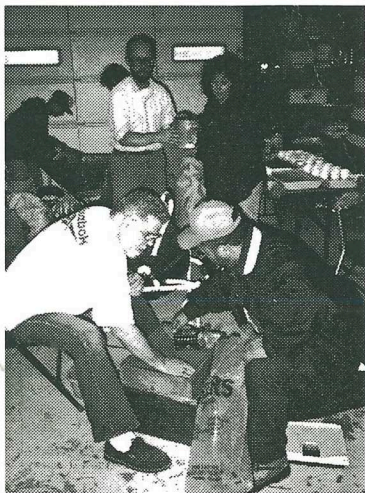


# PBA Clippings

NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION



**YEP STUDENT HARD  
AT WORK  
FIND THE FACTS  
SEE PAGE 5**



**NoVa Mixes It Up  
See page 9**

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**EDITORIAL by Jules Koetsch**

Some funny things happened on the way from winter storage to the bonsai display tables. The real surprise was what was happening with two serissas I styled last March. In less than two weeks after they were styled, the larger serissa had lost leaves on all nine branches and sub-branches save for the lowest, fattest branch. The smaller serissa with the wee, small leaves was devoid of any leaves. The two serissa sat in the polyhouse for over a month - I just could not bear to put them with other extinct—bonsai in the bonsai graveyard. When it came time to move the bonsai to the outdoor tables, as you've probably surmised by now, leaves were popping out here and there on branches which for all outward appearances had looked like candidates for jin or shari. I had to check out the above apparent phenomenon with Martha Meehan since both serissas had come from Meehan's Miniatures nursery. During the period when the serissas were showing no new leaves, I checked with some members of the club and got the response that they had always killed every serissa they had worked on. Martha said that what seemed to be a phenomenon was often the case since serissas do not take kindly to being touched by human hands, especially when wiring and bending branches. She noted that people have a tendency to "chuck them" too soon. She cautioned that one should let the plant dry out for a day or two before wiring. Also, once the tree has lost leaves after styling, do not overwater it. Unfortunately, the rebirth of the serissas was not mimiced by two other plants. The old fingernail test (scratching the bark to break through and see if the underlying cambium layer is a green color)

worked for both serissas, but not for my big black pine, nor the major tree of a hornbeam grove planting. The grove planting now consists of five hornbeams, which is an "approved" Japanese-number since it is odd. Also, note that I very carefully termed a 6- or 5-tree planting a grove. I still like the Japanese distinction that to-be-termed-a forest, there should be eleven or more trees in the planting. I agree with that terminology. Just think about it, do any less than eleven trees grouped together give you an impression of a forest? Getting back to the black pine and the hornbeam, fingernail tests yielded no green cambium layers. I know the hornbeam has gone to bonsai heaven. As for the black pine, I remember reading in some bonsai magazine how some Japanese nurseryman's prize black pine had suddenly lost all of its needles. Needless to say, after the initial shock of seeing that happen, he could not part with it, but kept nurturing it. It sprouted new needles. So my black pine is still reposing in its pot on a bench being dutifully tended, but I doubt if I can be so lucky. As for the hornbeam expiring, why is it that time and again the lead-tree, the biggest in a group or forest planting bites the dust? Maybe it feels crowded by all the other trees?

However there were some successes going from winter storage to the outdoor benches. I finally got around to making a slab out of what is, I believe, generically termed "hydro-stone." The 32 x 20 x 1 inch slab was made without molds. The method I employed is easy and any size or shape slab can be made, providing you have enough money for the hydro-stone. Hydro-stone is not cheap. I'll describe the method in a

## Calender of Events

### July

### August

Meeting location and club contact number for additional information is as listed unless otherwise noted in calendar listing. A member of any one club is eligible to participate in any PBA or PBA member club event.

