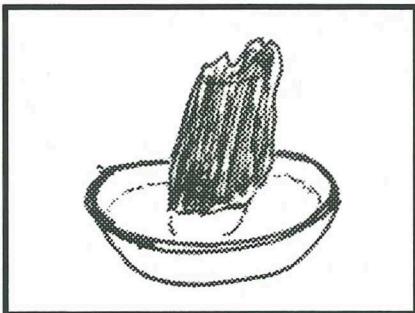


PENJING: Part Deux

Last month the basic definition and the principle elements of the penjing landscape were discussed. This month the actual set-up will be the topic of discussion. One clever way of marking the line for cutting the stone was described by Mr. Mahoney. Slowly lower the rock at the appropriate angle into a basin of



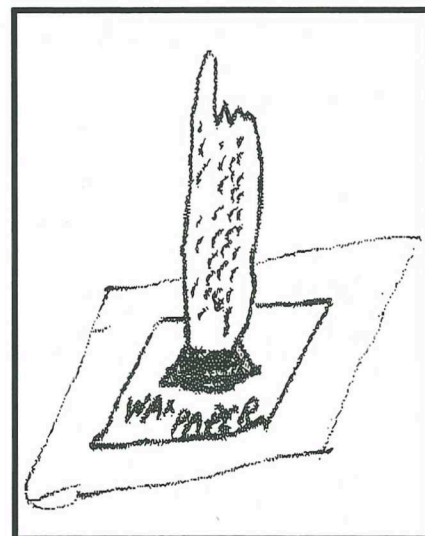
water until the place where the cut to be is at the surface of the water. The ensuing waterline when the rock is now removed from the basin, will mark the cutting line. Rocks which need not be cut can be fitted with a concrete base to stabilize them. Actually it's a hydraulic cement not Portland cement found in the every day concrete mixes. It's the same material that Keith Scott used to make the slabs at last years PBA

Symposium. In the NOVA area Greenwald Supply, Inc. on 8090 Alban Rd., Springfield, VA, handles "DAM-IT", a hydraulic cement in 50 pound bags at about \$36. per bag. Other areas can try building material suppliers in the yellow pages.

Place the base to be of the rock on a sheet of wax paper and then place the already prepared cement mixed with water around the bottom of the rock to form the desired base.

The cement should harden in about 5 minutes. A coloring specifically made for tinting concrete can be added before mixing the cement with water so that the color of the cement when dried matches the color of the rock. Needless to say allotting the right amount of coloring as well as the right amount of water to the dry cement may require some practice with smaller samples before hitting the right combinations. The placements of the rocks should be such that they create impressions of perspective and great depth of distance. Principles of placement of the rocks are very similar to those for making forest plantings. The largest or number 1

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PBA Member Clubs/Societies: Annual subscription is included in the membership dues paid to the PBA Club or Society of your choice. Telephone numbers of points of contact for information about any member club or society and its annual dues, are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Non-Member Subscriptions:

Individuals residing within the Baltimore, Washington, D.C. or Philadelphia metropolitan area are encouraged to become members of a club to receive the newsletter. Annual subscription for 12 issues of the PBA Clippings only is US \$15.00 (US \$35 for International Mail) which should be made payable to the Potomac Bonsai Association and sent to Jeffrey Stephanic, 1305 Bayliss Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Advertising Rates (until December 31, 1994): Monthly rates: 1/6 page, \$12.50; 1/3 page, \$25.00; 1/2 page, \$37.50; full-page, \$75.00. 10% discount for 6 months prepaid, 20% discount for 12 months prepaid. Direct inquiries/payment (make checks payable to Potomac Bonsai Association) to: Jerry Antel, Jr. 6409 Middleburg Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 320-5251. Send ad copy to editor at address listed below for articles.

Please send ad/articles to the editor: J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152; (703) 569-9378.

