

WINTERIZING YOUR BONSAI BY JOSEPH BURKE

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dave Dambowic first drew our attention to this article by Joe Burke way back in 1981. It appeared in the November issue of PBA Newsletter now named "Clippings." It is still an excellent comprehensive treatment of the subject of providing winter protection for your bonsai. With winter on the way and who knows what Mother Nature has in store (considering the weird summer), it is more than apropos to run this article again, slightly compressed, at this time.

That old tree is stronger than the mountain - gotta be - it lived up at Pinnacle for near eighty years. Crushed and twisted by ice, shrunk by the sun and

wind, a perpetual thirst with a starvation diet - Survival Epic - chronicled in wood.

That robust old tree, proven winter hardy in the mountains, carefully dug and planted in an oversized container, might winter kill - because the roots could not survive the low temperature in the container.

TOP HARDINESS AND ROOT HARDINESS

For years, we assumed that plant roots and the above-ground parts (trunk, etc.) were equally winter hardy. That assumption is incorrect.

1. Field Grown: We never concerned ourselves about roots because the ground kept the roots at moderate temperatures, and root damage was seldom a problem.

Winter ground temperature in the root area is quite stable, and in zone 6 seldom goes below 31 deg. Fahrenheit.

2. Container Grown: Container soil, however, assumes its temperature from the surrounding air, soil temperatures change rapidly, following the air temperature up and down. If the night air temperature is zero, the container soil temperature will drop to zero and the root temperature will be zero. The plant might tolerate zero degrees on top, but the roots would probably winter kill.

3. Sixty-Eight Degrees: In a report presented in 1967 to the International Plant Propagators Society, Dr. Harrison Flint of Arnold Arboretum indicated that *Philadelphus Virginalis* had the extreme temperature hardiness range, between the above ground parts and the roots, of 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

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POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION DUES REQUIREMENTS

Each PBA affiliated club contributes \$8.50 per member to a fund which pays for a number of things, one of which is the publication you are now reading. The PBA club's dues for 1996 should be sent to PBA Treasurer Jerry Antel prior to 31 December 1995. A list of members (including addresses and home phones) should be sent to Membership Chairman Jeff Stephanic by the above date. 1995 members will

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Please pay your dues to your club's treasurer as quickly as possible so that you won't miss any issues of the CLIPPINGS. If you have any questions, contact Jerry Antel, (301) 320-5251.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Written 28 August '95 - this is about the summer that just wuz. All I can think of is "thank God it is almost over!!!" With bonsai to take care of, there are periods of time when I fret over the weather. The past months found me fretting on a daily basis during July and August - the endless days of 90°F plus heat coupled with the rain-forest tropical humidity. The temperature during August was a tad less than in July and June; but the humidity was replaced by dry air and a record-breaking drought. During June and July, a few applications of benomyl to the leaves of my quince and crepe myrtle kept the fungi away. However, watering became more of a chore - some plants managed to require watering on a daily schedule, while for others it was okay to skip a day. Had to switch from the lazy-man, gang-watering from a sprinkler-on-a-timer method to individually watering each plant when needed. The "when needed" was determined by my two-pronged moisture meter. A dry looking soil surface is not always indicative of whether or not the sub-soil is dry.

As if Mother Nature threw a switch at the onset of August, the humidity dropped. The temperature stayed in the upper registers, but didn't seem as oppressive due to the lower humidity. Exit fungus and mildew problems, and enter leaf scorch and potted soils drying out before the next scheduled waterings. Once again the moisture meter came to the rescue. Some soils, when drying, develop a thin crusting on their surfaces; and one should first pass over those soils with a sprinkling from the watering device. Then, after the surface crust has been softened up and the likelihood of water penetrating the soil is enhanced, go back and do the full watering so that water exits from the drain holes of the container.

