



Rosade At Va. Club

Chase Rosade, professional bonsai grower and owner-operator of the Rosade Bonsai Studio in New Hope, Pa., will headline the February meeting of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society.

His presentation at the Feb. 13 event will include a demonstration of some aspect of the art of bonsai. Whatever the specific topic he decides upon, his pro-

gram will be chock-full of background information, tips, and techniques gleaned from many years of experience growing, training, and styling bonsai. PBAers who attended either Bonsai Congress '72 or '73 will remember Chase's participation in both the tree critique sessions and in other educational presentations.

A former Director of the American Bonsai Society, Chase was named an Honorary Member of the Baltimore Bonsai Club last June when he visited that organization.

全米盆栽大会

JULY 11-14 NATIONAL BONSAI CONVENTION '74

POTTERY...

(Continued from page 4)

a sizable addition to the knowledge of making bonsai pots in this country. Presently there is a great lack of literature on the subject in the English language, as well as a lack of knowledge on the part of most American potters, even those most interested in the subject.

This lack is a result of two things. One is the obvious difficulty of translating the Japanese literature. The other is the pragmatic approach of the Japanese to the subject. Little research in a scientific vein is ever done, and what is done is kept secret by those craftsmen who do the work in order to avoid competition.

Thus, Jerry's venture will be watched with enthusiasm by PBA and all people interested in American bonsai.

Jerry has numerous credentials for this work. He is the elected representative to the American Crafts Council for the District of Columbia, and elected member of the elite Washington Kiln Club, and has participated in many craft shows and festivals throughout the mid-Atlantic area.

His topic at the January BBC meeting will parallel and augment the description of his proposed grant-related activity. He will bring along several pieces of his pottery work for display and discussion. For potters and bonsaiists who wish to experiment with making their own pots, this program is a must. Members of other PBA clubs are welcome to attend: Cylburn Park Mansion, Cylburn Park, Baltimore, Saturday, January 19, 3 p. m.



Potomac Bonsai Association

c/o Brookside Botanical Gardens
1500 Glenallen Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

TO:

MILTON R. KIDD
18010 Elgin Road
Poolesville, Maryland 20837

FIRST CLASS

PBA

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Volume 4
Number 1
January
1974

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

ANNAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB
BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

Vol. 4 No. 1 January 1974

Published solely in the interests of the POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization, and its affiliate member clubs and societies, under the authority of its Board of Directors.

Officers for 1973-74

Cliff Pottberg.....President
 Milton Kidd.....First Vice-President
 John Hreha...Educational Vice-President
 John Hinds.....Secretary
 Molly Hersh.....Treasurer

PBA meets regularly the third Friday of each month at

BROOKSIDE BOTANICAL GARDENS
 1500 Glenallan Avenue
 Wheaton, Maryland 20902

Member, American Bonsai Society
 Member, Bonsai Clubs International

Submissions may be addressed to
 6394 Eighth Circle
 Alexandria, Virginia 22312

or call

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 (703) 256-3623

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 (301) 366-8844

the cover

ANOTHER MICROENVIRONMENT, an American extension of bonsai and saikei developed by Leon C. Snyder, Assistant Professor of Horticulture at the University of Missouri. Combining rocks, soil, moss, and trees to create a micro-environment, this deals with the horticultural principles involved with maintaining trees and shrubs in a miniature environment which is as close as possible to duplicating nature. Micro-environmental Development is a credit course at the University. The one pictured was displayed at Bonsai Congress '72 in Kansas City. (Snyder photo)

Personal View

BCI-'76

by JIM NEWTON, Editor

Last month I spoke about PBA becoming involved in the National Arboretum Bonsai Collection.

Part and parcel of our involvement will be our hosting of the annual convention of the Bonsai Clubs International. One of the main attractions of that event will be Dedication Ceremonies and the Reception to be sponsored by and held at the National Arboretum.

In preparation for the BCI convention, President Cliff Pottberg has named me as Coordinator. I will be doing just that - coordinating. I will need lots and lots of help. At this time, I am planning for a Working Group of 13 committee heads. Each of them will have a series of interlocking responsibilities that will require the support and assistance of just about everybody in and affiliated with PBA. Some of the Working Group has been assembled, but more need to be contacted. I hope to be able to announce all of the names next month.

