

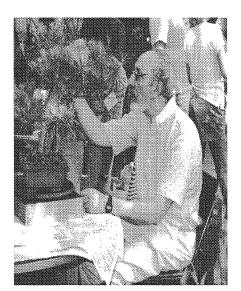
Dambowic Collection Auctioned for National Bonsai Foundation

PBA is pleased to auction trees from the collection of Dave Dambowic, a long-time member of PBA and Northern Virginia. Dave, a native of New York, was a trained architect. His last architectural work was with the new Fairfax County building. The PBS logo was drawn by Dave.

He loved things oriental and collected books, prints, pots and bonsai. He collected Japanese maples of many variety and he was an expert in identifying them. He also had knowledge of bamboo and grew several different varieties. Dave trained under Yugi Yoshimura and had been doing bonsai for over 30 years.

From his collection, PBA will have approximately 30 trees for auction, ranging from a very few beginner trees (black pine) to large and outstanding 5-needle pine, weeping hemlock and spruce. There trees have been in training for many years and have large trunks and full foliage. All of the larger trees are in Japanese pots of top guality. In between there is a range of trees - shimpaku, scotch pine, dwarf hemlock - most in bonsai pots, though some are in nursery containers.

All PBA members, and others interested in inspecting the trees and having an opportunity to purchase are urged to attend the auction on November the 11th at Green Springs Park. (The Park is located behind Jerry's Ford on Littleriver Turnpike/Braddock Road area)



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|----------|--------|------------|--------|
| National | Ronsai | Collection | Clased |

The National Bonsai Collection will be closed Oct 13 - Nov 16 for Construction. The Construction will entail repairing or replacing red wood beams, painting and other maintenance to the everything in tip top shape. The reopening date is dependent on Mother Nature's cooperation due construction. Please note these dates on your calendar.

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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 on the last page of this newsletter.

NON-MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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.

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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:

A while back I had the privilege of viewing a video of John Y. Naka repotting his creation - Goshin, the crown jewel of the U.S. National Bonsai and Penjing Museum collection. Goshin (Guard or Protector of the Spirit) should be well-known to everyone in bonsai. It's a 9-tree forest of Juniperus Chinensis var. Foemina. It came about when John added a tree for each of his 9 grandchildren. In 1992 in Washington, D.C., with Goshin on the stage, John Y. Naka was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts for his contribution to the traditional arts. At that time, someone asked what he would do if he had another grandchild. He replied in effect that it was remote that there would be any more grandchildren. However, he admitted to having his first great grandchild. The next obvious question was, "What are you going to do now, John?" His reply was, "Well, I guess I'll start another forest planting."

Getting back to the repotting of Goshin. John, his wife Alice, and Marybel Balendonck had come from California in April of this year. The repotting took place on April 6th - note it was one of the recommended months for repotting. John had been invited to evaluate the National Collection. There was a roundabout discussion as to shall we/shall we not repot Goshin. John finally broke the stalemate by saying, "Let's do it." After all, it was 20 years since it became a part of the National Collection, and that's how long it had been since it was last repotted. Sort of makes one think about the 2,3,5 years for repotting most of us have learned. Goshin was lifted off of its place of honor in the collection and trundled off to the Yoji Yoshimura Center. The first step in the repotting was to use curved knives to cut around the inside edge of the pot to free the root mass from the pot. This cut was further widened to about 2 inches for the repotting soil. At that time, John put out of contention any other steps that may have come to mind save the repotting, saying that he definitely does not believe in the following colloquialism - "While we're at it let's do...... also." At the start you should definitely establish what you do or do not need to do. In other words, stay focused on the one task at

Once the root mass was totally relieved from the edge of the pot, the planting was lifted enmasse from the pot. This was no problem, since a forest planting which has been in a pot a number of years before repotting develops an intertwining root mass - as if it were a single plant.

