

PBA Clippings



NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

ISSN 0160-9521



IBC'96

JULY 2-7, 1996

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel

COME ONE, COME ALL.

REMEMBER IF YOU VOLUNTEER AT LEAST A 1/2 DAY - BUT FULL DAY PREFERRED - YOU WILL BE MATCHED IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF FREE TIME. WHAT A WAY TO GET TO COME!!



The Mary Mrose International Pavilion and Dr. Yee-sun Wu Chinese Garden Pavilions dedicated on May 2, 1996.

We the Privileged Ones of the DC Metro Area are very fortunate Indeed!!
See Page 6 for more information under "Then and Now" National Bonsai Museums and Collections.

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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 Judy Wise, 1259 4th St., SW, Washington, DC 20024.

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President's Message

Last month the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the National Arboretum dedicated two new pavilions, the International Information Center and the Chinese Pavilion, as part of its growing complex. For those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the dedication ceremonies, and the Grand Opening of these two new structures, you have again witnessed the addition of wonderful facilities dedicated to the art of bonsai. Much more significant to me, however, is the fact that considerable funds were raised for the National Bonsai Foundation (which provided the funds for construction of this complex) from PBA members and former members. Also, perusing the programs at the dedication and the National Bonsai Foundation dinner that evening made me very proud—to see how generous PBA members have been with their time and their expertise helping to foster the growth and maintenance of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. PBA should be very proud of the tremendous number of its members who have been and continue to be of great service to the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Their numbers are legion and their generosity, interest, dedication, and unselfish service deserve all of our accolades. The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum is indeed fortunate to have PBA and such interested and dedicated members. Conversely, PBA is most fortunate to have the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum here in its backyard. This relationship is a healthy and fruitful one and must continue to be nurtured in the years to come.

On a different note, there are still some openings for the “bring your own tree” workshops for the upcoming IBC '96 Convention. These workshops give participants a wonderful opportunity to bring that prized tree up to its maximum potential under the expert eye and with the invaluable recommendations of an international bonsai expert. We here at PBA are particularly fortunate in that it is easier for us to bring our own trees to these workshops, making transport of the trees easy, but also bringing trees that have already been worked on and are finally reaching their maximum potential. Sign up for these workshops and bring your prized trees for expert help and recommendations!

Finally, please continue to sign up for the myriad volunteer jobs that need to be filled to assure the great success and smooth functioning of IBC '96. Remember, for every day's (or half day's) work that you put in, you get a free day's (or half day's) registration! It is a wonderful opportunity to be of service and to be rewarded with a full day's (or partial) free registration. I will particularly need help from people who have vehicles or vans to help meet our various speakers at the airports and take them back at the conclusion of the Convention. I look forward to seeing you at IBC '96. Remember, observer tickets at other Conventions usually cost about \$15.00. We are not charging for observers to enhance educational opportunity. If you observe three workshops each day, you'll be getting the equivalent of a \$45.00 rebate each day - making this Convention most reasonable indeed!

Joe Gutierrez

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

CHESAPEAKE BONSAI SOCIETY

Call for meeting time and location
(410) 263-2748

GREATER PHILADELPHIA BONSAI SOCIETY

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

KIYOMIZU BONSAI CLUB

Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD
4th Sunday, 2 PM
(301) 839-2471

LANCASTER BONSAI SOCIETY

Manheim Twp. Park, Stauffer Mansion
Lancaster, PA
2nd Thursday, 7 PM
(717) 872-5941

MEI-HWA PENJING SOCIETY

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

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY

Greenspring Horticultural Center, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 10 AM
(703) 255-2629

RAPPAHANOCK BONSAI SOCIETY

Call for meeting time and location
(540) 372-2084

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

June

- Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
Saturday 8
Annual Picnic at John Simpson's house.
- Washington Bonsai Club
Saturday 15
National Arboretum
Azalea Workshop with Archel Morell.
- Baltimore Bonsai Club
Sunday 16
Cylburn Arboretum
Pot making in a potters' studio. (Maps given at May's meeting).
- Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society
Thursday 20
Wood / Jin Carving.. Demo with dremel, power chisel.
- Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
Sunday 23
Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton MD.
Juniper raft style workshop, please bring materials