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Newsletter Editor	Jules Koetsch

PBA Clippings staff:

Editor	Jules Koetsch (703) 569-9378
Assoc. Ed./Art Dir.	Beth Potratz (703) 255-9386 FAX: 703-560-8084
Asst. Ed./Art Dir.	Jeff Stephanic (703) 671-6881
Advertising Editor	Jerry Antel, Jr. (301) 320-5251

From the Editor

EDITORIAL Nov. '94

Have you wondered if you were ever getting the October '94 issue of PBA Clippings? One concerned probably fearing the worst about today's mail delivery, telephoned to find out if it had been mailed. Fortunately, it was that time of year when bonsai interests go dormant with the plants as we approach the winter solstice. Now the staff is playing catch-up. What happened? Jeff Stephanic who modernized the PBA newsletter by bringing it into the "desk-top editing" age, found that the task of proofing and formatting the PBA Clippings was demanding more time than he could spare. Hermann Goering, the infamous field marshal in charge of Hitler's Luftwaffe once said, "If you want to get anywhere in this world you must work 24 hours a day, and if that isn't enough, you must work nights too." Jeff simply ran out of time in the face of new work commitments.

Everyone seems to want to learn about computer graphics which is one of the subjects Jeff teaches. The plea in the February '94 issue of PBA Clippings for "additional editorial and design staff" to handle the desk-top editing eventually was answered by Beth Potratz. This entailed providing Beth with a state-of-the-art desk-top-editing system and a learning period wherein Jeff instructed Beth on how to use the system.

The acquisition of the new computerized system is just in time to help mark a forthcoming comment - as Jeff pointed out the silver anniversary of the PBA Clippings Newsletter. Yes, it all began 25 years ago in 1970 with James R. Newton as editor of the PBA Newsletter. At that time it was published as a pamphlet with 8.5 x 6 inches size pages and also had photographs. This continued until about 1977 when the editorship changed hands and yours truly became the unsuspecting victim. But it's been 17 years of fun and education (actually it seems a lot longer than that). At the time of the transition the format changed to legal size 8.5 x 14 inch paper, printed on a copier, no photos, and stapled at the corner. Cliff Pottberg and Mary Holmes Bloomer showed the current editor how to paste-up typed print and photographs on boards for the offset printing process. The PBA Newsletter was now back to a pamphlet of 8.5 x 6 inches size.

Cy Mills did get PBA started in the world of automation. He donated a first generation Radio Shack computer with word processing capability to PBA. The editor found it most helpful as a word processor - correcting my slipshod typing and enabling to easily alter any of the text before printing it for paste-up on the boards. But alas the computer system had outlived its lifespan components were failing more and more frequently precluding any further expenditure to repair the computer system.

Compared to the present desk-top editing system, that computer was slow, the printer provided a fuzzy dot-matrix product and there was no means to scan in any pictures or typing and the like. Furthermore, the entire newsletter is now put on a disc which goes to the printer instead of cumbersome paste-up boards and the printer runs-off the newsletters using his computerized system.

Before Cy Mill had donated the computer he had convinced Molly Hersh and Joe Finneyfrock to forego their method of cutting out addresses from recopied sheets of addresses and pasting them on the newsletters with tape and use the sticky labels which Cy ran off on his computer. Even

continued on page 8

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.
(215) 663-1678

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) 394-0845

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
(202) 554-3045

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

NOVEMBER

Saturday 12
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
Tropical Workshop with Martha Meehan

Wednesday 16
Brookside Bonsai Society
Artist Circle with Chase Rosade at Tony Meyer's house.
Call 301-907-0992 for information.

Thursday 17
Brookside Bonsai Society
Raft forest painting on rock with Chase Rosade.

Saturday 19
Washington Bonsai Club
Indoor Bonsai, Martha Meehan.

Sunday 20
Baltimore Bonsai Club
Annual club auction, location to be announced.

Sunday 20
Kiyomizu Bonsai Society
Open date - will schedule later.

Thursday 24
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
???

