chris Yeapanis

### **YOU MAY BE A BONSAI JUNKIE IF:**

You brake for plant nurseries.  
 You leave your new purchases in the car until your spouse goes to sleep.  
 You run off the road eyeing trees in the ditches.

You show your bonsai by flashlight.  
 You covet your neighbors bushes.  
 You use credit cards to buy bonsai.  
 Your trunk is always full of collecting tools (i.e. the O.J. Kit).  
 You spend money on rocks.  
 You own more bonsai pots than trees.  
 You have leaf clippings on your carpet.

You now own a van or truck, which you spuriously justify because your spouse collects antiques.

Some of these came from Tom Dimig, a speaker at the Atlanta convention in February. I have added a few items of my own. My apologies to Tom for any plagiarism.

## ROOT OVER ROCK USING MOMIJI

By JULES KOETSCH

Momiji is the Japanese name for maples with palmated leaves having 5 or 7 lobes; while Trident maples, as the name implies, have only three leaves.

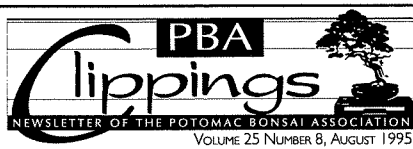
In preparing a bonsai, be careful not to wound or injure the trunk and branches - gentleness in handling is the keynote to obtaining a beautiful line to the trunk and thick spreading roots. This will be illustrated by the example which follows (attaching a bonsai planting to a rock (root-over-rock)). The use of momiji or kaede as the sapling plant is immaterial.

Continued on page 8



*This Root Over Rock Maple was seen at the 1975 PBA Spring Show. Our thanks to "Bonsai Bob" for the use of the photo albums.*

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

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Individuals residing within the Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia or Richmond metropolitan areas 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 Jeff Stephanic, 1305 Bayliss Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

#### Advertising Rates (until December 31, 1995):

Monthly rates: 1/6 page, \$12.50; 1/3 page, \$25.00; 1/2 page, \$37.50; full-page, \$75.00. 10% discount for 6 consecutive months prepaid, 20% discount for 12 consecutive months prepaid. Direct inquiries/payment (make checks payable to Potomac Bonsai Association) to: Jerry Antel, Jr. 6409 Middleburg Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 320-5251. Send ad copy to editor at address listed below for articles.

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

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## FROM THE EDITOR:

The other 2 editors of Clippings have been suggesting whenever the opportunity arises that my editorials should be shorter. Being long-worded or windy seems to be a trait of bonsai enthusiasts. This was pointed out to me many years ago when a gentleman gave a little talk about his impressions after being in bonsai for only a year. Among them was his mention that members of bonsai clubs were not as reticent as members in other kinds of clubs. Once you gave a bonsai member attention, you could not shut him up. He also noted that before he got hooked on bonsai, he could drive down the road completely relaxed. Once into bonsai, he found himself far from relaxed, tensely scanning the surroundings for bonsai candidates.

One might paraphrase Mark Twain's remark about golf - it's a good walk spoiled, and say bonsai is a good drive in the country spoiled.

To be on the safe side, I looked up the definition of 'editorial' in my 2 dictionaries, one published in 1961 and the other in 1971. Those ten years do make a difference in some definitions (e.g., the word 'gay'). Some time ago, I was trying to reconcile my definition of 'sport' as 'something one does for fun' against the sections in the newspapers labeled "SPORTS." In my youth, 'sports' were what one did for fun, whereas nowadays, it's a matter of how much money one can command. According to my 1961 Webster's dictionary, "sport- n., a. a source of diversion, RECREATION; b. sexual play." My 1971 American Heritage dictionary instead of "sexual play," has moved such reference to seventh place in the definition "Archaic; amorous dalliance; lovemaking." A more recently published dictionary will give among the definitions for "sport," a physical exercise engaged in for monetary gain.

During WWII, there was a story about Montgomery's troops in Africa. Every week, they would push Rommel back; and then the British would retire to Cairo for the weekend. On one of those weekends while in the Shepherd Hotel (an old Cairo landmark long since burned down), a British officer emerged naked from the bath to find an attractive chambermaid in his room. The British officer started to pursue the chambermaid, who managed to escape into the corridors of the hotel, with the officer stark naked and in hot pursuit. He was apprehended; and at the court-martial, his attorney did not say anything until it came time to give his summation. The attorney read from the Army Manual of Rules and Regulations, to wit: "Any officer engaged in a sport should be properly attired for that sport." Needless to say, the officer was acquitted, and I can now see why, based on the "archaic definition."

