

PBA Clippings



NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

ISSN 0160-9521

HAPPY 25TH BIRTHDAY CLIPPINGS!

SEE PAGES 4 AND 5 FOR THE SCOOP

A special Thanks to Robert "Bonsai Bob" Dreschler and Jack Cardon for locating the issue, for all to see the growth and expansion that has taken place in 25 years with your PBA Newsletter!

HEAR YE, HEAR YE: THE ANNUAL PBA SPRING AUCTION SATURDAY, MAY 20

BEHNKE'S NURSERY
DAWN ROSE BUILDING
ALL THE DETAILS ON PAGE 8

All encouraged to attend. This is a great place for sellers and buyers alike. **COME JOIN THE FUN.** 15% of the proceeds go to PBA.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS :

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., Philadelphia or Richmond metropolitan areas 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 Jeff Stephanic, 1305 Bayliss Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Advertising Rates (until December 31, 1995):

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

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FROM THE EDITOR:

As I am writing this, it is early April. I find myself desperately trying to find time to get all my repotting done within an acceptable time window. In the past for reasons beyond my control (like having to go on a trip to Europe around this time to keep my better half company), my repotting schedule went by the board. Instead of paying attention to a meticulous sorting out of what plant should go with what ratio of components to a mix, I simply took what was available. That usually was a copy of what seems to be the "standard bonsai soil" mix for this area. But this year enter Roy Nagatoshi with his volcanic cinder- redwood bark mix (see last month's *PBA Clippings*).

The volcanic cinder of Roy's mix looked identical to what was in a plastic bag and sitting around the back yard for about 10 years since Bob Sitnick had ordered a truckload for the club. After hearing him tell about how he had to do a lot of washing to clear out the particulates or else the cinder would set up like a weak mortar, I never found time to fuss with it. But having some more time to pot this year than in the past, I decided to augment what I had recently gotten from Roy, and the old cinder for a trial run this year. It sure took a lot of water to get the water to run clear through the old cinder. At least Roy's cinder has been treated to remove the fines and is ready to use.

One criticism in the past about using the volcanic cinder as a soil mix in this area seems to bother some people. It's that the cinder seems to trap a lot of water, and a waterlogged soil in this area spells TROUBLE. If you put some of the cinder in a clear glass, cover it with water and then pour off the water, you will notice that, unlike densely packed (waterlogged) -soils, there is no water between the cinders. On the other hand there's the chap who presents on TV every now and then his "New Horizons in Bonsai." He clears all soil from the

roots and then really packs water-soaked sphagnum moss (the fibrous kind) into the roots and in turn the entire mass is packed with more moss to fit tightly into the pot. Jeff Stephanic is the only one whom I know has ventured to try it. At last report, he said it seemed to be doing alright.

Hence, I'm using some of Roy's mix. That is, all that I have between his and my old bag, on some of my bonsai. The others will get the locally accepted mix of Turface, Gran-I-Grits (chicken grits), and bark. The U. S. Arboretum in the National Bonsai and Penjing Collections uses equal parts of Turface, grits, and orchid bark for most of their plants except for some such as azaleas where 3 parts bark are added to the above mix. Depending on whether a plant requires more or less water on a day-to-day basis, one can vary the 3 components in the mix. Yuji Yoshimura in his book, and John Naka in his, allude to this. In John's book one can readily see that, i.e., for the following large plants the mixes are as follows: Maple: 1 part soil, 2 parts mulch, 1 part medium sand, 1 part small sand; Japanese black pine: 2 parts mulch, 3 parts medium sand, 2 parts fine sand; and azaleas: 4 parts mulch, 1 part medium sand, and 1 part fine sand. Black pines like well-drained soil and if you want to go the limit you can plant them in river sand as one Japanese grower does. The soil in John's mix can be equated to Turface, the mulch to orchid bark or pine/fir bark mix, and the sand to chicken grits.

