

Gardenia Bonsai

by Jules Koetsch

Gardenias fit the bill as both indoor and/or outdoor bonsai provided the gardenia can be protected in a glass-house or polyhouse where minimum temperatures do not go below 32°F. Reference 1 lists the Hardiness Zones for gardenia as 8 to 9, where average minimum yearly temperatures can range from 10°F to 30°F, being able to grow in the ground as far north in the U.S.A. as Washington D.C. However, considering last winter's temperatures, that's pushing it for these parts especially since the temperatures in the freezing ranges are likely to damage leaves and hinder future bud growth.

Gardenias are certainly a favorite because of their fragrant, white flowers
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INDOOR BONSAI DISPLAY IDEAS

by Alan Giese, Brookside Bonsai Society

Most bonsai hobbyists show a lot of ingenuity in the design of their growing areas. They display and enjoy their collections of trees in lovely outdoor settings. But, how often have you taken the trouble to bring one of your favorite trees into the house to display for guests or family? How often has one of your trees lost all its blossoms before you could find the time to enjoy them? The task of assembling an attractive display area anytime you would like to show one of your trees indoors is enough to discourage most people from doing it often. So it stands to reason that the easier it would be to display a tree in the house the more often you might do it. With this in mind, let's
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PBA Spring Show April 29 – May 1

U.S. National Arboretum

The PBA Annual Spring Show is just around the corner. Check to make sure the "POP and POST" poster from last month's newsletter has been placed in a conspicuous place. Strong attendance at this event will increase support and awareness for both the National Bonsai Collection and PBA.

Following is a review of the volunteer and tree submission guidelines for the show. A complete description of the PBA Spring Show may be found in the March issue of *PBA Clippings*.

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PBA ANNUAL AUCTION

Dawn Rose Building
 Behnke's Nursery
 10:00 AM, May 14, 1994
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Please send ad/articles to the editor: J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152; (703) 569-9378.

PBA Officers:

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Membership	Beth Potratz (703) 255-9386
Newsletter Editor	Jules Koetsch

PBA Clippings staff:

Editor	Jules Koetsch (703) 569-9378
Assoc.Ed./Art Dir.	Jeff Stephanic (703) 671-6881 (202) 994-9052
Asst. Editor	Beth Potratz (703) 255-9386
Advertising Editor	Jerry Antel, Jr. (301) 320-5251
Sensei Sam	Todd Ellis (703) 878-7887

From the Editor . . .

Right now, March 11th, as I'm writing this the weather isn't showing signs of warming up albeit March 20 is the Vernal Equinox marking the purported first day of spring. Right now it looks like winter will relentlessly linger with nighttime temperatures dropping below freezing for the unforeseeable future. Hopefully to offset April 15th IRS Income Tax blues, bonsai that have wintered outside, will burst forth with new growth. April is known as the "mean" month and for bonsai people it might be considered to be thus with all the chores that one has to do: pruning, wiring, repotting, etc. You may even find some bonsai people out collecting, looking for just one more "ideal" tree (as if they may not have enough already).

For the venturesome, spring marks the time when they can put into practise ideas concocted before a log fire with a few rum toddies under one's belt on a winter's night. I have a few: Maybe adding green sand which is organic and high in phosphorous to my soil will encourage root growth. I have no idea as to what proportions to mix in the potting mix but since the green sand is organic, it will not hurt the roots as would an inorganic substance. Or is the real cause for sparse rootage the lack of sun? I cant lick the latter unless I have trees on my neighbor's property cut down.

Japanese bonsai writers stress that bonsai should be placed in a spot outdoors where there is air movement with the exception of gardenias as the article in this issue suggests. My bonsai sit on a slope and are surrounded by tall trees such that even a Nor'easter doesn't penetrate the enclosure. Would putting two large fans to blow air over the bonsai help grow roots? With summers what they are around here, even if the fans didn't enhance root growth, the plants ought to feel more comfortable, I do when there's one of those rare breezes in the hot and mucky Washington weather. Putting fans as I envision doing may be the final straw that seals the fate of an already strained relationship with my better half where bonsai is concerned.

While walking the dog and watching where I step for obvious reasons, I couldn't help but notice moss, tiny grasses, and other very short plant life inhabiting the cracks in the pavement. So, when I think no one is looking so that I will not be considered slightly daffy, I'm going to extract that plant life from the cracks in the sidewalk and make a kusa mono (plant bonsai).

Probably as things usually happen, I wont be getting around to doing any of the above except the adding of green sand to the potting soil.

Have you any thoughts similar to the above? Whether you have or have not proven them to be tenable, send them to Sensei Sam's TURNTABLE. The TURNTABLE IS NOT LIMITED TO QUESTIONS ONLY.

Jules Koetsch

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
3rd Sunday, 1 PM
(410) 668-1868

Bowie Bonsai Club

Bowie Community Center
Last Monday, 7 PM
(301) 350-3586
(202) 667-1016

Brookside Bonsai Society

North Chevy Chase Recreational Center
3rd Thursday, 7 PM
(301) 365-7621

Chesapeake Bonsai Club

Paca Garden, Annapolis, MD
2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM
(301) 261-8131

Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society

Pennypack Watershed, Willow Grove, PA
4th Thursday, eve.
(609) 753-0311

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
(301) 645-3519

Lancaster Bonsai Club

Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA
2nd or 3rd Wednesday, 7 PM
(717) 653-9102

Mei-Hwa Penjing Society

Bowie Community Center
2nd Sunday, 1 PM
(301) 390-6687

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 12 Noon
(703) 591-0864

Richmond Bonsai Society

Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave.
4th Monday, 7 PM
(804) 353-6674

Washington Bonsai Club

U.S. National Arboretum
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
(202) 296-2441

Organizations sponsoring regular events of interest to PBA members:

U.S. Botanical Gardens
(202) 226-4082

U.S. National Arboretum
(202) 475-4857

APRIL

Saturday-Sunday 9-10
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
Spring Show, 12 - 5 PM.

Sunday 10
Kiyomizu Bonsai Society
Refinement workshop - getting ready for show, 2 PM.

Saturday 16
Washington Bonsai Club
Styling trees for the Spring Show, Bill Spencer, 2 PM.

Saturday 23
Brookside Bonsai Society
Tree selection for PBA Spring Show, 10 AM at home of Janet Lanman.

Sunday 24
Baltimore Bonsai Club
Bring in tree to be shown at PBA Spring Show.