But here I go getting wordy again. I looked up the definition of "editorial" and both my dictionaries gave the definition as "a newspaper or magazine article that gives the opinions of its editors or publishers." There was no mention of length. Hereafter, my long editorials will become articles and my editorials will be short. The challenge now is to pick a short subject to editorialize.

This month's topic is "Have you viewed your bonsai at night?" About 2 months ago, I began making nightly visits to my bonsai in hopes of waylaying whatever was making holes in the leaves or chewing the edges on some of my deciduous trees. My daily stalking soirees have yielded an unimpressive body count of 4 June bugs, one gypsy moth caterpillar, and a few other strange bugs. Actually, one might expect that, since the extent of the damage to the leaves has been minor. Still, I strap the headlamp to my forehead, looking all the world like a cyclops in the dark. I also take a handheld flashlight in my left hand to enhance my viewing area, and a can of bug spray in my right, because I am right-handed and can pull a fast draw on anything before it scoots off. Although the number of kills has been far from encouraging, I've found two other reasons for continuing my nightly visits. First, there is a feeling of deep serenity seeing the bonsai asleep for another day. Second, the foliage takes on a different perspective. In the flashlight's beam, the foliage

Continued on page 15

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

**BOWIE BONSAI CLUB**

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

**BROOKSIDE BONSAI SOCIETY**

North Chevy Chase Recreation Center, Chevy Chase, MD  
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM  
(301) 365-7621

**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 SOCIETY**

Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA  
2nd or 3rd Wednesday, 7 PM  
(717) 394-0845

**MEI-HWA PENJING SOCIETY**

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

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY**

Greenspring Horticultural Center, Annandale, VA  
2nd Saturday, 10 AM  
(202) 554-3045

**RICHMOND BONSAI SOCIETY**

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

**WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB**

U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.  
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

## AUGUST

Saturday 12

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society.  
Green Spring Park at 10:00 am. Peter Jones on air-layering.

Sunday 20

Baltimore Bonsai Society  
Three Ring Circus and Charter Tree Month.  
The Meeting will be at Andy Cook's from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Please bring past year's Charter Tree to the meeting.

## SEPTEMBER

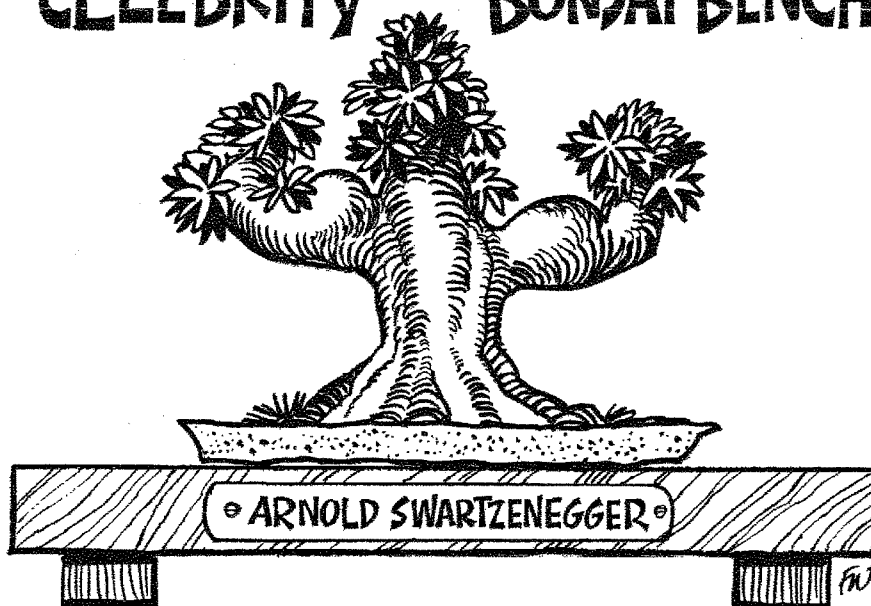
Saturday 9

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
PLANT SALE to be held at Green Springs Park at 10:00 am. Now is a good time of year to start thinking about winter storage.

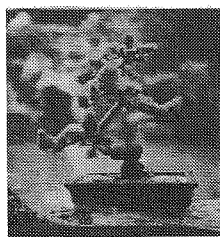
Sunday 24

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club.  
Planting the slabs made in June. Please bring the supplies (soil, "muck," and trees). The meeting is at 10:30 am at Clearwater Nature Center.