July

JULY 2 THROUGH 7

IBC '96

**HOSTED BY PBA AND BCI
ALL SHOULD ATTEND**

**THIS IS THE CHANCE OF A LIFE TIME TO SEE
SOME OF THE MAJOR BONSAI ARTISTS.**

**THE COST IS VERY REASONABLE IF ALL THE
EXTRA PERKS (FREE OBSERVATION OF THE
WORKSHOPS.)**

**IF YOU CAN NOT AFFORD TO ATTEND ALL THE
DAYS REMEMBER THAT ALL VOLUNTEERS
GET A FREE DAY FOR EACH DAY WORKED. SEE
LAST MONTH'S ISSUE FOR MONTH'S ISSUE FOR
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.**

**MOST CLUBS HAVE NO MEETINGS SCHEDULE
DUE TO IBC '96**

Editorial

May 2, 1996, a small, official dedication ceremony marking the completion of construction on the Mary E. Mrose International Pavilion and the Dr. Yee-sun Wu Chinese Garden pavilion was held at the U.S. National Arboretum. The major openings for the two pavilions will be held on July 5 in conjunction with IBC '96. At the ceremony on May 2, Mr. Frederic L. Ballard (President of the National Bonsai Foundation) recognized Ms. Poo-ye Wu who accepted the honors for her father, Dr. Yee-sun Wu, who's failing health kept him from traveling to the event. Dr. Wu was born in China and resides in Hong Kong. Ms. Poo-ye Wu gave a very gracious speech touched with some emotion concerning her father's gift. Fred Ballard also recognized PBA's own Mary E. Mrose and Mary did not disappoint the audience with her response when asked, "Have you anything to say?" Her answer was, "When did you ever know me not to have a word to say?" She reiterated her hopes: "That the National and Penjing Museum always maintain a world-class reputation. That it open visitors' minds and help them understand other cultures. And that the Museum inspire people to get into bonsai or, should they not actually do that, help them develop a love of trees, both large and small."

Next, Mr. Ballard turned over the "deed" for the two pavilions to Dr. Floyd P. Horn, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, USDA. Dr. Thomas S. Elias, Director of the U.S. National Arboretum, made the closing

Editorial, continued from page 3

remarks and a viewing of the two pavilions followed the ceremonies. On display was the recently donated collection of viewing stones - the National North American Viewing Stone Collection. Two of the viewing stones accepted for the national collection had been donated by Mrs. Jane Donnelly of Ontario, Canada. My wife and I were honored to have had her as our house guest - she is a long-time member of the Toronto Bonsai Society. Her viewing stones, together with all the others in the collection, formed an eclectic assemblage of spectacular stones native to the diverse geological areas of North America. The different composition of each stone, the different colors and markings and intriguing shapes provide a viewer with many, many moments of viewing pleasure.

The program for the event contained a page of names to whom the National Bonsai Foundation wished

to offer thanks for their contributions, donated time, assistance, and special help. Included in the listing was "The Potomac Bonsai Association, officers and members." However, as always, it does not end with the completion of the museum structures. The National Bonsai Foundation existence is the one reason that the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum is in existence. Your donations provided the magic to make it appear.

The National Bonsai Foundation will continue to exist but with a different purpose: to keep the museum operating as a world-class museum. To maintain that stature, the museum will have to provide educational programs related to bonsai/penjing and foster research and horticultural advances to further the art of bonsai. To accomplish such objectives, the National Bonsai Foundation will continue to need funding. So send a

donation to the National Bonsai Foundation, P.O. Box 32377, Washington, DC 20007. Also, to keep the two new facilities open, there is a need for volunteers. Particulars are contained in this issue of Clippings. PLEASE RESPOND! In October 1992, the National Endowment for the Arts presented John Y. Naka with a National Heritage Fellowship Award. The citation concluded with this quotation from Mr. Naka: "What I like about bonsai is that it has a beginning but no end. A bud today becomes a branch tomorrow. It is like searching for the rainbow's end; the farther it is pursued, the farther away it is. There are no borders in bonsai. The dove of peace flies to palace as to humble house, to young as to old, to rich and poor. So does the spirit of bonsai." And so shall it also be with the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum - no end to what has begun.

Jules Koetsch

MONTHLY CARE TIPS FOR MAY

Pruning or pinching of sprouts of new growth should be done on conifers, i.e.: Hinoki Cypress, Blue moss or Boulevard cypress, Junipers, Larch and Yew.