The subject of the drainage holes was next discussed. Drainage for such a forest planting is important. If my memory is correct (and don't ask my wife for it isn't what it used to be), John once confided that he had lost a tree in the central portion of Goshin. He made certain there was a hole under or close by the location before putting in a replacement tree. From the editor's experience with forest plantings, it pays to have at least one backup tree. (Recently, I lost the main horn-beam in a forest planting for no discernible reason, bought some more hornbeams, and redid the arrangement. I hesitated about separating the root systems of the existing forest's trees. So far so good, the new forest is surviving. I am not sure that the trees would have survived if the roots had been more intertwined.)

John said that he would like plastic instead of galvanized wire mesh to cover the holes. He noted that the galvanized wire has a tendency to eventually rust, and in so doing, may clog the openings or simply rust away. (Probably one of the hazards associated with very long time periods between repottings.) Bob Drechsler asked John, "What color do you want? We have white, green and red." John, shifting to his pixie mood, answered, "Pink." The plastic screening material used was what is sold by craft stores for needlepoint aficionados.

Meeting location and club contact number for addiional information is as listed unless otherwise noted n 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, I 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)245-2726

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16

Sunday Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

Rock planting, bringing plantings back from Spring of 1994 workshops and discussion on where to go from here.NOTE: This is not the 4th

11 Saturday Norhtern Virginia Bonsai Club Auction of David Dambowic's Collection. ALL

are encouraged to come. The auction will start at 10:00 am. There will be more details in next month's "Clippings".

Thursday Brookside Bonsai Society

Panel discussion on winter storage and preparations. Many intersting aspects will be coveredranging form "how to:..." to different types of actual storage.

18 Saturday

Washington Bonsai Club

Workshop on styling using tropical material conducted by Martha Meehan. Monday

27

Richmond Bonsia Society

Garage Sale of baonsia material supplemtned with a bonsai video. The fun and excitimetn will start at 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Have a merry Christmas Season to all. Most clubs are having their annual Christmas Parties. Club representatives, please submit your new 1996 calendar as soon as they are available. The Clippings goes to the printer by the 14th of every month and the staff would like to have at least 2 months of events in advance so that if any one wants to attend other activities the necessary arrangements can be made. Thank you for all your cooperation.

Golden State Bonsai Federation presents "Bonsai: The Art of Dedication" on November 2-5, 1995

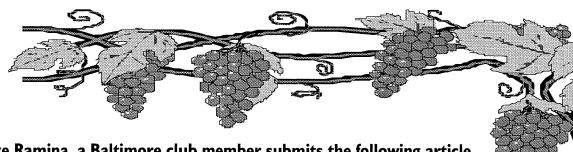
Forest Bonsai Workshop by Dan Chiplis using Acer palmatum. The workshop is limited and a fee charged. Please call the Arboretum at 202-245-2726 for more information.

PBA wide soil order? Any one interested?

PBA is investigating a source of pre mixed bonsai soil for purchase by clubs and club members. The soil comes in 50 pound bags and the price will be very reasonable and will be dependent on interest (shipping charges).

Please contact your club president so bulk orders can be made for spring arrival.

More infromation and pricing will be in the next issue of "Clippings".



Mike Ramina, a Baltimore club member submits the following article for our reading pleasure.

TASTY GRAPES FROM TINY VINES

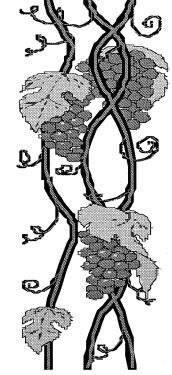
You don't have to be an oenophile or a practitioner of the ancient Japanese art of bonsai to appreciate Petite Vines. A local reader loves hers so much that she wrote to tell me about it. "When I received it a few months ago," she says, "it had a cluster or two of tiny seeds that have turned into sweet, edible grapes!"

The bonsai grape varietals are pruned and trained for several years before they are ready to ship. They are capable of bearing the fruit of such varieties as cabernet, chardonnay, zinfandel, pinot noir, merlot, and sauvignon blanc, although not all the plants will produce grapes every year.

