

PBA Clippings

NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

ISSN 0160-9521



SEASONS GREETINGS
FROM THE "CLIPPINGS"
STAFF

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE, PAY YOUR DUES ON TIME

Remember to pay your dues promptly so that you do not miss an issue of the "Clippings." Even though you may have paid your dues to your treasurer, that person must then turn around and pay the club's dues to PBA, which is why there is a month between joining and starting to receive the newsletter. The check will go to Jerry Antel, and the membership list will go to Jeff Stephanic. (Judy Wise will be taking over the job of membership chairman as of January 1, 1996.) It is very important that each club be sure to send its membership list and dues in promptly so that no member misses an issue of the "Clippings." The newsletter is sent to the printer approximately the 14th of the month prior to its issue so that it can be printed and then mailed

(bulk mail). The "Clippings" is mailed third class and will not be forwarded. Each club pays \$8.50 to help offset the cost of "Clippings," the PBA Spring Show, and guest speakers, etc.

PBA is a non-profit organization which is designed for teaching the art of bonsai and is a very good place to gain new friendships along the way. The more you become involved, the more you gain. There are a stalwart few who work very hard to keep PBA up and running. They are your club's board delegate, the acting elected officers, and the few people who generously volunteer their time. No one is paid for any of the time spent on PBA activities. So please remember when it is so easy to criticize -- everyone is a volunteer! Did you volunteer any time yourself?

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE	1
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
MONTHLY CARE TIPS	4
RAFT STYLE	4
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	5
VA. STATE FAIR SHOW	6
WORMS	7
SOIL DRAINAGE	7
CHINESE ELM	8
MOST FEARED PROBLEM	9
STOLEN CAMERA	10



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.

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.

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.

PBA OFFICERS:

President	Joe Gutierrez
1st Vice-President	Cindy Blackburn
Educ. Vice-President	Arash Afshar
Secretary	Julie Walker
Treasurer	Jerry Antel, Jr.
Public Relations	Tony Meyer (301) 907-0992
Membership	Jeff Stephanic (703) 671-6881
Newsletter Editor	Jules Koetsch

PBA CLIPPINGS STAFF:

Editor	Jules Koetsch (703) 569-9378
Assoc. Ed./Art Dir.	Beth Potratz (703) 255-9386
Asst. Editor	Jeff Stephanic
Advertising Editor	Jerry Antel, Jr. (301) 320-5251
Sensei Sam	Steve Pilacik

EDITORTAL

Last month's issue of PBA Clippings contained a reprint of an interesting article by Lois Blom with the title, "The Bonsai Society of Greater New York News and Notes presents: Expert Advice for All Seasons." If you read it, you will immediately recognize that the article is a well-done compilation of what everyone, soon after starting in bonsai, discovers: In bonsai, there are contradictory or commensurate ways of developing bonsai. Usually, it is difficult to change a person's ways from any that were first learned.

The most way-out technique I've seen is in the video "New Horizons in Bonsai" where the roots are completely stripped of all soil and compacted with wet sphagnum moss and then compressed into a pot with more wet sphagnum moss so tightly that lifting on the plant will take the pot with it. Perhaps it works with tropicals or plants in the tropical rain forests, but I, like others I've talked to, have very, very serious doubts about this technique working. Especially since bonsai instructors and texts advocate porous soil mixes to prevent root rot. I only know of one brave person to have tried the above potting technique. Three years ago Jeff Stephanic packed a rooted boxwood cutting with sphagnum moss into a pot making certain that there were no air spaces between the moss. It is still growing, even though it has not been repotted in the recommended one-year intervals.

Wiring is an area that gets the most play for new or modified *modus operandi*. The above referenced article cites, "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)." I don't know about you, the reader, but every time I've taken a workshop, I've been criticized for wasting wire when I've coiled the wire at 45° angles. A 45° angle is attained when each successive coil is spaced twice the diameter of the object being wired. In actuality, I think, most people wire more at the 60° angle which I now do and use a heavier diameter wire. It all boils down to whether or not the wire is thick enough to hold the desired shape of tree branch or trunk. Then there's the case where the wire, when in place, will not maintain the bend. Usual advice is to apply another wire of like diameter and wrap it so that it lies chock-a-block next to the previous wire. Dan Robinson in the lecture/demonstration he gave at the U.S. National Arboretum last June 24th, suggested that the second wire should be coiled midway between coil~ of the first wire. He claims that more strength for retaining a bend is gained by that approach. This method I'm going to have to try.

