

POTOMAC  
BONSAI  
ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



TOSHOU , NEEDLE JUNIPER , JUNIPERUS RIGIDA

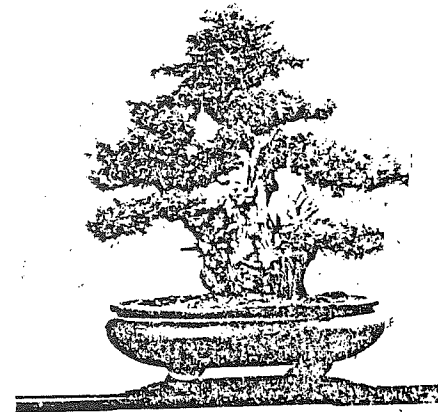
JIN MAKING

BY REIKO SHUNSHOKU

TRANSLATED BY JULES KOETSCH

COLLECTING THE TREE AND THE FIRST YEAR

The author believes that it is best to collect the tree, - one that is about 40 to 50 cm. (16 to 20 inches) high with a root spread of about 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 inches) radius or 8 to 12 inches in diameter. That size is selected since such a tree will be convenient to handle, will have a good probability of survival, and will have developed to the point that one can begin the final tree design. The tree should have many bottom branches and enough branches to jin. (Jin is the removal of the bark from the tips of branches and then treating them with lime-sulfur to protect their deadwood appearance.) It is probably easy to find a toshou which is elegant in appearance. With that as a starting point, one must keep in mind



that to achieve a splendid bonsai one must recognize that how the toshou is handled spells the difference.

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First of all one must use his imagination to project how the tree will appear in the future and how to then design it initially. After deciding as to which branches are to remain, cut off the other branches so that no less than 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 inches) remain (the maximum length to make a jin). The appearance of age is sacrificed at this time for the survival of the tree. Carefully dig up the roots, cutting as few as possible. Cover the rootball with sphagnum moss, mountain moss, or the like. It is even a good idea to wrap the moss/rootball with wet newspaper and then cover that with vinyl, tying the plastic cover in place so that the roots are not exposed to the air while the plant is being transported to one's home.

Upon arriving at your home, immediately prepare to place the plant in a container. In order that the roots need not be cut, select a container which will take the entire rootball with a gap between the rootball and the sides of the container.

The potting soil is a mixture of 3 parts sand, 3 parts paulownia tree sand, and 4 parts akadama soil. (Do not remove any soil from the rootball but add the above soil mix to fill the void between the rootball and the walls of the container. A wooden box with bottom drainage makes a suitable container.) Once planted, immediately water the soil. Cover the foliage with a reed or bulrush matting to keep any insects from escaping when the plant is now placed in a greenhouse. It is important to place the plant in a greenhouse to protect it from the wind so that the roots will not dry up. Afterwards mist the needles once or twice a day.

#### SECOND THROUGH FOURTH YEAR MANAGEMENT

After one year, transplant the toshou once in the second year and once in the third year, removing one-third of the rootball and roots each time. During the 4th and 5th year transfer the toshou to a bonsai pot. At that time use only akadama soil as the potting medium. Please cut the surface roots so that they do not spread.

Fertilize one month after the transplanting by applying 4 to 5 kneaded, fertilizer balls of rapeseed oil.

It is not necessary to protect the plant from the wind after the transplanting has been accomplished. The only time that protection from the wind is required is during the winter. Toshou does not like mid-winter.

#### THE KNACK OF JIN MAKING

After transplanting in the 3rd year, the convenient period to do the jin is the middle of June when the rainy season has begun.