I can tell you this much: the Shoreham Americana Hotel has been selected as the site. Dates will be Thursday, July 7, through Sunday, July 11, 1976.

The primary thing I want to impress on (see BCI..., page 3)

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TORRY POTTBURG
 Advertising Director

Bonsai Course

The Potomac Bonsai Association has agreed to hold a Bonsai Course For Beginners as part of the Brookside Botanical Gardens adult education program.

The course will consist of four weekly sessions to be held in the Brookside Nature Center (the current site of regular PBA meetings) on the first four Mondays in April 1974

In preparation for this commitment, a group of PBA members will meet on January 12 to develop a beginner bonsai course outline, which will also be used for instruction of new PBA members as needed.

The group will be headed by John Hreha, and will include Ruth Lamanna, Dorothy Warren, Bob Roland, Jim Newton, Cliff Pottberg, and John Hinds.

NOVABONSOC

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

- (R) = Regular meetings, held at the Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, Va., at 7:30 a. m. Other meeting sites specified below
- | | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 9 | (R) Slide Program: Preparing Rocks and Rock Plantings; one of BCI's programs; Discussion of Bonsai Books, Jim Newton; election of officers |
| Jan 18 | (R) Wiring Program; experienced members will give instruction on how to wire trunks, branches and so on; come prepared to do practice wiring; materials will be furnished |
| Feb 13 | (R) Lecture, Demonstration, Rap Session with Chase Rosade; your chance to see, hear an expert, then ask your questions about any facet of bonsai |
| Feb 15 | Organizational Meeting to form new Maryland Club; all current PBA members should attend to select Club name, draw up new constitution and by-laws, elect Board of Directors and Officers and set meeting dates; the new Board will meet afterward for a business meeting |

BCI... (Continued from page 2)

all PBAers now is that in preparing for this convention and holding it in conjunction with dedication of the National Bonsai Collection, we are laying PBA on the line as a mature, dedicated, capable bonsai organization.

CAN WE LIVE UP TO THIS EXPECTATION?

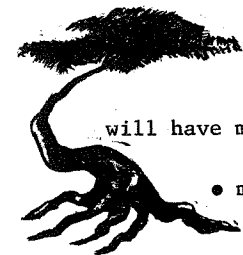
If I thought we could not, I would not have agreed to be Coordinator. All I ask of you is to remember that confidence and give me your help when I ask for it. May I count on it?

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

PBA Potomac Bonsai Association

(R) = Regular meetings, held at Brookside Nature Center, 1500 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, Md. on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 p. m. Sites of other meetings specified below.

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Pottery Research Grant Asked By PBA Member

PBA Member Jerry Hovanek, who heads the Baltimore Bonsai Club's January meeting program with a talk on pottery, is seeking a sizable grant for research in bonsai pot manufacture. Jerry, a Friar at Capuchin College in Washington, operates that institution's pottery shop, called "Mother Earth."

His recent application to the National Endowment for the Arts seeks a grant from this branch of the Federal Government which this year will spend some \$125,000 on deserving artists and craftsmen to "enable them to advance their careers."

The exact nature of Jerry's proposed activity to be supported by the grant is explained in his application:

"To research and develop a line of American BONSAI pots, inspired by and not limited to imitations of reproductions of the traditional imported Japanese BONSAI pots.

"Stage I: To explore and develop aesthetic and horticultural criteria for American BONSAI pots by consulting with BONSAI masters in the United States.

"Stage II: To explore and develop suitable clay bodies - porous and vitreous - considering them both from the viewpoint of firing and from their possible effects on the growth and development of the trees they will contain.

"Stage III: To explore and develop the possibilities of throwing, hand-building, drape, and press molds in the production of various round, square, rectangular, and elliptical forms.

"Stage IV: To explore and develop suit-

able firing techniques, clay body colorants, stains, and glazes for American BONSAI pots."

Jerry is seeking a grant in the amount of \$3,000, enough, he estimates, to make (see POTTERY..., page 12)

BBC Baltimore
Bonsai Club

(R) = Regular meetings, held at Cylburn Park Mansion, Cylburn Park, Baltimore, at 3 p. m.

Due to the current fuel crisis and nonavailability of gasoline on Sundays in the Baltimore area, BBC meetings have been moved to Saturdays.

