



DO NOT
FORGET
TO PAY YOUR
DUES!!!
OR NO MORE
"CLIPPINGS"

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VOLUME 27 NUMBER 12, DECEMBER 195 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 1996 PBA.

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EDITORIAL by Jules Koetsch

The photograph advertising A. Nick Lenz's recently published book "Bonsai from the Wild" appearing on the back cover of "BONSAI Journal of the American Bonsai Society" was enough to make me send for a copy. The book has much to offer even if you're like me - not prone to collect in the wild. The serious plant collector plans his vacations around trips to locales like the wilds of Montana, Colorado, or the like. I'm a little too old for trekking in the back country coupled with the improbable - being able to convince my wife that the wilds of North Dakota are a better place in which to spend a vacation than touring Europe or cruising the Caribbean. Still, for people like me, there's the not too distant collecting site pioneered by Brookside Bonsai Society, Ned's Woods. This year I missed going with the club, but next year I'm going to try to go since the club members who went this year reported that there are still plenty of trees left in Ned's Woods in spite many collecting trips in the past. And that is in spite of Nick Lenz's warning that one should never go collecting as a member of a "bonsai tribe."

The Foreword to Nick's book opens with the statement, "Readers may wonder why anyone would write another bonsai book...." and follows with his rationale for writing the book. In brief, he feels that there is a need for bonsai people to write about how they have created bonsai from species native to their areas. Other books have had a somewhat similar objective; and the one I have had since it was published in 1978 is Jerry Stowell's "The Beginners Guide to American Bonsai." Incidentally, Jerry Stowell reviewed Nick's book in the Fall 1997 issue of "BONSAI Journal of the American Bonsai Society" and did not mention his own book but gave a very favorable review of Nick's book. The basic difference between books like Jerry's and Nick's is that Nick's book thoroughly describes how to collect each of the eleven native species chosen from those capable of growing in the hardiness zones of the northeastern part of this country. Stowell's book goes into detail for only one collected tree and that is Malus or apple. Jerry's book as with other books simply lists the species of trees suitable for growing in the various hardiness zones of this country.

Nick's book describes how to develop a bonsai from start to finish for eleven species: Larch, White cedar, Field juniper, Rocky mountain juniper, Pitch pine, Wild apple, Hawthorn, Honeysuckle, Blueberry, Eastern red cedar, and Ponderosa pine.

Larch is the species that Nick highly favors as bonsai material, but as he cautions, Larch does not grow in the Washington, D.C., area or points south. I can attest to that since I've killed all but one I bought a while back for a grove planting from Meehan's Miniatures. The Meehan's seem to have no trouble growing larch, but then their nursery is in Boonesboro, MD, about 30 miles northwest of the D.C. area. It is well outside the dome of hot air usually found hovering over large, densely populated cities and suburbs. Looking at the chart for hardiness zones, the D.C. area appears to be in zone 7 whereas Boonesboro is far enough north to be in

Continued on page 10

Calender of Events

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

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

Baltimore Bonsai Club

Christmas Party, call for date and time.

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society Christmas dinner at the China Garden. Call for the date and time.

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

Dec 7

Location and time to be announced

Please remember to submit 1998 calendars to Doug French as soon as available. Everyone enjoys seeing other clubs activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

December Monthly Care Tips

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-dessicant 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 midsection and 9 to 11 for the lowermost 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.

Dan Robinson's Elandan by David Hochstein, Brookside Bonsai Club

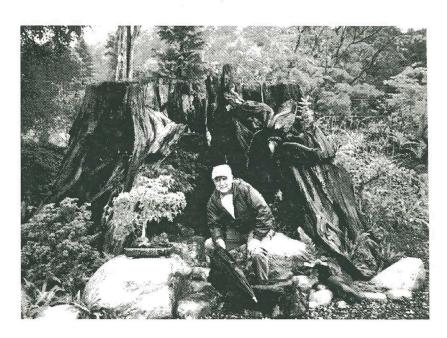
After reading an article in BONSAI MAGAZINE. I was interested in visiting the Elandan Gardens in Bremerton, Washington, created by Dan Robinson. On a grey, very rainy morning this past September, my wife and I arrived at the garden on Puget Sound. The site, being six acres, gives the impression of size as Dan has created an attractive drive leading to a collection of ten-foot boulders topped with pines naturalized in the crevices.