- Baltimore Bonsai Club  
Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD.  
3rd Sunday, 1 PM  
(410) 668-1868
- Bowie Bonsai Club  
Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD  
Last Monday, 7 PM  
(301) 350-3586  
(202) 667-1016
- Brookside Bonsai Society  
North Chevy Chase Recreation Center,  
Chevy Chase, MD  
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM  
(301) 365-7621
- Chesapeake Bonsai Society  
Call for meeting time and location  
(410) 263-2748
- Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society  
Pennypack Watershed, Willow Grove,  
PA  
4th Thursday, eve.  
(215) 663-1678
- Kiyomizu Bonsai Club  
Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD  
4th Sunday, 2 PM  
(301) 839-2471
- Lancaster Bonsai Society  
Manheim Twp. Park, Stauffer Mansion  
Lancaster, PA  
2nd Thursday, 7 PM  
(717) 872-5941
- 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  
(703) 575-5616
- Rappahanock Bonsai Society  
Call for meeting time and location  
(540) 775-4912
- Richmond Bonsai Society  
Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave.,  
Richmond, VA  
4th Monday, 7 PM  
(804) 527-4000 Ext. 4621
- 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

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
Saturday 12  
9 am Bring your own plant for critique and discussion.  
10 am Seiki Planting - Russ Kinerson  
12 - 4 pm Seiki Planting workshop - Russ Kinerson

Brookside Bonsai Society  
Saturday 19  
10 am-12 pm, Visit home of Peter Jones in Arlington, VA (Limited to BBS members)

Baltimore Bonsai Club  
Sunday 17  
1 pm Workshop: Mike Ramina's Home. Bring plants to work on. Grooming plants for the State Fair display.

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
Saturday 9  
9 am Bring your own plant for critique and discussion.  
10 am Styling lecture and critique - Bob Chilton

Brookside Bonsai Society  
Saturday 16  
10 am-12 pm Visit Stanley Chin's collection. (Limited to BBS members)

**Please submit your club's new schedule as soon as available to Doug French at [Dfrench200.aol.com](mailto:Dfrench200.aol.com) or (703) 502 - 9426. Thank you for your cooperation.**



## Editorial, continued

future issue of PBA Clippings. The slab successfully carries 34 small cryptomeria (tallest is 10 inches) without breaking. Another successful effort so far is the planting of a 34-tree forest using maples that sprouted up on a neighbor's property; and he was happy for me to remove them. Some people say that they can tell who made a forest planting by a telltale look in the way the forest was designed. So far I think my cryptomeria forest does not resemble the maple forest over-

all; but there are still inalienable principles of forest planting which should not be altered. Or is that too dogmatic? There's always some genius who'll come along and develop new principles. So far, the pluses balance out the minuses while this is being written (June 2nd), and you can be certain that I'll collect another hornbeam for my group planting. I'll also continue to try raising black pine bonsai in conditions less than optimum, i.e. 4 hours of sunlight.

## REPOT NOW???by Jules Koetsch

It seems that I was not alone last Spring—others were also finding they were repotting their bonsai much later than in previous years. But Spring weather is most often very fickle. This year we were very uncertain that above freezing temperatures had steadied out for even a few days. Then there was the imminent threat of all that snowfall in the Midwest catching us with newly repotted trees out on benches. I got one telephone call asking if a specific tree could be repotted in mid-April after bud break. All of the above prompted me to review the literature and make some calls to PBA members to check out what are recognized procedures for repotting and what one might be able to get away with. The results follow:

Japanese books on bonsai (those in Japanese) show that the optimum time to repot for the bulk of the species of trees used for outdoor bonsai lies between mid-March to the end of April. John Y. Naka's book "Bonsai Techniques, Part I," has a very comprehensive "Chart for Transplanting and Changing Soil." It lists for many outdoor species of bonsai the months in which to do

repotting and recommends the number of years between repottings. (I had completely forgotten about that chart when I received the above phone call—it would have answered the other person's question.) The Yuji Yoshimura and Giovanna M. Halford book, "The Japanese Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes," has an "Appendix 3, Basic Data on Bonsai Plants" with a very extensive listing of 340 different species of plants with, among other items, the times for repotting each of those plant species.

From all the above mentioned sources, I find the following general guidelines apply for most of the plant species as stated in Yuji's book, Chapter 3: "The best season for repotting is in the early Spring when first new buds appear. Fruit trees such as the plum and apricot, which flower before the leaves appear, should be repotted after flowering, but before the leaves open. Fruit trees such as the cherry and apple, which flower in late Spring, should be repotted before flowering." An excellent bonsai instruction book that falls into the same category with Naka's book and

Yuji's as a teaching aid (meaning that its not a book showcasing an author's collection with little factual "meat") is Toshio Kawamoto's "Saikei: Living Landscapes in Miniature." People tend to pass it by because of the word "saikei" in the title, but the book speaks to how to do almost every aspect of bonsai. In the section on repotting: "The best time is March or April before new buds appear. Azaleas should be repotted after they flower."