In early July, I gave up my nocturnal sorties to catch insects in my bonsai patch. That was predicated on not seeing any more June bugs on my hornbeam leaves after destroying a sum total of 3 June bugs. Three bugs may not sound like much, but it is surprising how many leaves show up devoid of parts due to one night's effort of one bug. But all hell broke loose in August - at least for the leaves of my lace-leaf maples (the trident maple was sampled but turned down), a contorted filbert, a Euonymus, a grove of beeches, and 6 potted weeping willows. The American and Japanese hornbeams seemed not to be preferred, while European hornbeams were a late feeding ground. At first I suspected Japanese beetles since that was their time of year. Nary a single Japanese beetle was sighted on or anywhere near my bonsai. So it was back to the nighttime treks to the bonsai patch, and I found the culprits. From meager references on hand, I think they are tree crickets - pale brown color, long antennae compared to grasshoppers which are not nocturnal, and about 1 to 1+1/4 inches long. It seems that the best time to try cornering them is just after dark before they get their fill and vamoose. There never were all that many, which was a blessing--a few more and the leaves of the aforementioned plants would have been completely skeletonized. I took great pleasure in nailing them with blasts from an aerosol bug spray. If any reader can come up with more info on what the insects might be, please let me know.

Then there's what somehow seems inevitable to me: a casualty list of summer losses. Those that bit the dust were a hemlock, an azalea, a black pine and a sub-alpine fir. Post mortem examinations should always be carried out - the pine did not take to the repotting as one of a three-pine grouping; the hemlock and the fir got short doses of the scorching sun which fried the needles to a brown crisp; and the azalea succumbed to root rot. The latter problem seems to persist with my azaleas. I've been potting them in a soil mix of 6 parts Turface, 3 parts Gran-I-Grits, and one part peat moss. The azaleas have been kept in shade and the soil never seems to dry out (sometimes for days at a time). This year, I potted my azaleas in Kanuma soil (which the Japanese recommend for their azaleas) and they appear to be happy with

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OCTOBER

Saturday/Sunday
1995 FALL SYMPOSIUM 7,8

Come one, come all; with both days chocked full of good comraderie learning, and buying bonsai supplies Yes, maybe even win a raffle! Hope to see everyone there, because ours is the best price in the Nation.

Thursday 19
Brookside Bonsai Society

Prepare for Brookside Garden Show. Great way to get advice on show preparations.

Sunday 22
Annual Brookside Bonsai Society

Brookside Garden Show. All welcome to attend. Brookside members will have trees on display for the Brookside Garden Show.

Sunday 22
Washington Bonsai Club

Dan Chiplis on Winter preparaton in the Yoshimura Center. Please note day change from Saturday to Sunday.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 19

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
Rock planting, bringing plantings back from Spring of 1994 workshops and discussion on where to go from here. NOTE: This is not the 4th Sunday.

Saturday 11

Northern Virginia Bonsai Club
Auction of David Dambowic's Collection. ALL are encouraged to come. The auction will start at 10:00 am. There will be more details in next month's "Clippings".

Saturday 18

Washington Bonsai Club
Workshop on styling using tropical material conducted by Martha Meehan.

ETCETERA

Golden State Bonsai Federation presents "Bonsai: The Art of Dedication" on November 2-5, 1995

Forest Bonsai Workshop by Dan Chiplis using Acer palmatum. The workshop is limited and a fee charged. Please call the Arboretum at 202-245-2726 for more information.

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

BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB

Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD.
3rd Sunday, 1 PM
(410) 668-1868

BOWIE BONSAI CLUB

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

BROOKSIDE BONSAI SOCIETY

North Chevy Chase Recreation Center, Chevy Chase, MD
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
(301) 365-7621

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 SOCIETY

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

MEI-HWA PENJING SOCIETY

(Chinese language spoken)
Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD
2nd Sunday, 1 PM
(301) 390-6687

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY

Greenspring Horticultural Center, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 10 AM
(202) 554-3045

RICHMOND BONSAI SOCIETY

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

WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB

U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
(202) 543-7433

Organizations sponsoring regular events of interest to PBA members:

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

U.S. National Arboretum
(202) 245-2726

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fuller leaf growth. The yellow-orange colored Kanuma soil seems a little out of place as a bonsai soil in that the granules are soft with a tendency to powder when compressed. The Kanuma soil holds water for a long time just like my other mix, so daily waterings are not the order of the day.