Thursday 28
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Sai-Kei by Arschel Morell of Bonsai Assoc., Baltimore, MD.

Fri.-Sun. 29-May 1
PBA Spring Show
National Arboretum.

MAY

Sunday 7
Kiyomizu Bonsai Society
Indoor/Tropical workshop at Joan Stephens. Plants available at cost.

Sunday 8
Brookside Bonsai Society
BBS Show at McCrillis Gardens, Bethesda, MD.

Saturday 14
Behnke's Nursery, Beltsville, MD.
PBA Annual Auction, Dawn Rose Bldg., 9-12 NOON.

Saturday 14
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
No meeting this month.

Saturday-Sunday 14-15
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Matsu-Momiji Nursery Open House, 410 Borbeck St., Philadelphia, PA, (215) 722-6286, 10 AM - 3 PM.

Thursday 19
Brookside Bonsai Society
7 PM - Beginners' corner.
7:30 PM - Club business.
7:40 PM - Lierati style with Jack Billet.

Saturday 21
Washington Bonsai Club
Refining workshop, Bill Spencer, 2 PM.

Sunday 22
Baltimore Bonsai Club
Trip to Longwood Gardens, visit with Doris Froning. For more info call Cindy Blackburn: 410-747-4319.

Thursday 26
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Speaker: Steve Wisniewski.

ETCETERA

March & April, 1994
U.S. National Arboretum
Introduction to Plant Identification
This nine session course, taught by botanist Peter Mazzeo, introduces principles of plant taxonomy and nomenclature and techniques of plant identification. The program will be held from 10am-12noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays; March 1, 3, 8, 15, 17, 29, 31, April 5 and 7 in the Administration Building Classroom. Fee \$25/\$20 FONA members includes two texts and other materials. A 10X hand lens should be brought by each student to the classes. Registration limited. 202-475-4857.

April 15-17, 1994
Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Festival
Randy Clark, Deborah Koreshoff, Roy Nagatoshi, Chase Rosade and Martin Schmalenberg. For more information please contact Kurt Wittig, 17 Old Mill Drive, Denville, NJ 07834, 201-361-6642.

April 16, 1994
U.S. National Arboretum
Friends of the National Arboretum
3rd Annual Gardeners' Plant Sale and Rare Plant Auction. \$10 bidder registration fee, box lunches available for \$8. Call (202) 544-8733 for more information.

Tips For April Bonsai Care

April is a busy month. Not only are the bonsai bursting forth with renewed energy and growth but we must also show a burst of energy to keep the bonsai growing into good looking specimens. Name a bonsai chore and you more than most likely will have to do it.

Repotting: You can repot most species at this time of year except that in some cases people like to hold off disturbing azaleas until after they have bloomed. I have some trepidation about that since Satsuki azaleas bloom on the very edge of summer, mid-May through mid-June, when temperatures around this area start to zoom into the stratosphere. Disturbing roots at that time with the probability of losing some during the repotting doesn't seem to be a smart thing to do. In Japan, June marks their rainy season so that the cloudy weather keeps summer temperatures from soaring. It is suggested that Ume or Japanese plum or apricot (whatever name you prefer) can best be repotted in October but then again Ume blooms in February.

Make certain that the potting soil mix has some organic matter in it such as pine/fir bark mulch. Otherwise if it is something like Turface and Gran-I-Grits, organic fertilizer nutrients will most likely not be taken in by the roots. See page 90 of *THE BONSAI BOOK OF PRACTICAL FACTS*: by Jerome Meyer: The Purchase Publishing Co.: Purchase, N.Y. 1988, for the reasoning behind the previous statement.

Wiring: Coniferous plants can be wired at this time. Deciduous plants should have been wired before the new leaves start to break bud. If there is wire in place, having been left on during the winter, make a careful

check to determine with the surge of spring growth, that the wiring will not dig into the bark and cause wire marks. Remove the wire if there is any doubt, maples have a nasty habit of growing rapidly to the point that wiring may have to be removed and redone in a month.

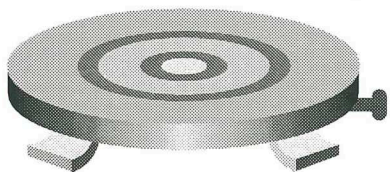
Fertilizing: If you potted or repotted do not fertilize for a month afterwards. However, fertilizing begins this month if you haven't been tempted to get an early start in March. Are you a liquid, solid or both types of fertilization person? Liquid fertilizer can be administered in weekly doses, full strength and only to the root mass if the soil is wet. Then the fertilizer does not burn the roots as it would if the soil was almost dry and the full strength solution of fertilizer will become more diluted by the water now present because of the prior watering.

Use only chemical fertilizers if the soil mix has no organic matter in it, otherwise fish emulsion fertilizer is a good one. In fact, try 3 different brands of liquid fertilizer rotating between them each week. In this way the micro-nutrients in one brand that were not in another brand can be made available to the plant. One way of insuring that the plants get their supply of micro-nutrients is to add some liquid seaweed solution to the liquid fertilizer. Fertilizer balls are always placed around the edge of the pot and replaced each month so that they do not disintegrate and get into the soil and cause fungus. Do not place the new balls in the same spots occupied by the ones being removed. The used balls can be dropped around the garden plants. How many balls to use? The number depends on the size of the bonsai. I've seen some photos of Japanese bonsai where the spacing between the balls are 1 1/2 to 2 inches. Some Japanese growers of bon-

sai have criticized the Americans for over watering and under fertilizing their bonsai. Use your own judgment on how many fertilizer balls to a pot but you can use both the fertilizer balls augmented with weekly rations of liquid fertilizer without over doing it. The liquid fertilizer is good in the pot until the next one or two waterings after which it will have been leached out. The fertilizer balls release some nutrients with each watering of the bonsai.

Watering: Time to get back on the watering schedule consistent with the additional requirements of the bonsai now that they have snapped out of their winter dormancy. Once a day, preferably in the morning, should do it.

Pruning: Last but not least pruning at this time of year is a must depending on the bonsai species. Now that the sap has risen in the maples, pruning can be done. Even if there are no major pieces to be lobbed off, the growth at the ends of the smaller branches can be pruned back ("chased back" as the Japanese call it) to prevent the plant's shape from getting too leggy to the point that it loses its shape and in some cases the shape is irretrievable. Some plants such as Hinoki cypress do not respond to chasing back since that material does not have the ability to bud back on branches and trunk. Check your tree species before you do your pruning. Dan Chiplis just held 2 excellent workshops on chase back pruning at the U.S. National Arboretum. Unfortunately it was not well attended for which the attendees were thankful for. But, if Dan does it again next year, make an effort to attend. As for this year, study your bonsai literature and check with your club members if you're not certain as to what to prune.