# CELEBRITY BONSAI BENCH



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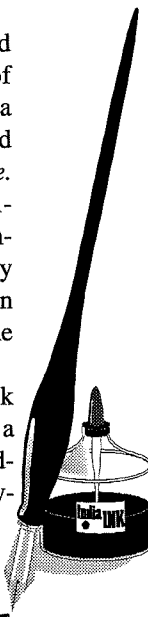
**Kamikaze Bonsai**

Sales of those cute little Japanese bonsai trees have doubled every year for the last five. But if you've ever bought one at your local mall and watched it die when you brought it home, you've probably didn't realize the tiny pine, juniper, maple, or ginko tree was never meant to live indoors. Bonsai made of traditional outdoor tree are not coffetable decorations. They can't thrive indoors for long. Furthermore, the inexpensive ones are relatively young and will grow and lose their shape if you don't prune and train them. The book, *Bonsai* (Sunset Publishing Corp.; \$8.99), is a good maintenance guide. Most reputable bonsai dealers also offer care instructions with every purchase.

Priscilla Richardson

This article is reprinted with the permission of the author, Priscilla Richardson, and *Women's Day Magazine*. The article was originally run in the December issue of 1993. Jerry Antel did all the pen work necessary to get the appropriate permission.

It is a very quick little article that gives a different spectrum readers a new hope for trying bonsai.



## MONTHLY CARE TIPS FOR AUGUST

### Watering:

The very hot and humid days, coupled with the very humid nights that a number of my bonsai do not use the water at a rate that may allow for one to skip a scheduled watering so that the roots don't root-rot. In some cases the reduced amount of water intake on the part of a plant may be due to the plant going into a "rest period" because of the high temperatures.

### Pruning:

Hinoki cypress sprouts can be plucked.  
Weeping willow can be pruned.

### Potting:

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

### Wiring:

In removing wire, it is best to cut it off instead of trying to reclaim it by unwinding the wire there by possible breaking branches and leaves.

At the end of august wiring can be started on Hinoki cypress, Shimpaku, Red pine, White pine, and Spruce. Needle shear White pine if desired.

Continue to be alert for any infestations. For some plants like Crepe Myrtle it is good policy to spray the plant with a mildew preventative before it appears. A heavy spray of water ;ate in the afternoon will dislodge such insects as aphids and spider mites so that they won't be able to get back on the plant.

## TREE OF THE MONTH

### AN EVOLVING GROUP OF TRIDENT MAPLES

(*Acer buergerianum*)

By Janet Lanham

About 25 years ago, I spotted some tiny trident maple seedlings sprouting under a tree in the garden of a friend. After asking permission (first rule in collecting), I pulled a few, took them home, and planted them in a flower bed. There they grew for several years, being often pinched back to about 6". Next, I planted some in a group on a nice flat rock taken from a New England stone wall (my own).

When we moved to Maryland 19 years ago, we brought with us many bonsai; among them, the maple group. Ten years ago, the rock broke into three pieces! I went to the shelf where I keep reserve pots and came upon a 22" by 10" unusual white glazed container that I had picked up, years ago, in a nursery in California. Until now it had never

seemed right for anything that I had tried with it. Here was an opportunity to try again.

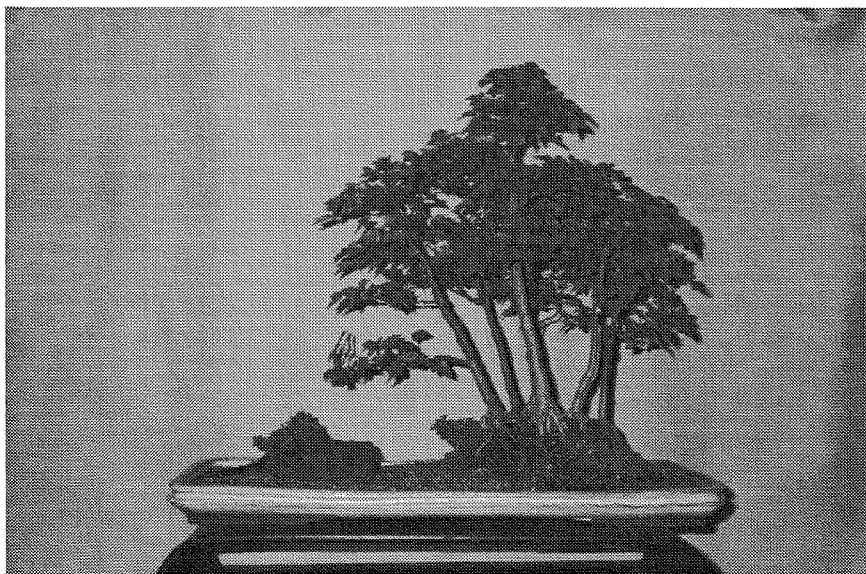
So I placed the maple group in the right side of the container, creating the "large island." Next, I placed a rock that I'd picked up on a beach on Cape Cod on the left, the "small island."