Again referencing the above cited article, there is a paragraph concerning branch placement. I happen to agree with Dan Robinson - "it doesn't matter where the branches originate, so long as they compliment the focal point of the tree." I might add that the end result of branch selection should leave the plant looking like a tree. One thing that always bothers me is that bar and wheel branch arrangements are to be frowned upon and even verboten. Last year, I purchased from a nursery in Washington state, an Engelmann spruce. It is now in a bonsai pot; and frankly, I can see nothing wrong with the way it looks with its natural way of growing wheel branches. Until I feel otherwise, I'm not going to do anything other than just chase-back pruning to keep the branches from getting too leggy.

Another point that Dan Robinson raised in his lecture/demo is why does everyone want to have a pristine trunk with no evidence of having any pruning scars? Dan has spent considerable time studying how old trees look in their natural surroundings, and backs up what I'm sure some of us assume as a natural situation -

Continued on next page

DECEMBER

JANUARY

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

Cyburn 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 Chey Chase Recreation Center, Chey 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

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.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI
SATURDAY 13
John Rike, from Meadows Farm Nursery on I.P.M. (Intergrated Pest Management).

Baltimore Bonsai Club
Sunday 21
Photographinh Bonsai: Bring camera, film, slides and examples of photographed bonsai for comparison.



SOIL ORDER INFORMATION

BY JUDY WISE

Steve Pilacik has informed us that Bonsai soil is available from a upstate New York distrubator. Both Jim Doyle, Nature's Way, and Chase Rosade use this soil.

The soil is in 50lbs bags and will cost anywhere from \$20 - \$25.00 (depending on delivery cost). Allowable delivery time is 6 - 8 weeks.

Contact your club officers **NOW** and let them know what quantity you desire. Each club should inform Judy Wise (202-554-3045) of the amount that their club needs by January 5, 96 so a final price can be determined. Checks will then need to be made to PBA.

We will place the order in Late January for delivery in late February/Early March. **SO PLACE YOUR ORDER WITH CLUB OFFICERS ASAP!**

Editorial, continued from previous page

trunks of old trees bear numerous scars. After following the instructions and hollowing out the pruning cuts on a Trident maple, the wounds did not heal over smoothly, but each is a very noticeable bump on the trunk. A second example would be two years ago I did some drastic branch pruning on some hornbeams, and at the rate the cuts are healing over, it'll take forever for the trunks' scars to close up. Hence I'm with Dan in his suggestion that to avoid the above shortcomings, just simply plan to make the scar look like it oc-

curred naturally. Wander in your local park or woods, and you'll see many a tree with knotholes in their trunks.

How many ideas or nuances contradictory to accepted practices have you run across besides those mentioned in the article in the last issue? Send them in so that others can benefit from them or comment on them. Let the readers know, even if whatever it is has not been proven to your satisfaction, you can give the readers an insight into possible ways to go.

MONTHLY CARE TIPS FOR DECEMBER

By now the bonsai that are hardy in this areas zone should be given winter protection.

Watering may be at a rate of every other day or longer intervals if the plants are not taking water. Use of a moisture meter will tell you how much water they're absorbing from day to day. If the ground gets frozen and along with it the soil in the pot, there isn't much one can do but to wait until the outside temperature warms to the point where the ground thaws and water will penetrate the soil. One can apply an anti-desiccant to the foliage of coniferous trees to reduce the moisture loss through the needles. It is paramount that the bonsai be in a spot which is protected from the wind - a burlap screening can be used as protection. Also it is preferable to not expose plants

that are not in a greenhouse or the like, but in or on the ground to any sun during the winter. The sun especially on warmer days will cause the bark to swell and then produce unsightly cracks.