Some of you may also have experienced leaf scorch. According to an article in the New York Times of August 24, 1995, "GARDEN Q&A SECTION," by Dora Galitzki, leaf scorch is indicative of trees stressed by drought. The edges of the leaves of deciduous trees such as maples and dogwoods turn a crispy brown, while in some cases, the leaves wilt, turn yellow and drop off. I find this hard to believe in the case of my maples - I've kept them well-watered and taken pains not to get water on the leaves so that any sunlight could not burn them. But the leaves still brown around the edges. In the past, I've tried a fungi-

cide such as benomyl and that seemed to work. Didn't do it this year. Anyhow, according to the article, one should not despair and commit a plant to the boneyard if it has dropped its leaves or turned brown by the end of August. "Trees that have dropped their leaves by late August certainly look dead; but by midsummer, the leaves have already completed their basic job, providing enough carbohydrates (stored in the root structure) for the tree to survive the coming winter and put out new leaves next Spring. "Do the old fingernail test to see if the plant still has life in it - scratch the bark with your fingernail and if you see a trace of green (the live cambium layer), the tree or branch is still alive.

Now that the Summer of '95 is behind us, here's hoping the Winter of '95 won't go overboard in the other direction with record breaking low temperatures, strong blustery winds and freezing ice on the tree trunks and branches.

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Specifically, the top is winter hardy down to minus 44 degrees Fahrenheit and the roots are winter hardy to only plus 24 degrees Fahrenheit. Therefore, in a container-grown plant there are two distinct areas of winter hardiness: top hardiness and root hardiness.

4. Plant Zone Rating: We rate plant winter hardiness with a zone number. Each zone encompasses a specific geographic area and is assigned a specific number. Thus, this plant can be hardy to zone 4, or is marginally hardy in zone 6, or whatever classification was indicated by empiric evidence. It's an orderly arrangement and we find it quite comfortable.

However, as the Mad Hatter probably said to Alice "Somebody's always rocking the boat! It appears we'll need two zone ratings; one for the top and one for the roots. It's all on account of container growing!"

It's a disquieting concept, and we are just beginning to understand some of the special problems related to root hardiness in containers.

5. Summary: The primary objective of all this is to focus on the problem of root hardiness which is inherent in bonsai growing.

If your bonsai is wintered over in a container, be aware that the plant top has one range of temperature tolerance, and the roots probably have quite a different winter temperature tolerance range. Your bonsai winter protection program might be improved if you recognize the need for moderating root temperatures.

(A) WINTER DAMAGE

Specifically, what are the special damages of winter?; and what is the best winter protection to prevent damage?

What are the causes of winter damage? Perhaps the following five generalizations will serve to outline the problem:

1. Dormancy: The problem of sudden cold and low temperature might best be examined in the context of dormancy. In zone 6, the shortened daylight period in the Fall triggers the dormancy cycle.

Dormancy is never an instant happening, rather it's a gradual cessation from active growth to a quiet period. Nature prepares the plant for the adverse environment of Winter. Leaves are shed, a heavy plastic coating builds up over buds, twigs and needles, and gradually the last vestiges of summer lush are gone.

Bare, stark, toughened by the dormancy cycle, the plant becomes gradually "hardened off" for winter. It's a progressive cycle, and the progressive hardening ideally precedes the progressive temperature drop as Winter approaches.

2. Sudden Cold: A sudden early cold snap might split the bark, or burn the buds. In brief, sudden cold might be fatal to the plant in the fall, but the same temperature in January, when the plant is "tougher," would cause no damage.

The rate of cooling is important. A hot winter sun which is suddenly blocked by a cloud, etc., can cause plant tissue temperature to plummet - sudden cold - winter damage - bark split.

3. Low Temperature: In general, low temperatures test hardiness; but here again, we should evaluate winter damage in the context of the dormancy cycle, plant condition and growing conditions.

Specifically, the low temperature must also be evaluated in the context of top and root temperature tolerance if the plant is in a bonsai container.

Roots and tops do not go through the same hardening off cycle; or perhaps we should say, at this time, it appears that roots do not harden off at the rate (or to the same degree) as tops. At low tem-

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MONTHLY CARE TIPS FOR OCTOBER

October is the last month before Winter sets in to fertilize your plants.

Coniferous: Check old wire and rewire where necessary. Apply new wire. Can repot hinoki cypress; blue moss or boulevard cypress; black, red and corkbark pines; as well as yew.

Deciduous, Flowering and Fruiting: Remove wire on azaleas and forsythia. Apply insecticides where needed to cherry, forsythia, quince, cotoneaster, and pyracantha. Frost protection removal to a greenhouse or indoors, especially for semi-tropicals, should be carried out since there may be an early frost which will kill such plants. Also be ready to winterize slab or root-over- or on-rock plantings before there is a freeze. For the latter, either removal to a cold frame or greenhouse, or burial in the ground will suffice.