Now that we have a general guideline for repotting, there are the usual exceptions. Naka's chart lists the months of May, June, and July and in some cases, August, when some deciduous trees can be repotted after they have been defoliated. Kawamoto's book agrees with that. Reading Kawamoto further, I find the following: "In the case of deciduous trees, you should not repot them if the leaves have already opened, or they may wither before the roots take hold and the tree may die. But if it is really necessary to repot, soak the root ball in a basin of water for thirty minutes before planting in the new container. In this way, the roots will soak up

*Continued on page 10*

## July Monthly Care Tips

**Watering:** Do any overhead watering before 10:00 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. to prevent sun damage to the foliage. Do not overhead water after 5:00 p.m. as the moisture on the foliage may cause fungi to form. When the day is very hot and especially if it is a dry one, the plants may need two waterings. **Fertilizer:** Some people feel that fertil-

izing the bonsai during July and August stresses the plants too much. If you are not of that school of thought, fertilize according to your schedule if you're using fertilizer balls or liquid fertilizer. If using liquid fertilizer, rotate between different brands and include a fish emulsion one. **Wiring:** Check to see that none is digging into the bark. Wiring can be

done on the coniferous species. Insecticides and Diseases. Be alert for any infestations and use the appropriate insecticides and fungicides. Usually a good dousing with a water spray in the late afternoon will discourage any insects from making a permanent roost in your bonsai. Good air movement often prevents any fungi from forming.

## REPORT ON PBA YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM by Jack Cardon

During the recent PBA Show at the Arboretum, I was asked about the Youth Education Program (YEP). The inquiry prompted me to get with it and write the report I had been thinking of for the last several weeks. When I looked up the last report, I was shocked to discover that it was written three years ago. Time flies when you're having fun!

(For the benefit of those members who may not have heard of YEP, let me say that about five years ago the PBA Board of Directors decided to begin a new program. They hoped to further the purposes and objectives of the Association by exposing young people in the Washington metropolitan area to the art of bonsai. The Board asked for a volunteer to head up the program and I agreed to try. Later, Janet Lanman graciously consented to help and has generously given of her time and talent.)

YEP has not grown very fast, but it has covered a considerable amount of territory. Schools have been visited as far away as Purcellville in Virginia, and Laurel and Damascus in Maryland. A curriculum has been developed from experience consisting of informal "show and tell" sessions, demonstrations, and after school "hands on" classes where students are taught how to create their own trees.

In general, the program has been directed to high school students because experience has shown that elementary and middle school students are not really interested in bonsai. Most of the work is with schools, although last Fall we were

asked to participate in "Adventures in Science," a learning enrichment program offering weekend sessions for young students. Each week, a lecture is given on some aspect of a science.

YEP continues to be particularly popular with two schools. One of them is the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia; and the other is Damascus High School some forty or fifty miles away in Damascus, Maryland. The two schools are quite different. Damascus High is situated in a small rural town, has normal size classes and follows the Montgomery County curriculum. Thomas Jefferson is located in the Washington metropolitan area, admits students only on application, has small classes, and provides education in highly specialized fields of science.

Notwithstanding the differences in the two schools, the students react the same — with interest and enthusiasm, proving once again the universal appeal of bonsai. This year there were more requests to participate in the "hands on" sessions than we could handle. It is a real pleasure to see the trees produced by the students when they are allowed to let their imaginations go and have fun with bonsai. We have visited each of these two schools five times and have already been asked to come again next year.

Each year after our visit to Damascus High School, we receive "thank you" letters from the students. To be sure, the teacher probably puts the screws to the kids; nevertheless the letters are very heart-

warming. One girl who fashioned a bonsai last year, but lost it, wrote:

"... I wish I could tell you a happy ending with my first bonsai, but I am sure this bonsai will be very happy. I hope to see you next year. Thanks again."

Other letters were equally appreciative:

"... I like how just one little thing that you do can change the look of the tree. Being able to give it it's own character is neat."

"...Watching and learning more about bonsai was fun. I found it fascinating. Myself being interested in landscaping as well as gardening it was something new to learn about I especially like the interaction. You made my day a very peachy one in gardening lingo."