I was pleased with my seascape. After a year or so, I felt that the scene was a bit stark and lacked winter interest. Therefore, a small Kingsville box appeared on the small island. Time passed, and then it occurred to me that the small island and the large island should have some related plant material. So two more Kingsville box appeared under the maples.

One of the delights of bonsai for me is having a composition evolve. Who knows what the next development in this little group will be? Any suggestions?

#### *DID YOU KNOW:*

...Throw some moss, along with its own soil, into your blender (remove stones and unwanted pests), add five times their volume of water and whip it up. Pore over the surface of the soil in a bonsai pot, and you will get an even growth of moss,



## Review of "The Wonderful World of Azalea Bonsai"

### By Judy Wise

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF AZALEA BONSAI (sponsored by NBF, FONA and the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum), featuring Robert Mahler, the newly appointed "curator"\* of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden bonsai collection, was presented on April 2nd at the US Arboretum.

He worked for 9 years at Rosade Bonsai Studio and spent 3 1/2 years in Japan studying under Susumu Sudo. Not bad for a 25-year-old. Mr. Mahler related and demonstrated to the gathered group his experiences in Japanese working methods on azaleas, some much different than most of us have read or been trained in.

Mr. Sudo grows his azaleas in full sun. The soil mix is one part surface type material, one part stone (chicken grit),

and two parts pine bark. Fine soil is never used. Azalea is not grown in peat moss despite it's liking for acidity. Azaleas produce very fine hair roots near the surface which bind with the peat moss and make it impossible to "comb out" for repotting. They then form a mat which is often impervious to water. Repotting is done when the tree is in flower or just after, every 1-3 years. At least 2/3 of the existing soil is removed. Depending on the vigor of the plant, bare-rooting is done approximately every 4 years, and all soil is removed. A tree is defoliated when the plant is bare-rooted to decrease stress on the plant. The plant must be healthy before defoliation and bare-rooting.

Pot color was discussed and Mr. Mahler noted a preference for browns and reds.

Azalea tend to grow upward and have a tendency to have weak top growth. Pruning is done after flowering. A household, water-resistant glue is used on the cuts (rather than cut paste). Flowers are thinned to increase vigor in the tree. Plants are 'dried out' before wiring to alleviate the tendency of azalea to easily break or snap off. The "clip and grow" method works well.

Cascade styles do not do well in azalea because of the upward growth. Azalea do well in clump, forest, and informal and formal upright style.

Collecting of azalea is done while the plant is in flower and cuttings are easily done. Cuttings are planted in sand and perlite mixture which is plastic-bagged to increase the humidity.

Continued on Page 11

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### THINGS CHANGE - YET THINGS REMAIN

As we commence a new term with a new group of officers for PBA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our departing officers on behalf of the Association. They served this organization admirably and most unselfishly.

A special measure gratitude to Chris Yeapanis and Arschel Morrell- our past president and educational V.P., respectively.

Thanks are also due Arash Afshar (who takes over as Educational V.P.) and, of course, to Julie Walker and Jerry Antel, who continue as Secretary and Treasurer. The thread of continuity makes for a smoother transition; and with

the assistance of our new Vice-President, Cindy Blackburn, your officers promise to try to live up to the long tradition of excellence that is the legacy of our previous leaders. Our public relations, membership, and newsletter officers also deserve accolades for their performance and consistency.

Our major projects for the coming year will center around:

1) Assisting to the best of our ability, the completion of the current projects at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the Arboretum.

2) Producing an excellent and memorable IBC '96 Convention, which we are hosting in July--as we did in 1976 and 1986.

3) Continuing to support and encourage bonsai activities and educational opportunities for our members and member clubs.

Thank you all very much for the trust and confidence you have shown me, and for the honor of serving as your President for the next two years.

Joe Gutierrez

## Root Over Rock, continued from page 1

### SELECTING THE TREE AND PREPARING THE POT

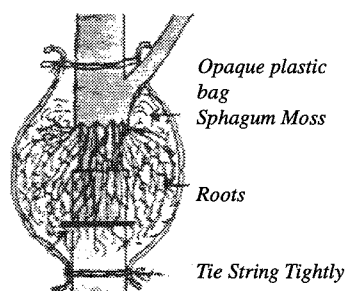
Initially, one should select the style of tree desired, single trunk, multi-trunk, etc. The tree selection for this article is from tree stock with the desired twin trunk structuring for air-layering.

**Tree Selection Method:** To begin, clear away the excess growth around the region where the twin trunk air-layered section will be removed from the parent tree stock. The main trunk section should be as thick as an adult's little finger to be qualified for the task in hand.