The parking lot is nearby and we left the car and walked to the entrance of the main building. A collection of boulders with water features line the path, and together with very attractive shrubbery and plantings reminiscent of Japanese gardens, comprise the landscaping at the entrance.

The building contains a large array of oriental objects d'art, bamboo trellises, lanterns, birdcages, and many other items, both new and antique. Some educational items such as books on all bonsai subjects, plants, flower arrangements and hosts of other topics can be found. Had we lived locally, we would have purchased lots more that the few we could carry.

There is a nice Expresso bar and other rooms to wander through in this main building. At the rear is a doorway with a sign: \$5 admission to the gardens. We paid the fee at the sales counter and went back to the garden entrance. It was raining very hard but numerous golf umbrellas were stacked at the door, so we popped one of them open and entered the gardens.

A main path wide enough for



The above picture is the author, David Hochstein. The photograph below is Dan Robinson.



Elandan, continued

a truck leads in a curved trail toward the beach, about 200 feet distant. Retaining walls of telephone pole sections are artfully arranged in varying heights from 6" to 2' to outline the gardens.

Boulders and berms of soil in some cases rise to 6 or 8 feet to form natural hills and valleys. These berms contain the collective life work of Dan Robinson, and some collection it is. Each piece, more interesting than the last, is naturalized among the boulders and berms. Plant material includes mostly maples, cypress, pines, hemlock, cedar, and lots of great azaleas and mountain laurel.

The path winds its way along the beach and circles a pond Dan constructed with poured concrete. The overall size of the pond is perhaps 75' by 30' with a waterfall descending from 10' high perch of boulders at the edge. The tops of the boulders, of course, contain some pines inserted into niches in the rocks; and an island in the pond contains a terrific cut-leaf Japanese maple.

Along the paths, Dan has pedestals of stone or wood upon which various sizes of his bonsai are displayed. The trees remain out all winter except in cases of unusual cold. Then Dan drives his truck around the paths, picks up trees needing protection and places them in his greenhouse where they stay during the period of dangerous temperatures thus can readily provide protection on the occasion when it might be needed, by placing the trees in his greenhouse.

Dan spent four hours in the





Brookside goes visiting by Shari Sharafi, BBS

This summer was a busy time for many of us. For me, unfortunately, busy meant less bonsai and more work. Talking to few of my bonsai friends, it appeared to be the same for many of us. Fortunately, I made a real effort to make the two yearly events which are the "visit to member's collections." This year we had the opportunity to visit two of the most wonderful private collections in this area. We visited the Peter Jones collection in July and Stanley Chinn's (a local penjing professional) collection in August. Both were wonderful hosts, and they both went out of their way to make us feel at home. Within the scheduled visit time, Peter and Stanley both showed us many different things they are working on to develop good bonsai.

I wish to give you a brief summary of what I saw at Peter Jones' house. I arrived early, and soon after a good number of people rolled in. As many as twenty people showed up. Mrs. Jones had provided homemade cookies, and even after everyone had at least one cookie, there were still more cookies left to try with the homemade lemonade.

Just to tell you a bit about Mrs. Caecilia Jones, the most interesting tree at Peter's collection was collected by her. It caught my attention the moment I laid my eyes on it. I was quite fascinated by it. It was a Sumac tree, about 24 inches tall, reddish leaves, clusters of flowers and a curvy trunk. I really enjoyed looking at this tree. Although I have promised myself (as have others) no more trees, I am looking

for a Sumac seedling on the side of the road as I drive. In addition, her rose garden (which is probably getting close to a full day of sun), was quite a pleasure to see and admire.