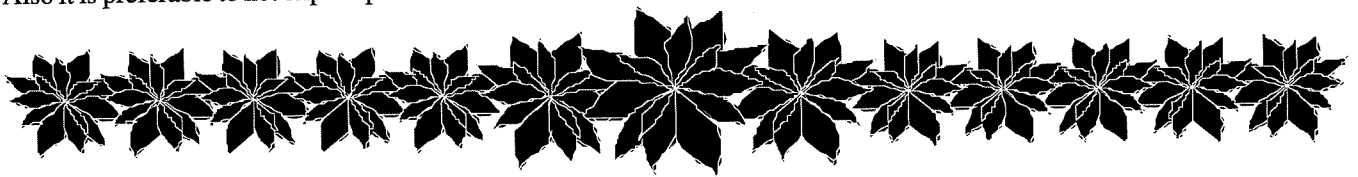
If you suspect any insect infestation or have had a problem with any insect species, hit the trees with the recommended insecticide being putting them into winter protection. Spider mites are the usual scourge that can be taken care of at this time of year. Usually the inside of a greenhouse can be fumigated before bringing in the plants for the winter.

Black pines can have their 2 year or older needles removed and needles on the ends of sprouts can be reduced in number to 2 or 3 fascicles or pairs of

needles for the upper section, 5 to 7 for the mid-section and 9 to 11 for the low-ermost section.

Pruning - this is a good time to prune maples. Once the sap rises in a maple around the end of February and early March pruning cannot be done until all the leaves have come out. Otherwise the maple will bleed to death if pruned in late winter or early spring. Hornbeam and elm can be branch pruned at this time. Wash the trunks of the above three species of trees. This is done using water and tooth brush or the equivalent.

Moss - best to remove moss from the surfaces of the soil and put it somewhere where it will be available next spring. Moss on the surface of the soil is blamed for root rot in the winter.



RAFT STYLE INSPIRATION, By Gail O' Donnell

I saw an interesting demo given at the National Arboretum recently that I learned quite a bit from. I'm posting a report here mostly for newcomers. For those experienced in raft style, your critique or experiences augmenting what I write here is also welcome. The demonstration was given by Janet Lanman, an artist with years of experience creating raft style bonsai. She opened by bringing out a large (24") juniper, double trunk, and asking the audience how we would style it (we didn't know this was a raft style demo in advance). In some ways, this was the most interesting part of the demo. Janet explained the different styles using a hand drawn poster - formal and informal upright, cascade, etc..., and moved branches back and forth as people suggested to examine the possibilities using the material at hand. She pointed out that the double trunks were

the same width throughout their lengths, which lent the material less interest than it would have had if the two trunks were of different thicknesses (even after one of the twin trunks was reduced in length by half)

So Janet said, "How about a raft style bonsai?" We all eagerly agreed to this idea. Janet started by removing most of the inside branches, and reducing the root ball which had filled a two gallon container by two-thirds. She then pulled out a large (30") plastic pan that had been prepared with wires to anchor the trunk securely once it was laid on its side, and had holes drilled into the plastic for drainage. Janet then began to examine the branches. She removed all that would be facing the bottom of the tray first, and some branches that bent toward the bottom. Then she began to select her "family" of branches to keep. These

branches would be wired vertically, to make a little forest of trees arising from a fallen trunk (something that is seen frequently in the northwest forests). She kept branches on both trunks to give the composition depth. The family was then identified - the "handsome father" (if it's the largest and nicely shaped) is kept toward the front. If a smaller branch is nicely shaped, then that is the front, and is the "beautiful mother", with the larger father to the side or back. Then the children are selected, and grouped along both trunks (not evenly space, but little groupings to give interest, and to create triangles with an apex within the groups).

She then wired each member of the family upright. (A long procedure - the whole demo was about 2 hours).

About half way through the wiring, Janet realized there was a lot of wire around the main trunk, so she interrupted

Continued on next page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The BCI 1995 Convention, just recently completed in Sydney, Australia, is now history. Within a few short months, Washington, D.C., will be the focus of the international bonsai world when we finally have our opportunity to present BCI Convention 1996.

We are now in the final phases of preparing for this worldwide event, and while our trees lie dormant through the winter months, our entire Association will be working feverishly to present another outstanding bonsai event for the international bonsai community.