Jan 19	Discussion of Theoretical Aspects of Pottery relating to making bonsai pots, PBA Member Jerry Hovanek (see Pottery article this issue); Tree-of-Month discussion: Indoor Trees
Feb 16	Display of potting soil components and how to prepare them; also, satisfactory fertilizers and how to use them; Tree-of-Month discussion: Boxwoods
March (early)	BBC-sponsored trip to Philadelphia Flower and Garden Show
Mar 23	Lecture on Mosses; Club Sales Corner, with various mosses for sale; Tree-of-Month discussion: San Jose Juniper



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Banquet Boxwood Won By Hinds

Some 38 PBAers gathered at the Japan Inn in Georgetown on December 15 for the second annual Christmas Banquet. All PBA affiliates were represented.

Each member attending was given a free chance on the Yoshimura-styled, 15-year-old Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla compacta* 'Kingsville'), and had an opportunity to purchase as many more chances, at 50¢ each, as desired.

In addition to the Yoshimura - tree three PBA members donated trees which also were given as bonus door prizes.

trees donor trees, donors, and winners were: trees were

Yoshimura Boxwood, donated by PBA, won by John Hinds, NOVABONSO.

Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Robusta Green'), donated by Jim Newton, won by John Hreha, PBA.

Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) donated by John Hreha, won by Skip Paul, a new PBA member.

Natal Plum (*Carissa grandiflora*) donated by John Hinds, won by Jim Newton, NOVABONSO.

Each attending member brought a small exchange gift. These were passed out at random following the delicious meal of Tetsupanyaki, chicken, steak and Japanese vegetables, served with rice.

did you know...

The weight of a heavy, wet snow can damage limbs of trees, especially evergreens. Shake off snow before it freezes.

Roster Corrections

As can so easily happen in the hustle and bustle of getting the Newsletter to bed - particularly when it is an expanded issue - errors creep in and are overlooked. So I must apologise for the two appearing in the NOVABONSO listing and for leaving five names off the PBA roster. Please correct the roster included with last month's Newsletter.

- Chagrined Editor

On page 4, correct spelling of the sixth entry should be MR. & MRS. DAVID E. FLIPSE. Also the residence of John Hinds is in Oxon Hill, Maryland 20022.

Add the following names to the PBA rolls:

MR. & MRS. PAUL F. DONOVAN
5437 Potomac Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20016

MR. & MRS. LUIGI GRANDE
3106 Parkway
Cheverly, Maryland 20785

MRS. IWAO ISHINO
8405 Parkcrest Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

MR. & MRS. JONAS C. KOLKER
4108 Leland Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Ms MARY REISNER
330 Sugarland Run Drive
Sterling, Virginia 22170

Got ideas, hints, suggestions about our activities? Don't keep them to yourself. Call the Newsletter editor!

Tree-of-Month Now

A new topic at every Baltimore meeting will be the display of several trees of one kind of bonsai. The November meeting kicked off this program, when members brought several Robusta Green Junipers (*Juniperus chinensis* Robusta Green) in various stages of development.

From now on, members are urged to bring in examples of their trees of the variety

Regular BBC Topic

chosen for that month. This will give members not only a chance to see good bonsai at every meeting, but also the opportunity to learn about the problems inherent in each type of material.

The featured tree variety or style will be listed in all future program calendars (see schedule listing trees for January through March).

Tokonoma 'Bed Place'

Almost everyone interested in bonsai will recognize the tokonoma as a recess or alcove within Japanese houses in which treasured art objects are displayed, usually with fresh flowers or a bonsai. The root of this particular word, however, probably is not well known.

Literally translated, tokonoma means "bed of floor," or "bed-place." Supposedly the alcove was used in ancient times as a place where the futon, or bed mats, were spread for sleep. Since then, the whole of the Japanese house floor, consisting of softly firm tatami mats, is the bed-space.

Customarily the derivation of the tokonoma as a bed-place placed its origins in the Aino house (the Aino are the Japanese aboriginal people, much as the American Indians are ours). However, Edward S. Morse, author of Japanese Homes and Their Surroundings, the source of information in this article, believes the real antecedent of the tokonoma is to be found in Malaya, where one may still see in Malay villages near Singapore recesses similar to the Japanese recess and which inhabitants use as sleeping places.