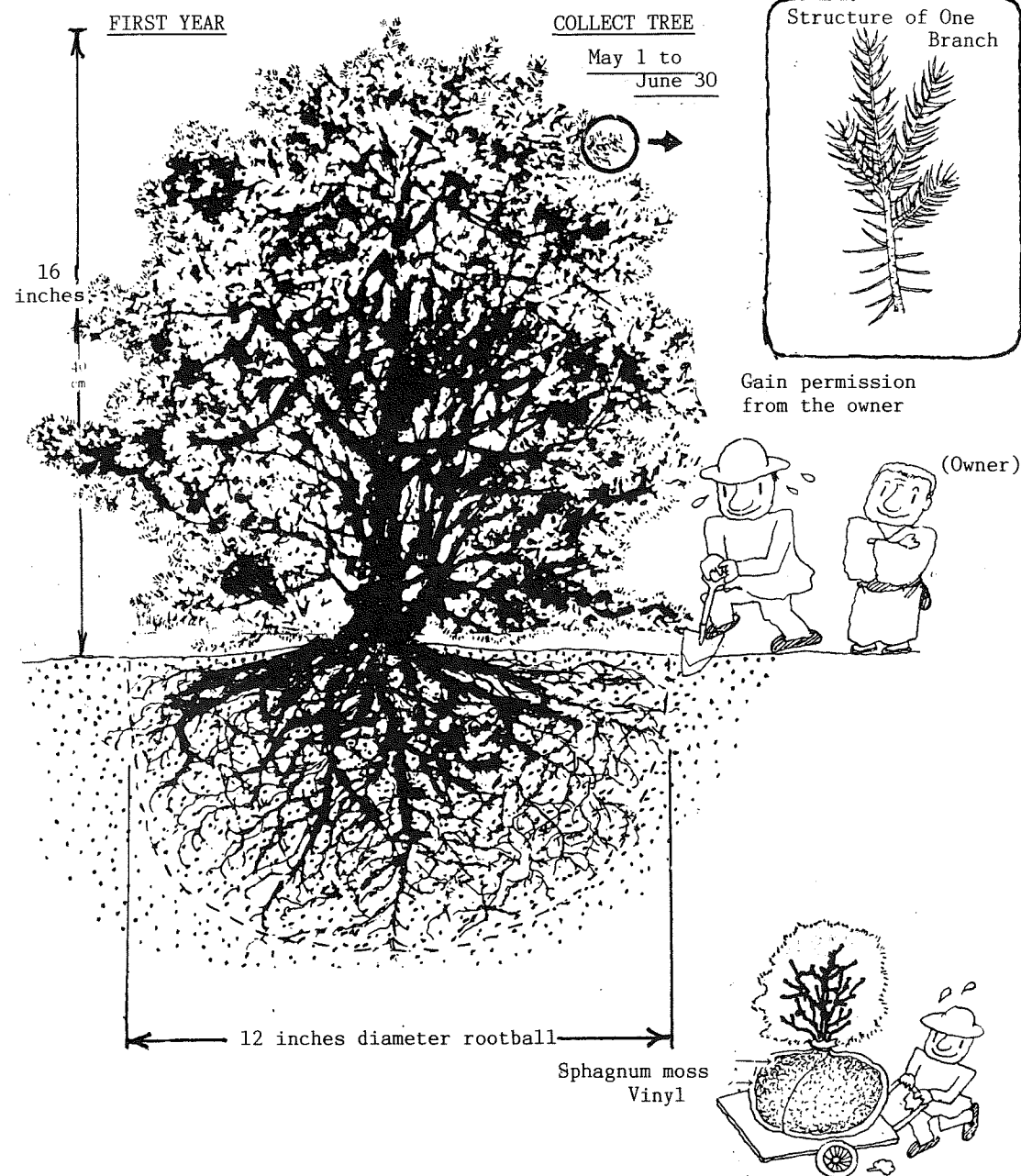
Please heed this warning, at this time tie the plant securely to the container so that the trunk and roots do not separate and roots are not pulled out of the soil to become exposed while you are working on the plant to produce the jin.

The author believes that to enable one to select branches that are to remain and those for jin and thereby establish the tree's personality or individuality, one must start with a more mature tree and not a sapling.

#### FIFTH YEAR AND SUBSEQUENTLY

Continue to transplant once every 4 to 5 years in the periods between May 1st and June 30th. Otherwise, on a yearly basis, follow the instruction shown on the schedule for the 4th year.