The air-layering process should be done at the time of entry into the rainy season or the beginning of plum picking time. Beneath the crotch of the two trunks, remove a 3 centimeter (1 inch) length of bark and cambium completely ringing the trunk. Make the edge of the bark/cambium at the top a sawtooth or "lightning stroke" cut.

Next, apply moist red clay, which can be molded, to the whittled tree lignum portion, forming a dumpling shape. (NOTE: Tissue paper can be used to cover the wet clay before adding sphagnum moss to thereby prevent the clay from being dislodged when placing the moss.) Snugly tie an opaque piece of plastic with string at the bottom of the air-layered section, see illustration 1, and form a plastic bag. Insert sphagnum moss which has been soaked in water. The sphagnum moss should cover the air-layered segment for about 10 centimeters (4 inches). The top of the bag should be tied so that the sphagnum moss can be checked for moisture content.

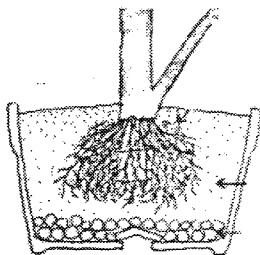
The sphagnum moss must not be allowed to dry for the next 40 to 60 days and water must be applied to prevent this. When roots emerge from the bottom hole of the bag, stop watering of the sphagnum moss through the top hole of the bag, because the twin trunk section is ready for removal.



Cut at line when ready for removal

Illustration 1

*Sphagnum moss was not removed from root ball just planted in the pot.*



*Potting soil: 7 parts red clay, 3 parts paulownia tree sand. Large red clay pellets at the bottom of the pot for drainage.*

Illustration 2

**Potting Method for the Selected Tree:** When the roots fill the bag, sometime during the month of August, it is time to pot the air-layered, selected tree.

Illustration 2 shows where the selected tree is cut free from the lower part of the tree. Prepare an unglazed pot for the transplanting. Put large red clay pellets in the bottom for drainage, and on top of that put a potting soil mixture of 7 parts red clay, and 3 parts mountain sand or paulownia tree sand. The selected tree is placed in the pot without removing the sphagnum moss from the roots, but the root clump is loosened a little before potting. Hide a portion of the trunk above the root clump just below the soil level. Water the tree adequately. After one to two weeks have elapsed, during which time the tree is subject to some air movement, place the tree in a sunny place.

Three weeks after potting the tree, place three tamahi (rape seed) dumplings on the soil in three separate locations. When the dumplings need replenishing, place another three at separate locations intermediate between the locations for the preceding dumplings. As for watering, water three times everyday in the Summer, two times everyday in the Autumn, and once every two days in the Winter. Water until it comes out of the hole at the bottom of the pot.

In this first year interval, fertilize except from the end of October to the end of March, apply water generously. In February of the following year, prune to leave two or three sprouts remaining on each branch.

### PRUNING ATTACHING TREE TO ROCK, POTTING, LEAF CLIPPING

The third year is the period for pruning, attaching the tree to the rock, potting the combination, and leaf clipping.

**Spring Pruning:** Spring pruning is done between February 20th and March 20th. Do not fertilize at this time. Remove unwanted (useless) branches and for those branches growing side-by-side on the trunk, remove branches alternating from side-to-side up the tree always leaving one branch in place of the two "bar" branches. The same alternate cutting procedure applies to the smaller branches. All in all, retain an overall symmetry to the tree. The above effort involving the pruning of the tree during this particular time of the month, is warranted since it will bring about a balance in the tree's energy between the roots and the upper portion during the following months. See illustration 3 on page 12.

**Rock Attaching and Potting:** During March 20th through 31st is the time to pot the tree. Remove the tree from the training pot, remove the soil from the roots, and spread the roots over the selected rock.

## 1995 21st Annual Potomac Bonsai Association Symposium

### October 7th and 8th, 1995

### National Wildlife Federation, Tysons Corner, VA

#### Preliminary Program:

#### Saturday, October 7

8:00-9:00 Registration  
 8:00-5:00 Bazaar Open  
 9:00-12:00 Demonstration by  
 Arschel Morell and Steve Pilacik  
 12:00-1:00 Lunch (included with  
 registration)  
 1:00-4:00 Arschel Morell and  
 Steve Pilacik continue  
 4:00 Raffle of demo trees

#### Sunday, October 8

9:00 Bazaar Opens  
 9:00-11:00 Arschel Morell Tree  
 Critique  
 11:00-1:00 Steve Pilacik Tree Cri-  
 tique  
 1:00-2:00 Lunch On Your Own  
 2:00-5:30 Workshops (Extra Fee  
 to participate)  
 1. Beginner - Spencer  
 2. Dwarf Spruce - Morell  
 3. Japanese Black Pine - Pilacik

Note: Workshops require symposium registration.