Today the tokonoma represents the place of honor in the Japanese home, and the visiting guest of honor is seated before it. It seems only fitting, then, that among the treasures often displayed there the bonsai plays an important part.

Name Derivations

- biflora - two-flowered
- biloba - from Latin meaning two-lobed
- canadensis - of Canada
- carolina
- caroliniana } of the Carolinas
- cerasus - classical Latin & Greek name of the Cherry
- clausa - closed, referring to cones remaining closed for some time before releasing their seeds
- communis - from Latin meaning common
- cordata
- cordiformis } heart-shaped
- cordifolia - with heart-shaped leaves
- crassifolia - thick-leaved



HONORARY BBC MEMBER CHASE ROSADE works on a Catlin Elm (Ulmus parvifolia catlin) in his workshop last year. The Catlin Elm in many ways rivals the more familiar Japanese Graybark Elm (Zelkova serrata), in small leaf size and other characteristics. (Photo courtesy Pottberg)

BBC To Mail Newsletter

by RICHARD MESZLER

BBC members, look for more personal communication with your PBA Newsletter. Henceforth, your copy of the Newsletter will be mailed to you by the Club, rather than directly from PBA. This will have a two-fold advantage: first, it will permit us to include notes and reminders of Club activities and thereby provide for more personal contact between members; and it will help PBA financially by our assuming the cost of mailing. By doing this we will, in effect, be donating on a monthly basis a sum equal to the BBC portion of the Newsletter postage to PBA. This amounts to about \$26 annually.

Thus, we will be helping to support and improve both intr- and inter-club communication.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

More Professionals On PBA Rolls

PBA and affiliate club members will be glad to know that more and more professional nurserymen and bonsai growers are becoming members of the Association. Their memberships offer expanding opportunities for Association members to learn more about bonsai and to buy pots, tools, stock, and even finished bonsai.

Among Northern Virginia Bonsai Society members in these categories are John Marshall, garden shop manager of Capper's Nursery in McLean, Va.; Ruth Lamanna, who teaches bonsai; and Lee Johnson, owner and operator of Cavalier Bonsai Co.

Annapolis has Dorothy Brown, head of the bonsai department of Bittersweet Hill

Baltimore professionals include Helen Baker, owner and operator of The Straw Horse, which sells finished bonsai; Cliff Pottberg, current President of PBA, who owns and operates Croton Hill Farms Bonsai Nursery; and Dave Oschrin, owner and operator of Liberty Nurseries.

Articles about these people will appear from time to time in the PBA Newsletter. The first will be on Dave Oschrin and may be read in the January 1974 issue. Included will be information on what each has to sell that will interest bonsai enthusiasts and on future plans.

TREASURER'S REPORT December 21, 1973

BALANCE ON HAND (Nov. 16) \$359.30

Receipts

Dues	\$ 56.00
Pro-rata dues, ABC	8.00
Pro-rata dues, BBC	43.00
Xmas dinner (Banquet)	370.00
Yuji-tree raffle	30.50
Newsletter ad	10.50
Naka overpayment	57.08
Swap'nSell %age	5.00
Donation (Schmidt)	5.00
	<u>\$585.08</u>

Expenditures

Xmas dinner	\$312.00
Yuji-tree	75.00
Expenses (Newton)	33.53
Snyder Printing	53.05
	<u>\$473.58</u>

BALANCE ON HAND (Dec. 21) \$470.80

BONSAI — Consumer Corner

Realizing that bonsai supplies, while becoming more available, are still, for many PBA members, hard to find, this column will periodically report on places, prices, and availability of bonsai pots, stock plants, commercial bonsai, etc.

You can participate by sending your own findings, in a format similar to that below, to Jim Newton, Newsletter editor, 6394 Eighth Circle, Alexandria, Va. 22312

HILLSIDE NURSERY

7116 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Va.

Reported by JIM NEWTON

Limited supply of bonsai pots, various sizes; list prices comparable with area's most reasonable suppliers; gave 25% off in order to move long-present inventory.

One and two-gallon Ilex helleri plentiful, prices \$1.99 and 4.95, respectively; small and medium Pieris japonica (Andromeda), balled, \$3.95, \$5.95; Pyracantha augustifolia, various sizes, many with lines basically suitable for bonsai, with prices ranging from very small for close-outs to reasonable for larger ornamental shapes; several varieties of Pine trees, some priced low for close-out, others comparatively priced.