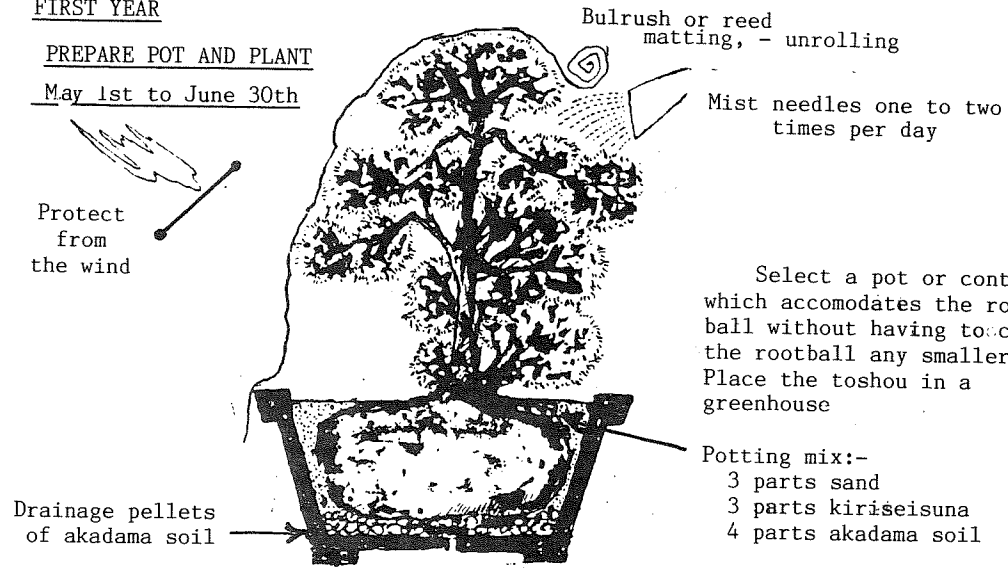
### TOSHOU or NEEDLE JUNIPER, MAKING JIN



FIRST YEAR

PREPARE POT AND PLANT

May 1st to June 30th



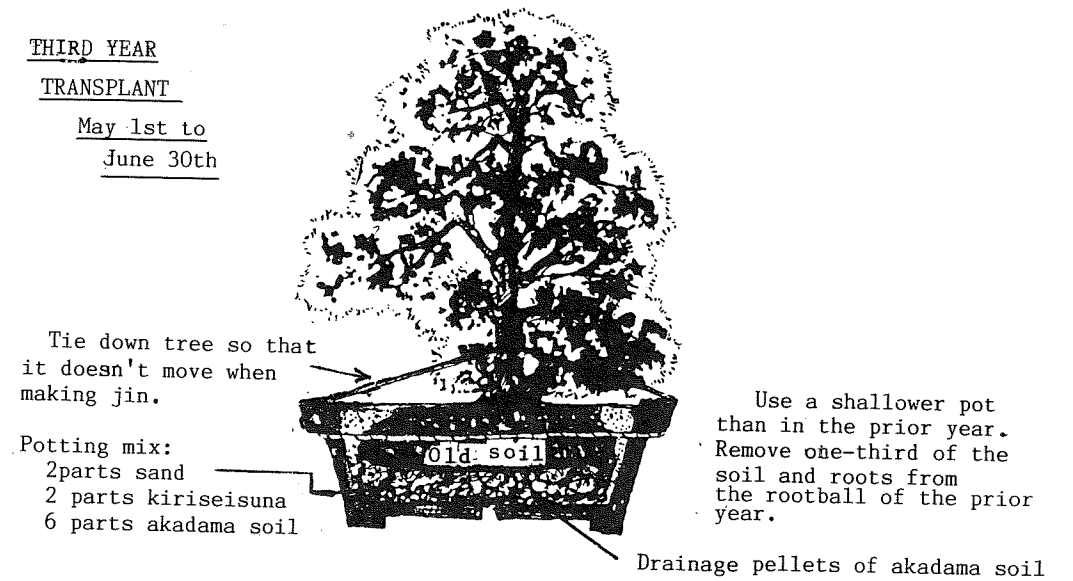
Select a pot or container which accomodates the rootball without having to cut the rootball any smaller. Place the toshou in a greenhouse