Peter is an interesting fellow. It takes a full day to observe his garden and still at the end of the day you find new things to ask and discuss with him. Just to give you an example, as I was leaving, I asked him what the many heavy plastic bags were that were located under his benches with their tops open. He said that once or twice a year he makes an effort to go to Rock Creek horse stable, where he collects horse manure which happens to be mixed with sawdust. He places it in the black plastic bags, and leaves the tops open all summer. The material starts to decompose and naturally break down. Then in winter to protect his trees, he places the trees in a protected shady area and covers them with the decomposed material.

It seems Peter's approach to bonsai is a combination of love, excitement, curiosity, affection for the art, and trial and error methods of scientific approach. I would not have believed many of the things he's done if I hadn't seen them myself. Some good examples were the many three-year old pines that he had started from seeds. Peter also has three Hinoki cypress seedling beds that he started from seeds. His 2-year-old batch of Hinoki was about 8 inches tall, while his last year's batch of seedlings was about 3 inches tall; and this year's batch was about 1 inch tall.

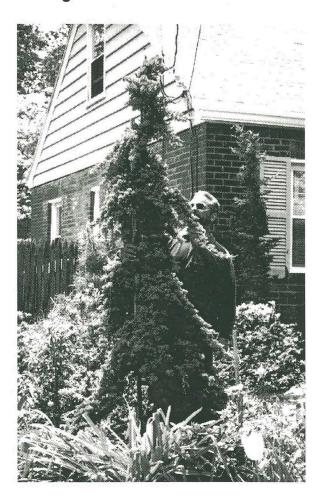
I liked the way he protected all his seedlings from squirrels by put-

ting a wire mesh cage over them. I have to try this since squirrels are one of my biggest problems. They like to pull out my new cuttings or eat the exposed roots on my root-over-rock trees. (By the way, Stanley Chinn suggested the use of moth balls on the soil around the root-over-rock trees to make them leave the area. If you have a soft heart, he suggests putting an ear of corn near the trees to elevate their taste for food so they leave the tree roots alone.)

Peter appears to have really good luck with air layering. He suggests to air layer pines around November, when the sap has finally stopped its flow. He is confident air layering Junipers which work well for him any time of the year, or if you are picky, try them in April. In the photograph, Pete cut off a Shimpaku juniper that he had air layered so our club members could see how the roots had developed. All total, Pete had air layered 6 Shimpaku junipers. For pines, he suggests in November to girdle their bark and wrap them air tight with plastic. This will cause them to form callouses around their edges. Then in Spring you add the sphagnum moss and rewrap with new plastic cover. Most pines are slow in producing their roots, so he suggests to split a plastic pot and surround the trunk with it. Then, he suggests to fill the pot with soil over the rooted area for the winter protection of the new roots.

He also has developed an interesting approach to creating multiple numbers of cascading trees. His quick approach is simple but

Visiting, continued



clever. He has planted a Procumbent Nana, which is a ground CRAWLING juniper, against a seven-foot stick with wires to guide the tree up (see picture 2). His tree was about seven to eight feet tall and I didn't even notice the stick. But I could see as many as five to seven really interesting cascade style possibilities. His plans are to start to air layer them one by one. Meanwhile, he is styling them right on the stick. I have to admit that I now have two Procumbent Nana's growing in my garden that will soon be clinging to a few tall sticks.

I can't remember the many varieties of maples and pines that Peter has, but I can tell you that if you are interested to find out about different varieties of pines and maples, then you should contact Peter. He is an avid collector of these two species.

We all enjoyed our Saturday in the company of Peter and his lovely wife and BBS wishes to thank them and all those that showed up for their high spirit.



Euonymus, continued from last month

5th YEAR AND THEREAF-TER - CARE

Between March 20 and 30 the tree is removed from the cold frame. Repotting is done as shown here, every 2nd or 3rd year. Fill in the spaces between the roots with soil. Soil mix - 7 parts Turface; 3 parts Gran-I-Grits.

Drainage layer: L a r g e Turface.