Overall evaluation: Good

ABC Annapolis
Bonsai Club

(R) = Regular meetings, held at William Paca House, 5 Martin St., Annapolis, Md., the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Sites of other meetings specified below



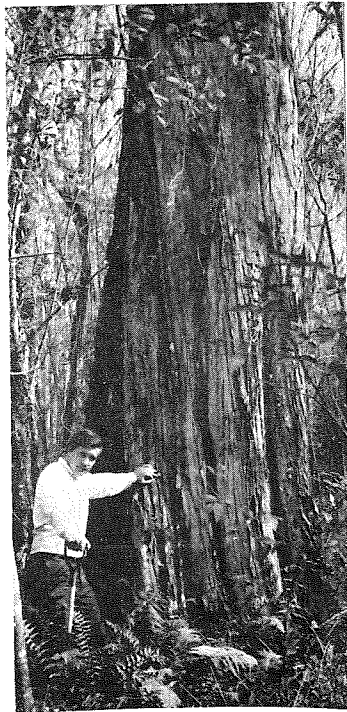
Jan 17

(R) Grafting and Other Means of Propagation, by Mrs. Hildreth Morton, Bittersweet Hill Nurseries

Digging Tips - Part I

(The following information is extracted from the U. S. Department of Agriculture book Trees: The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1949, U. S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D. C. - Ed.)

Until they are 15 to 20 feet high, deciduous species like Pin Oak, Locust, Elm, Maple, Willow, Ash, etc., that shed their leaves each autumn and remain leafless over winter can be easily moved with bare roots. Other deciduous species like White Oak, Persimmon, Hickory, Birch,



"BUT CAN I CARRY THE ROOT BALL?" seems to be the question PBA President Cliff Pottberg is asking himself as he contemplates a huge old Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum). Actually, Cliff brought back several Bald Cypress (none quite this large, however) from his Florida trip in February last year. Four of the bonsai-sized trees were pictured on the cover of the March 1973 issue of the Newsletter. (Photo courtesy of Pottberg)

etc., also can be moved bare-rooted, but recover more slowly and require more care to insure survival.

First, dig a circular trench around the outside spread of the roots. A rule of thumb is that for every inch of trunk diameter, the trench radius should be about 10 inches. Trench depth should be about 18 inches, somewhat shallower for plants with extremely shallow roots.

Second, remove soil by carefully working inward with spading fork or similar tool to comb the roots. For trees with large roots systems, cover exposed roots with wet burlap while finishing up.

Third, tip tree carefully and loosen after all lateral roots are uncovered. Avoid strain on any roots that escaped cutting. Dig deep enough to take sufficient taproot to insure tree survival.

Fourth, after tree has been lifted, cover all roots with wet burlap, moist soil, leaves, or other material to keep them from drying out. When possible, move on calm, cloudy days to reduce root drying.

Plant tree as soon as possible. If delay is inescapable, bare-rooted trees can be maintained without deterioration by setting them in easily worked, well-drained soil.

(Next: Digging Balled Stock)

Pronouncing Guide

CYRILLA

Cyrilla racemiflora - sih-rill'-ah ray-seem-ih-floor'-ah

JAPANESE BLACK PINE

Pinus thunbergi - pie'-nuhss thun-bear'-gee

WITCH HAZEL

Hamamelis mollis - ha-ma-mell'-ihs moll'-ihss

EUROPEAN HOPHORNBEAM

Ostrya carpinifolia - os'-tree-ah car-pine-ih-foal'-ee-ah

GOLDEN FERN

Selaginella caulescens - see'-lah-gin-ell-ah call-ess'-enz

BALDCYPRESS

Taxodium distichum - tax-oh'-dee-um dis'-tick-um

tree of the month

ILEX

by JOHN HREHA

Within this genus we will deal only with the small leaf varieties of Japanese Holly (Ilex crenata). It was first brought to this country in 1864, and included only two or three species. However, when grown from seed so many different characteristics appeared that more than 30 varieties now exist.