DECEMBER

Saturday 3
Kiyomizu Bonsai Society
Pot luck Christmas dinner at a members home.

Saturday 10
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
Annual Holiday Party.

Thursday 15
Brookside Bonsai Society
Annual Holiday Dinner

Saturday 17
Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Annual Christmas Party
Olive Garden at 5:00 pm

Saturday 17
Washington Bonsai Club
No Meeting
Happy Holidays

ECTETERA

November 12, 1994
National Arboretum at 1:30
Jack E. Billet

TIPS ON NOVEMBER CARE

Sub tropicals and root over rock or root on rock plantings and those on slabs should have been put into whatever winter protection program you have. Other bonsai can be left unprotected until they have been exposed to two frosts and then winterized. Winters in this area do not get too severe but there is always an exception such as the winter of 1977, 1988, 1993. Temperatures fell to between -2°F and -10°F. I remember that the temperature plummeted to that range on Christmas Day. I lost a few bonsai as the result of overlooking the closing of one exhaust vent in my polyhouse. The only advice I can give is for you to place your bonsai so that you can cover them with a

trash can or plastic sheet when the temperatures get around 0°F. Watering can be cut back to once a day or every other day if the plants are not taking up water on a daily basis. Remember Jack Wickle's advice to let the soil almost dry out before rewatering. Then again when in winter storage do not let the plants dry out. Fertilizing is discontinued starting in November and is not started until late February and or March of the next year. Pruning to shape can be done on cotoneaster, gardenias, holly, Ilex and pyracantha. Black pine, dead or two year old, needles can be removed over the period of time between mid-November and the end of December.

OFFICER'S CORNER

Calendar of events items are needed for the *Clippings*. Nothing has been submitted for the New Year as of yet. Please submit as soon as possible.

DUES and MEMBERSHIP lists are due by January. If they are not submitted, the club will be dropped off the database until they have been received. Please send both the dues and the list to Jerry Antel at 6409 Middleburg Road, Bethesda, MD 20815 then he will forward them on to Ted Tepper.

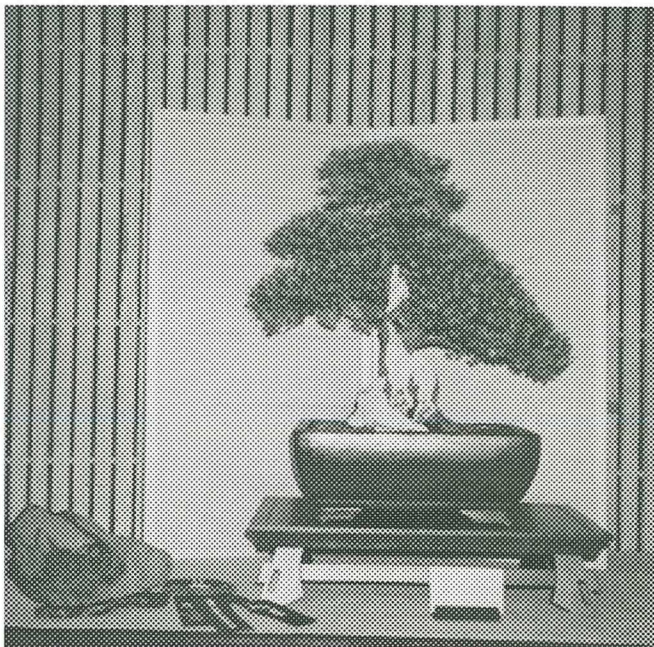
Please forward along with the membership list a new update list of the officer's so that if any changes need to be made they can. Thank you for your assistance.