Unfortunately the distance and cost involved in travel to Australia precluded many of our members from being able to attend IBC 1995. This was the first IBC convention to be held south of the equator, and also the first to be held in Australia. The event was well organized and well attended by members of the Australian and American communities, with representation from several other Pacific Rim countries, as well. There was also representation from the Latin American and European communities. Thus, this was truly a worldwide event.

It was unfortunate that I was the only representative from PBA able to attend this convention because the Australian

people were extremely warm and friendly, knowledgeable about bonsai; and considering this was their first BCI convention, they were quite professional and sophisticated in the management of the convention. It was a great opportunity for me, as your delegate and President to renew old acquaintances and make and cement new friendships. I also believe that many of the plans that we have incorporated for our event next July will be quite unique and will hopefully present new ideas that other host clubs may wish to emulate in the future.

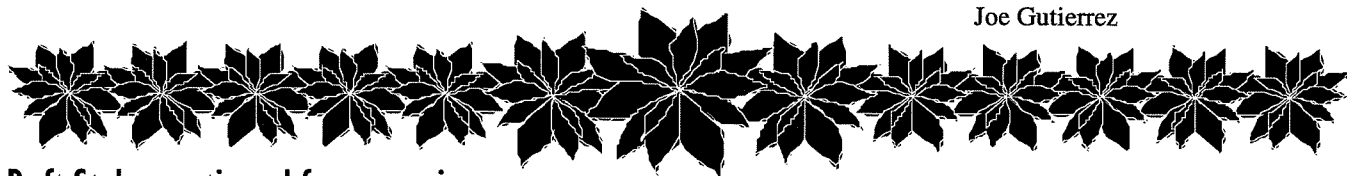
We have just completed our own PBA Fall Symposium and now we can completely focus all our energies on July 1996! I met many individuals from varying parts of the Pacific Rim, Latin America, and Europe who expressed great interest in coming to Washington, D.C., not only for our convention, but also to see the capital city of the United States. I would make a plea to each and every member of PBA to generously volunteer some of your time toward serving on one or more committees and thereby help assure the success of the upcoming BCI

Convention. Demonstrate once again the ability of PBA to be a most gracious and hospitable host club and show each and every attendee the unselfish and cheerful attitude of each and every one of our members. This is truly an opportunity to extend the camaraderie of bonsai to each and every one of our attending friends.

A featured event next July, will be the dedication of the International Pavilion at the Arboretum, and I hope that prior to the dedication as many of our members as possible make some donation to the National Bonsai Foundation. Donations to the NBF are always welcome and always needed. With the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum housed at the Arboretum, we are very fortunate indeed to have right here in our city, one of the finest, if not the finest, facility for the study and care of bonsai, and certainly one of the most outstanding collections in existence in the world today.

I extend to each and every one of you my most sincere best wishes for a very happy holiday season and much success, good health, peace, and tranquility to add up to a very Happy New Year!

Joe Gutierrez



Raft Style, continued from previous page

her wiring to take a razor sharp knife to the underside of the trunk, exposing the cambium layer along the entire length of both trunks thus encouraging rooting. Later after all the wiring was complete, she wet the exposed cambium layer and applied rooting hormone.

Then the trunk was securely wired down to the tray. Rubber strips were used under this wire to protect the trunk, because the wire was really tightened. A well draining soil mix (the arboretum uses granite, pine bark, and

clay) was put around and under the horizontal trunk, and water soaked sphagnum moss was placed over the root ball. The entire raft was then soaked for awhile. That was it.

Janet then uncovered an older raft (it had been draped to the side) - it was beautiful, giving the effect of a little hill (where the root ball had been - I hear some people cut the root ball off eventually once the rest of the trunk has rooted) and a forest. Most of the surface roots looked like they had been trained from

the root ball to give mature root interest along the sides. Moss was used to provide the grass effect. Some wild violets had also taken up residence. The little forest trees had been trained in a classical Japanese style, giving a tiered effect - a lovely composition.

Hope this helps/inspires some group members out there to try it! If you already have, I'd like to hear about your experiences (in this or other kinds of demos).