"... I really appreciate the time you spent with our class the last 2 days. It is not often that the whole class gets that involved with a particular lesson the way we did with this one.... So far bonsai has been the most interesting plant we have studied. I look forward to the workshop and a future in the art of bonsai."

How does the teacher react to our visits? Putting modesty aside, I leave the answer to Ms. Susan Sand, the horticulture teacher at Damascus:

"Thanks again for your excellent demonstration on how to create a bonsai. The students are eager to sign up for the workshop to create their own. What a privilege it is for them to learn this art from you. I look forward to your visit each year, and I consider it a special gift to know you and Janet."

## BONSAI STAMP STATUS by Jerry Antel

Many countries, including Japan, Monaco, and the Peoples Republic of China, have issued stamps with a bonsai motif. So far, the United States has not issued such a stamp. The necessary papers were submitted several years ago.

Recent conversations with the powers that be revealed that the stamp is still under consideration. One of the things that can be done to push this along is to write letters to the Postal Service Citizen's Advisory Committee as follows:

USPS Citizen's Advisory Committee Attn: Dr. Virginia Nolke, Chairman 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Room 4474 E Washington, DC20260-2437

See letter on next page as an example to send in and the letter has been set up so anyone could xerox, sign and send. The letter was written by Betty Yeapanis and Jules Koetsch.

It probably wouldn't hurt if Congressman and Public Officials could also put in a good word. This takes encouragement from you.

If you have any questions, please call me, (301) 320-5251.



### Annual Bonsai Auction Blooms forth with Success!

What better place to buy your next project tree than from your bonsai peers. And that's what over 100 people did this past May 24 at Behnke Nurseries Co. There was lots of buying and selling, looking and talking going on at this year's PBA Auction. The day was beautiful and sunny and \$908 was raised for PBA.

Thanks goes out to Behnke's, all the volunteers from member clubs who worked the auction as well as the enthusiastic sellers and calm buyers. We've been doing this for the last 20 years and hope to do it for 20 more.

Many very nice trees were auctioned off. Everything from a grand blue cedar to some incredible boxwoods to classic, hard-to-find bonsai pots. Prices ranged from \$3 for a pot of bamboo to \$235 for a 27 year old Hall crabapple. In all, \$4544 was collected. As always, the seller receives 80% and 20% of the sale goes to PBA.

See you again next Spring!  
Sally Griffin Chair,  
PBA Auction '97 and  
Member, NVBS

USPS Citizen's Advisory Committee  
Attn: Dr. Virginia Nolke, Chairman  
4474 E  
Washington, DC 20260-2437

Dear Dr. Nolke,

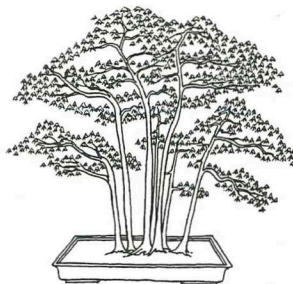
I am interested in seeing a series of stamps depicting American bonsai -dwarf trees based on ancient Chinese/Japanese methods but bearing a unique American art style. It has been a number of years since the above was thought was first broached. Since many people have been introduced to as a living art form and many throughout the world are engaged in one or more aspects of creating bonsai.

Candidates for the bonsai stamps can be found among some seventy trees in Washington, DC at the U.S. National Arboretum's "first in the world" National Penjing and Bonsai Museum which was recently completed. Those trees were selected from a large number of submission nationwide one outstanding candidate is the forest "Goshen" by American Bonsai Mater John Yoshio Naka. He was declared a National treasure by the national endowment for the arts and is past recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor for his teaching much of the western world the techniques for the mastering the bonsai art form.

The bonsai will lend an artistic theme to a pane of stamps that should be well received not only bonsai enthusiasts world wide but also the public at large because of their uniqueness and intrinsic beauty.