TREE OF THE MONTH

Many years ago, in my early days of doing bonsai, I had the opportunity to drive over to Clark County, Virginia, and purchase some Kingsville boxwoods. A rather large estate was being divided up, and the plants from the estate's nursery were being sold. Several large planting beds were full of Kingsville boxwoods measuring approximately 5 to 6 inches in height. I was permitted to pick out and purchase as many of the boxwoods as I desired. I carefully dug up quite a number of these trees and filled as many shallow cardboard boxes as I could fit into the trunk, back seat, front seat, and the floor of my car. The tree trunks were approximately the size of my little finger, and I was able to choose what I thought were the most interestingly shaped trunks.

Upon my return, I planted all these little treasures in my mother's planting beds, lining them up in long rows along her side and rear fences. There they stayed and grew and flourished, being regularly watered and fertilized. About every 2 years or so, I would very lightly trim them to maintain some semblance

of shape. Over the next 15 years, through 3 residence changes, the trees were alternately either in the ground or in nursery pots. Over these years, I gave many of these trees away, sharing them with friends; but also in the last 5 or 6 years I have saved some of the cuttings and propagated them, as well.

Throughout all these years, however, the constant trimming and shaping of these trees continued. Rarely was any wire applied to the branches. Rather, most of the training consisted of careful pruning (the old Lignan clip-and-grow method). As the years went by, the trees slowly grew. The original 30 trees I had purchased are now down to 6. However, I have approximately 25 of my own propagated cuttings ranging in age from 1 to 6 years of age. The original trees I have given away are now widely dispersed to different parts of this country, and some have even found their way overseas.

Throughout all this time, the large specimens I kept for myself have never been placed in bonsai pots. This Spring, however, I finally put 5 of the trees into

bonsai containers for the first time, and have kept one in a large nursery pot. That last plant will continue to provide me with cuttings.

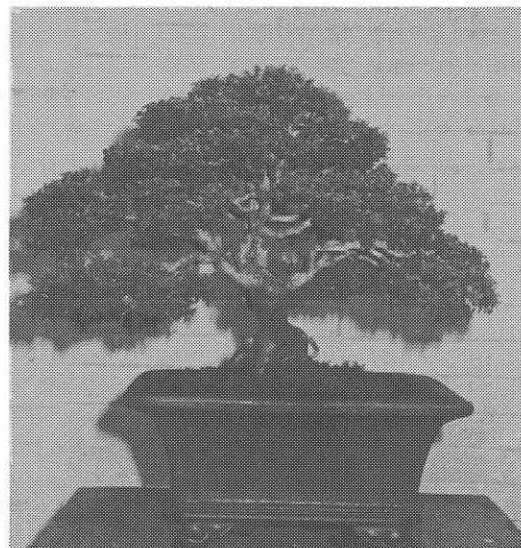
For the initial potting, the trees have been slightly over-potted and have continued to thrive. Pictured are two of the trees, one trained in an open style and the other in a more compact, dense style. Neither of these trees have had their branches wired, except that while they were in nursery pots, a couple of the larger branches were slightly pulled down with guy wires tied to the edges of the nursery pots for a couple of years. All the training has been done simply by clipping and pruning.

Much of bonsai training is a matter of patience and care. These trees have certainly waited patiently for many years, and now have finally found their way into bonsai pots. While I enjoyed training them in the ground, as well as in nursery containers, they are infinitely more enjoyable in bonsai pots.

Joseph E. Gutierrez, M.D.



Open style Boxwood



Dense Style Boxwood

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peratures, containerized roots are likely to die long before any top damage occurs.

4. **Drying:** Low temperatures slow the transfer of moisture from the roots to the top. If most of the roots are frozen, the top of the plant must use the available moisture present in the cells to sustain itself. Therefore, a winter watering program aimed at maintaining maximum cell turgidity is vital, especially if the plant is growing in the limited soil mass of a container. In sustained low temperature conditions, the plant must start out with every advantage. The so-called "winter burn" is tissue desiccation. The plant dried out. The low temperatures lasted longer than the available water.