If you're interested in matching soil mix to a specific type of plant and it's not in Yuji's or John's books or for that matter any bonsai book, find out where the plant grows naturally. When collecting, note where the plant is. Hornbeam

Continued on page 9

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**
PBA 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**
Green Springs Park
2nd Saturday, 10 AM
(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) 543-7433

Organizations sponsoring regular events of interest to PBA members:

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

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

MAY

- Thursday 11
Lancaster Bonsai Club
Workshop and Azalea Mini-show
- Saturday 13
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
Dr. Joe Gutierrez will be doing a tree critique.
- Sunday 14
Brookside Bonsai Society
Mother's Day Show at McCrillis Gardens.
All welcome to attend.
- Thursday 18
Brookside Bonsai Society
Guest speaker. Artist Circle included dates TBA.
- Sunday 21
Lancaster Bonsai Club
Club trip to Swiss Pines Japanese Gardens
- Saturday 20
Washington Bonsai Club
Bill Spencer will be presenting a styling workshop.
- SATURDAY 20
PBA ANNUAL AUCTION at BEHNKE Nursery,. This a great place to get quality trees, stock and etc. more details will follow.
- Sunday 21
Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
Azalea workshop Bring own tree and supplies.

JUNE

- Saturday 10
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
Annual Meeting at John Simpson's. A day of fun for all and a perfect opportunity for those troublesome trees.
- Saturday 17
Washington Bonsai Club
Azalea Workshop.
- Sunday 25
Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
Making slabs for plantings Meeting location TBA (either Godfrey Trammell's or Chuck Bird's)

CALENDARS ARE NEEDED. The calendars are needed at least 2 months in advance. Please send to :

Beth Potratz
1101 Pekay St. SW
Vienna, VA 22180

PBA'S First Newsletter

PBA's first publication was in every sense a newsletter as the accompanying reprint shows - a reporting of goings on..

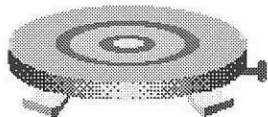
In later years the PBA Newsletter started to include items of an educational, informative nature. Hence when Jeff Stephanic recently changed the name from PBA Newsletter to PBA Clippings, that title better suited today's publication which is potpourri of mainly bonsai information - news, educational etcetera.

"Bonsai Bob" Drechsler, Curator of The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum, when told by Jack Cardon, Brookside Bonsai Society, that the editor of this publication was looking for a copy of the first PBA Newsletter to print in commemoration of the 25th anniversary, promptly sent one. It was a one-pager.

Many thanks to Bonsai Bob and Jack. The library of bonsai related books and publications now being cataloged at the U.S. National Arboretum contains a complete set of PBA Newsletters and Clippings.

See Page Five for a reprint of The Newsletter.

SENSEI SAM



This is clipping out of the Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society Newsletter. At the January meeting each club member was given a Scots Pine tree to style. Here are two examples that were given on how each one styled their tree. One will be ran this month and the other will follow next month. Thank you for your submissions, both Anita and Larry.

THE STYLING OF A SCOTS PINE (COURTESY OF LARRY CHIGER)

I obtained my free Scots pine at the GPBS January meeting immediately began thinking about how I wanted to style it. The first thing I noted about the tree was that it was tall, and had an unsightly whorl (multiple branches coming from the same place on the trunk) approximately a third up the trunk. It also had a long internode after the whorl before the upper branches. I thought about removing the whorl, leaving one branch to jin, and create a literati style with branches only on the top third of the tree. It would work and show the graceful line of the trunk. However, I also noticed that the bottom third of the trunk had attractive curvature to it. I wanted to emphasize that aspect of the tree.

I still decided to remove the whorl, but instead of wiring as a literati, I decided to bend the trunk just past the whorl more than 90° to create a cascade style.

Before beginning, I inspected the root system around the base of the trunk. Luckily, the winter had been mild and the soil was not frozen, so I could examine the trunk below the soil level. From this I found it had a nice root system that would allow many fronts.

Next, I turned my attention to the whorl. It presented a problem. If I remove all the branches of the whorl, the tree would die. I decided to remove the two largest branches, leaving the three smaller branches, slightly pruned, in place for now. After the wounds have healed, I will remove the remaining whorl branches one or two at a time. Although the branches distract from the bonsai now, they are necessary to ensure the survival of the tree. I then wired the trunk with a thick wire to secure the trunk in place once bent. I bent the trunk as planned and added motion (the trunk was bent to mimic the forces of nature acting on a growing tree) to the upper part of the trunk.

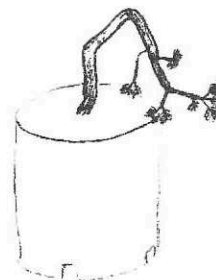
I then removed all the branches that interfered with the cascade design; any branches growing straight up or straight down, and multiple branches emanating

from the same place on the trunk. I further wired the branches I had left and moved them into position for the design.