Potting mix:-  
 3 parts sand  
 3 parts kiriseisuna  
 4 parts akadama soil

THIRD YEAR

TRANSPLANT

May 1st to June 30th

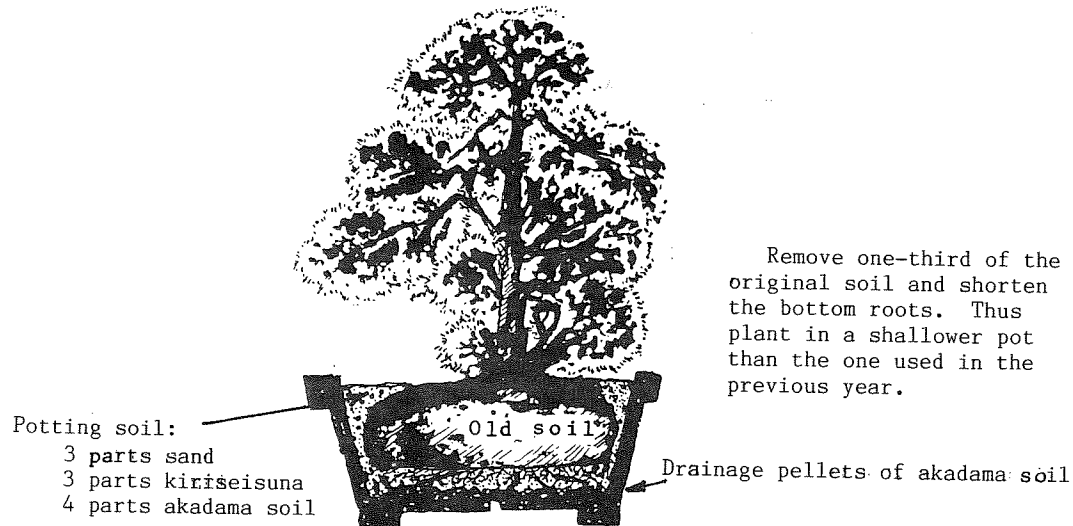


Potting mix:  
 2parts sand  
 2 parts kiriseisuna  
 6 parts akadama soil

Use a shallower pot than in the prior year. Remove one-third of the soil and roots from the rootball of the prior year.