Sincerely,

Bonsai enthusiast



**POTOMAC BONSAI SOCIETY**  
**22ND ANNUAL FALL SYMPOSIUM**

FEATURING  
**WARREN HILL**

CURATOR OF THE NATIONAL COLLECTION  
MASTER BONSAIST FOR MANY YEARS

**SEPTEMBER 19, 20 AND 21**  
**FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**  
AT THE  
**NATIONAL ARBORETUM**  
**WASHINGTON, DC**

Workshops, Vendors Lecture/Demostation

Registration form and  
More Detailed Information to follow in August "*Clippings*"

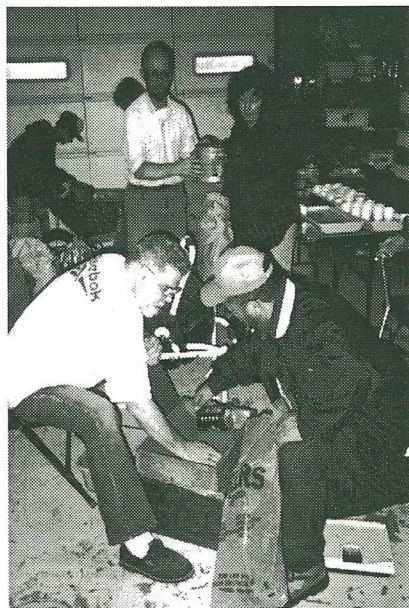


BONSAI SOIL MIXING SUBMITTED BY BILL MERRITT;  
 BASED ON THE ARTICLE FROM NVBS NEWSLETTER BY ARLENE POLINSKY

To buy or mix? —That was the question. The Northern Virginia Bonsai Society answered the question on 1 March when eight members gathered at the Green Spring Gardens Farm Park to mix bonsai soil for the coming season. Arlene Polinsky, NoVa VP, made arrangements to purchase needed ingredients. Pete Jones brought his screens; Bill Merritt furnished a Mix-Mate tumbler; others furnished tubs, and important things like bagels and cream cheese.



We used a traditional, general mix of equal parts granite grit, pine bark, and turface. A do-it-yourself approach to soil mixing has many advantages. Proportions of ingredients can be adjusted as desired, and items can be omitted, if necessary. This basic mix can also be easily adjusted. For conifers, three parts of the basic mix plus one part grit gives a mix with 50 percent grit. For azaleas, three parts of the basic mix plus one part of bark results in a mix with 50 percent humus. Other adjustments are just as easy.



Arlene found the ingredients at the following locations: Granite Grit is sold as "Chicken Grit" at the Southern States Co-op in Vienna, Virginia. We exhausted their supply and resorted to crushed bluestone from Sissler's in Falls Church. Sieving produced more waste with the bluestone than the granite, but it was cheaper. [in the long run] High magnesium content in the bluestone should enhance color in evergreens. All materials were sieved to eliminate particles that passed through window-screen-sized openings. This was a dusty operation requiring members to wear dust masks for safety (see photographs). Larger chunks of bark and bluestone—bigger than one-half inch—were also screened out.

Pine bark was supposed to come from ABC Distributors in Shirlington, Virginia. They were out—material from Hechinger's was substituted. The ABC bark is more uniform and produces less waste than Hechinger's. The material screened out as too large for

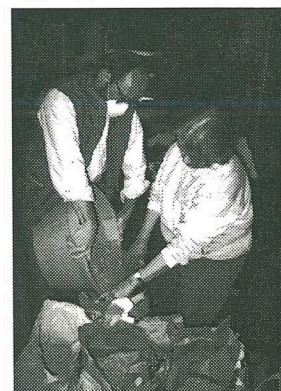


bonsai plantings was purchased by club members for use as garden mulch.

Turf was purchased from Pro-Seed Turf Supply in Chantilly, Virginia. Two sizes are available. We use MVP which is the same size as the grit.



This was a fun and worthwhile experience. Nearly 700 pounds of mix were produced at a cost of about \$5.00 per 25-pound bag. Time and energy could have generated more soil, but sources for grit ran out. We plan a bigger production run next year.



## Repotting, continued from page 4

enough water to keep the tree alive until the roots take hold." The above statements seem to contradict the suggestions in both Kawamoto's book and Naka's book that late Spring and early Summer repotting can be done to deciduous trees if they have been defoliated. Perhaps one should read Kawamoto's statement as: the ideal time to repot a deciduous tree is after the buds have broken but before the tree fully leafs out. The "necessary to repot" words in Kawamoto's remarks may apply to instances where either the tree has come out of its container for some reason, the container was accidentally broken, or as Naka in his book suggests, emergency treatment for a sick tree. See Naka's book for his methods of treating sick trees.

Going back to Kawamoto's suggestion to place deciduous tree roots in water for thirty minutes, I've often wondered why that is not mentioned as standard practice when repotting any tree. The only case I know of is when azaleas are repotted, one washes out the dead roots. Perhaps the roots are not washed or soaked in water to prevent the removal of any symbiotic organisms attached to the roots and providing easier access to nourishment for the roots.