Black pine: cut off weak sprouts around June 25th - see June '93 issue of PBA Clippings.

Deciduous trees which still have new growth can be pruned back.

Weeping willow can be pruned and wired.

Crab apple can be pruned and wired. May need watering twice daily.

Azalea and Andromeda: wire new, young growth before it ages and stiffens to prevent breaking branches when bending.

Watering: in general watch out for extreme dry spells.

Watch for insects and diseases and use the appropriate countermeasures. Hosing down the plants in the late afternoon when the sun isn't so strong will wash off insects and any feces left by the insects which can become festering points for plant diseases.

A VISIT WITH THE MASTER, JOHN NAKA by Jules Koetsch

Last year around the end of November, Jane and I went to California to visit old friends and help celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary. Since our visiting centered around Los Angeles, we were near John and Alice Naka's home. The last time Jane and I had seen John's and Alice's bonsai was when we were fortunate to go on John Naka's bonsai tour of China and Japan in 1982.

A telephone call found Alice and John at home one afternoon. It gave me a chance to deliver the video our daughter, Peggy, took of John receiving the National Heritage Fellowship Award in 1992 from the National Endowment of the Arts. John is now applying his artistry to painting. However, he has not given up bonsai, as is apparent in the accompany-

ing photograph of one view of his bonsai garden. Jane counted 80 trees in pots and on the benches. Note that every bonsai is on a turntable so that each side of the bonsai gets equal exposure to the sun. John makes a point of this in his book, "BONSAI TECHNIQUES"—"if this is not done, one side or the other will become stunted or weak, while the other side will overdevelop." A quarter-turn each week should do it. Also note in the picture of his garden the overhead screening to diffuse the hot California sun.

John's explanation concerning the tray shown in the accompanying photograph (Fig. 1) with the many, many saplings was for me the highlight of his garden. Can you guess how many trees are in the con-

tainer? At the time of our visit, there were 831 trees. When I met John at the May 2nd dedication ceremony, he informed me that he now has 1,000 trees growing in the tray. How does one count 1,000 trees? John used sticks to form a checkerboard or grid pattern and then counted the number of saplings in each segment. Oh yes - what are the saplings? They are Liquidambar (Sweetgum) and the seeds are from Sweetgums growing along the curb outside his house. John noted that Fall coloring of the leaves is a brilliant scarlet.

As always, such a visit was all too brief. I could have spent days there looking at the bonsai and learning how John uses numerous ingredients to make his soil mixes.



John and Jules behind part of the collection

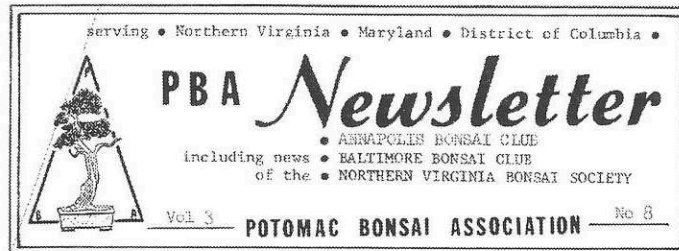


John Y. Naka and his Liquidambar forest



One view of John Y. Naka's bonsai garden

FROM THEN...



August 1973

National Bonsai

page 3 ...

Collection Planned



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TILL NOW



Figure 1

Figure 1: The Chinese Pavilion's traditional Chinese portal with a tiled formal entrance gate was fashioned in China and installed by 7 artisans from Shanghai. It leads to a courtyard and circular moon gate.

Figure 2: Dan Chiplis, assistant curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing museum tends the U.S. National Arboretum's prized collection of Penjing, a Chinese form of miniature landscape, in the Chinese Pavilion. The building has a removable roof to permit year-round exhibits, eliminating the need to move plants indoors in the winter.

Figure 3: To the right of the Pavilion's entrance is a 50 foot wave-topped "Dragon wall".