The 1995 PBA Symposium is just that - a complete PBA event. All speakers will be PBA bonsaiists. It is going to be fun and inexpensive

#### EVENT.

Saturday will feature all-day lecture/demonstrations by PBA's Arschel Morell and Steve Pilacik. Arschel runs Bonsai Associates in Baltimore, Md. He will be working on a spruce which was grown from seed and is about 35 years old. Arschel says it does not look interesting, but he will make it interesting. Steve, who runs Matsu-Momiji Nursery in Philadelphia, Pa, will work on two trees. First, he is going to create a 3- to 5-tree group or clump style using Japanese Black Pine. Last, he will work on one of his "finished" Japanese Black Pines. He will be doing the "fine detail" work required to achieve a quality tree.

Sunday will feature a 2-hour tree critique by Arschel, and then another 2 hours by Steve. Sunday will finish up with 3 workshops in the afternoon. The beginners workshop, will be lead by Bill Spencer, who, I have been told by more than one person, is an excellent teacher for beginners.

#### LOW COST.

We will keep the symposium registration fee at \$50 for the weekend. This is still the most reasonable symposium

in the USA! Workshop fees will only pay for our expenses. The fee will include coffee breaks and lunch on Saturday; and the fifth annual PBA sponsored bonsai stamp cancellation, a real collector's item.

**WORKSHOPS.** Arschel's workshop will feature a dwarf Norway Spruce 12"-18" tall in 2-gallon containers. Steve's workshop will use Japanese Black Pines selected by Steve. PBA will furnish wire for the workshops.

You bring your tools. The beginner's workshop will furnish tree, pot, wire, and soil, and you bring tools if you have them.

**LOCATION.** The symposium will be held at the National Wildlife Federation in Tyson's Corner, Va. If you need a break, you can walk the beautiful grounds. If you want your spouses or friends to come along, and they are not interested in bonsai, they can spend days in the Tyson's Corner area finding things to do. Within 10 minutes of the symposium and the hotel there are Great restaurants, shopping, movie theaters, and other entertainments.

#### SATURDAY DINNER.

A dinner banquet (at additional charge) is being arranged. We will notify you as soon as possible, which might be after registration, if necessary.



## PBA Symposium Registration Form

Please photocopy or cut this page on the dotted lines and mail with symposium/workshop(s) fees (payable to Potomac Bonsai Association) to Jerry Antel at 6409 Middleburg Lane, Bethesda, MD, 20817; 301-320-5251. See below for hotel information.

Mail this to Jerry Antel, 6409 Middleburg Lane, Bethesda, MD, 20817; 301-320-5251

**I/wewish to attend:**

	Non-Member*	Member	Number	Total
<b>Lecture/Demo Program</b> (Workshops separate see below):				
Entire Program (Sat & Sun)	\$80.00	\$50.00	_____	_____
<b>(Workshops open to full registrants only)</b>				
<b>Workshops:</b>				
Morell		\$55.00	_____	_____
Pilacik		\$85.00	_____	_____
Beginners		\$25.00	_____	_____
*Non-member registration fee includes one year membership to PBA including subscription to PBA Clippings.			<b>Total Due</b>	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (office) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Club \_\_\_\_\_

For Symposium registration, please make checks payable to: Potomac Bonsai Association

COMFORT INN  
1587 Springhill Road, Vienna, VA, 22182  
703-448-8020

When calling the hotel you must mention Potomac Bonsai Association (PBA) to receive the \$59.00 rate per Single or Double. This Rate includes Breakfast.

## Azalea Review, continued from page 6

Fertilizer balls and commercial fertilizers are used during the growing season, and commercial sprays are used for pest control. Fertilizing is not done after repotting (and particularly after bare-root repotting), for at least a month until regrowth is evident. During the early months of the year (January & February), the bark of the tree is scrubbed with a small brush (e.g., toothbrush) to remove the scaly or shaggy bark.

\* Because of union regulations, Mr. Mahler's title is Bonsai Collection Gardener.

Editor's Footnote: If you are potting your azaleas and intend to use kanuma soil, you can emulate the Japanese who do not add any other ingredients to the kanuma soil when potting azaleas.



## WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU GRAFT SHIMPAKU TO CALIFORNIA JUNIPER ?

By Roy Nagatoshi

California juniper is one of the most popular, prized, and demanded bonsai plants in the Southern California area. These junipers have much coarser foliage and root systems compared to Shimpaku or Sargent junipers. They are indigenous to the arid desert-like region in California; they are collected by bonsai hobbyists for bonsai material. Most collectors seek aged junipers with many interesting characters - natural jin, shari, contorted trunks, etc. In the process of collecting, often the root system and tops of the plants are drastically pruned back. After collecting, they are very carefully nurtured in growing containers; not all collected plants will survive the ordeal of drastic pruning. The surviving junipers may flourish quickly into lush plants and others may live but not flourish as well.