The vines, no more than a foot high, range in price from \$60 to \$80. For more information, call (707) 433-6255.

---Elizabeth Large, On the Home Front, The Sun, 501 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21278





MONTHLY CARE TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Subtropicals and root-over-rock or root-on-rock plantings and those on slabs should have been put into whatever winter protection program you have. Other bonsai can be left unprotected until they have been exposed to two frosts and then winterized. Winters in this area do not get too severe, but there is always an exception (such as the winter of 1977-1988). Temperatures fell to between -2 F and -10 F. I remember that the temperature plummeted to that range on Christmas Day. I lost a few bonsai as the result of overlooking the closing of one exhaust vent in my polyhouse. The only advice I can give is for you to place your bonsai so that you can cover them with a trash can or plastic sheet when the temperatures get around O F.

Watering can be cut back to once a day or every other day if the plants are not taking up water on a daily basis. Remember Jack Wickle's advice to let the soil almost dry out before rewatering. Then again, when in winter storage do not let the plants dry out.

Fertilizing is discontinued starting in November and is not started until late February and/or March of the next year.

Pruning to shape can be done on cotoneaster, gardenias, holly, Ilex and pyracantha.

On black pine, dead or 2-year-old needles can be removed over the period of time between mid-November and the end of December.

TREE OF THE MONTH

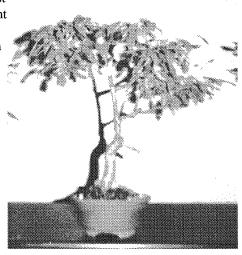
This Crabapple was collected by Dr. Richard Meszler and was acquired in an October 1984 workshop he conducted at that year's PBA Symposium.

Dr. Meszler took a picture of the tree before the workshop, and prepared a drawing of two proposed or suggested styles. The intent was to follow

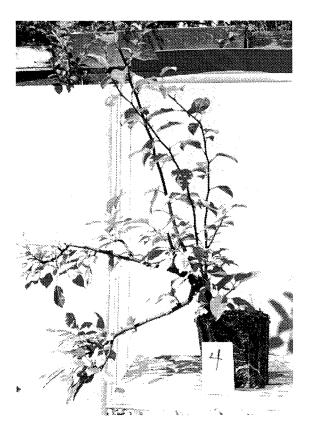
the semi-cascade style using the lowest branch. For disaster planning, the right upright was kept.

Unfortunately, the cascade branch cracked while in the process of being bent and efforts failed to keep it alive. So, it is now upright and still going some 11 years later with much training, and more changes to come. The ever living art of Bonsai.

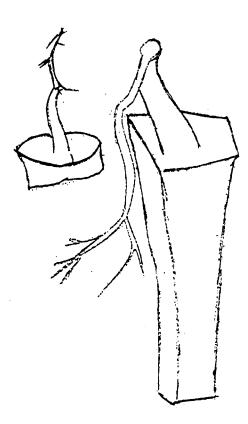
Fred Eiland



Tree taken at 1995 PBA Fall Symposium



Tree as seen in the 1984 PBA Fall Symposium.



Sket ch done by Richard Meszler prior to the workshop.

President's Message

We are now well into Autumn and Indian Summer has come and gone. Our trees are in dormancy; and soon it will be time to put them away for the winter. Usually at this time of year, bonsai activities begin to slow down for many of us. True die hards will continue to feverishly work on plans for next year, prepare potting mixes, plan major tree restyling, and even continue to work in the relative warmth and comfort of our garages to maintain bonsai activities for the Winter. Many, like Redskin fans, simply say "wait until next year."

For members of PBA, when we say "wait until next year," we should not only be thinking about what our trees will look like when Spring comes around. We should also be thinking about our major Spring Show and, most of all, about the major event of our next year, the annual BCI Convention of 1996.