TURNTABLE

by Sensei Sam

Information, questions or just plain talk should be mailed or phoned to Todd Ellis at 4621 Whitaker Place, Woodbridge, VA 22193, Phone: 703-878-7887.

Spring is here and what a feeling! What a winter! I can't wait to see which zone 7 trees tolerated the zone 6 temperatures. I hope everyone's trees come through it all with few disappointments. Please let Sensei Sam know if some trees did not make it. We can all share in the misery.

I've had a rough start getting the column to the "Clippings" staff but hope you bear with this new Sensei Sam; I feel privileged to be part of our

newsletter staff. I will answer your questions and share information with you as best as I can. I will research my titles and ask any plant people I talk to. I hope to have a casual but informative column.

Here goes!

Q *How do you deal with scale on in door trees in the winter?*

A There are a few ways of dealing with scale/ Most sources suggest systemic applications as well as spray on applications. If there are only a "few" then perhaps one can pick them off with their fingers or a pair of tweezers. There is a brown scale which doesn't really harm the trees but severe infestations require immediate attention.

Q *Should winter hardy bamboos be kept outside? What do dry leaves on winter hardy bamboo, kept outside, tell one about the health of the plant?*

A Bamboo, hardy to this area, will either stay green or, as in the case of this winter, keep their burned leaves. When spring is in full force, new leaves will push out the old green or dead leaves. Bamboo planted on trays or slabs should be well insulated or kept in a cold frame or other protected cold structure.

Fuku Bonsai Center

by Frank Thomas, Lancaster
Bonsai Society

E Komo Mai. . .

Come celebrate the serenity of nature, the beauty of bonsai and the spirit of Hawaii.

Anyone planning a trip to our island state should include a visit to the big island of Hawaii. There are the traditional attractions of Volcano National Park, visits to coffee and Macadamia nut farms, cruises, whale watches, golfing, luaus, and so much more. But, most important for the bonsai enthusiast is the Fuku Bonsai Center. The center, started by David Fukumoto in 1991, is in an old rock quarry in the hills just above Keauhou-Kona.

The center is open to the public from 8 am to 5 pm and charges a small

admission fee (most hotels can supply a half-price coupon). There are 17 acres with 9 different theme gardens that flow from one to another around dramatic lava cliffs. The Hawaii State Bonsai Repository, in cooperation with the nonprofit Mid-Pacific Bonsai Foundation, is also located here. When bonsai trainers die, their finest trees can come here as living memorials to be shared with visitors. As Papa Kaneshiro said, "Don't keep your bonsai at home just for yourself. Let other people enjoy it."

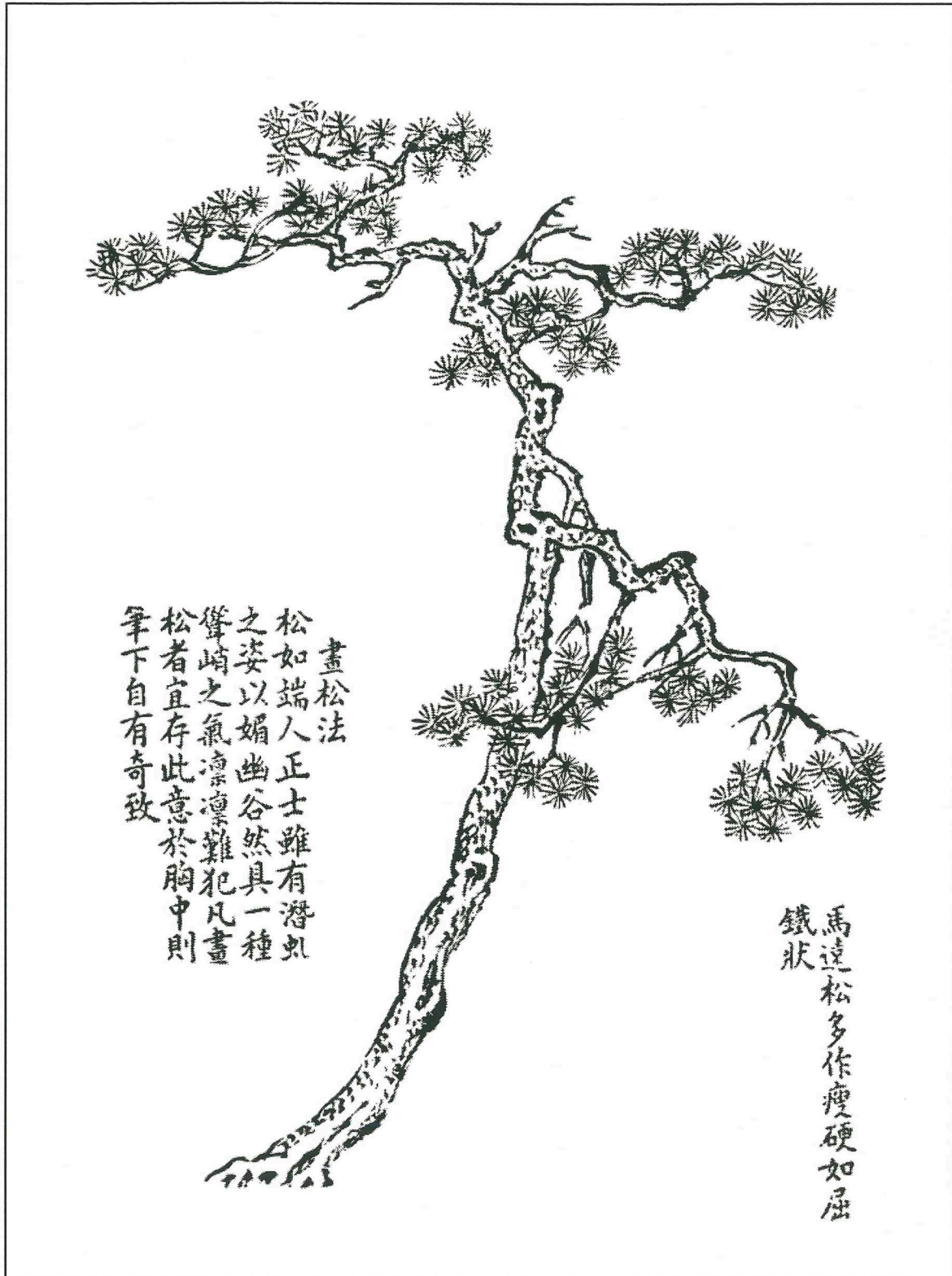
The center is extensive and a few examples of the outstanding exhibits are: a weeping banyan tree by Saburo Kato; Brazilian pepper trees by John Naka; a large rock planting by Japan's Shiniji Ogasawara; and an ironwood tree by Hawaii's own bonsai master, Papa Kaneshiro. There is a Japanese style exhibit, a Chinese penjing exhibit, and an exciting and unique Hawaiian style exhibit. David Fukumoto says: "In Hawaii, we combined Japanese rules and symbolism with Chi-

nese philosophy and independence in a tropical expression."