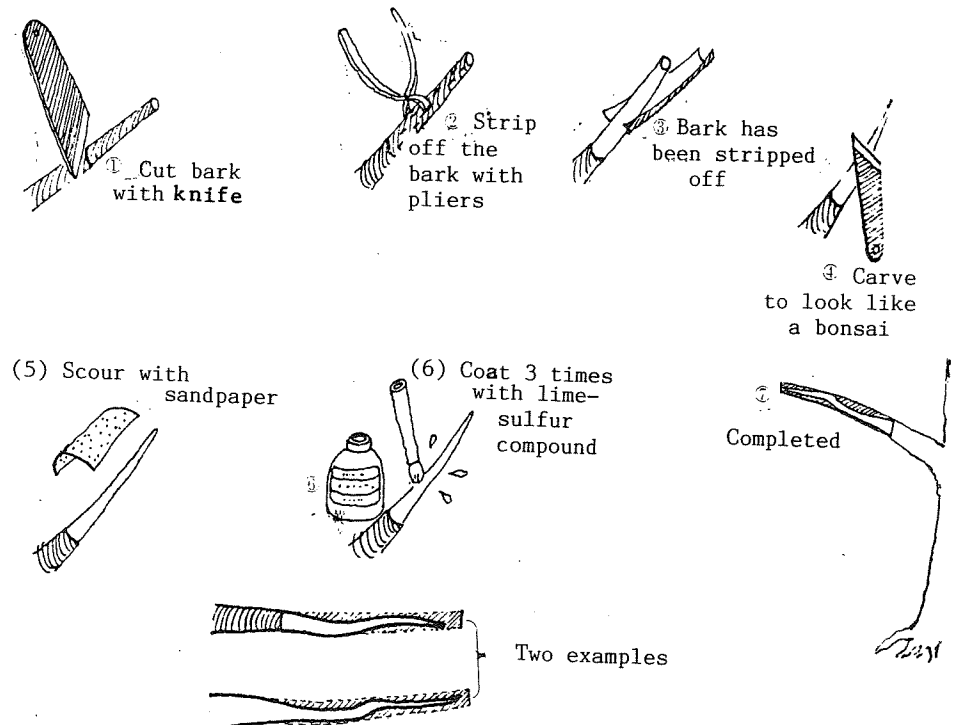
SECOND YEAR

TRANSPLANT May 1 to June 30th



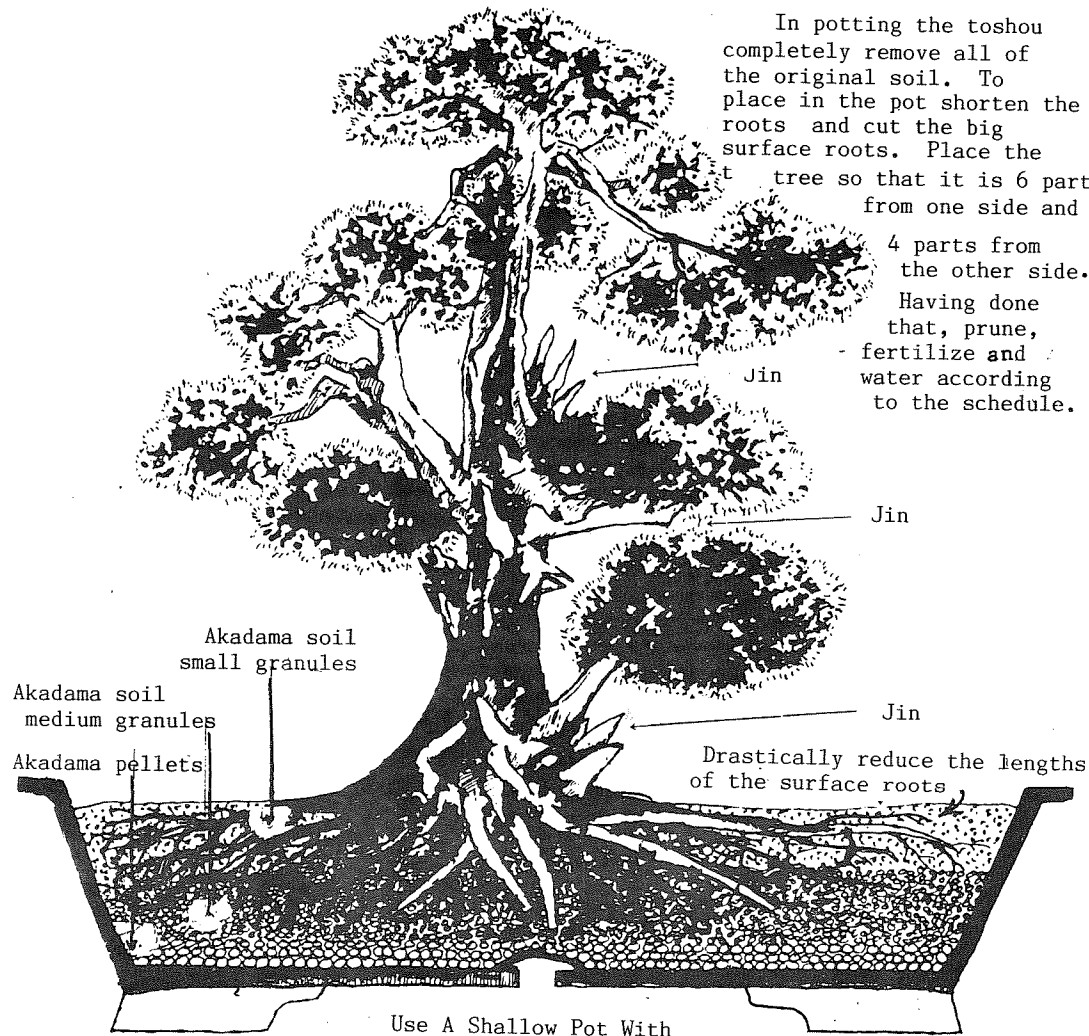
Potting soil:  
 3 parts sand  
 3 parts kiriseisuna  
 4 parts akadama soil

JIN MAKING - First Rainy Season



FOURTH YEAR

PLANT IN A BONSAI POT May 1st to June 30th



In potting the toshou completely remove all of the original soil. To place in the pot shorten the roots and cut the big surface roots. Place the tree so that it is 6 parts from one side and 4 parts from the other side. Having done that, prune, fertilize and water according to the schedule.