I was left with a bonsai that has few branches now, but that will grow into a fine cascade in the future with careful pruning and wiring. Because of the winter season, I will wait to pot the bonsai until spring. Until then, the pine will winter in my hoop house.



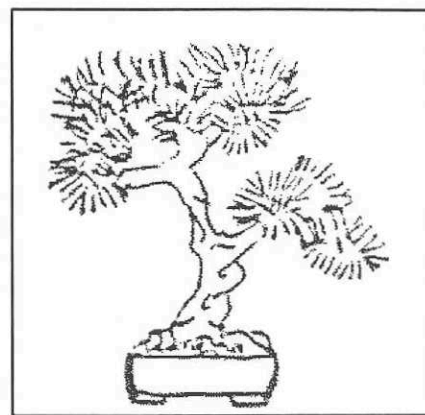
BEFORE



AFTER

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia • Vol 1 No 1 • May 1971

ARBORETUM OFFERS MEETING SPACE FOR PBA

Word from the National Arboretum received April 21, is that we have a meeting place whenever we want one. We can use either the auditorium, where our April initial meeting took place, or one of the downstairs classrooms. Both locations are suitable for workshops, the only stipulation being that we clean up any mess we make. Water is available in both locations, and there is a place in which to fix bring-our-own refreshments if we wish.

The PBA needs a meeting place to call its own. The Arboretum's generous offer should receive serious consideration at a forthcoming Association meeting.

FIVE PBA MEMBERS START BONSAI CLASSES

Dottie Warren, rising to the occasion of a brand new Bonsai organization, agreed without a moment's hesitation to conduct her three-session basic Bonsai beginners class. Five members signed up for the opportunity to study under this expert: Bill and Ellen Marsich, Richard Gruen, Bill Craig, and Jim Newton. The first session began Saturday, April 24, at Dottie's house. Subsequent sessions will be scheduled to meet the students' and instructor's availability.

###

MAY ACTIVITY NOT FIRM, WILL BE ANNOUNCED

Tentative plans, set at the last meeting, called for a collecting trip to be arranged by Dottie Warren. A snag ensued, and the May activity remains a flexible one as of now. Bill Craig is checking for permission to collect at a park area. Word will be out when set.

SECOND PBA MEETING HELD AT THE WARREN'S

Ten members attended the second PBA meeting held at Dottie Warren's Silver Spring home on April 8.

After a forty-five minute business meeting, the group saw and commented on the trees brought for critique. Hit of the day was a fantastically contorted tropical Bill Craig brought back to the States from Hawaii.

Following the critique, the group was given a tour of Dottie's training beds and yard.

Coffee and cake added delicious sidelights to an enjoyable afternoon.

JUNE MEETING TO BE AT RUTH LAMANA'S HOME

June 27, Sunday, has been set for the June PBA meeting. Primary activity will be to view her splendid collection of Bonsai and hear the history of her years of experience in raising and caring for these trees.

Tentatively planned is a critique of members' efforts with trees collected at the May field visit. More on this will be announced as details are firmed.

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Northern Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia • Vol 1 No 1 • May 1971

Published solely in the interests of members of the Potomac Bonsai Association by
 James R. Newton, Editor
 5565 Columbia Pike, Apt 802
 Arlington, Virginia 22204

TREE OF THE MONTH

After the PBA Fall symposium in 1989, Harold Sasaki and Harry Tomlinson were staying with me as house guests. When the time came to drive Harold to the airport for his trip back to Denver, he and I piled into my jeep while Harry stayed behind to go over some of his slides. As we approached the Beltway and I started to pull down the exit ramp, out of the corner of my eye I spied several stumps lying by the edge of the road and made a panic stop as I pulled off onto the shoulder. Harold looked at me with great surprise and wanted to know what was the matter. I quickly jumped out of the jeep and asked him to follow me to the edge of the road. There, to his complete dismay, but to my delight, were about 8 or 9 bare stumps approximately 2 to 2 1/2 feet in height, completely devoid of any foliage. These large stumps were an armfull in size and contained anywhere from 4 to 8 trunks each. I quickly ran my thumbnail over the bark and noticed that the wood was green! I quickly opened the back door to the jeep and started loading these stumps onto the back seat. Harold, of course, thought that I had completely lost my sanity! His first comment was to inquire what these stumps were. I informed him that they were azalea stumps and I believed that someone was cleaning up a yard someplace and had taken a chain saw and completely cut down some azalea bushes (since the tops were all cut very cleanly with a saw). Then they had obviously thrown them onto the back of a truck. All of us are familiar with the many pickup trucks that drive around in the

Springtime, and again in the Fall as various yard care services dump all the debris from yard cleanups onto their trucks to be taken and disposed of someplace. It was my opinion that these stumps had fallen off some such truck.