Figure 4: The new 4,900 square foot Chinese Pavilion has an inner court, where the Penjing, are displayed. This is an atrium with seating benches, traditional rock arrangements, Chinese stone lanterns and water jars. The interior walls are lined with displaying Penjing.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

LAYERING BY JOHN CREECH

Layering of plants has attracted considerable attention in recent years due to the success resulting from wrapping air layers in plastic film to reduce moisture loss. Seemingly new because of this adaption, layering is actually a very ancient practice. Cato, 234 - 149 B.C., in his *De Re Rustica*, describes it and horticulturists have elaborated on the subject throughout the subsequent centuries. Prior to the advance caused by the use of plastics, layering had almost become a vanished art since the trend in propagation has been towards being toward rapid methods, of which new plants are the ultimate goal. Layering is slow, frequently requiring up to two or more years before a plant is produced. As a consequence, few Americans nurserymen use layering. Amateur propagators, following the lead of commercial growers, have also ignored this technique and have attempted to root everything from cuttings to, frequently with failure due to lack of specific knowledge or of essential equipment.

It must be recognized that there are instances where layering is a major means of propagation, particularly for the increase of clonal rootstocks such as are used for dwarfing fruit trees. Furthermore, in European nurseries layering is a principle means of propagation and one such establishment roots over two hundred species and varieties by layering. It may be that here in America we do not have the peculiar combination of moist atmosphere and soil the uniformly excellent results that are obtained in nurseries of the European lowlands in particular. Lay-

ering has never been followed in this country as it has in Europe, in any event.

Natural layering is a common occurrence among some species, particularly ericaceous plants growing in moist, shaded locations. The lower branched become covered by strata of decaying leaves and very soon root in this medium. When one lifts such branches from the leaf mold, rooting may be extensive. These branches can be cut away from the parent plant and established in a coldframe or similar protected location. This should be done either in the spring or early fall.

Although not as frequently observed, conifers are also reported to layer naturally. Old specimens of spruce, hemlock, and juniper growing in open sites that permit healthy lower growing branches have been described as ringed with young plants developed from branches that have been buried for several years. These branches, gradually covered by plant debris, have rooted and turned upright to assume the erect form essential to normal tree growth.

Perhaps the most interesting example of natural air layering is that reported by Little (*Ecology* 25:112 - 113, 1944) where a number of species rooted after the branches were bent to the ground by a heavy snowstorm. Among those that layered readily were *Clethra alnifolia*, *Cornus florida*, *Acer rubrum*, and several species of *viburnum*.

Various modifications of natural layering have been devised by propagators to obtain more rapid rooting, better shaped plants and a greater

yield. These are described in all plant propagation texts, many with duplicate names. The chief categories of layering areas follows: simple branch, serpentine, mound and trench, tip, and air or Chinese (marcottage). The amateur, interested in propagating relatively few plants should regard simple branch layering and air layering as his principle methods.

Simple branch layering differs little from naturally layering except for the manipulation of the branch to stimulate rooting and to obtain a better shaped plant. Layering is performed either in the spring before buds break or after the wood has hardened late summer. The basis for such "timing" is that root activity is greatest in the cooler parts of the growing season. A branch suitable for simple layering is low and sweeping and can be bent to the ground without difficulty. The ground beneath to plant should be improved by adding peat and sand or leaf mold to the surface cultivating it into the ground. The objective is to produce a porous, friable medium that will hold moisture and yet pack tightly around the layered branch.

The branch is first prepared for layering by making a wound in its upper side cutting toward the tip. Location of the cut will be governed by the size of the branch but it will be located about twelve inches from the tip. The branch can now be pegged into the medium at a point between the trunk and the wound. To bring the layered branch to an upright position, firmly twist the branch at the wound and bend it vertically at

Layering, continued from previous page

the same time. Few texts stress this point but it does eliminate the danger of snapping the branch which sometime occurs if the branch is wounded on the under side. A second peg may be required directly at the point of the wound or a flat stone can be placed over the branch. (FIGURE 1).

Peat and sand or leaf mold is mounded over the layer and packed to support the stem in the upright position. Straw or leaves, spread over the entire surface will aid to retain moisture but the layers should be checked frequently to be sure that the medium does not dry out. Shrubs that root easily can be removed by the end of the first autumn. In this group fall dogwoods, crabapples, quinces, Lonicera, viburnum, and many similar woody shrubs. More difficult types like the maples, the deciduous azalea, magnolia, and conifers must be left through the winter and removed either just before the buds break in the spring or during the next autumn. The rooted layers can be placed in a cold frame or shaded greenhouse in a peat-sand mixture. Layers removed in the fall may defoliate but root activity will continue for several weeks and when dug the next spring, the layers will have a well-developed root system.