For the Spring Show, we should all be trying to groom our best and most special trees so that we can mount the best Spring Show ever had. All of us have noticed, with great pleasure, the ever improving quality of our shows, and this has definitely been due to the improved quality of the trees presented. Many of the trees will go on to further fame, being selected for the exhibit held in conjunction with BCI '96.

As far as the BCI Convention '96 goes, your officers and committee and program chairpersons will continue to work feverishly through the Winter, Spring, and early Summer to assure its great success. For those of you who have the time to spare, please volunteer your time and efforts so that next year's convention is truly a team effort. PBA has great expertise and experience derived from its Annual Spring Show and it's Annual Auction, as well its Annual Fall Symposium. Many of our members have

volunteered for the various committees, but we can always use all the help we can get.

Additionally, the major feature of next year's festivities will be the grand opening and dedication of the International Pavilion at the Arboretum. For those of you who have not done so, I would encourage you to make a donation to the National Bonsai Foundation toward the support of the very worthwhile National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.

Watch these pages closely for further announcements and news regarding the upcoming convention next year. For those of you who are individual members of BCI, much information will also be published in Bonsai Magazine. For those who are not individual members of BCI, I would encourage you to join and receive this excellent publication.

Joseph E. Gutierrez, M.D. November 1995



TILL DEATH DO US PART BY JUDY WISE

Have you given thought to what will happen to your collection when you die! Not a pleasant thought, but one to consider if you value your work and truly appreciate your trees.

The recent death of one of our club members, and the ensuing problems, have given cause to this article. Who will care for your trees? What will happen to them and your bonsai pots?

In the case noted above, none of the family members knew anything about gardening, let alone bonsai. There was

no knowledge of trimming, fertilizing or even watering. And "outside" individuals suddenly expressed great interest in being gifted with some of the deceased's work. All told, it was a traumatic time for the family, made ever more difficult by not knowing what to do.

Since bonsai are living things, timing is of the essence. Trees cannot wait for weeks or months to settle legal things. Your family, or friends, should know what should be done with your collec-

tion and this should be done immediately. Let your bonsai friends know your wishes so they can offer assistance to your family and help dispose of your collection accordingly.

If your collection is worth anything to you, make a will for your bonsai. Indicate what should happen to your collection (trees, pots, tools). And, most importantly, let your family know your wishes and get them to agree to carry them out.

"THE BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER NEW YORK News and Notes" presents: Expert Advice For All Seasons

- 1) To keep bamboo small: i) peel it (majority of bonsai professionals, including Harry Tomlinson); or ii) just containerize it—peeling bamboo would kill it (Brendan Earls).
- 2) i) Evergreens need light even when dormant—if necessary to place in dark location (e.q. windowless garage) during extreme winter conditions, remove to lighted area as soon as possible (minority); or ii) evergreens do not need light when dormant; they can spend the entire winter in underground pits with dark covers (majority, including Yuji Yoshimura).
- 3) To develop a root-over-rock design most quickly in those cases where the roots have already attained sufficient length to reach over the rock into the soil, attach the roots to the rock in the desired configuration and: i) bury the entire assemblage in soil so as to cover rock and all roots, or, if planting at a shallower depth, mound moss covered soil over any exposed roots (majority, including Deborah Koreshoff and Melba Tucker); or ii) plant assemblage at desired level for display, leaving roots above that level exposed (Kathy Shaner).
- 4) When planning to wire a tree: i) don't water it the day before, as limp branches are less likely to break (majority, including Hu Yun Hua); or ii) water well before styling, as the techniques are stressful to trees, and you want them in peak condition to withstand such stress (Kathy Shaner).
- 5) When using more than one wire to shape a trunk or branch: i) place the multiple wires as closely together as possible while coiling them up the tree to provide the most strength (majority); or ii) space the multiple wires as evenly apart as possible to provide the most sup-

port for the tree while providing strength equal to that of wires placed next to each other (Dan Robinson, Mas Imazumi).