Second Annual Virginia State Fair Judged Show

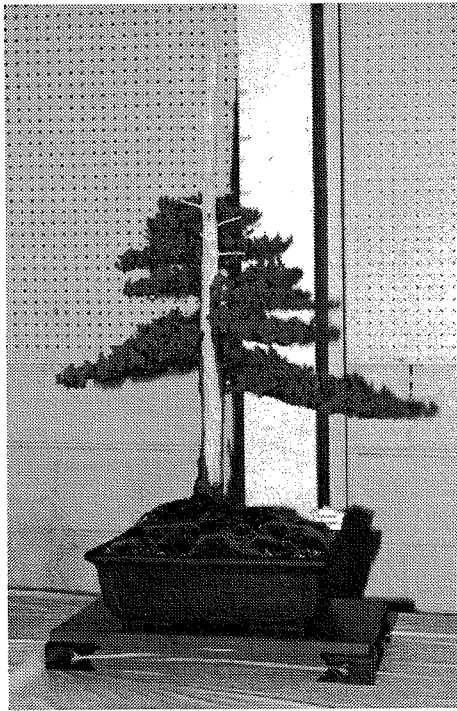
by Chris Cochrane Photographs by Jim Ford, Richmond Bonsai Society

In the last 2 years, the State Fair of Virginia has offered Richmond Bonsai Society the facility to host a statewide judged bonsai show. In both years, clubs throughout the state received invitations to display trees, and first-place ribbons have been won by trees from Roanoke (Hinoki Bonsai Society), Hampton (Peninsula Bonsai Society), Arlington (Northern Virginia Bonsai Society) and Richmond (Richmond Bonsai Society).

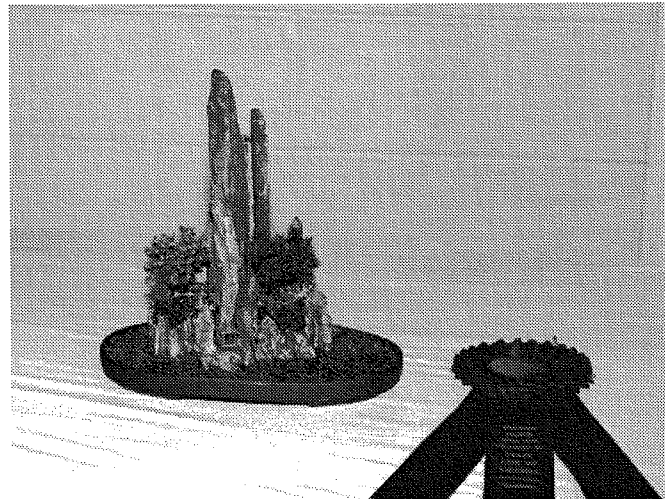
Last year, Hal Mahoney from Deer Park, NY, judged the first statewide bonsai competition in Virginia. Hal was fabulous in judging each tree and giving detailed notes to the owners. His incred-

ibly helpful notes were comparable to a mini-workshop on each tree. Hal was invited back to judge trees again this year. Of the 21 trees judged in seven categories, 16 received ribbons. Bunky & Dana Markum from Hinoki Bonsai Society were especially recognized for entering 3 trees that each won top honors. The Markums have not supplied PBA with pictures of their entered trees, but an example of their work was displayed in a recent addition of International Bonsai magazine (1995/# 3/p. 40). Harmon Quisenberry's (Roanoke) coto-neaster also won a first-place ribbon and

is pictured in the cited magazine display. Other ribbon winners from Hinoki Bonsai Society were bonsai designed by Bob Murray and Jill Quisenberry. Bruce Stoneman (RBS) entered 3 trees and earned 2 first places and a third-place ribbon. Bruce's first-place entries were a formal upright robusta juniper and a windswept Sargent juniper, both with significant deadwood. Jim Ford's entry of small trees on a leaning upright stone also earned top honors. Other ribbon winners from RBS were Dan Kalman, Bill Miles, Virginia Wrenn, and Dick Hines. Jim Walker and Chris Cochrane received ribbons for their viewing stones.



Bruce Stoneman's Upright Robusta Juniper



Jim Ford's Penjing



Windswept Sargent Juniper by Bruce Stoneham

Worms? What could they mean? by Nina Shishkoff

The following article is being submitted by Mike Johnson of the Northern Virginia club.