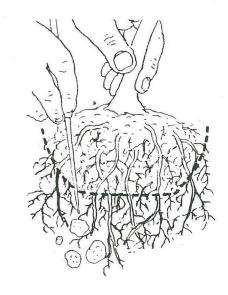
Choose pot to harmonize with the tree.

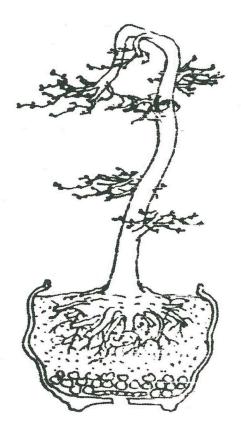
Remove the roots along the dashed line on the left, roughly the edge of the container the plant was in. Then remove about 1/2 to 2/3's of the soil. Further trim the roots so that there is some space between them and the sides of the pot.

Wiring is done in June; and pruning is done to keep the basic shape of the tree.

The following schedule indicates the various times to carry out certain operations to make an Euonymus bonsai.







EUONYMUS BONSAI SCHEDULE of EVENTS

TIME	ACTION
FIRST YEAR	
Mar. 10 - 20 Apr. 1 - 10 Jun. 10 - 20 Oct. 20 - 31 Dec. 10 - 20	Sow seeds and water them. Remove seeds/growing bed from winter protection and place outdoors on a shelf. Begin fertilizing once per month. Stop fertilizing. Provide winter protection.
SECOND YEAR	
Mar. 10 -20 Apr. 1 -10 Oct. 20 - 31 Dec. 20 - 30	Start watering more often Remove from winter protection. Begin fertilizing once per month. No more fertilizing for the winter. Provide winter protection.
THIRD YEAR	
Mar. 10 - 20 Apr. 1 - 10 May 1 - 10 Oct. 20 - 31 Dec. 1 - 10	Prepare pot and repot. Water thoroughly right after repotting. Place outdoors on a bench. Begin fertilizing once per month. No more fertilizing for the winter Provide winter protection.
FOURTH YEAR	
Mar. 1 - 20 Apr. 1 - 10 Jun. 10 - 20 Aug. Sep. 10 Oct. 20 - 31 Dec. 10 - 20	Pot in a bonsai display pot. Water thoroughly right after repotting. Place outdoors on a bench. Begin fertilizing once per month. Prune. Wire. Remove wire from trunk. Pluck sprouts and rewire branches and bend them No more fertilizing for the winter. Provide winter protection.
FIFTH YEAR	
Mar. 20 - 31 Apr. 1 - 10 Jun. 10 - 20 Aug. Sep. 10 Oct. 20 - 31 Dec. 10 - 20	Prune and start watering more often. Place outdoors on a bench. Begin fertilizing once per month. Prune and wire. Start removing wire and rewiring branches Pluck sprouts and bend branches. No more fertilizing for the winter Provide winter protection.

Editorial, continued from page 3

zone 6. A quick check on hardiness zones for Nick's eleven trees indicates that most of the trees he covers might best survive in areas further north than the southern half of Pennsylvania. Considering the above, one might conclude since the eleven species won't survive in the D.C. area, the book is not for you -NOT SO! The detailed training techniques for the eleven trees can also be used on other species. For example, there are sections under a number of the species which describe how to handle deadwood. One section in particular was of interest to me in that it describes how to keep deadwood that is below or next to the soil from rotting. A while back, I had stripped the trunk of a Juniperus foemina all the way down below the soil line. Needless to say, it isn't easy to keep that area dry after watering and no get it water stained. Nick describes how to carry out a two step procedure which I had only heard referenced as a way to offset the problem. It is a better approach than replacing the rotted wood with a cement filler. If you look at John Y. Naka's Goshen at

the Arboretum you will notice one tree whose base has been filled in with cement.

Have you ever thought of doing jin implants? Nick describes how to do that.