5. **Physical Damage:** The physical damage sustained during the winter includes those obvious hazards of broken branches from ice or snow or wind. The damage from container flooding can be less apparent, but more real. First, the container freezes to the ground. The top thaws and water runs into the soil. Since the drainage area at the bottom is frozen, the soil mass becomes a lump of ice. There very probably are living creatures which can sustain life in a lump of ice; but unfortunately, bonsai roots cannot.

Consider the animal hazards. My friend has a cat which eats bonsai at any season. Mice eat bonsai, and last winter a mouse ate the best mame bonsai I ever saw. Rabbits eat bonsai, especially in the winter. Physical damage is also caused by insects, in summer and in winter.

Fungus thrive in the damp, quiet air of winter storage. Remember, the systemic fungicides and the systemic insecticides require a vigorous sap flow, so use contact sprays in the fall.

(B) WINTER PROTECTION

The objective of a bonsai winter protection program is, to put a plant into winter storage in good condition in the Fall and remove it in good condition in

the spring. We do not intend to force growth; our intent is to provide winter protection for a dormant plant.

Winter protection can vary from a completely automatic temperature-humidity controlled greenhouse, to doing nothing and allowing the wind to blow a few dry leaves over the plant.

Some of the proven methods of winter protection are:

1. **Mulch Protection:** In the beginning was Nature's way. The wind heaped leaves around a plant, a natural mulch. A mulch conserves soil moisture, and stabilizes soil temperature in the root area. Possibly, the best winter mulch for your bonsai is the earth itself - temperature stable and moist. Remove the container and plant the bonsai - in ground with perfect drainage - in your best winter environment (i.e., protected shade, deep frame, etc.). Sometimes the bonsai is left in the container and buried in ground which has perfect drainage. A loose peat mulch is heaped up to the lowest branch.

In this area (New Jersey), many club members winter their bonsai in the ground - heavily mulched, with a burlap windbreak - on the north side of the house. The survival rate is excellent.

I know one apartment-dwelling bonsai enthusiast who uses a discarded garbage barrel (bottoms broken - good drainage) for winter protection. First he throws in about 6 inches of peat moss. The deciduous bonsai is thoroughly watered, lightly dusted with fungicide and placed in the barrel. Peat moss is drifted into the barrel, over the top of the bonsai, and up to the top of the barrel. After the cover is put on, the barrel is placed in full shade on the apartment house roof for the winter. This may sound crude, but it has proven successful.

Probably, the most sensible suggestion would be: If what you do is successful, stick with it.

2. **Shade Protection:** Snow fence, nailed over an A-frame structure makes an excellent shade house. Shading blocks the sun, breaks the wind, inhibits drying, and stabilizes temperature.

Who doesn't remember the Mad Hatter singing: "Mulch the bottom - shade the top, Don't be late, It helps improve the survival rate."

The reality is, winter shade protection provides an improved environment for the plant. Result: an improved survival rate.

3. **Unheated Structures:** Plastic film revolutionized the nursery industry in slightly more than one decade. The poly-bow house provided, within economic possibilities, the critical environmental control necessary to the container nursery.

Inside the poly-house, a plastic sheet is used to cover the ground. Snow fencing is placed over the plastic sheeting. The containers stand on the snow fence - the drainage holes don't clog, no container flooding. Mulch around the outside perimeter stabilizes container root temperature. Shading of the poly-house is done with paint, any water-based paint and any color is rolled or sprayed on. Discontinued colors and leftover paint are the cheapest. It's a blessing the plants aren't color conscious.

Commercial container growers, using an increasing percentage of marginally hardy plant material, cannot change their entire plant inventory on the wishful whimsey that it might be a mild winter. Using a poly-bow house, plus whatever other winter protection is feasible, the professional grower strives to improve his plant survival rate and his Spring plant saleability.

The research and resulting specialized horticultural procedures of the commercial container growers have resulted in an intensive review of our own specialized contiguous-area bonsai as container plants.