Harold asked me how I knew these were azaleas, and I told him I had seen enough azaleas and azalea stumps to just simply "know" that these were azaleas. He chuckled to himself and opined that these were likely dead or very close to it. He wished me luck with them and deeply regretted my soiling the back seat of my new jeep as we drove on out to Dulles Airport. As we bade each other goodbye, he wished me great luck with these funny looking stumps.

Upon my return home, I quickly summoned Harry out to the side of the garage and immediately pulled out some 7-gallon nursery pots and started filling them with potting soil. I then asked Harry for his assistance and split some of these clumps as he incredulously looked at me and also wondered about the viability and the surviveability of these stumps. Harry humored me though, and helped me pot up these completely bare trunks.

The nursery pots were placed on the hill behind the house. I packed some mulch around them and then proceeded to completely forget about them.

Early in the Spring of 1990, Tony Johnson (one of my tree-collecting buddies) quietly came up to me and with

deep regret in his voice, informed me that all the stumps that had been planted last fall appeared to be suffering from an infestation of some very "tiny green bugs". I quickly ran down to survey the situation and test my diagnostic acumen to see whether or not I could identify the terrible pestilence which I would find plaguing my azaleas!

To my great relief and satisfaction, I noted hundreds of tiny new buds appearing all over these stumps! I triumphantly reassured Tony that benign neglect and a few prayers had once again resulted in triumph.

For the next few years I started dividing the clumps further and was able to obtain approximately 17 or 18 separate trees. The first photograph (without blossoms) shows the preliminary wiring of one of these trees. The second photograph showing the azalea in bloom was taken in the Spring of 1994. The seemingly strange looking branch descending vertically down the middle of the tree appears unusual in the photograph, but this is in reality a rear branch and does not look that unusual when viewing the actual plant itself. The tree needs further development and refinement, after which it can go into its final (and shallower) container. This was the easiest, unintentional collecting trip I have ever been on! Considering that this tree started out completely devoid of branches or foliage, Kipling's words quickly come to mind, "only God can make a tree."

Joseph E. Gutierrez, M.D.



Photograph 1



Photograph 2

RADICAL LECTURE AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM by Dr. William H. Orsinger

The FONA lecture March 15, 1995, was called The Radical Underground.

Dr. Peter Del Tredici of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum chose this title to talk about roots. Every tree has them, although gardening books spend more words describing foliage and flowers.

Dr. Del Tredici showed slides of beautiful above-ground root systems of great trees around the world. Roots are an essential part of any tree. Yet there are many variations. The European beech, for example, lives in a grove of trees of all the same size. The roots of the American beech on the other hand, send up innumerable smaller trees. The Tree of Heaven makes a grand single tree; but if cut down, it's roots will sprout all over your lawn, or in a row next to a wall. The linden produces a skirt of shoots about the base, leading to a large burl. Aerial roots can form only in the tropics, not in areas subject to freezes.

If redwoods are cut to open a space for a road, many smaller trees sprout from the roots. Many tap roots die off after stabilizing early growth.

He exploded the myth of the "drip line." Roots seek water and nutrients. Some conifer roots grow over 100 feet beyond any drip line. Weeping willows will follow a moisture source until they find a crack in a pipe, then clog the pipe with more roots.

White oak roots may go very deep, but most are found in the first 1 to 2 feet below the surface, that's where nutrients are. There are no "Good" or "Bad" trees, just wonderful trees planted in the wrong place, and so a silver maple in a small parkway lifts the sidewalk.

Rooted cuttings of dwarf cultivars remain dwarf. But grafted onto standard stock, the plant may revert back to the larger size. The dwarfed root stock keeps the plant small.

How does any of this apply to us Bonsaiists? Lots of ways. If you root prune a collected tree a year before digging, small feeder roots develop at the ends of the pruned roots. The next year you dig at the same site, you are cutting off the new roots. Better to root prune closer to the trunk.

Container-grown plants make fine shrubs, but can be disaster for trees. The coiled container grown roots cannot be straightened and in time will strangle the tree. Better to cut away all coiled roots. It's not that bad for the plant.