TOSHOU or NEEDLE JUNIPER  
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Month/ Days	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Jan 1 - 10		Insecticide		
Mar 20 - 31		Place outdoors on a shelf, water adequately		
Apr 1 - 10			Fertilize	
May 1 - 10	Dig up plant Prepare pot and pot inside greenhouse. Mist needles once or twice a day Place on a shelf Water adequately			Place in a bonsai pot
Jun 1 - 10		Fertilize		
Jul 1 - 10	Apply insecticide			
Aug 1 - 10		Fertilize		
Oct 1 - 10		Fertilize		
Dec 1 - 10	Place in a greenhouse			

Fifth and subsequent years: - Repeat every year the effort as scheduled for the fourth year except report every 4th or 5th year.

TREE CARE CALENDAR

Sheet number 5

TREE SPECIES	Jan			Feb			Mar			Apr			May			Jun			Jul			Aug			Sep			Oct			Nov			Dec		
	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 31	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 28	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 31	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 31	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 31	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 31	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 31			
CHERRY	G [redacted] 2W			B1 (Kanzakura)			W1 to W2 Beware frost R [redacted]			B B1 F (satozakura variety)			Wi [redacted] W2 to W3 P + PS [redacted]			I W3			I W3			RW [redacted] I W1 R [redacted] (Kanzakura variety)			I 2W			G [redacted]								
FORSYTHIA				B			I RG P R			I OB P B1 RL			I F			I F Wi			I F			I F			I F			I RW I F			I G Leaves fall Prune blossoms that remain					
QUINCE	G [redacted] W1 to 2W			B1 2W B1			B RB I R [redacted] W1			F I W2			F W2 to W3 Wi [redacted] PS [redacted]			I W3 F			I W3 F			I W1 to W2 R [redacted] P [redacted] B			W1 to 2W			I W1 to 2W								
WINTER JASMINE	G [redacted] 2W			Daytime place in sun Avoid frost B1			R [redacted] RB W1			I B W1 to W2 I			W2 F			I I			I F W3			F			RW [redacted] R [redacted] PS [redacted] W1 to W2 F			I W1			F I 2W					
TEA (BOHEA)							RG I			PS R			F			Wi PB F			HS F			RW			FS F			B1 RB			I G					
WISTERIA							Divide roots. R			I B1 P RB			Wi F I			I			PB F I			F I			RW F			I			I G					

This article is a review of the latest issue of Shoen Bonsai Magazine Vol 3, 1984. Shoen Bonsai Magazine began as a combination of articles and a catalog for Shoen Bonsai and Japanese Garden. Since then the catalog portion has been removed and only the articles appear in the magazine now published annually. It is made available to "Friends of Shoen Bonsai". Anyone wishing to find out information on Friends of Shoen Bonsai and on how to obtain future copies of the Shoen Bonsai Magazine can write or telephone the Publisher-Editor J.Y. Haga, Shoen Bonsai and Japanese Garden, 601 E. Gude Dr., Rockville, MD, 20850, (301) 762-0878.

All in all Volume 3 of the magazine is well worth the price, - \$ 2.50 by mail and \$ 1.88 at the shop.

The contents of Volume included the following topics:

- Bonsai Styles: I Moyogi Style
- Tosho (Needle Juniper) for Bonsai
- News from Japanese Bonsai Community: Koide
- How To Build An Automatic Sprinkler System for Under \$ 100.00

The first interesting and detailed article delves into the ramifications of styling with insight into the Japanese approach to the subject. Of particular interest was to compare the content of the article concerning styles with the style-categories used by speakers at the last PBA Symposium. In doing that, one thing is not clear to the reviewer,- how do the Japanese distinguish between informal upright or moyogi style and slanting or shakan? Is a tree moyogi style when the top or apex is almost directly over the base of the trunk? In a purist sense when does moyogi become shakan? Perhaps this will be covered in the next article in the magazine.

One thing one could use more of, in articles on styling is to have more illustrations of how Bonsaiists have overcome pitfalls in styling their bonsai. Pen and ink outline or overlay drawings would be most useful since they would be clearer than photographs and would offset the cost of printing a photograph.

The article on toshou was most welcome since the reviewer came upon the issue of the magazine after struggling with the translation concerning toshou in the October PBA Newsletter. In addition needle junipers and other junipers with similar needle structure (prickly), are heavily used to produce bonsai in this country and almost every bonsaiist has or had owned one during his or her lifetime. The article where appropriate, translates Japanese procedures and materials used by them such as soil and fertilizer into indigenous equivalents.