4. **Heated Structures:** As winter protection, a pit frame dug against the house foundation is in reality a heated structure. The foundation wall radiates heat, and the wall temperature stays above freezing. Drainage in a pit frame, often neglected, is absolutely vital. Somewhere in the pit bottom a drainage hole

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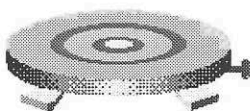
Winterizing, continued from previous page

must be dug down to a sub-surface gravel strata. If that's not possible, an inexpensive sump pump will solve the problem. The inside drainage hole will handle seepage water, and a frame cover will prevent entry of surface and rain water. The waterproof pit cover is, in extreme cold, covered with a few old rugs, and over all a plastic sheet is tied down. Inspect periodically, and mist the plants lightly if necessary. The poly-bow

house, originally an unheated winter protection structure, is increasingly being minimally heated; just enough heat to prevent freezing of the containerized roots. In this area, a greenhouse is used for propagation, or for forcing growth for a seasonal market. The cost per square foot for a heated glass house does not make it economically attractive for a wintering-over program.

However, the degree of protection varies with plant hardiness, plant value, and the predetermined risk factor. Generally speaking, the greater the plant value, the greater the protection, and the greater the cost.

5. In Conclusion: Consider all the pertinent data, experiment, develop your own winter protection programs specifically suited to your needs.



SENSAI SAM:

(Providing tidbits from here and there. Also problems along with solutions that the readers can suggest.)

NEW IDEAS: Both of the following are from "PLANTS & GARDENS NEWS," Vol. 10, Number 2, Summer 1995, published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Hold the Oil: In a recent issue of the Ecology Action

Newsletter, there is a brief note about Japanese growers spraying dilute solutions of vinegar (one part in 25 to 50 parts water) on vegetables and fruit trees every 2-3 days to help control pest insects and diseases. Source: "Odds and Ends," Ecology Action Newsletter, November 1994, 9. (Ecology Action/Common Ground, 5798 Ridgewood Rd, Willis, GA 95490).

A Pinch of Salt Combats the Shivers: A German researcher has found that the frost hardiness of various plant species can be increased by adding table salt (sodium chloride) to the plant's irrigation water. For example, when the roots of 6-week-old spinach plants were exposed to a 300 milimolar concentration of salt for 24 hours, the frost hardiness of the spinach leaves increased by about 4 degrees Fahrenheit. As little as one

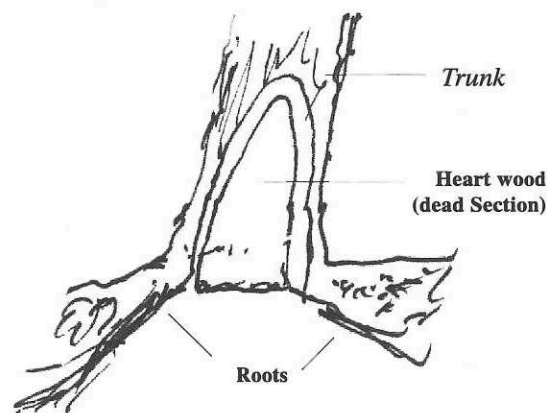
hour of salt stress induced a noticeable boost in the frost hardiness of some plants. Source: Abstract 303, Horticultural Abstracts 65(1), January 1995, 37. (C.A.B. International, Wallingford, Oxford, OX10 8DE, United Kingdom).

Had to do some calculating to figure out just what a 300 milimolar solution is. If my calculations are correct, it's equivalent to about .55 ounces by weight of table salt (something like a tablespoon) in a quart of water. It also seems that the soil is thoroughly washed with water once the roots have been wetted with the solution.

Anyone ready to experiment?

Question:

Base of Trunk Die back: Is there any way to stop the bark at the very base of the trunk from progressively dying up the trunk on my Robusta green juniper and my gardenia? I've tried planting the gardenia deeper in a pot so that the soil covers the affected area in hopes that new roots would sprout above the dead area. The dead area just keeps advancing up the trunk. Is there any chemical treatment that will stop the process? Or will I have to try to air-layer the top to eradicate the problem?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We shall soon be enjoying Indian Summer, and shortly after that, the late Fall season will be upon us. It will be time to get our trees ready for winter storage and start planning repotting sessions for the late winter, as well as major pruning and possibly restyling of trees. While our trees will be in dormancy, a considerable number of our membership will be very feverishly working at finalizing our plans for IBC '96.