The original species grew to a height of 20 feet, but now there are some that grow so low in habit they are termed compact dwarfs. One variety, I. crenata helleri, reaches a height of 5 to 7 feet. Its habit can be termed a global mound; a 25-year-old specimen is 4 feet high, but spreads 5 feet in diameter. Fruiting consists of black berries which measure 5/16th of an inch or less in diameter, but are mostly ineffective in large plants with the dark evergreen as a background. The fruit would, however, enhance a bonsai. The leaves vary in length from 1/4-inch to 1 1/2 inches.

Helleri likes sandy, somewhat rich but well-drained soil slightly on the acid side, and it does not mind a moist climate. For bonsai, the plants must have protection from winter wind and sun. This feature is probably the only serious drawback. Burying the pot and plant in the ground in heavy shade and cutting off all wind with barriers has been successful. Heavy shade in a cold frame or cold greenhouse also will do.

Helleri produces massive roots at the surface and many older nursery-grown

specimens already have this desirable feature. Very young plants should be grown in the ground or at least in very large pots to encourage the thickening of the surface roots. Some plants will produce knob-like globules of roots which will, if too large, take two to three years to reduce in size for proper potting. In any event, this massive roots feature greatly enhances this species so that it meets the requirement for a buttressed base, without which no tree can be termed a true bonsai. Repotting should be done each spring, but also can be done in early fall if necessary.

The bark of the helleri is quite thin and care must be taken not to damage it in wiring. Pruning wounds take longer to heal, but do so with an aging effect that gives the scar a grisly appearance. If large branches must be wired, extreme care and watchfulness are necessities to prevent bark damage.

Wiring is not a big problem when working with a younger plant, or with relatively young branches and twigs. Although these are brittle, judicious and planned pruning and nipping of new shoots can eliminate most, if not all, wiring. The helleri produces alternate leaves which are set very close together on the side of the shoots. It also produces an upper and a lower leaf which occur less often than the side leaves. In effect, it offers a variety of directions to where new shoots can be trained, and also has the

(see ILEX..., page 11)

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BOOK REVIEW

BONSAI MINIATURES. From notes supplied by Zeko Nakamura. Shufunotomo Co., Ltd., Tokyo, 1973, 62pp., \$1.75. Reviewed by Jim Newton, NOVABONSOC

Everyone who has done much reading about bonsai has had to run across the name of Zeko Nakamura. Now 73, he is perhaps the best known grower of Mame bonsai. In his homeland he also is famous as a comedian in Japanese movies and television. He has been growing miniature bonsai for 40 years.

This little gem of a book (its 4 1/4" x 5 3/4" size make it a literary Mame) is one of the most lucid descriptions of bonsai techniques I have had the pleasure

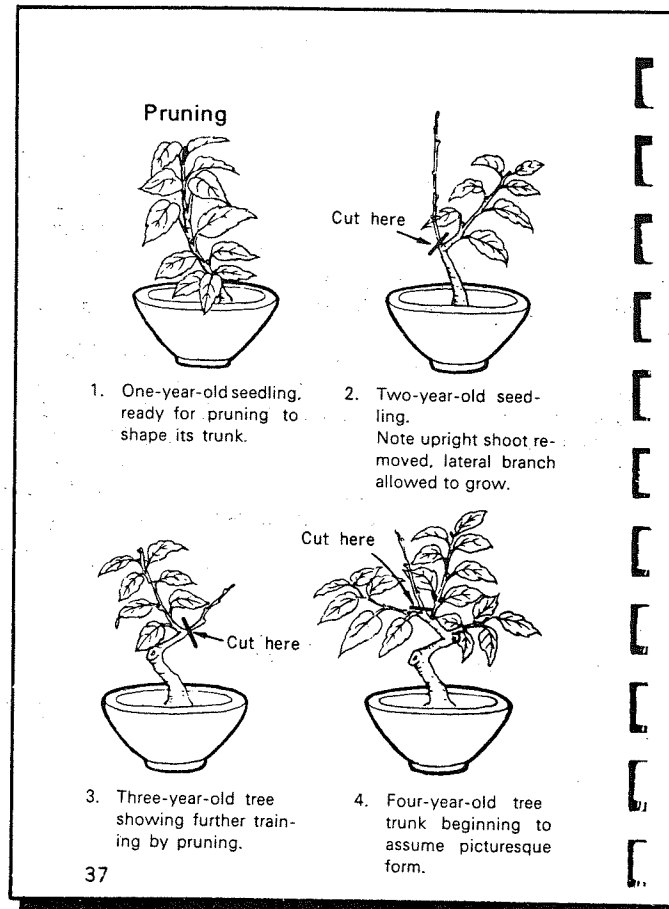
of reading. It contains 30 full-page color plates, all of Nakamura miniatures. For example, how about a Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii corticosa*) 20 years old, 3" high? Or a double flowering form of a Quince (*Chaenomeles maulei*) 30 years old, 3" high, collected?