Being of a technical bent, I like charts and tables as you may have gathered from the PBA Newsletter articles. Somehow charts and tables provide me with quick references/visual reminders that I find convenient to help me keep up with the chores when due. From the data supplied, one can create such a chart or table. In so doing, the results agreed, for the most parts, with those in the PBA Newsletter's "Tree Care Calendar Sheet Number 1's" entry for needle juniper and also the schedule provided in the last issues of the Newsletter. Even though one can construct a table or chart from the data supplied, the reviewer feels that not only by providing one that the reader would be saved the trouble but more important the table would emphasize what the reviewer feels is an important fact and that to be successful with bonsai, specific tasks must be carried out at specific times of the year.

The article on Mr. Shinkichi Koide without a doubt should be of interest to all bonsaiists in this country. That is especially true since The National Bonsai Collection (the gift from Japan in 1976 to honor the Bicentennial of this country) was the catalyst which started the whole train of events to create a bonsai center with three pavilions at the National Arboretum. Otherwise there would be no effort underway to raise funds to build a pavilion for Western bonsai at the National Arboretum. It was Mr. Koide who spearheaded the effort to assemble and ship the original 53 trees from Japan to the National Arboretum. For those of you who have seen the Japanese movies of the sequence of events in Japan no doubt recognized Mr. Koide in the group of Japanese waving a sad and concerned farewell to their "children" when the trees departed for the airport.

Unfortunately many bonsai people in this country do not either know about the significant efforts Mr. Koide made during his lifetime to acquaint the rest of the world with the art of bonsai or that he fostered recognition of amateur bonsaiists in Japan by helping found the Nippon Bonsai Society. The article concludes with advice worth heeding - that American bonsaiists and bonsai organizations should take some action to show their appreciation of Mr. Shinkichi Koide's efforts in behalf of bonsai. (This is currently being pursued by the author.)

In addition, the article also points out in an indirect way, that somehow we should try to be better informed about the happenings in the bonsai community in Japan in view of the impetus and knowledge they have and still provide to the art of bonsai in this country. Articles in English like this one on Mr. Koide, are most welcome since many of us do not have the ability to fully digest what appears in articles written in Japanese.

Lastly the article on How to Build an Automatic Sprinkler System for Under One Hundred Dollars described just how to do that. The key to how often the watering was to be done was the timer. The author of the article cited that he used a timer which could be preset for 15 minute intervals throughout a 24 hour period. However, the sketch of the setup did not show a timer as part of the circuitry but one can figure out where it belongs in the lashup.



Snow-laden subalpine fir

BEST WISHES FOR A  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
AND A  
GREAT BONSAI YEAR

Pen and ink drawings on this and the following page are from the book NORTHWEST TREES with the text by Stephen F. Arno and art by Ramona P. Hammerly, The Mountaineers 719 Pike St., Seattle, WA 9801, 1977

## THE THINGS I DIDN'T DO LAST SUMMER

Why is it that January and February drag on forever while July and August fly? It seems like only last week that I got home from Seattle with a bundle of plans for things I was going to do and all the enthusiasm in the world to do them. I'd set myself a bunch of goals way back in the Spring, though to be fair to me, I did accomplish a fair amount of them.

First of all was to get most of my trees in bonsai pots and out of wooden containers. Except for one, this has been accomplished, and the reason the apple is still in a wooden container is that the pot I had planned for it turned out to be too shallow and I didn't have another, deeper one at the time.

I also hoped to palm a couple of trees off on someone else and managed that to everyone's satisfaction, I hope.

A couple more trees, notably a juniper and a cedar, had gotten so far ahead of me over the past couple of years that the only solution was drastic shearing with a pair of scissors. The shape is now back, but it will be another year before the foliage fills it in and the brown, cut ends disappear. At least I got to it.

But what happened to my plans to get down to some recreational carving on some of my trees? Dead wood that was saved to carve during the Summer is still uncarved and may well remain that way. I do have the excuse of having run a chisel into my finger pretty deeply one July day, which precluded anymore carving for a couple of weeks. But that's now well healed. (I know chisels can slip, and I know better than to get my hand in the way of one, but a moment's forgetfulness produced a perfect example of Murphy's Law.) However, I finally decided just how I want to carve that tree, which is something that's been bugging me for a couple of years. Standing over a sink with a profusely bleeding finger and an urge to faint apparently was inspirational, but I think I prefer a more conventional approach to any future brainstorming.