Nina Shishkoff (a Plant pathologist with Cornell University) recently posted the following article to the Internet bonsai discussion list. It has been reproduced here with her permission

When people say their bonsai have "worms," what could they mean? They usually don't mean earthworms (annelids which condition soil by aerating and fertilizing it but that can't persist long in a bonsai pot. The true worm is eyeless, legless, and radially symmetric; it has no "underbelly."

Nematodes are roundworms. They are colorless, barely visible to the naked eye, and live in soil, sometimes millions per handful. Most are scavengers, but a few will attack plant roots; some cause galls; some stunt plant growth; and some merely make wounds which allow other organisms to enter roots and cause disease. Keeping a bonsai strong and happy through regular watering and fertilization will make it resistant to nematode damage.

Maggots are the larval stages of flies. Maggots may have obvious heads, or may look—well—like maggots, white and squishy. All have tops and undersides, unlike worms. The most common kind found in potted plants is the fungus gnat maggot. It is a small (2-3 mm) white maggot with a shiny black head which can eat roots and young vegetation. Although the maggot is hard to spot, its presence is announced by the swarms of emerging adults. These are small black flies resembling "fruit flies." The simplest control measure is to spray for adult flies; however, using soil without humus and keeping decaying plant matter away from pots will discourage adults from laying eggs.

Grubs are beetle larvae, and tend to have the dark, shiny heads of adult beetles attached to white, baggy bodies with or without 6 stumpy legs. "Rootworms" are grubs that attack plant roots, but few are serious pests in the grub stage—when they mature into beetles they can cause considerable damage to foliage. Some weevil larvae feed on tree roots and may stunt or kill trees (e.g.,

the arborvitae weevil, citrus root weevil, and strawberry root weevil). Chemical control is necessary.

Finally, caterpillars are the larval stage of butterflies and moths. Caterpillars have obvious heads, a set of 6 front legs, and various numbers of suckerlike back legs—think of an "inchworm." Most are seen on leaves, and can be plucked off. Some are stem and root borers.

Next time you see "worms" in your soil, ask yourself where you got the soil, and when. Fresh field soil will have all sorts of miscellaneous grubs that probably have nothing to do with our bonsai. However, if yours is a wild-collected bonsai, the pests among its roots could be what stunted the tree in the first place. In this case, the tree should be washed of soil and transplanted. If the pests are present in an established tree in old soil, you have to assume that a food source is present in the pot. Clean up decayed vegetation, make sure your moss or other ground covers are not harboring the pest, and then consider the possibility that your tree is under attack.

SOIL DRAINAGE BY JIM SULLIVAN, BOWIE BONSAI CLUB

No, this is not a story about poor circulation or urinary tract infection, but hopefully some sound advice about the never ending controversy of soil drainage in bonsai culture.

While culling old magazines, I reread an article in *"Fine Gardening"* - June 1994, by Ben Faber, a farm adviser for the University of California. In his article "Water Movement In Soil", Ben wrote "It is best to keep the soil homogeneous because, unless applied to the point of saturation, water tends to resist crossing soil types (particle sizes). Saturation is the replacement of all the air in the growing media with water and is undesirable because the plant roots can literally drown."

"A common mistake gardeners make is to place a layer of gravel in the bottom of a pot to, ensure good drainage. Wrong! The gravel will ensure that the potting mix above it retains water longer. The key is in keeping the soil texture consistent. Any time two different soils come into contact, water movement is limited."

Julie Haga of Shoin Bonsai in Rockville, Maryland (I don't believe she is there now) gave a lecture to the Bowie Bonsai Club several years ago on the subject of bonsai planting mixes and drainage. She had done a controlled study (I was told she had an education in science) on

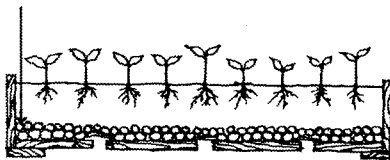
drainage in bonsai "soils". She displayed the pots used in the experiment. They were actually transparent cylinders, all of equal volume, with drainage holes of equal size and number. These containers were filled with soils of various mixtures and particle sizes. Some "pots had drainage layers and some not. Julie weighed the filled containers before and after saturating the media by immersion and weighed them again after allowing them to drain. She said that it was obvious that the so called drainage layer of coarse gravel or fired clay was an impediment to drainage and was also a waste of valuable planting space, especially in shallow containers.