One will find a gift shop that includes a display of rare antique Japanese woodblock prints featuring bonsai and an open air study center for meetings and classes. Call ahead (808) 322-9222 to schedule a workshop and take home a true indoor bonsai. Also, in the plans is a vacation series of 5 workshops with tropical material.

This is an international class bonsai center with a staff that will see that your visit is memorable. David Fukumoto divides his time between the center and his commercial nursery in Kurtistown on the other side of the island. However, if he is at the center, you will find he is most generous with his time... a personally guided tour is not unusual.

The center is an instructive and rewarding attraction, not just for bonsai enthusiasts but for anyone who enjoys beautiful and unusual scenes. Don't miss it!



A Pine as painted by Ma Yüan as illustrated in the 17th Century Chinese text titled *The Mustard Seed Garden of Painting*.

INDOOR BONSAI DISPLAY IDEAS

by Alan Giese, Brookside Bonsai Society

continued from front page

look at a few practical options that you might adapt to your own home.

SET UP A DISPLAY AREA

• ON A CABINET

Most people agree that it is best to view a bonsai at eye level against a light, plain background, so the proverbial bonsai-on-the coffee-table is not the best idea. Instead, look around the walls of the room where you would like to show your trees and find the spot where you imagine a tree would look best. Most likely there is already something there shelves, a painting, a piece of furniture - but your new display area might be able to coexist with these things. In fact, a desk, sideboard or cabinet standing 3 to 4 feet high would be a very convenient base to set your tree on, (fig 1). Remove any knickknacks that might distract people's attention from the tree and protect the top of the piece of furniture with a waterproof mat. So far, so good, but what about that big painting hanging right behind the bonsai? Use it to your advantage. Take it off the wall, turn it over and cover the back with an attractive sheet of paper, cloth or plastic. Set it on the furniture top behind the tree to create the framed neutral background your bonsai needs for best viewing. If the painting's hanging wire gets in the way, add removable clips to its ends or replace it with the small, saw-tooth type hanger bracket available at framing shops, so that the painting can be rehung later.

Even if you do not have a convenient painting nearby, mounting an attractive sheet of material in a nice

frame makes a quick and easy background for your display area and stores neatly behind a piece of furniture when not in use. Choose an off-white material with perhaps a subtle texture such as rice paper, unbleached muslin, grass

as an adjustable backdrop, although they often have distracting wrinkles and curls.

• ON SHELVES

If a set of shelves already occupies your ideal display area adjust the shelves to leave a vertical space of 2 to 3 feet, creating an enclosed area to frame and define the display, (fig 2). In this case a small fluorescent light could be fastened below the upper shelf to highlight the tree below. A small lamp will give all the light you need to accentuate your bonsai, but is no substitute for sunlight, so remember not to leave an outdoor bonsai in even a lighted display for more than a couple of days. When your display shelf is not occupied by a bonsai, use it to show your favorite pieces of artwork, sculpture, or an arrangement of fresh or dried flower. Have a nearby storage area reserved for these artworks so they can be easily tucked away when you want to bring in one of your bonsai. If you are really organized you will also have on hand a spray bottle, tweezers and any other supplies for grooming your tree while it is in the house. Also have nearby any bamboo mats, display stands, scrolls or other decorative pieces you might like to show with your trees.

• ON A WALL

If you are lucky enough to have a 2 foot or 3 foot square of blank wall at about eye level consider assembling a pair of shelves on adjustable brackets, (fig 3). The upper shelf frames the top of the display and can be fitted with a lamp if you like. The two vertical shelf standards should be dark for visual contrast and be placed near the very ends of the shelves to frame the sides of

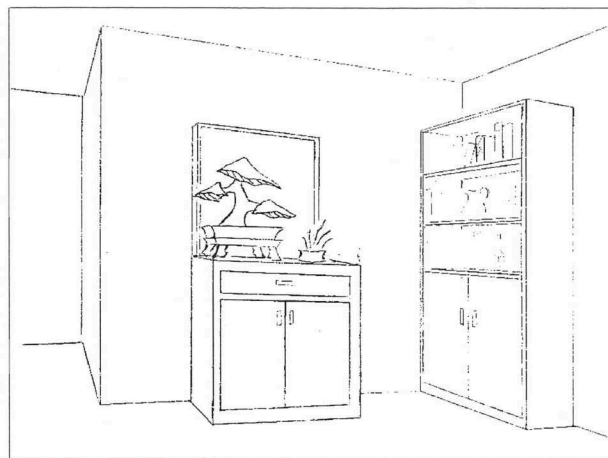


Figure 1. On a Cabinet

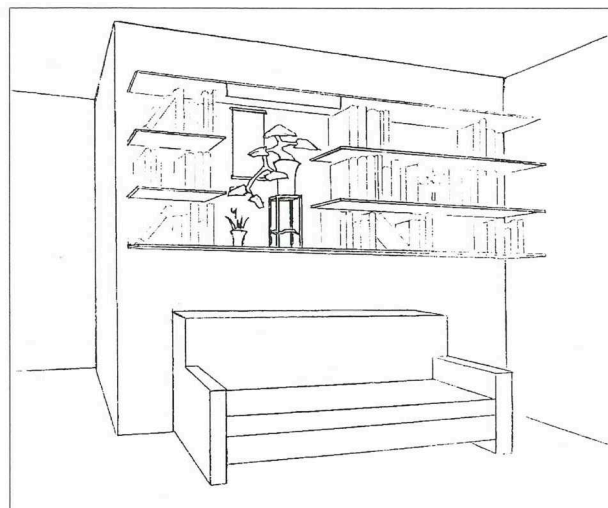


Figure 2. On a Shelf

wallpaper, a large ceiling tile, or pre-stretched canvas or a canvas panel from the art supply store. Choose a simple frame in natural wood tones, with an oriental motif if you like. A roll-up window shade could be adapted

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INDOOR BONSAI DISPLAY IDEAS

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the display. The lower shelf can be adjusted up or down, depending on the size of the tree or artwork being shown. For large trees, be sure to get heavy duty steel shelf hardware instead of flimsy aluminum. Make the shelves 12 to 18 inches deep.