- 6) Before wiring a branch: i) have a definite plan in mind, as the branch should be bent only once at any one spot (bending back and forth, alternately compressing and stretching the cells will kill a branch) (majority, including Joe Harris); or ii) "exercise" the branch along its entire length sufficiently to loosen the bark so that the bark doesn't crack when the branch is bent after wiring (Kathy Shaner).
- 7) i) Late fall and early winter are the best times to prune many species, especially those such as pines and maples which bleed heavily when cut during the active growing season (majority). ii) Never prune any outdoor material during the late fall or early winter. The tree being dormant, the cut areas will not be able to heal, will become desiccated, and will die back (various).
- 8) In re branch placement: i) primary branches should originate around the trunk in a 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3 formation, and should originate on the outside of major curves (if any) (most Western bonsaiists); or ii) primary branches should originate in a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 formation (Marcial Rodriguez); or iii) it doesn't matter where the branches originate, so long as the foliage pads are located at the outside of major bends (Jerry Meislik); or iv) it doesn't matter where the branches originate, so long as they complement the focal point of the tree (Dan Robinson).
- 9) When fully wiring a tree: i) never cross wires (majority); or ii) it doesn't matter if you cross wires now and then, so long as you're not planning on

exihibiting the tree in that condition, and you watch the spot where the wires cross with extra care for signs of cutting in.

- 10) After major branch pruning: i) always use cut paste—it heals as well as seals (most, including Roy Nagatoshi and Chase Rosade); or ii) it doesn't matter much to the immediate health of the tree whether or not you use a sealant, and the long-term effects of sealants may be detrimental to trees (Alex Shigo).
- 11) After you have stripped a branch you wish to carve, you should: i) wire and shape it immediately (if desired), or let it dry a few months hefore carving (Larry Ragle); or ii) plug in your rotary tool and get at it (Mary Madison).
- 12) In order to have the most strength, wire should be coiled around the tree at a: i) 45° angle (practically everyone); ii) 60° angle (Kathy Shaner).

Are there details missing from at least some of the above rules which could harmonize the apparently disparate opinions? Are the suggestions meant to be specific to: species, climate, material of a certain age and/or development? Are these hoary or modern misquotes? Have some been picked up from an early source and repeated over the years without alternatives ever having been tested by succeeding authors? Or is it just that trees grow (well or poorly) and die, and people don't always know exactly why?

If you've been enjoying terrific success following any of the above advice, carry on. If your results from the use of some techniques have been less than wonderful, try something different. An expert somewhere does. Why shouldn't you?

Editoral continued form page 2

Once out of the pot ,Goshin was somewhat unceremoniously tipped over and kept in that position with blocks so that its bottom could be examined. John was surprised to find that in his opinion there were no signs of it being rootbound after 20 years. The roots evidenced a healthy condition with signs of the white symbiotic fungus known as mycorrhiza attached to the roots. John pronounced the roots as "healthy." At this time the question was raised - how do the roots get nourishment with the root mass tightly interwoven and seemingly almost impervious on the surface. John said that he would address this later. The old gravel and soil on the undersurface of the planting in the vicinities of the drainage hole locations was delicately scraped off. Fresh gravel would later replace the above. All the soil would not be replaced at this time. John noted that he is using a finer soil mix these days. Dan Chiplis, who is the resident caretaker of Goshin, noted that he had a concern about drainage. John attributed that to the tight surface root system. Dan asked about lightly scratching the surface to open it up for water to penetrate. John replied that the roots have ancillary roots growing out from their tops, as well as bottom sides. Hence, scratching the entire top surface of the soil would remove half of the surface root system. If it becomes necessary to drastically open the soil surface, do it in stages. One year, scratch only alternating sections of surface, and the other half the next year.

To ease the drainage problem, John took a screwdriver and tapped it with a hammer so that it penetrated the soil at numerous locations to allow the water to go into the subsoil. The holes were spaced about 1- to 1/2-inches apart; and were made only in the central part of the forest within a perimeter about 4 to 5 inches in from the edge of the roots. Occasionally the screwdriver hit resistance, in other words a large root, which required repositioning the hole.