Midwest Bonsai Show by Terry Adkins

For the fourth year now, I have traveled 13 hours with bonsai trees on board to the Chicago Midwest Bonsai Show. Each year has been an adventure, the first year I got to know everyone, and we are like old friends now. Kelley Adkins and I are thought to be related, but we set them all straight, and tell them we're twins. I am the cute one we both say at the same time. The strange thing is, I have a daughter named Kelley. Last year I got to meet Roy Nagatoshi, we were the dinner guests of Mr. Jack Fried. Roy had come to Chicago to judge the show, plus a host of other duties. Well taking the judge out to dinner before the judging seemed like a good idea to me. Both Jack and I did well with ribbons, but we still didn't win best of show which went to Jack Douthitt who entered a Pasture Juniper with lots of driftwood. My big red azalea (not in bloom) took what you might call second. The show has over 300 trees on display, with about 200 in the open competition, 50 for display only, and 50 for the novice competition. There is a total of 75 ribbons given out to 250 trees, 64 trees receive ribbons. The tree that wins Best of Show receives 3 ribbons, a first place ribbon, an award of merit ribbon, and the Best of Show Ribbon. There are 9 second place winners, who receive a first place ribbon and award of merit ribbon. Only by knowing what the judge is thinking do you know who really came in second. By talking to the judge I was told of the placement. There is another 9 first place ribbons given to the

other trees, 20 second place ribbons given and 25 third place ribbons given, a total of 75 ribbons given to 64 trees. Some might think that this is a lot of pressure to apply to ones peaceful art, but as most of you know the Japanese have judged shows for years. The first and second year I put bonsai up for judging I received second and 1 third place ribbons each year for three trees each year, a total of 6 trees, 4 ribbons. The third year I took 4 of my azaleas, I received 3 first place ribbons, 1 second place ribbon and 1 award of merit ribbon and a special plaque for big red mentioned above. This year, August, 1994, I took 3 of my bonsai plus one for Jim Sullivan and one tree Bobby (ROCK KING) Helton. All five trees received ribbons. Ben Oki was the judge and is quite a guy. We must have him to a symposium. Again I took 3 azaleas and all 3 won first place ribbons and award merit ribbons. The Best of Show ribbon went to Bruce Baker and his beautiful Japanese Yew, see figure 1, that he demonstrated on, at the ABS convention in Hershey, PA. I love the bonsai show in Chicago, I am hooked. I liked the judging and would like to see the PBA Spring Show judged. I think it would improve the show over the years. The following article, which appeared on computer screens all over the world, made my bonsai experience a great one and it could be yours.

Terry Adkins' Azalea
Second place



Bruce Baker's Japanese Yew
Best of Show 1994



PENJING continued from page 1

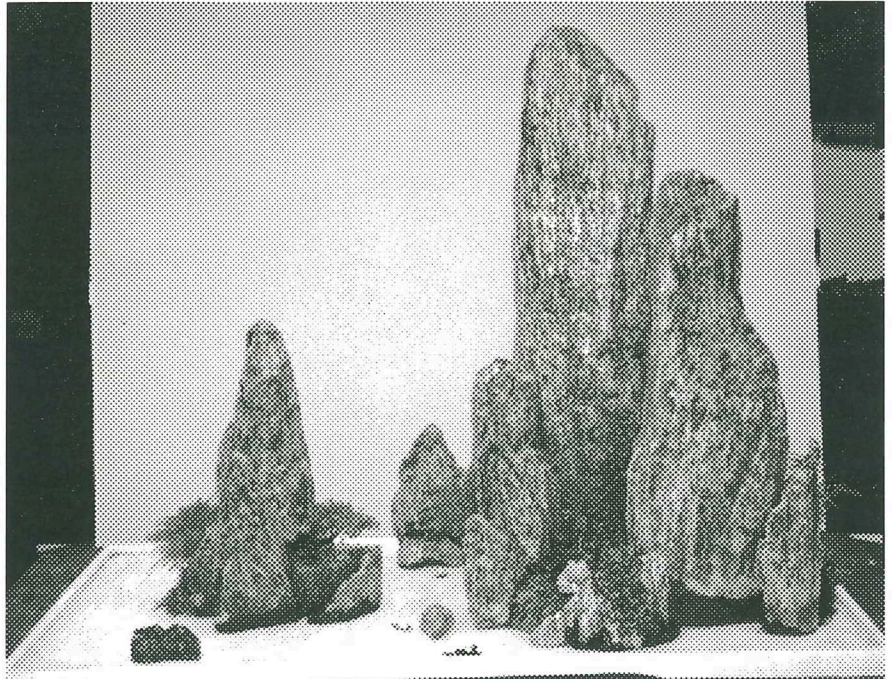
rocks is placed either right or left of the centerline of the tray and toward the front of the tray. The accompanying photograph, figure 5, shows the penjing landscape Mr. Mahoney put together at the 1992 PBA Symposium. The composition illustrates how the largest 3 rocks are placed. One has the option of placing either the second largest, number 2, or the third largest, number 3, immediately next to the number 1 rock. The other rock is then placed on the other side of the centerline of the tray as the nucleus for the second island. The lesser sized rocks are then placed after the 3 largest have been positioned. Figure 6 shows a close up of the rock bases. the photos, figures 5 and 6, were taken by Carl Lambert (NOVA).