The bonsai in the picture was originally one that survived the ordeal of collecting but did not quite flourish enough for creating a healthy and lush bonsai. It did have a natural and very interesting

shari trunk and some jin. About 14 years ago, applying the technique of approach grafting, two shimpaku were grafted - one on the main trunk and the other on the lower main branch of this California juniper.

The combination of California juniper as stock and shimpaku as the scion is very compatible for grafting. Utilizing in a bonsai the wonderful characteristics of a California juniper and the lush, dense quality foliage of a shimpaku is the main purpose of grafting. Once the graftings take, the fine dense foliage feeding the stock and its root system has a much greater efficiency and degree of photosynthesis, causing its graft union scar to heal faster and also promote a greater and healthier root mass which in turn promotes a healthier top.

After twelve years of diligent care and training, this shimpaku bonsai has developed the quality and appearance as viewed in the picture. The tree is 28" in height, 32" in width and has a 4" diameter trunk.

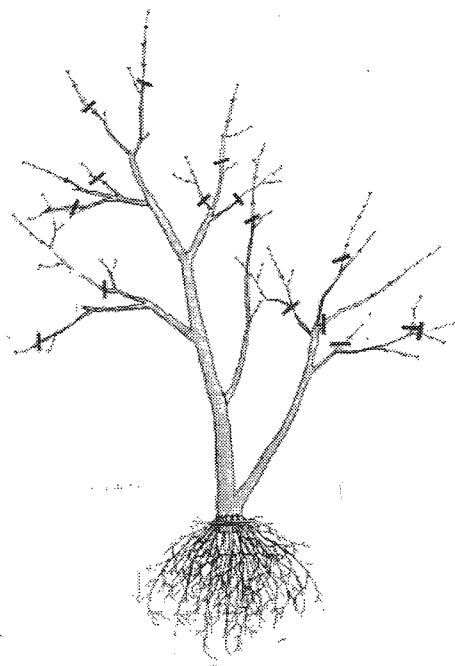


# Root over Rock, continued from page 7

(- Line for pruning)

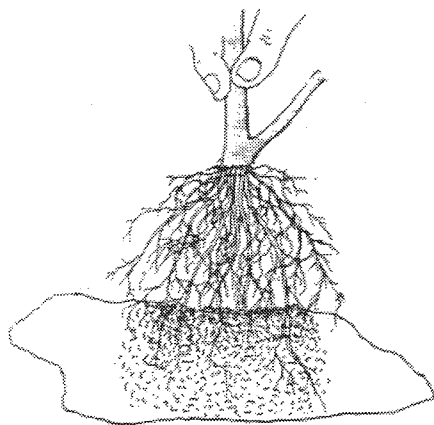
The first thing to do is cut away the whittled and dead portion of the tree.

Do Not cut the roots, just unravel them.



During the second year, branches have sprouted at will due to fertilization. Cut away unwanted and also new growth leaving 2 to 3 sprouts.

Illustration 3



Place on the rock, a thin coat of  
by parts:

- 5 sphagnum moss
  - 3 red sand
  - 2 river sand
- knead with water.

Illustration 4

Avoid using a rock which is porous or of volcanic origin, decide on the front and spread the roots over the rock and bind with Nanking hemp.

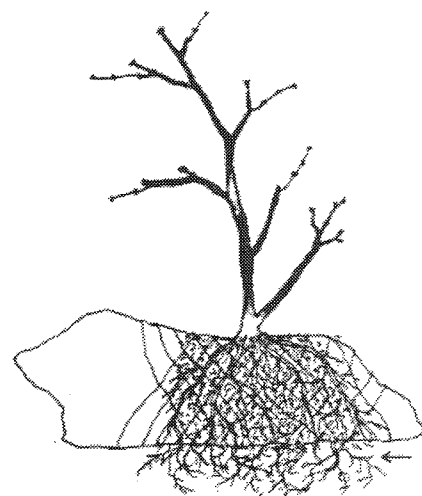


Illustration 5

Tree with the roots tied with the Nanking hemp

Avoid placing the base of the tree over the center of the rock. Avoid selecting a rock of a volcanic or porous substance, or one which is black and has any holes. Before positioning the tree, cover the rock with a thin layer of the following soil mix which has been kneaded to a claylike consistency using water (5 parts sphagnum moss, 3 parts red clay, and 2 parts river sand).

Before placing the tree on the rock, remove the tree lignum section where the bark had been removed for air-layering (see the illustration). The tree is joined to the stone by overlaying the roots with a layer of Nanking hemp (cheese-cloth is a suitable, biodegradable substitute).