Dan noted that they use Green King fertilizer when John questioned him. John then said that the pellets should be

positioned around the holes - not in them. Meanwhile, Bob Drechsler had meticulously scraped and cleaned the inside of the pot so that it looked like new. Next, one of the pot's feet was filed so that the pot rested evenly on all four feet. John noted that this might continue until all the feet were filed off. Dan pointed out that it would be like the Marx Brothers movie where they start trimming a man's mustache, alternately trimming sides until the mustache is gone. John said that there is an Aesop fable where two monkeys are to share a banana. One monkey breaks the banana in two and then proceeds to alternately eat each part trying to even them up until the banana is gone.

Finally, the pot was fitted with the screens, and turkey-sized grit was mounded up over the drainage holes, completely covering them. Next, about 30 "common" nails, each 2 inches long, were placed circumferentially around the edge of each mound, 30 to a mound. John uses the nails as a source of iron for the plants. Hence the nails must not be galvanized, but must be free of any protective coating such as "common" nails. John noted that they completely disappear in two years. He considers using common nails a better source of iron for the plants than iron chelate. According to John, the iron gives a deeper "iron green," to the foliage than what is known as "nitrogen green" or a lighter green foliage. As for soil pH, John sort of implied that a plant usually tends to set its own pH. He noted that here in the East, the soil probably would be found to be slightly acid in contrast to being more alkaline on the West Coast.

Before the planting was to go into the pot, the edge of the root mass was worked so that for 3/4 of an inch in from the edge of the roots, there was no soil, thus making room for new soil.

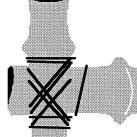
The bottom of the pot received the usual thin covering of soil (Turface), and Goshin was then placed in the pot. Bob Drechsler kidded John about reversing Goshin in the pot so that the previous front was now the back. This of course

was in jest - Goshin fills the entire pot. Once it was in the pot, Dave Garvin (by grasping two trunks) wiggled the root mass side to side so that it would settle into the bottom and close any air pockets. Lastly, a visual inspection showed that the surface of the soil was not so high that in filling the void between roots and pot, the soil line would be below the rim of the pot. Then, any water or liquid fertilizer would not run off over the rim of the pot and get into the soil. Also, the angles of the trees were visually checked and found to be okay. If the soil level or the tree angles were not right, the planting would have had to be removed and the bottom soil and mounds of gravel adjusted accordingly in their heights. Soil was chopsticked into the void between the roots and the sides of the pot.

Lastly, the tree was trundled back to its place in the collection on the stand at the same place from which it was removed. So much for giving the oft quoted 2-week period of grace out of the sunlight after repotting. Bob Drechsler gave Goshin a well-deserved thorough watering.

Thus ended the repotting of one of our National Treasures. Goshin is truly the crown jewel of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. A friend of mine recently told me that he had at last visited the National Collection. I asked him if he liked any one planting the best. He unequivocally replied that it was the big forest (Goshin). I remember being at the Arboretum and noticing a young man on seeing Goshin being moved, excitedly call to his wife, "Look they're moving a miniature forest!" To me, Goshin is the quintessence of an actual forest of giant redwoods or sequoias in miniature, i.e. bonsaied.

Thanks, John Y. Naka, for your priceless gift. May you be ageless like "Goshin" and repot it 20 years from now. Thanks also to Dan Chiplis and Bob Drechsler for their efforts and concerns in keeping Goshin alive, healthy, and artistically impressive.



AUCTION of DAVE DAMBOWIC 'S COLLECTION

NOVEMBER 11, 1995

Starting at 10:00 am
Green Srings Park in Anaandale, Va.
4601 Green Spring Road
(Located near Braddock Road and Little river Turnpike by Jerry's Ford)

Many OUTSTANDING TREES Most in QUALITY POTS

Pines, Shimpaku, Spruce, Hemlocks

There are very large to medium size trees.

The proceeds go to the National Bonsai Foundation for a memorial honoring Dave Dambowic