Under a chapter in his book titled Miscellanea, Nick describes how to work with twelve species that can make good bonsai though they have some undesirable idiosyncracies: Buckthorn, Leatherwood, Bearberry, Hemlock, White pine, Bittersweet vine, Boston ivy, Wild grape, Poison ivy, Beech, Hornbeam, and Birch. Note that many of these trees can grow in this area.

For example: For hornbeam Nick notes that there is "an annoying problem of dieback in lower and weaker branches. Dead branches are not usually replaced by new shoots." Also, pruning scars are slow to heal. I can attest to that my hornbeams are taking a long time to close up wounds. Some think that such scars show age; but the Japanese consider that the trunk must be smooth and free of blemishes to be a showpiece bonsai.

You may be surprised to note

that poison ivy is suggested as bonsai material. Ever since John Y. Naka told how, in his early bonsai collecting days, he spotted this great trunk and took the plant home to later discover that it was poison ivy. Ever since then, I've been intrigued with trying to create a poison ivy bonsai. Dorothy Martin (NVBS) said that she too had committed a similar faux pas. Anyone know where I can find some good poison ivy trunks?

All in all, you'll enjoy reading "Bonsai from the Wild," for as Jerry Stowell so aptly said in his review, "There is a whimsical subliminal sense of humor that infiltrates the text which makes it a delightful book to read." Nick's hilarious description of the etiquette of collecting reflects that sense of humor woven in with the sound advice of an experienced collector of plants from the wild. Even if you do not go collecting, the book contains much up-to-date information and advice on detailed care, maintenance, styling, and all the other aspects of rearing attractive, healthy bonsai - the book should be in your library.

WANTED NEW ASSOCIATE EDITOR!!!!!

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Elandan, continued from 5

steady rain giving us a complete history of almost every tree. He described his collecting trips where it was necessary to move large pieces of rock to release the trees. He showed us his storage areas where he had 10 to 15 thriving ponderosa pines 4-5 feet in height with very small root balls. He packs the roots with his own formula mix and wraps the ball in plastic and contains it within chicken wire. He had also just obtained from the wild three large hemlocks with 8-10 inch diameter trunks that are wonderful.

In addition to collecting in the mountains, Dan obtains lot of material from landscape clients. He and his son are constantly pulling trees from the ground and creating bonsai for landscapes or containers.

Dan has a new building under construction for classes in bonsai; and Peter Adams has relocated from England to run the bonsai training classes for Dan.

In another area, Dan's son has created a sculpture garden where he cut designs into collected boulders. He also fashions benches and other objects from local stone.

Yet another area is for rental for weddings or parties. It is a grassy space surrounded by columns and a hedge overlooking the sound, a quiet, peaceful area created for various uses.

I feel I could go on with this report, there is so much to say. For example, about the 50' snags of dead timbers that Dan naturalized about the gardens. Hopefully these few paragraphs about the gardens are able to convey the wonderful place that is Elandan Gardens. I am certain that if in only four years Dan has created a garden on the level of Bouchart Garden, Victoria, B.C., Elandan will be on everyone's list of places to visit in the Northwest.

Matsu-Momiji Nursery

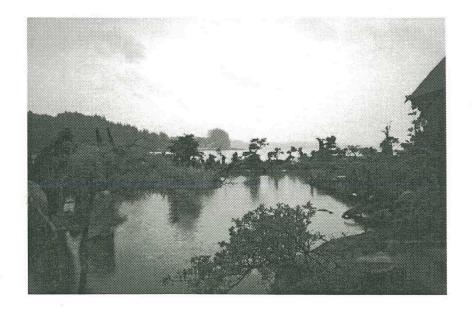


Maples - Pines-

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> Japanese Black Pine by Steve Pilacik





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.

To become a member, call the contact person of the nearest club for current rates and where to send this application and dues. (Please make check payable to the club joined.) Individuals residing beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to PBA Clippings. For a subscription only (does not include participation in club events), complete application and mail with a check payable to PBA for US \$15.00 (US \$35.00 for an international subscription) to: Judy Wise, 1259 4th St., SW, Washington, DC, 20024. For additional information, please call Judy Wise: (202) 554-3045.

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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