Our main headliner will be none other than Masahiko Kimura, one of the foremost bonsai artists in the world today, who is also affectionately referred to as "the magician." Mr. Kimura will be working on two rather large trees for his demonstrations, and also will be conducting an advanced workshop with large material; and, hopefully, a second advanced workshop for the participants who would bring in their own material for final refinement and advice from Mr. Kimura. The material for the advanced workshop will be large junipers, and the participants will be permitted to work on their trees at any time around the clock throughout the duration of the Convention (meaning 4 days and nights). Participants will be permitted to work with any assistant they wish, depending on how each participant usually works with his or her large material. Mr. Kimura will primarily be giving advice on the styling of the trees, as well as on

his various carving techniques, etc.; but all the work on the trees will be done by the participants themselves. Granting access to these trees on a 24-hour basis over the 4 days of the Convention will permit ample time for the workshop participants to take breaks and attend some of the other sessions taking place. This is a novel approach to advanced workshops and to my knowledge has never been done before. It should be a most exciting innovation. Observers will be permitted into the workshop to be strictly observers and will be dissuaded from interfering in the interaction between Mr. Kimura and the workshop participants. At times when Mr. Kimura is in attendance, the participants will be permitted the option of answering questions and giving explanations to the observers. In the spirit of this Convention being a great learning and teaching experience, your committees are planning not to charge for observer tickets; however, the number of observers in any given room at any given time during any given workshop must necessarily be limited to a certain number.

On a slightly lesser scale, but no less important, we anticipate a second advanced workshop by Mr. Kimura, much shorter in duration (either one morning or one afternoon).

This workshop will permit a slightly larger number of participants, but the trees will be provided by the participants themselves (either their own partially finished trees or their own (raw) material).

For both of these workshops, we would anticipate that Mr. Kimura will do little or no hands-on work since participation in these workshops would be under the presumption of considerable knowledge and expertise by the workshop participants.

As you read this message and this issue of PBA Clippings, I shall be in Sydney, Australia, representing PBA as your delegate to IBC '95. At the completion of that Convention, I shall be able to invite all the participants and attendees to our IBC '96. Also, in future issues, I shall give you brief summaries of some of the other exciting aspects that your committee has planned for the 1996 program. I would ask each and every one of you to plan on doing two things:

1. Attend IBC '96.
2. Volunteer your time by contacting either Bob Sitnick or Bill Spencer, and let us get as much participation from as large a number of the membership as we can muster.

Joe Gutierrez

BONSAI STAMP UPDATE

In July 1993, Potomac Bonsai Association sent a letter to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee asking that a Bonsai stamp be issued in the future. Recently, PBA was advised that the program for 1996 has been set, and that a bonsai stamp is not included. However, the Committee staff advised that the

stamp is still under consideration for future years. It would be helpful that as many PBA members as possible write to the Committee at the address below urging that a bonsai stamp be on the program for 1997. Letters should be sent to:

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee
US Postal Service, Room 4474E
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, D.C. 20226-2437
ATTN: Ms Robin Jones

Please send a copy of any correspondence to Jerry Antel, 6409 Middleburg Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817.

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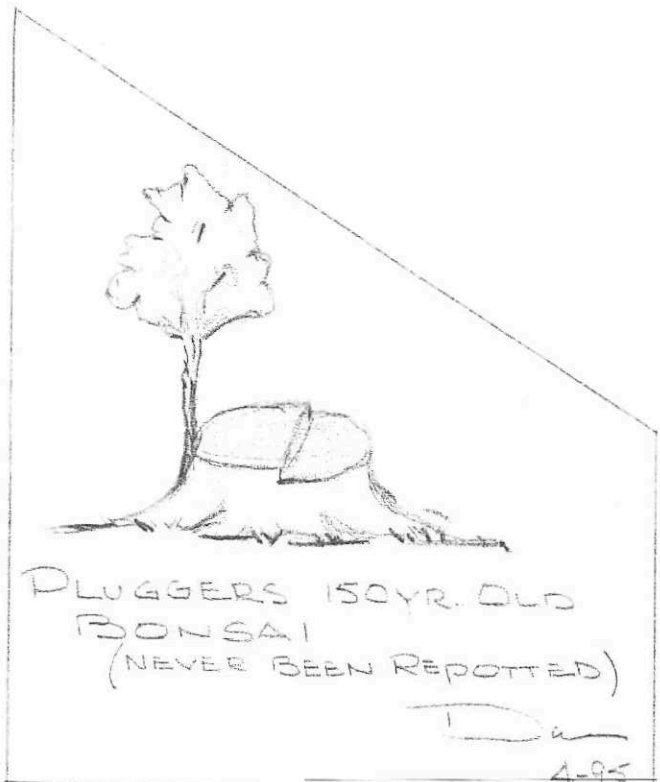
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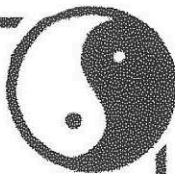