The subject of each beautifully rendered color picture is identified by its Japanese, English, and Latin names. Age, height, and propagative method are also included for each plant pictured.

In addition to the outstanding color plates, numerous line drawings illustrate bonsai techniques. Although the contents are devoted exclusively to Mame bonsai, text and illustrations portray basic techniques applicable to any size bonsai. (The sample page reproduced here is full-size - Ed.)

Not all Mr. Nakamura's miniaturizing efforts are applied to trees, however. He identifies some plants as bonsai which we normally

do not consider as being in that classification. The first illustration in the book, for instance, shows a tiny Japanese Andromeda (*Pieris japonica*) 7 years old, 3" high, from cutting, and includes a Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea gray*) 2" high, by division, and common Dandelion (yes, that's right!) (*Taraxacum platycarpum*) 2" high, collected. Some others he calls bonsai include: Fairy Primrose (*Primula malacoides franch*) 2" high, from seedling; Mugwort (*Artemisia schmidtiana maximus*) 5 years old, 3" high, from cutting; Liguraria (*Liguraria tussilaginea makino*) 1 year old, 1 1/4" high, from seedling; Daianthus (*Daianthus supurbus monticola*) (see BOOK REVIEW..., page 11)



ILEX...

(Continued from page 9)

ability to produce abundant twiginess. This bottom leaf is an excellent means by which a branch can be naturally arched downward by pruning in front of this leaf.

The *helleri* grows almost continuously, and nipping of the new shoots early should be done with the fingers. If this is delayed, long leggy shoots will occur, resulting in a loss of time in training the branch, since the long twig will have to be cut back.

Pruning can be performed at almost any time. My experience has been to prune from early spring to late fall. Furthermore, the amount of pruning does not appear to matter. One of my specimens that started out at 2 1/2 feet has been reduced to 5 inches through accident and otherwise. An example of judicious pruning of an *Ilex crenata* is given in the book *Bonsai For Americans*, where author George Hull presents a series of photographs on pages 60-63 which portray the styling of this plant by Frank Okamura.

Because of its desirable features, the *helleri* is recommended for small bonsai and for Mame. A Kingsville Nursery in-

roduction, *I. C. longifolia*, might well make an excellent Mame because of its slow growth. Found in Maryland in 1912, this original plant is 4 feet high with 1/2-inch leaves.

Another dwarf form to be considered is the *I. C. convexa*, of which a 40-year-old specimen has reached a height of only 9 feet at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. The green island variety is more open and not as compacted as the *helleri*, while the Kingsville green cushion might be a good example, being more dwarf-like in habit than the *helleri*.

BOOK REVIEW... (Continued from page 10)

makino) 2 1/2" high, collected; and Ligularia (*Ligularia tussilaginea makino*) 3 years old, 2" high, from seedling.

Despite its small size, the volume's ten chapters cover sources of plants, soils, containers, potting, training, pruning, wiring, fertilizing, repotting, disinfection, and general care. Interesting observations abound, such as: "A homemade spray composed of cigarette butts steeped in water to which a little soap has been added makes an inexpensive mild spray to keep on hand." (Page 53, in the section on Disinfection - Ed.)

The Nakamura notes close by noting that a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction can be experienced in growing and training miniatures. But he cautions: "It takes five to ten years to produce a Mame bonsai worthy of the name or fit to be admired. Indeed it is a trial of patience between man and tree."

That may be one of the greatest attractions this living art form exerts on its aficionados. And, for my part, a great deal of satisfaction is present in the care and training to reach that supposed decade before the Mame can be considered "finished."

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I think it is an admirable addition to the growing list of bonsai literature.

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