Chinese Elm or Keyaki by Jules Koetsch

Much of the following has been adapted from an article in Japanese by Takeyama Ko which appeared in "DIRECTIONS for the PREPARATION of MISCELLANEOUS TREES" with ILLUSTRATED EXPLANATORY NOTES.

One can see a number of excellent examples of Chinese elm as penjing in the National Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum. Some plant varieties have at times grown a branch whose leaves are smaller than on the plant itself. Such a growth in our language is termed a sport. In Japanese it is a "yatsubusa". This is how Kingsville boxwood came about - the sport was clipped off and rooted. In fact cuttings of Chinese elm root very easily. Keyaki or Chinese elm, in the Spring it spouts growth, in the Summer there are the new leaves, in the Fall the leaves turn crimson, in the Winter the leaves are gone and there is the branching, all reminiscent of one's own fields of military glory. The growth on a Chinese elm or Keyaki is rapid and is an example of delicate branch structure.

Keyaki has a yatsubusa variety (very small leaves) with a rough, peeling bark. The newly formed sprouts on the small branches have stems of red. Another variety of excellent beauty has bluish sprouts. Either of the two varieties can be used for bonsai. One should preferably select a seedling tree with leaves that are small, and a nicely textured trunk, one which has branches so that the tree is upright in shape. Also the branches should be arranged in the form of an unfolded forward so that the tree can be styled into a broom shape.



March 20 - 31 : Results of sowing seeds in rows with adequate, daily watering as a necessity. The sprouts will emerge on or about March 20. Propagating soil: Red clay mixed with pebbles, -gran-i-grits and with a layer of red clay pellets for drainage.

PROPAGATION METHOD AND FIRST YEAR

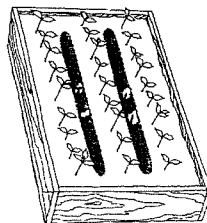
Keyaki can be propagated from seed, purchased (one about three years old) or collected in the mountains. In order to unify the shape and control the direction of the growth, it is best to concentrate one's efforts in-growing from seed.

First of all, the seeds should be collected or possibly purchased in the Fall, placed into a plastic bag along with moist soil, and stored in a cool, dark place.

Remove the seeds between March 20 and April 10. The time-frame for sowing the seeds can coincide with the Spring Equinoctial week (Vernal Equinox) and the sprouts will slowly emerge.

Having sown the seeds in rows, apply tap water and place them in a sunny place, and after April 20th, sprouts will emerge. After the sprouts have emerged, once every day, water until it flows out of the bottom of the box. Sprinkle rape seed fertilizer powder between the rows of seedlings in a line parallel to the rows. Thereafter, the fertilizer is sprinkled once per month and the watering is continued on a daily basis.

When Summer has arrived, much of the branch growth has been in the interior, and a satisfactory, healthy arrangement should be attained by pruning in accordance with the illustration. In order not to risk destroying the tree shape, and not to deprive the healthy branches of nourish-



APPLY FERTILIZER May 10 - 20
Dust with a thin layer of rape seed oil; fertilizer between the rows of seedlings. Continue applying on a monthly basis through September.

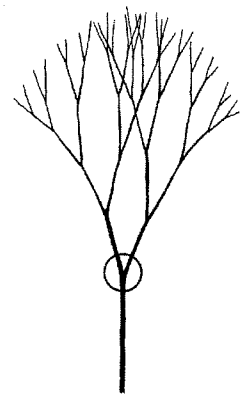
ment, and also to assist the desirable branches in growing more rapidly, the internal branches should be pruned.

The pruning of the long branches should be done so that a broom style is achieved. The question is what is the visible difference between the shape of the tree growing naturally and the desired broom style. The key to the above problem is to understand what branches are to remain. The ideal broom style into which one wishes to develop the finished tree, is one wherein the lower 1/3 of the height of the tree is free of branches. For example, if the ultimate tree height of the bonsai is to be 30 cm (12 inches), the selected branches should start 10 cm (4 inches) from the surface of the roots. The basis of the broom shape lies in the makeup of the branch segments. Again and again, keep in mind that no more than two branch segments are to emanate from a fork.