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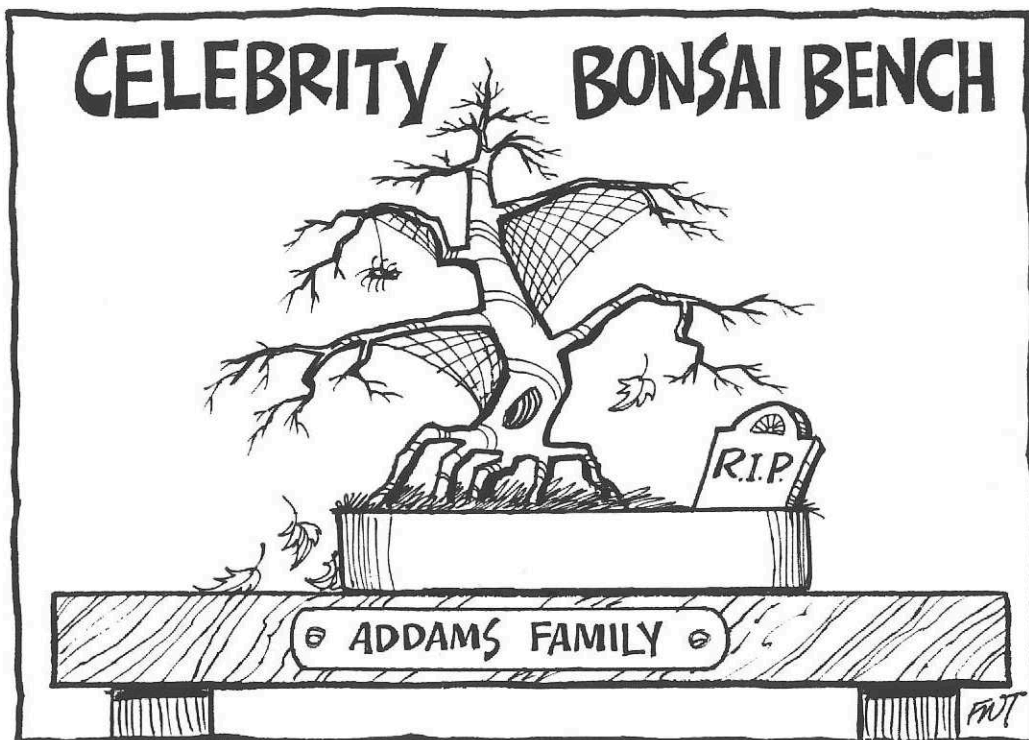
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POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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's meeting, in addition to receiving *PBA Clippings* monthly. Residents of Baltimore, MD; Lancaster, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Richmond, VA; and the Washington, DC metropolitan areas are expected to join a club to receive all membership benefits including *PBA Clippings*.

To become a member, call the contact person of the nearest club for current rates and where to send this application and dues. (Please make check payable to the club joined.)

Individuals residing beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to PBA Clippings. For a subscription only (does not include participation in club events), complete application and mail with a check payable to PBA for US \$15.00 (US \$35.00 for an international subscription) to: Jeff Stephanic, 1305 Bayliss Drive, Alexandria, VA, 22302. For additional information, please call Jeff Stephanic: (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 Club Membership (Includes <i>PBA Clippings</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>PBA Clippings</i> , Subscription Only, US \$15 (does not include club activities)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Club Membership (Includes one copy of <i>PBA Clippings</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>PBA Clippings</i> , International Subscription, US \$35 (does not include club activities)
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Bonsai Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowie Bonsai Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Brookside Bonsai Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster Bonsai Society
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mei-Hwa Penjing Society
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BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB

Cyburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD.
3rd Sunday, 1 PM
Elaine Kendall, (410) 426-5421

BOWIE BONSAI CLUB

Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD
Last Monday, 7 PM
Terry Adkins, (301) 350-3586

BROOKSIDE BONSAI SOCIETY

North Chevy Chase Recreation Center, Chevy Chase, MD
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Jerry Antel, (301) 320-5251

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

Greenspring Horticultural Center, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 10 AM
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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