Critical to the composition is the placement of the last rock as in forest plantings - its the last and smallest tree. The last rock should be small enough to suggest a vast distance between the islands in the front and that small rock - as Hal puts it, "A distance of 10,000 miles."

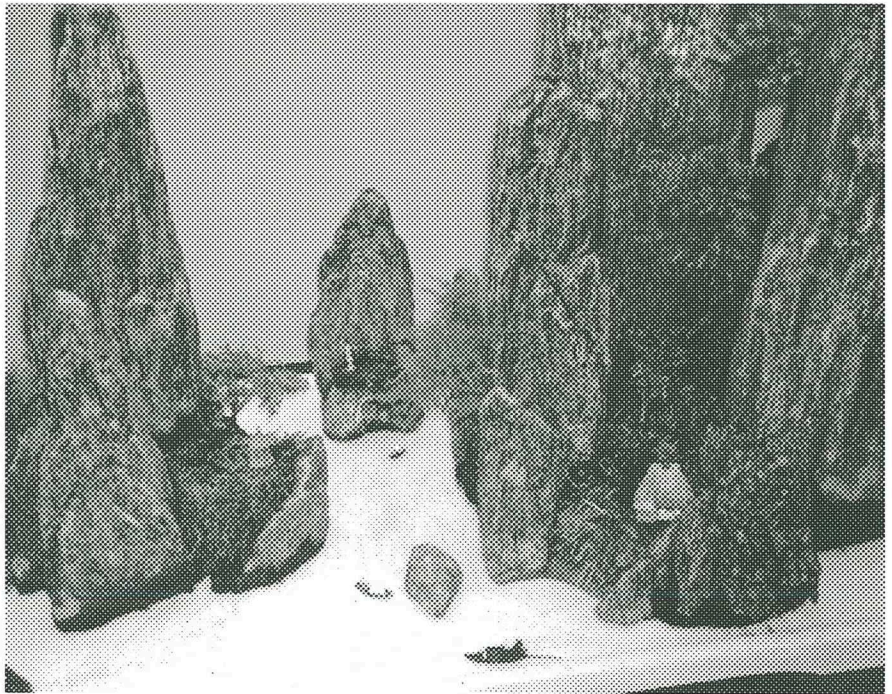
It is not necessary that all the rocks around the largest 3 rocks be entirely visible. Invoke an aura of mystique as to what the partially hidden rock may be. Also the rocks are positioned so that there are cavities and depressions in which plants can be placed. Once again a plant partially visible, poking out from behind a rock adds some zest to the composition.

If plants are to be added, the plants should be short, mame type plants, i.e. small leaves and short internodes.