• IN A WALL UNIT

If you think that your room could tolerate one more piece of furniture, you might want to consider putting

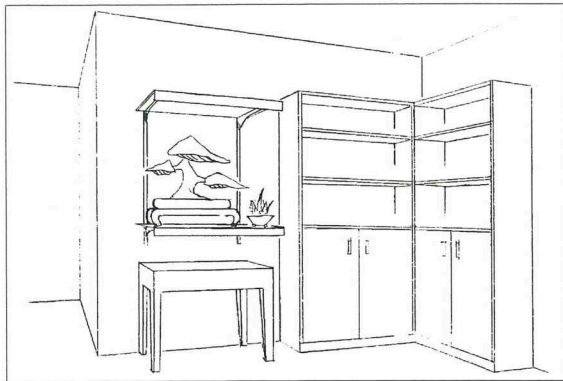


Figure 3. On a Wall

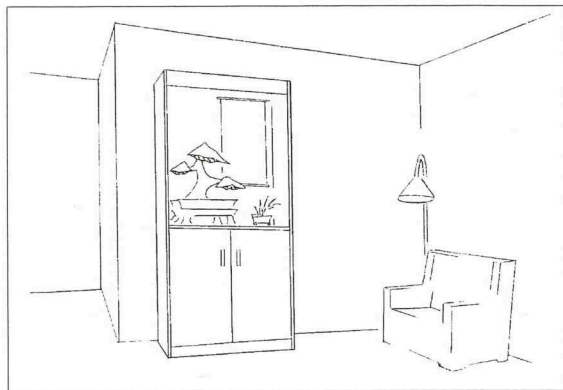


Figure 4. In a Wall Unit

together a mini tokonoma - a wall unit dedicated to the display of bonsai and other decorative artworks, (fig 4). For the price of \$150 to \$250 you can buy a ready-made wall unit or book case 6 or 7 feet high, 30 inches wide and about 16 inches deep. The upper half of the unit will serve very well as a

display alcove and the lower half, with shelves hidden behind doors, can store supplies and many of the artworks or other prized objects you might like to show when all your tree are outdoors. A 7 foot tall unit is preferable, although 6 feet is adequate. 12 inch deep shelves are too shallow for any but the smallest trees; get a 16 inch deep unit, if possible. These units come pre-finished in white, black or wood grained veneers. Choose one to go with the rest of the

furniture in the room, but if it is not white, install some sort of light, neutral colored panel at the back of the upper part to serve as a good background for your bonsai or other artwork.

Install a small fluorescent lamp just behind the front edge of the top of the unit for general illumination of the display. General Electric's \$15 "Bright Stick", a 25 inch long compact fixture is designed for easy installation and fits well in a 30 inch wide unit. Add a valance to shield the light from direct view if the top of the shelf unit does not have a wide enough lip to hide the lamp. To hang pictures and scrolls on the back wall of the display unit suspend them from clear nylon fishing line or strong thread fastened to small tacks placed discreetly along the very top edge of the back panel, so that the back panel will not be marred by random nail holes. For more information about tokonomas and display

techniques look in your bonsai books. Whatever setup you choose to show your trees, plan ahead so that, with a minimum of disturbance to your home and yourself, you can clear the display area and bring in a bonsai in time to appreciate its spring blossoms, summer berries or fall foliage.

PBA Annual Meeting

Time: 5:30 PM

Date: Saturday, April 30, 1993

Place: U.S. National Arboretum Administration Building, basement classroom.

Buffet: Free eats - Chinese carryout

PBA members may bring a companion of their choice. The guest may be a non-member.

Why not plan to spend Saturday afternoon at the Arboretum. Attend the 2:00 pm lecture/demonstration (free), see the show, tour the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection, and shop at the vendor's booths. Afterwards, attend the PBA Annual Meeting and enjoy a free Chinese dinner.

The PBA Annual Meeting is where members may vote for the 1994-1995 PBA Officers. Nominees may be proposed from the floor. There is an opening for nominees for First Vice-president. This position serves as a regular vice-president in terms of acting in the absence of the president and normally the major responsibility is to coordinate the Annual Spring Show at the Arboretum.

The current nominees are:

President

Chris Yeapanis

First Vice-president

Open

Educational Vice-president

Arschel Morell

Secretary

Julie Walker

Treasurer

Jerry Antel, Jr.

See you at the PBA Annual Meeting.

Gardenia Bonsai, Pt. 1

by Jules Koetsch

as the article cited by reference 2 will attest. The author of this article points out her seemingly never ending struggle to keep any alive was ended when one of her good friends told her "that what my gardenias need is to drop acid fairly often. Mind you, not the occasional hit of Mir-acid, but everyday breakfast acid COFFEE GROUNDS! I began mixing a morning slurry of Italian dark roast espresso grounds and using it to top off the daily gardenia watering with an acid chaser. (At the same time I made rain-forest-sure that the cache pot beneath each gardenia held at least 1 1/2 inches of plain water for day long pseudo-tropical humidification and soil moisturizing.)"

Reference 3 reinforces the above requirement with the stated pH that is required should be between a pH of 5.0 to 5.5 which is in the mid to high acid soil range. Most plants thrive in the pH range from 6.0 to 6.9. If the gardenia is in soil with a pH greater than 5.5 it will suffer the consequences of plants in soil outside of the specific plant's pH range; the nourishment in the soil will not be unlocked sufficiently so that the plant will grow and resist disease.

For the indoor bonsai enthusiasts, reference 3 goes on to indicate that for gardenia growth indoors one must try to overcome the dry conditions in the home "by keeping the atmosphere sufficiently moist, giving the plant enough but not too much water in the soil and spraying it often; protecting it from drafts and temperature changes of any kind and giving it a bright, sunny location in the winter and one with slight shade part of the time in the summer but not in a garden where winds can buffet it." Reference 4 warns that cold drafts even indoors will cause bud blast or drop.