Summer having passed and Autumn having arrived, fertilize for the last time in September, but continue to water adequately. In November, the seedling has reached a height of about 20 cm (8 inches). Between November 20th and 30th, place the tree indoors for Winter protection.

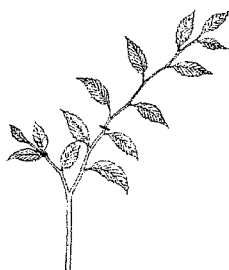
To be continued next month when we will cover up to planting into bosnai pot.

Diagram of Twin Forked Branching Pattern



Shape so that the branches fork in pairs. Use the division of a thrids, then work your way up the tree with the twin fork branching pattern. The first branching should start about a thrid way up the tree.

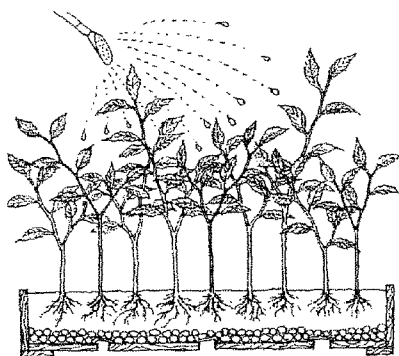
Chinese Elm, Broom style continued from previous page.



CUT LONG BRANCHES

June 20 - 30 to August

Healthy long branches are cut so that 3 or 4 leaf segments remain (see figure 4) For a tree the height of 30 cm (12"), the first branching begins at 10 cm (4"). Do not cut the secondary branches emanating from the twin fork. Maintain the twin fork pattern as growth occurs during this season.



Outdoors on the shelf, the trees have been grown uninhibited with fertilization monthly and frequently watered. By November, the seedlings should reach a height of 20 cm. (8").

Most Feared Bonsai Problem, THIEVERY - submitted by NoVa's Michael Johnson

A number of bonsai were recently stolen from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden bonsai collection. On behalf of the BBG, Frank L. Heidt recently placed the following information on the Internet.

On or about 29 September, 27 bonsai were pilfered from the Garden's collection. On the night of 3 October, 7 more trees were stolen. The trees are, of course, irreplaceable. If anyone hears about any "odd" sales of EXTREMELY good bonsai, "out of nowhere" as it were, please contact the Garden at (718) 622-4433.

Each tree had a numbered brass tag attached to it, not that I think any still remain on the trees, but you never know. (Truly, at the '95 Golden State Convention, a story was passing about a clueless felon selling BBG trees outside the BBG main gate.) Here is a list of the stolen trees:

TAG NO.	TYPE
BN 960 X00790	Carissa grandiflora 'Pygmy'
BN 700 X00639	Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa'
BN 704 X00643	Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa'
BN 516 X00556	Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa'
BN 1168 X00885	Picea abies 'Maxwellii'
BN 1153 860987	Serissa foetida Snow Rose'
BN 1139	Japanese Maple Forest (Acer palmatum)
BN 1116	Japanese Flowering Apricot (Ume)
BN 431	Japanese White Pine Cascade Style
BN 464	Japanese Maple
BN 411	Euonymus alatus
BN 1227	Cotoneaster Cascade Style
BN 1778	Cotoneaster Informal Upright Style
BN 1169	Acer ginnala
BN 681	Sequoia sempervirens
BN 117	Pseudolarix ambilis
BN 334	Cotoneaster microphyllus (Mame)
BN 475	Thuja orientalis
BN 493	Chamaecyparis thyoids
BN 546	Acer campestre
BN 588	Juniperus procumbens 'nana'
BN 598	Crataegus laevigata 'alba plena'
BN 659	Abelia x grandiflora
BN 730	Podocarpus macrophyllus
BN 747	Chaenomeles sp.
BN 749	Punica granatum 'nana'
BN 760	Cryptomeria japonica
BN 809	Pyrocantha koidzomii 'Santa Cruz'
BN 1076	Prunus incisa
BN 1087	Punica granatum 'nana'
BN 1227	Cotoneaster microphyllus
BN 1169	Acer ginnala