The hemp will, in time, decay. Next, place a kneaded soil mix, using water again to make it the right texture. The soil mix proportions are 5 parts sphagnum moss, 3 parts red clay, and 2 parts river sand. Use enough to just cover the roots. On top of the above, place moss which has been soaked in water to prevent any loss of the soil from the roots during subsequent waterings.

The moss ends where the soil level of the pot is to be. Use a shallow pot and avoid placing the root-over-rock combination in the center of the pot when viewed from the front. In planting the root-over-rock, insure that potting soil is filled in around the roots and under the rock. Of course, the base of the pot should be lined with a layer of large, red

clay pellets to permit drainage. The potting soil mix consists of 7 parts red clay, and 3 parts river sand. The tree should stabilize in the pot in one week and be ready for removal to an outdoor shelf. Start the first application of tamahi (rape seed oil dumplings) around April 10th, placing 2 to 3 at different locations.

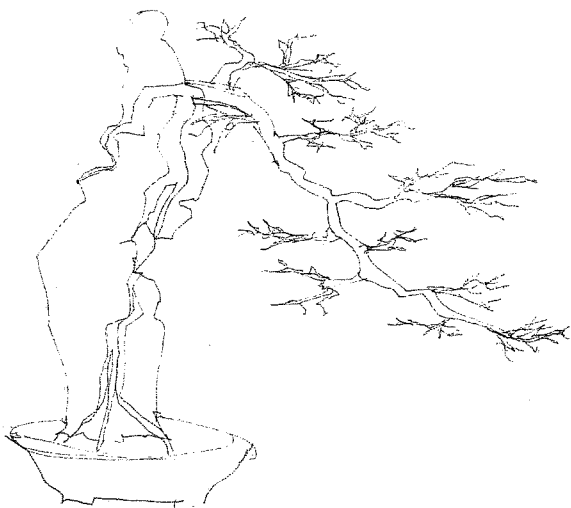
After a small period of time, the tree may not have grown roots thick enough for removing the soil and hemp to expose the roots on the rock. In order to grow thick, robust roots, the root-rock combination with the soil and hemp in place, can be planted in a field as shown in the illustration. The roots will definitely grow quickly into fat, robust ones in a year. Thereafter, repot as before.

**To Be Continued Next Month**

The above article was adapted from the Japanese article authored by Mr. Takenma Takenai which appeared in "Ways to Create Deciduous Bonsai with Illustrations".

The two articles on maples appearing herein, the one on Momiji or 5 lobed leaf maples and the Tree of the Month on Trident maples with 3 lobed leaves can in a way be considered a tribute to David Dambowic, one of the long standing members of PBA and NVBS who died suddenly on May 22nd. Dave was the designer of the current PBA logo which was designed in 1981.

Dave, a very soft-spoken and gentleman, was an expert on maples and was always willing to answer questions of those who asked. Dave studied under Yugi Yoshimura in New York and was very interested and knowledgeable in Japanese and Chinese art, gardening and architecture. He was a trained architect and worked for many years with Fairfax County (his last participation was in the new County building) and was helpful in getting the County to complete Green Spring Park. In his later years, his declining health did not allow him to actively participate in PBA and club activities as much as he would have liked, but he usually attended the meetings/lectures (sat in the front row). Those of us who knew Dave will miss him very much.



*Drawing by Dave Dambowic, given to layout editor prior to his death. See other sketches page 14*

## David Dambowic Memorial Fund

Dave Dambowic, one of our long standing members of PBA, died suddenly. A memorial fund has been set up at the National Bonsai Foundation and the funds will be used, to assist in-the completion of the Bonsai Museum, specifically the display a excellent Bonsai containers. Those interested in contributing to this memorial fund are asked to send their check made payable to the National Bonsai Foundation (the donation, is tax deductible) and note on the check-that the donation is for the Dambowic Fund. The contribution should be sent to Mary Ann Orlando, Executive Director, National Bonsai Foundation, PO Box 3237, Washington, DC 20007. Also write on the envelope Dambowic Fund. We hope that many will contribute it will not only memorialize Dave but help NBF to complete the bonsai museum funding.

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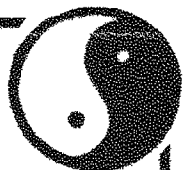
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**Editorial, continued  
from page two**

casts shades of color differing from what one sees in daylight. Unhealthy leaves stand out. Also, I found the compound leaves on my European mountain ash and my mimosa closing up at night.

As you can see, the above editorial got lengthy and could have been reduced to just the preceding paragraph. I promise to try to do better next month.