Korean serissa, Ezo spruce and Kingsville boxwood are typical of the varieties to consider. Plumose variety plants with their indistinct, feathery foliage can be used for "distant" trees toward the rear of



Photograph courtesy Carl Lambert figure 5



Photograph courtesy Carl Lambert figure 6

continued from previous page

the composition. Sea level plants in the foreground should be taller than the trees higher up the mountains which should decrease in height to give the added impression of height to the mountains. Also in going up the mountains the plant varieties should change to reflect what happens in nature. Once the rocks have been positioned, the next step is to position the plants. The plants should be pruned if necessary before they are removed from their containers. Upon removal from the container, a plant is immediately wrapped with a paper towel and then put into the desired location. Soil and moss can be added as fillers where necessary. Fertilization of the plants follows one's procedures for the plants if they were in containers. Note that watering may be more touchy since the hot weather may cause the plants in the rocks to dry out faster than if in containers.

Wintering involves disassembling the composition if it has to be moved to give it winter protection. The plants are removed and repotted and put into safe winter storage. The rock outlines on the marble tray are drawn and numbered to match numbers on the bottoms of the rocks. The marble tray can now be safely tucked away for the winter along with the stones.

Have some winter fun - make your own Bali Hai without the plants and put it together next spring. Do like the Chinese do, give your penjing landscape a picturesque name such as some of those in reference 1: "Cliff Piercing the Sky", "Cypress and 'Snow in the

Summer", "Overhanging Cliff Fresh after Rain", "Hawk's Bill Crag", "Return Sailboats round Sea-girt Islands".

Thanks to Hal Mahoney for an entertaining afternoon last June. Thanks to Mike Kling for his outline.