Another of my projects was to have applied lime-sulfur to all the various and sundry areas of dead wood on several of my trees. I did manage to get one application on some of them. I had the excuse earlier when we had such a rainy Summer and the wood was too wet. But we've needed rain for weeks now and it still isn't done, tho there still may be time to get to it.

But the crickets are out in force and some of the trees are beginning to turn color, and time is what I'm running out of. For some projects it's already too late. Maybe instead of worrying about it I'll just put it off til next year and start to think about where I'll go skiing when I can't work on my trees anymore.

Mary Holmes



High elevation subalpine fir: clusters (timber atoll) and exposed specimens

## REPORT IBC '85



(The following is a partial reprinting of some of the information passed along in the last issue of NEW ORLEANS BONSAI concerning the International Bonsai Conference '85 which The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society is hosting. Application blanks were in last month's PBA Newsletter. If you didn't get one and are interested, telephone another PBA member.)

IBC '85 is scheduled, not in July, but in the Spring: April 3 through 7, 1985. The Easter/Passover Week is undoubtedly the best time to see the Crescent City: New Orleans is sunny and cool, trees and shrubbery already fully leafed out, many in bloom, nurseries well-stocked with containerized plants, and City shops and restaurants buzzing with activity. French Quarter artists line up on Jackson Square, inspired by the weather, scenery and interesting people who pass by on their way to the St. Louis Cathedral, the Cafe du Monde or simply "hanging out" to take in the sun and the breezes off of the Mississippi River. Throughout the Quarter there are Street Musicians and Flower Carts; great restaurants, jazz halls, coffee and pastry shops, and shops, shops and more shops.



Laissez le bon temps roulez

Let the Good Times roll



Tours of patios are provided by several volunteer groups in the Quarter and in the Garden District, and a tour to Cajun Country is being planned for those conventioners who may wish to see our Swamps.

For those attending who do not want to miss traditional Easter/Passover Services, GNOBS has arranged First Night Seder in homes around Lake Pontchartrain, Second Night Seder in the Garden District, and Easter Sunrise Service on the Mississippi River. Also, one of the best Church Choirs in the City invited IBC'ers to attend a Sunday Session of Gospel Music.

And a Spring IBC is just plain good sense: it is the best time to prune, wire and pot trees for Bonsai, ensuring better survival rates for workshop and lecture trees.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2 December BOWIE (301) 262-8578: At the Bowie Community Center at 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday SLIDES OF JAPAN.

8 December NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703) 920-8361: Green Spring Horti-  
Saturday cultural Center at 10:00 a.m. ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
for next year. A HOLIDAYS' PARTY will follow. Members  
will be contacted to bring dishes for a noontime lunch. Slides or  
movies will be shown. Subject or subjects will be announced next month.

9 December BOWIE (301) 262-8578: Bowie Community Center from 2:00 to 4:00  
Sunday p.m. HOLIDAYS PARTY

20 December BROOKSIDE (301) 871-5768: Argyle Community Center at  
Thursday 7:30 p.m. CHRISTMAS PARTY. There will be a movie, refresh-  
ments, and a bonsai grab bag. Start thinking now about  
bringing a modest gift.

WASHINGTON (202) 547-8497: No meeting for December. Next scheduled  
meeting is January 19, 1985.

For information on the following clubs telephone the number shown below:

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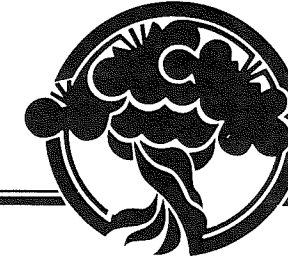
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distance from the National Arboretum:*

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HOLIDAY INN 2700 New York Ave. N.E.	832-3500
MASTER HOSTS INN 1917 Bladensburg Rd. N.E.	832-8600

Name	_____
Address	_____
Tree	_____ Style of tree _____ Age _____
Years in training	_____ Source _____
Estimated Value	_____
Do you plan to attend personally	_____
Comments	_____

*Mail to Mary Holmes*

For information contact:  
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