GARDENIA VARIETIES

Reference 5 from which much of the part of this article pertaining to creating a gardenia bonsai has been adapted, lists 3 different gardenias. Reference 3 also lists 3 gardenias but without a way to correlate the Japanese names to anything in English or their biological name. One can only surmise from the descriptions of all six types that there

may be more cultivars lurking in the woodwork. The 3 Japanese gardenia types are described as one with yellow spots on the leaves, another as having tapering leaves and the third, praised by the reference 5 author, as having a propensity of leaves but readily found anywhere.

The English text, reference 3, lists as one of the 3 gardenias, *Gardenia jasminodes*; a bushy shrub growing up to 6 feet with thick, glossy evergreen leaves and very white, heavily scented flowers with 9 petals. This is the variety that one is most likely to find being commercially marketed. The double flowered varieties are the most popular. Next listed is *G. thunbergian*; which has long leaves and large 8-parted white fragrant flowers, long-tubed and with a spathe-like calyx. Lastly, *G. rothmannia*; has distinctive leaves with hairy glands along the midrib, and 5-parted short-tubed flowers of pale yellow with purple.

For those interested in collecting, there is a possibility that one might find a gardenia growing in the ground in the more temperate zones of the continental U.S.A. and Hawaii. The gardenia is a native of China which infers that ones collecting trips might be relegated to abandoned home sites or tended gardens where the irrevocable rule of getting permission to dig, as always, applies.

TREE SHAPES

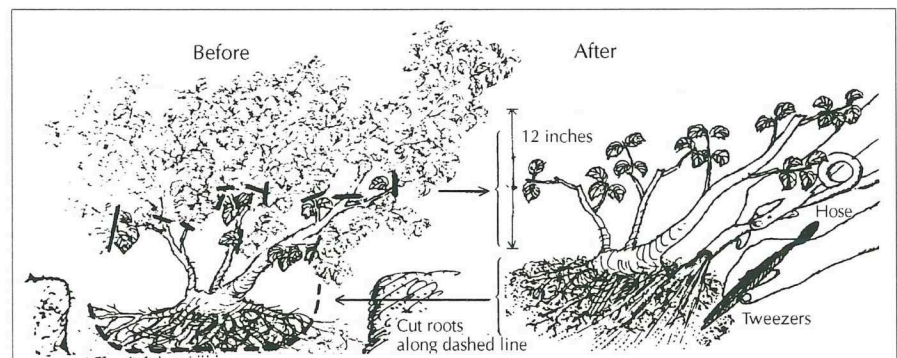
Reference 6's Appendix 3 is an indispensable guide on how one can treat 340 plant species as to styling and maintaining them as bonsai; listing each plant's scientific name; the type as to tree, shrub, deciduous, evergreen and the like; bonsai styles the plant is suitable for; the way plant can be propagated for bonsai use; the type of pots best suited; pruning instructions; when to wire; and lastly where to locate the tree outdoors such as in full sun or partial shade, etc. For *G. jasminoides*, item 329 in the appendix, the following styles are suggested: informal upright, slanting, cascade, broom, root-over-rock, twin trunk, and groups of multiple trees from 2 trees or more. The preferred style was clump. See reference 6, pages 96, 97 and 98 for examples of clump style. The author of reference 4 used the stump style shown in the sketches which follow. Reference 6 shows stump styles on page 99.

DEVELOPMENT

Two approaches for developing a gardenia bonsai will be described: one where the gardenia has been purchased or collected and the other is starting a gardenia from a cutting. The latter approach is a step one might take after pruning a mature plant.

COLLECTED/PURCHASED GARDENIA

continued on next page



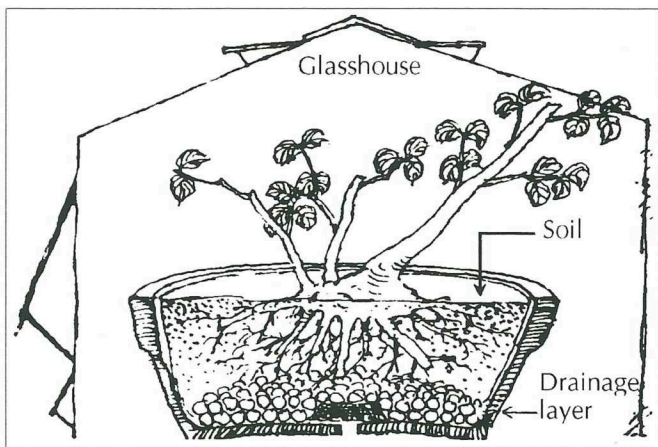
1. Remove much of the foliage by pruning much of the branches to retain one to two clusters. Reduce the root mass by 1/2. Wash the soil from the edge of the root mass and use tweezers to pull the roots along the edge of the soil so that they are in contact with the new soil. Otherwise the roots will not grow into the potting soil.

Gardenia Bonsai, Pt. 1

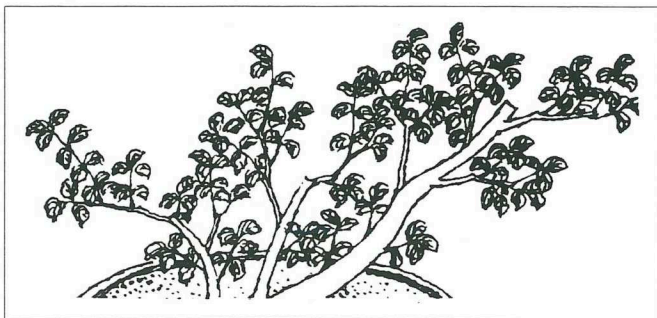
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April 1st to 10th. Select the plant to be a bonsai and at the same time decide on its eventual bonsai style.