Jules Koetsch

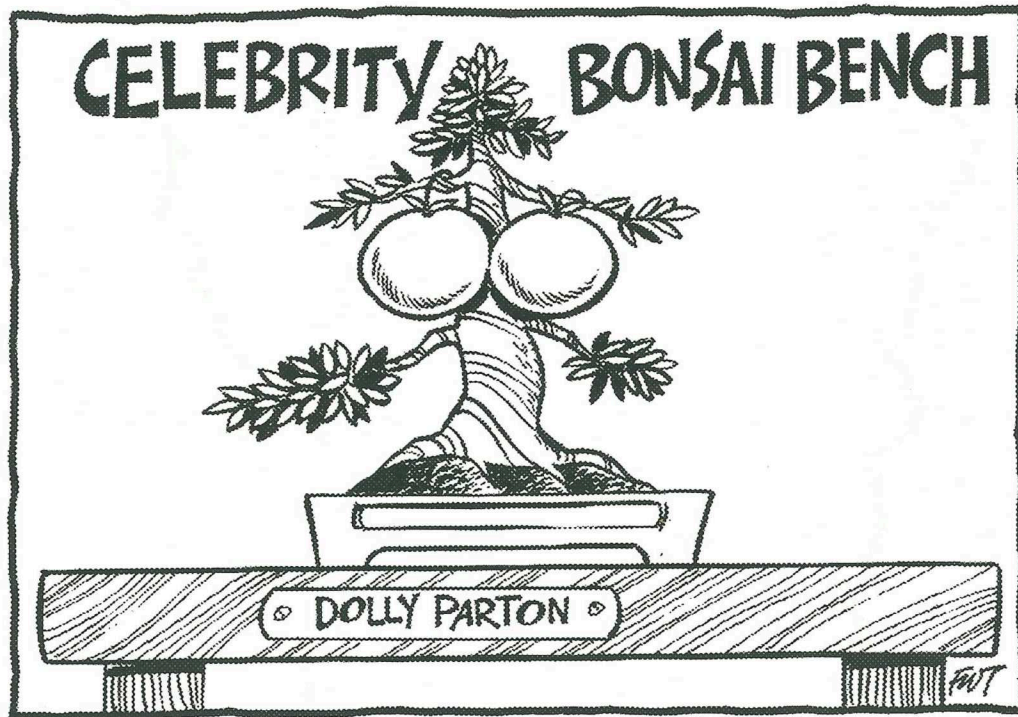
References

1. SHANGHAI LONGHUA MINIATURE GARDENING; Shangai Branch for Teaching Art Book Publishing Company, 1980 (in Chinese with English subtitles for the photographic plates).
2. BONKEI: TRAY LANDSCAPES: by Jouzan Hirota photos by Yoshikazu Ezaki; Kodansha International Ltd, New York; 1981.
3. SAIKEI: LIVING LANDSCAPES IN MINIATURE: by Toshio Kawamoto; Kodansha International Ltd, New York; 1975.
4. PASSPORT TO CHINA: by Stephen Keeler; Franklin Watts, New York; 1987
5. PLACES AND PEOPLES OF CHINA: by Rebecca Steffoff; Chelsea House Publishers, New York; 1991.

Midwest show continued from page 5

chicago show Pg 1 of 1 Thursday, August 25, 1994 8:28:46 AM

I had the honor of being a Judge's assistant at the show, and have an interesting story to relate: As we followed Ben Oki around, writing down his comments, it became apparent that he did not want to consider imported trees in the competition. He didn't think it fair to judge an expensive Japanese imported tree alongside trees that were "made in U.S.A." We came upon a stupendous Azalea, (18 inches high, 5-inch base, mucho deadwood on trunk, tiny foliage, etc.) which he quickly dismissed as "made in Japan." However, on the second pass, the owner of the tree happened to be standing there. Ben Oki asked him where he got it from, and the owner said that actually he had dug it up himself four years ago! Oki had difficulty believing this; he said he thought it was a Japanese tree in training for 20 years. Adkins said he had the pictures to prove it. Oki said he would give it the ribbon, if the owner could show him the pictures. So the owner went back to his hotel, and got the pictures. Nodding in approval as he looked at the photos, Oki said the owner was truly a master. I think this says a lot about the high-quality of American bonsai (when a Japanese judge mistakes it as a Japanese masterpiece.) It really was a beautiful tree. I hope to have a photo of it uploaded to Dan's server, when I get my pictures developed.



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Japanese Youth In Your Home



Youth for Understanding (similar to American Field service) needs two American families to host two Japanese exchange students (both males in Junior and Senior year of high school) for a total sampling of a typical American life experience.



PBA WINS AWARD

PBA is a member of the National Capitol Area Federation of Garden Clubs. In 1993, PBA won a Presidential Citation for Outstanding Garden Related Activities. The federation also publishes a Program Register which lists individual PBA members who are willing to talk to groups such as garden clubs about Bonsai. If you would like to add your name to this list, please contact Jerry Antel.

EDITORIAL

continued from page 2

before Cy Mill's gift of a computer, the PBA officers were seriously considering getting a state-of-the-art computer system. As pointed out in the last month's article "What's New With Your Newsletter" the new Power Macintosh is in place - total cost \$4,644,90. The system is available for PBA members to use. A back-up to Beth is always useful. Many thanks to Jeff Stephanic and Beth Potratz for efforts on behalf of PBA.

Five New Books for Getting and Giving This Christmas

THE BONSAI YEAR BOOK by Paul Goff and our old friend Harry Tomlinson from Stone Lantern, 95 pages, 165 color photos. \$12.95.

This book takes what in most bonsai books is just a chapter and expends this information into many chapters, charts and photographs illustrating seasonal care. A neat little book, the first of its kind. Should be in every bonsai library.

BONSAI IN YOUR HOME, by Paul Lesniewicz, Sterling Publishing Company. 207 pages and all color photographs, \$27.95.

Don't let the price throw you. If you are into growing bonsai indoors you need this book. An extension of his earlier book on the same subject Lesniewicz has out done himself in this presentation. Get someone who loves you to get this for you.

MINIATURE LIVING BONSAI LANDSCAPES - by Herb L. Gustafson, Sterling Publishing Co., 190 pages, all color photographs. \$29.95.