A good horticulturist must deal not only with the physical characteristics of the soil. He must also understand the biology of the soil. Dr. Del Tredici feels microorganisms are as important as sun and moisture. Healthy trees roots may be home for three or four more beneficial fungi. There is a symbiotic relationship here. The fungus decomposes organic matter to release minerals and nutrients locked in by previous years' vegetation. Mycorrhiza also extend the roots' ability to absorb water. They are only one-cell-layer thick, and so vastly enhance the health of the plant.

A leaf blower removes this part of the life cycle.

Bottom line: The soil in the bonsai pot is alive. Organic material matters. The alternative would be to heap on lots of expensive phosphorus.

Status of Proposed Bonsai Stamp by Jerry Antel

In July 1993, a letter was sent to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, the group which determines what stamps are issued by the United States. Recently, PBA was advised that the program for 1996 has been set and a bonsai stamp is not included. However, the Committee staff has advised PBA that the stamp is still under consideration. It would be helpful if as many PBA members as possible would write to the ad-

dress below urging that a bonsai stamp(s) be put on the program for 1997 or beyond.

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee

U. S. Postal Service, Room 4474E
475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W.
Washington, DC 20260-2437
Attn: Robin Jones

WANTED: BONSAI FOR 1995 PBA STAMP CANCELLATION

Anyone interested in having their very own tree used as the model for the 1995 cancellation stamp, please send a photograph to

Jerry Antel
6409 Middleburg Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817

Then a committee will pick the tree for the 1995 cancellation stamp. The DEADLINE is June 15, 1995.

PBA ANNUAL AUCTION

Dawn Rose Building, Behnke's Nursery

May 20, 1995

Come one, come all to see what *specials buys* and *just had to have* trees will be there or to thin out your own trees and turn them into cold hard cash. It is time again for the for the PBA Annual Auction!

The format will continue as last year with auction only with no consignment sales. Last year's auction was a COMPLETE success for those who brought and those who sought. Everyone trees got the as close to the same of amount of time that was possible. Godfrey Trammel has once again offered to coordinate the auction and he is need of assistants: auctioneers, help register trees plus many other important jobs for a smooth running auction. Anyone willing to volunteer, please call: 202-606-4571.

Here are the guidelines that will be followed:

- 1) To sell items at the auction you must be a member of a PBA affiliated club.
- 2) A limit of seven "Lots" will be allowed to each seller. A "Lot" may consist of more than one item but everything in that "Lot" will sell at one price.
- 3) The PBA commission will be 20%, all of which will go to 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 "Lot".

Schedule:

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

The auction will be held rain or shine. The location is in the Dawn Rose Building, second floor. Guide sign will be posted. The Behnke's Nursery is located at 11300 Baltimore (U. S. 1), 2 miles north of Capitol Beltway Exit 25a, Beltsville, MD. As always, PBA is very grateful to Behnke's Nursery in offering the use their facility at no charge, for this auction.



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Between Central Ave. & Route 202

OPEN DAILY 8 AM TO 7 PM • SUNDAY 8 AM TO 5 PM

"Known For Quality Plants"

Editorial; continued from page 2

growing in this area like to be next to stream beds under other trees. Hence, they like plenty of water and shade.

In addition to trying the above two approaches, using Roy Nagatoshi's volcanic cinder mix and the Turface-Grani-Grit-Bark mix, there is the option of using real Japanese bonsai soil imported from the volcanic soils of Japan. Namely, one can purchase akadama (red clay) soil which can be used in place of Turface in mixing with desired portions of grit and bark. Japanese books (in place of where we would use grit) specify some kind of sand such as river sand (smooth) or mountain sand (probably sharp edged) and a bark, such as that from the Paulownia tree. The Japanese have another soil which they swear by for azaleas - it's kanuma soil. Terry Adkins has tried it for his azaleas and says that the re-

sults are well worth the effort. Both soils can be purchased from Japan Nursery, 314 Dey Road, Englishtown, NJ 07726; Tel: (908) 446-2186; FAX; (908) 446-2358. Bob Sitnick has ordered some kanuma and some akadama soil and it will be interesting to learn how he makes out.