Now if you have missed the optimum repotting window for your bonsai and the hottest months of Summer are here, you should refrain from any repotting according to all the books. It seems if you want to postpone the whole repotting shebang till next Spring or give it a go in the Fall, it's your choice. The Japanese books on bonsai show repotting in the Fall only for most coniferous species anywhere from September through November with

the exception of white pine (February through April). No deciduous trees are repotted in the Fall with the exception of Japanese plum or apricot (ume in Japanese). Kawamoto does not recommend repotting in the Fall except if a disease has developed in the container. The chart in Naka's book shows that with the exception of a few species, many varieties of plants are eligible for repotting in the Fall months.

Some telephone calls were made to check out what others were doing about repotting. Since the Meehan's operate a commercial nursery (Meehan's Miniatures), they repot up to December and resume repotting in late January. Arschel Morell repots most anytime except when it is extremely hot or it is mid-winter. He noted that one must follow the aftercare guidelines - putting the plant under the bench or in shade and not fertilizing for three to four weeks.

When I asked Arschel if he bothered to use an antidessicant when repotting, he said that he has not done so. I've tried using an antidessicant (Rockland Winter Shield) in the past when readying junipers for beginners' classes in the Spring. The Winter Shield was mixed with the appropriate amount of water and sprayed on the plants to the point of run-off. The soil should be covered with a plastic sheet so the liquid solution does not penetrate the soil. This should be done a day or two before transplanting. According to the Winter Shield label, "TRANSPLANTING: Evergreens, Shrubs, Annuals, Perennials, Roses, Shade and Fruit Trees. Winter Shield reduces moisture loss from stem and leaf surfaces when transplanting and helps re-establish

healthy plants." The question is: Will using an antidessicant permit one to repot anytime? That question, I think, still remains open. I use Winter Shield every year to spray our cut balsam Christmas trees to prevent needle loss when they are brought into the house.

In reading the label on the plastic Winter Shield container, I realized it's funny what you learn if you read the labels carefully. Other potential applications for bonsai are mentioned. "WINTER SHIELD may be used in the spray tank with fungicides for the control of Summer Disease and in the Fall for Snow Mold Control.

(The Winter Shield enhances the 'stick-to-ity' of the fungicide to the plant prolonging its period of retention on the plant's surfaces.) If a dry fungicide application is made for Snow Mold Control, an application of snow mold may be made immediately after thus affording a longer fungicide residual during the winter. WINTER SHIELD reduces Summer scald and wilt on leafy plants such as zinnias, lilies, chrysanthemums, and petunias." Similarly, if you read the label on Dyna-Gro Corp's K-L-N Rooting Concentrate, you will find that K-L-N, beside being used for its primary function of starting cuttings, can also be used for transplanting and dividing plants. "Drench newly potted plants with a solution of 1 Tbsp of K-L-N per gallon of water." Another application I have successfully used is for air-layering. "Dilute K-L-N 50/50 with water. Saturate the medium (I used sphagnum moss.) and place into cut on plant stem. Cover with white plastic. Keep moist with K-L-N solution until adequate roots form." I do not

know if using something like K-L-N would enable year round repotting. At any rate, I'm not going to set out to try and find out. Suffice to say I'm sold on using it to make up my "Holy Water" solution for watering the repotted plants. I think most everyone has some kind of preferred solution for watering the bonsai after repotting. The old stand-by was to add anything containing vitamin B-1 to the repotting water, notably SUPERthrive, Up Start, DRAGON Plant Starter with Vitamin B-1, Roots, and on and on. The product Roots contains seaweed among other things. I have used a soluble seaweed product, MaxiCrop, as a starter solution since it contains among other things, trace elements and other ingredients not found in other substances. At this time I do not know which product is superior to any of the others. If you must know the ingredients before using any of the above, forget it. The manufacturers want to keep their secret ingredients secret save for one product, the powdered seaweed MaxiCrop. The reason I favor using Dyna-Gro's K-L-N is that anything which will start roots on a cutting should help a root ball get kick-started to recovery after repotting.