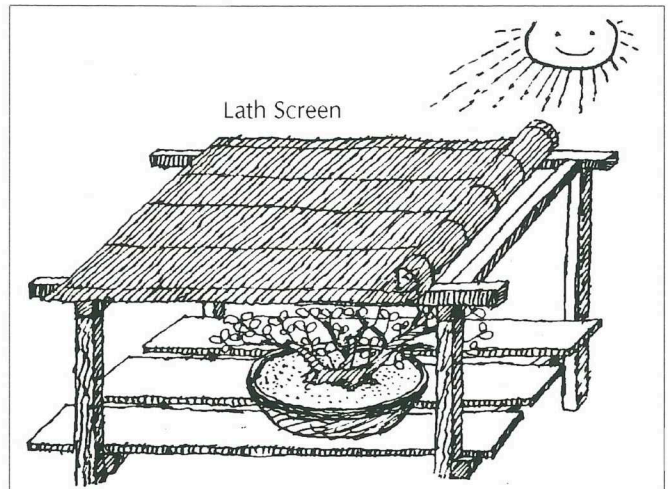
December 1st to 10th is when the author of reference 5 suggests placing the plant under winter protection. In the Washington, D.C. area that seems to be a little late compared to where the Japanese author lives. It is this author's suggestion to place the gardenia under winter protection before the first frost.



2. Place plant in a large training pot using a soil mix of 7 parts Turface and 3 parts Gran-I-Grits. When potted, thoroughly water and place in glasshouse or polyhouse. This will protect it from late frosts and drying winds which would weaken the plant to the point that it might die. Water to keep soil from drying. Do not fertilize until September.

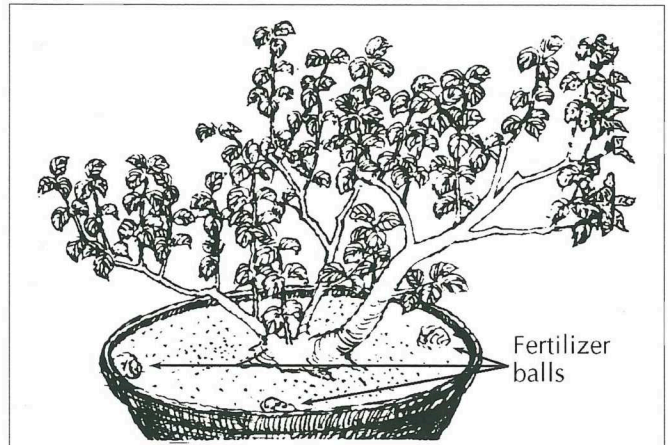


3. May 1 to 10. Place the plant outdoors on top of a shelf or bench. Water 1 to 2 times per day. June: sprouts appear on branches and develop new foliage.



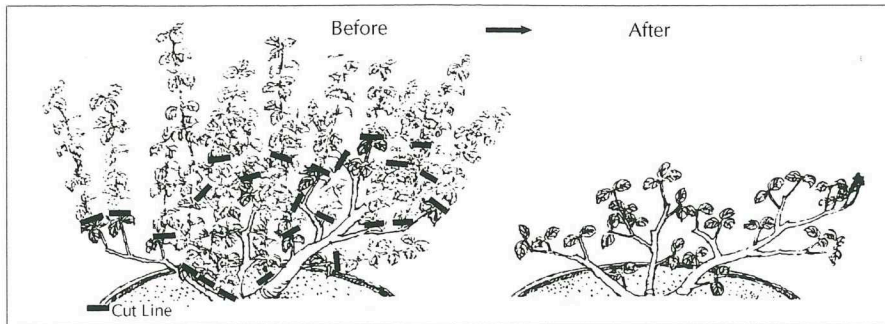
4. Midsummer Operations

July 10 to August 20: This is mid-summer when the sun's heat is the fiercest. The figure above shows one form of protection, a lath screen. An alternative is to place the plant in a spot shaded by trees.



5. Fertilize September 1 - 10

August 20th to 30th return the plant to its former place on top of a bench or shelf. September 1 to 10 place 3 fertilizer balls as shown. Do not fertilize afterwards until next year. At about this time the twigs will have grown about 8 inches.



6. 2nd and 3rd YEAR, Prune April 1 - 10

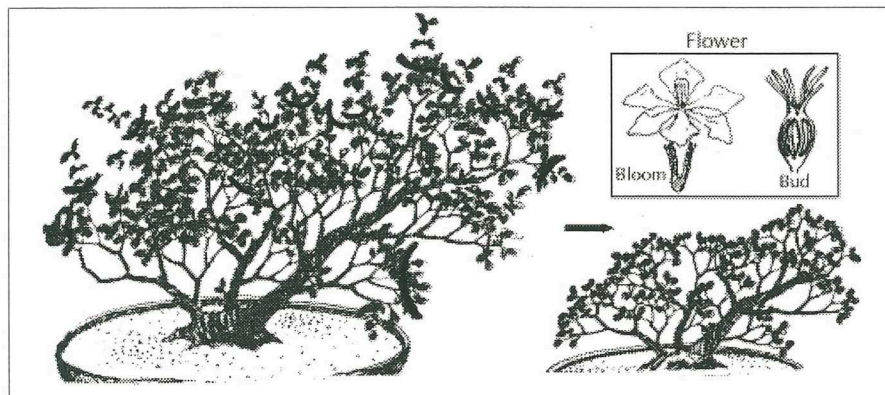
April 1 - 10: remove from winter protection

In 2nd year prune last year's growth leaving one cluster of leaves on each branch as shown above. In 3rd year remove 2nd year's growth where desired.

Watering: begin 2 times per day watering. Fertilizing: commence with no more than 3 fertilizer balls and repeat every 2 months. June 1 - 10: fertilize with 3 balls. July - August provide full shade protection. August 1 - 10: fertilize with 3 balls. August 20 - 31: Return to location on top of shelf or table. October 1 - 10: Last fertilizer application of 3 balls until next year. Watch out for first frost and just prior to frost move into winter protection.

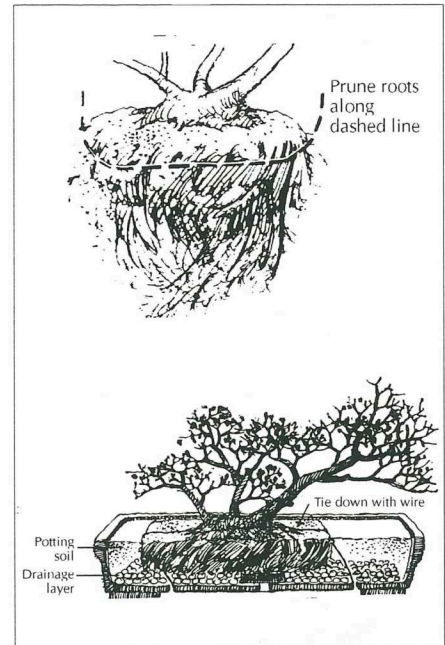
4th Year - Do the same operations as scheduled for the 3rd year.