I've gotten some kanuma for my azaleas. Lastly one must consider what to do about having mycorrhiza in the soil on the roots. Mycorrhiza is recognizable as a white substance coating the roots of certain plants and is usually found on the roots of evergreens. The dictionary defines mycorrhiza as, "The symbiotic association of the mycelium of a fungus with the roots of certain plants such as conifers, beeches, or orchids." The old adage has been when potting a plant just removed from the ground, one should inject some of the original soil with the potting soil to foster the growth of the fungus. Lately Felix Laughlin introduced me to a product MycorTree™ Hebeloma which as an in-

oculum in the soil will foster the growth of the fungus for - "Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Canaah Fir and other popular Christmas tree species growing in Plant Hardiness Zones 3 - 7. I'm going to try some on my evergreens. It can be purchased from Plant Health Care Incorporated, 440 William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15238; Tel: 412 826-5488; FAX: (412) 826-5445. Plants that are started from seed and grown in a potting mix from day one usually have no way to latch onto any mycorrhiza. I now have some of it and am working the inoculum into the soils in my coniferous tree pots.

Well, there it is - my plan to try various potting mixes. I'll let you know if anything comes of it. Any comments or thoughts on the matter of soils from the readers would be most welcome. As one soil expert on the Cornell Ag school's staff once pointed out that no two soil mixes seem to agree in any of the bonsai books he had read prepping for his talk. I doubt if among PBA members any two soil mixes agree.

TIPS ON MAY CARE

By now the chances of there being any frost has well passed and indoor plants can be safely moved outdoors.

Pruning: Heavy pruning, that is pruning of established branches that are unwanted should have been done. Sprout pruning is the order of the day to keep the new growth from becoming too leggy. Sprout prune Hinoki cypress, Sawara or blue moss cypress, Hemlock, Juniper, Larch, Spruce and Yew, Hackberry, Beech, Weeping willow, Andromeda, Japanese apricot, and Azaleas. For azaleas, one should do it after flowering

to get the full benefit of the flowers. New growth of Japanese maples can also be removed or cut back.

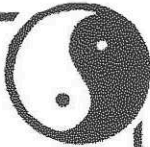
Repotting: Hinoki cypress, pines, and Junipers (except for Shimpaku) can be done in the early part of the month. Azaleas can be repotted after they flower, towards the end of May.

Wiring: Always check the wiring to see that it is not digging into the bark of the bonsai. Wiring can be done on Hinoki cypress, Junipers, black pine, Crab apple, and Japanese Apricot.

Fertilizing: Fertilizing routine should have been started last month. Continue for all plants.

Watering: Be certain to check the plants on a daily basis to ascertain that they have adequate water. If the soil mix and location of the plants is correct the bonsai should require watering once per day. The preferred time is in the morning up to about 10:00 a.m. Avoid very late in the afternoon watering, after 5:00 p.m. as the plants will not assimilate as much water as they would earlier in the day since they are entering their periods of rest. The latent water can lead to root rot.

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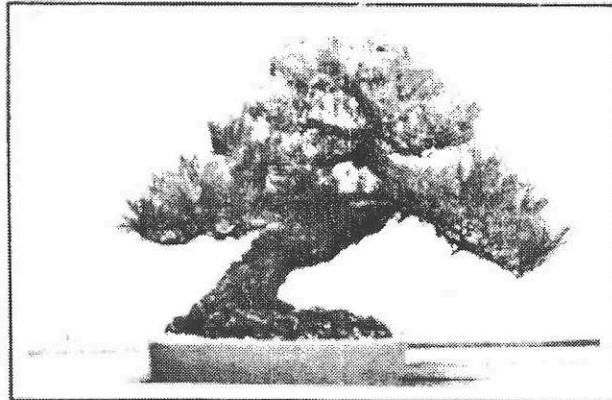
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- BOWIE BONSAI CLUB**
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Last Monday, 7 PM
Terry Adkins, (301) 350-3586
- BROOKSIDE BONSAI SOCIETY**
North Chevy Chase Recreation Center, Chevy Chase, MD.
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Jerry Antel, (301) 320-5251
- CHESAPEAKE BONSAI SOCIETY**
Pba Garden, Annapolis, MD
2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Stephen Choi, (301) 261-8131
- GREATER PHILADELPHIA BONSAI SOCIETY**
Pennypack Watershed, Willow Grove, PA
4th Thursday, eve.
Larry Chiger, (215) 663-1678
- KIYOMIZU BONSAI CLUB**
Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD
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**
Green Spring s Park, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 10 AM
Judy Wise, (202) 554-3045
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