The bottom line is that if you do not repot within the appropriate timeframe, you may best wait another year to do the work when buds are a-popping. Best bet is to review Yuji's book, Naka's book, and Kawamoto's book to plan accordingly and, if for no other reason, to make certain you haven't forgotten anything. In the telephone conversations most people seemed to feel that the March/April timeframes could be extended into June if the

weather does not promise to be beastly hot during the 2 weeks in the shade recovery period.

Up to now the indoor bonsai enthusiasts may be saying, "Hey, what about us?" Well everything mentioned above applies equally as well to the indoor bonsai. As Paul Lesniewicz's book, "Indoor Bonsai," states: "The right time to repot is at the beginning of Spring before the main growing season has begun. However, most tropical species of bonsai may be repotted at any time of year."

In conclusion, I know that much of the above is known by you readers, but it's always good to review the procedures with others and catch up on any new tricks. If there are any other thoughts on the matter of repotting bonsai out there, fill us in - write us!

#### Bibliography

**BONSAI TECHNIQUES** (Part I), by John Y. Naka; Bonsai Institute of California, P.O. Box 78211, Los Angeles, CA 90016; 1975

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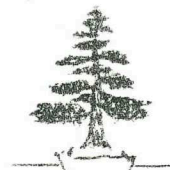
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#### Postscript:

Incidentally, my daughter recently brought me a quart jar of "Willow Water for Gardeners." The label reads as follows:

"Charleston, 1782..." I have

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*Japanese Black Pine*  
by Steve Pilacik

thought proper to add a few more of the peach cuttings supposing them a curiosity, never having seen any of the kind in Carolina. Soak them in willow water before, if Mr. Nash sees not the convenience in conveying them that way. By graft or ground they fair better by the willow. Robert Squib. "Our blending of Spring water with the essence from *Salix nigra* Black Willow gathered from the heart of Kirkland's Wood is a natural, safe and effective gardener's rooting compound. Soak softwood or hardwood cuttings for at least two hours and follow your most successful rooting procedure I have yet to try the above for cuttings but am interested to know if any of the readers have?

# POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Welcome! We conduct a Spring Show and a Fall Symposium as well as other events. PBA is made up of the clubs listed to the right. Join one club and be eligible to attend any club's meeting, in addition to receiving *PBA Clippings* monthly. Residents of Annapolis and Baltimore, MD; Lancaster and Philadelphia, PA; Rappahanock, Richmond, Northern VA and the Washington, DC metropolitan areas are expected to join a club to receive all membership benefits including *PBA Clippings*.

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*Regular meeting times and places are listed. Meeting times and locations are subject to change. Call first! Events are listed monthly in the Calendar section of PBA Clippings.*

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- BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB**  
Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD.  
3rd Sunday, 1 PM  
Elaine Kendall, (410) 426-5421
- BOWIE BONSAI CLUB**  
Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD  
Last Monday, 7 PM  
Terry Adkins, (301) 350-3586
- BROOKSIDE BONSAI SOCIETY**  
North Chevy Chase Recreation Center, Chevy Chase, MD  
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM  
Jerry Antel, (301) 320-5251
- CHESAPEAKE BONSAI SOCIETY**  
Call for meeting time and location  
Marc Jartman, (410) 263-2748
- GREATER PHILADELPHIA BONSAI SOCIETY**  
Pennypack Watershed, Willow Grove, PA  
4th Thursday, eve.  
Larry Chiger, (215) 663-1678
- KIYOMIZU BONSAI CLUB**  
Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD  
4th Sunday, 2 PM  
Essie Wilson, (301) 839-2471
- LANCASTER BONSAI SOCIETY**  
Manheim Twp. Park, Stauffer Mansion  
Lancaster, PA  
2nd Thursday, 7 PM  
Cindy Kamide, (717) 738-3957
- MEI-HWA PENJING SOCIETY**  
(Chinese language spoken)  
Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD  
2nd Sunday, 1 PM  
Akey Hung, (301) 390-6687
- NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY**  
Greenspring Horticultural Center, Annandale, VA  
2nd Saturday, 10 AM  
Chuck Croft 703) 978-6841
- RAPPAHANOCK BONSAI SOCIETY**  
Call for time and meeting location  
Todd Stewart, (540) 775-4912
- RICHMOND BONSAI SOCIETY**  
Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave., Richmond, VA  
4th Monday, 7 PM  
Jim Ford, (804) 527-4000, ext 4621
- WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB**  
U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.  
3rd Saturday, 2 PM  
Julie Walker, (202) 547-8497

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