July - August: flowers that have appeared should be removed as soon as they have faded.



7. 5th and 6th Year - Prune April 1 - 10

April 1 - 10: pruning is again in order. Except that the procedure varies from the previous Aprils in that by now the foliage has become dense and one may elect to open it up by removing main branches. Such a move will enhance the beauty and health of the tree. All other operations are the same throughout the 5th and 6th years.



8. 7th Year Putting in a Bonsai Pot

April 1 - 10: Seven years seems like a long time for the time to put the plant in a bonsai display pot.

Prune the branches before removing the plant from the training pot. After removing the plant from the training pot, prune as much as 60% of the root mass.

Tie-down or capsize wire is vinyl covered copper wire where the vinyl covering can do two things; it adds some protection against chaffing the roots or trunk as it makes contact with them and it prevents the roots from directly contacting the copper wire.

There is some evidence that copper in contact with roots has a killing effect on the roots. Potting soil is 7 parts Turface and 3 parts Gran-I-Grits. Drainage layer consists of large pellets of Turface. Water thoroughly after potting. Place outdoors on top of a shelf or table.

April 30th: begin fertilizing on an every two months cycle.

June 20 - 30 fertilize. July 10 to August 20: put plant in shade. August 20 - 31: fertilize. October 20 - 31: Last fertilization for this year. Put in winter protection before the first frost.

Gardenia Bonsai, Pt. 1

PBA Spring Show

April 29 – May 1

continued from previous page

8th Year and Thereafter

Each year repeat the tasks as scheduled in the 3rd or 4th years. Repot every 3 or 4 years.

Insect Pests: Reference 1 cites the following: "Mealy bugs are persistent pests on Gardenia when they feed in colonies at the axils of twigs and on the leaves. On house or garden plants spraying with Malathion is effective. On a few plants, hand picking with a needle or brush wet in alcohol is often sufficient."

Diseases: Also from reference 1 - "Stem canker which infects the stem at or just below the soil level girdles and kills the branches. The bark splits and the leaves turn yellow. It is often carried on cuttings. Destroy infected plants and avoid contaminated soil. Bud-drop on house plants is primarily due to uneven temperatures and low humidity. In modern, heated homes, plants in relatively cool rooms have less bud drop."

REFERENCES

1. WYMAN'S GARDENING ENCYCLOPEDIA: by Donald Wyman; MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc.: New York, N.Y., 1977.
2. FOR HAPPY GARDENIAS, DRINK MORE COFFEE: Patti Hagan: A New Look at Houseplants: Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record Vol. 49, No. 4, 1993.
3. THE NEW GARDEN ENCYCLOPEDIA: editor E.L.D. Seymour: Wm. H. Wise & Co., Inc., 1946.
4. INDOOR BONSAI: Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record Vol. 46, No. 3: 1990.
5. KUCHINSHI (gardenia) Upright trunks, Sprout Style: by Budai Mouba: Directions for the Preparation of Flowering and Fruiting Bonsai with Illustrated Explanatory Notes: in Japanese 1974.
6. THE JAPANESE ART OF MINIATURE TREES AND LANDSCAPES: by Yuji Yoshimura and Giovanna M. Halford: Charles E. Tuttle Company: Rutland, Vt.: 1972.

Next month this article will continue with starting a Gardenia from a cutting.

continued from page 1

Delivery:

All trees shall be delivered on Thursday, April 28, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Required Label Information:

Labels containing background information for each of the trees will be laser printed by Jeff Stephanic. Member clubs should forward label information to Chris J. Yeapanis (see contact information in coordination section) no later than April 17. Last year, there were many last minute submissions of data which resulted in some label errors. Timely submission of data will ensure time to produce accurate and attractive labels for a quality show.

Please list information for all material according to the sample data card in last month's *Clippings*. Better yet, photo copy the sample data card and fill in the blanks.

PBA Member Volunteers Needed

Help is needed from PBA members to produce a successful show. The PBA Annual Spring Show is one event that helps build PBA membership. Increased membership enhances program devel-

opment for PBA and member clubs. Volunteers are needed for the following:

Setting up the show.

Dismantling the show.

Collecting donations at the entrance of exhibit during show times.

Each club must arrange for monitors and maintenance of their club trees.

Coordination:

All PBA member clubs should solicit volunteers for the above activities. It is recommended that each PBA club appoint a member to coordinate the selection of items for the club display, submit display information on time and recruit volunteers for show activities.

Questions relating to the organization of this event should be directed to the 1993 PBA Annual Show coordinator:

Chris J. Yeapanis

4228 Berritt St.

Fairfax, VA 22030

Work (301) 590-8580 after 5 p.m.

Home (703) 591-0864



PBA ANNUAL AUCTION

Dawn Rose Building, Behnke's Nursery, May 14, 1994

It is time for the PBA Annual Auction once again, and with it the opportunity to thin out your stock and turn them into hard cash or add to your collection!

The format will consist of an auction only, with no consignment sales. There will be a bidder registration with numbered bidding cards issued. Godfrey Trammell will once again coordinate this event and he is in need of a few volunteers to help with the auction. Please call (202) 606-4571 and volunteer to help.

The following changes will be made to the auction procedure this year to alleviate the problem of too much material being placed on sale which, in the past, has resulted in an overly long auction and abnormally low prices for the final items sold:

1. To sell items at the auction you must be a member of a PBA affiliated club.
2. A limit of 7 (seven) "Lots" will be allowed each seller. A "Lot" may consist of more than one item but everything in that "Lot" will be auctioned at one price.
3. The PBA commission will be increased from 15% to 20%, all of which will go into the PBA Treasury.
4. The auction will end at 12:00 Noon.

Each seller will be given an individual registration sheet with seven numbered lines for a written description of each item to be sold: Where and when acquired; Common and botanical name; Age; Minimum bid, if any. In addition, there will be tags, with corresponding numbers, to be tied on each auction item.

Schedule:

- 8 AM Behnke's Nursery opens.
 9-10 AM Bidder registration. Delivery of items for auction.
 10 AM Auction begins.
 12 Noon End of auction.

The auction will be held rain or shine. The location is in the Dawn Rose Building, second floor. Guide signs will be posted. The Behnke's Nursery is located at 11300 Baltimore Avenue (U.S. 1), 2 miles north of Capitol Beltway Exit 25A, Beltsville, Maryland. Once again, PBA is grateful for the generosity of Behnke's Nurseries in offering, at no charge, their facilities for this auction.



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