I never thought I would see another book written about Saikei, but here it is. Mr. Gustafson studied with Kawamoto at his institute in Japan and while some of his Saikei are a little rough around the edges the influence is there. His chapter on rock placement is worth the price. If you don't have a copy of Kawamoto's book you need this one.

THE BONSAI WORKSHOP - by Herb Gustafson, Sterling Publishing Co. 208 pages, with black and white drawings and color photographs. \$29.95.

The first book for national distribution by this author shows the Kawamoto influence. When I first looked at this book I sensed something familiar in the compositions. It was not until his book on Saikei came out that I understood where I had seen this style bonsai. Another book worthy of your library.

BONSAI - A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE - GROWING AND DISPLAYING -by Colin Lewis and Neil Sutherland, Smithmark Publishing Co., 124 pages, all color. \$14.98.

A very colorful book, typical of British book which feature large photographs of step-by-step procedures for producing bonsai. Good pictures of immature bonsai which should inspire new bonsai hobbyists.

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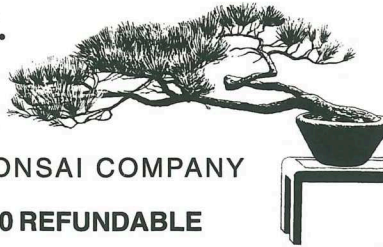
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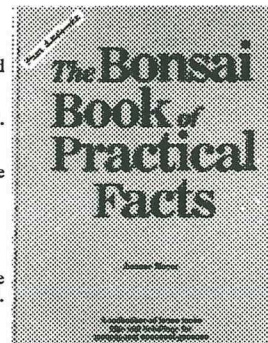
That good styling goals must include elements of "Ideal" and "Picturesque."

How to save a cracked branch.

How to handle a pot-bound, impacted soil without killing the root system.

The only fool-proof way to determine when to re-pot.

Why perfect soil drainage is the life line for all plants except cacti.



What to do if a drainage screen slides away.

Why re-potting revitalizes any bonsai and improves design.

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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 meeting in addition to receiving the *PBA Clippings* monthly. Residents of: Baltimore, MD; Lancaster, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Richmond, VA and Washington, D.C. metropolitan regions are expected to join a club to receive all membership benefits.

To become a member, call the contact person of the nearest club for current rates and where to send your dues.

Individuals beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to the PBA newsletter, *PBA Clippings*. For subscription to *PBA Clippings* only, mail a check payable to PBA for \$15.00 (U.S. \$35.00 for international subscription/postage) to Jeffrey Stephanic, 1305 Bayliss Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. For more information, call Jeff Stephanic at (703) 671-6881.

Regular meeting times and places are listed. Meeting times and locations are subject to change, call first! Events are listed monthly in PBA Clippings.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>PBA Clippings</i> , Subscription Only, US \$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>PBA Clippings</i> , International Mail, US \$35

<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Bonsai Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowie Bonsai Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Kiyomizu Bonsai Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Richmond Bonsai Society
<input type="checkbox"/> Brookside Bonsai Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster Bonsai Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington Bonsai Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Chesapeake Bonsai Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Mei-Hwa Penjing Society	

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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
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2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Stephen Choi, (301) 261-8131

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Pennypack Watershed, Willow Grove, PA
4th Thursday, eve.
Larry Chiger, (215) 663-1678

KIYOMIZU BONSAI CLUB
Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
Joan Stephens, (301) 423-8230

LANCASTER BONSAI SOCIETY
Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA
2nd or 3rd Wednesday, 7 PM
Frank Thomas, (717) 394-0845

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
Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 12 NOON
Judy Wise, (202) 554-3045

RICHMOND BONSAI SOCIETY
Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave., Richmond, VA
4th Monday, 7 PM
Chris Cochrane, (804) 353-6674

WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB
U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
Julie Walker, (202) 547-8497

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