**Continued Next Month
With Air Layering
by John Creech**

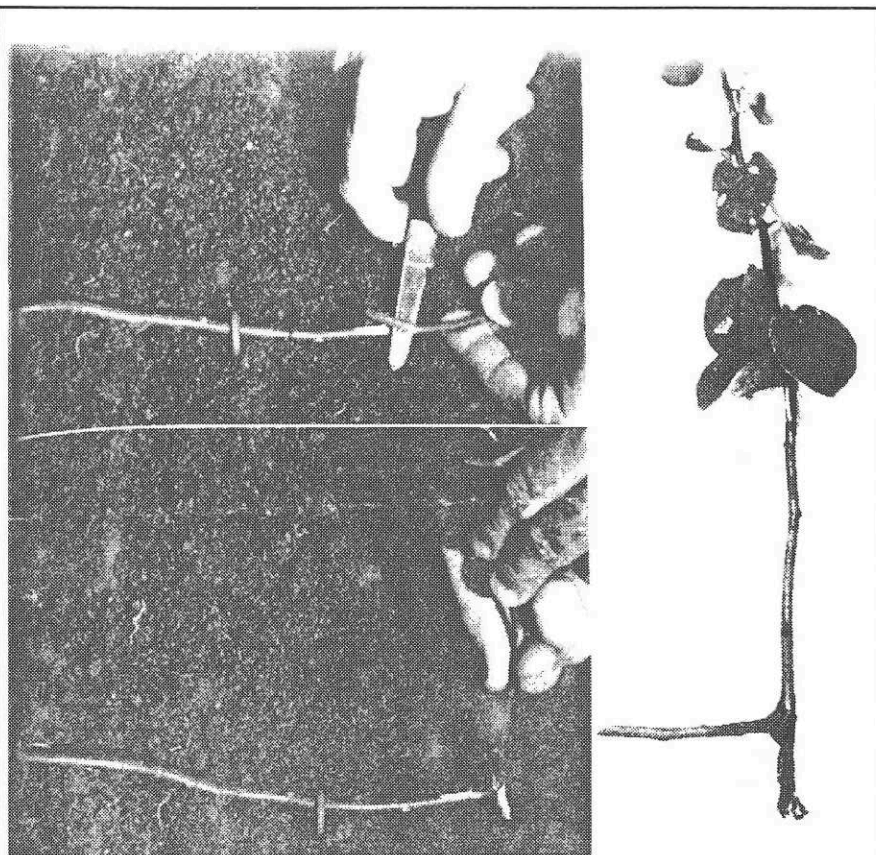


Figure 1

This Fortune's picture and biography that was referred to in Excerpt from Robert Fortune's Book from the last issue of "Clippings"

Right Robert Fortune (1812-80) was the first collector in China to have relative freedom. He was sent by the Horticultural Society in 1843 and introduced many essential garden plants. His trees included the false larch, the Chinese plum yew, the umbrella pine and the Cryptomeria.

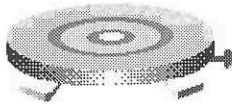


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- * VOLUNTEERS SHOULD HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTERS
- * VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED DAILY, FOR ANY DAY OF THE WEEK, FOR A 4 HOUR SHIFT: 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. OR NOON TO 4 P.M. (TO ALLOW FOR OVERLAP). TWO VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR EACH SHIFT.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, CALL MARY ANN JARVIS, THE ARBORETUM'S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT 202-245-4565 FOR AN APPLICATION AND INFORMATION ON TRAINING SESSIONS.



SENSEI SAM

Well, the long hard winter is almost a thing of the past. Just about all of my trees are actively growing. It's time for me to begin pinching and pruning the bonsai. A little wiring and fertilization are also in order. I've begun repotting and looking forward to styling some of my nursery stock for future bonsai. I've never experienced such wind as I have this Spring. Must have something to do with the mountains (of W.Va.).

So, I'm making sure that every tree is tied into the bonsai pot. This way the winds will not be able to blow the trees from the pot. Tying the pot to the bench will prevent the container from blowing off the bench or table.

Until later,

Sensei

P.S.: Any questions or comments are always welcome.

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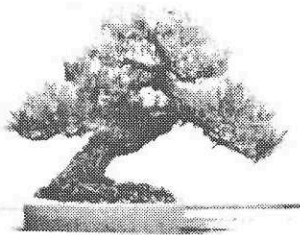
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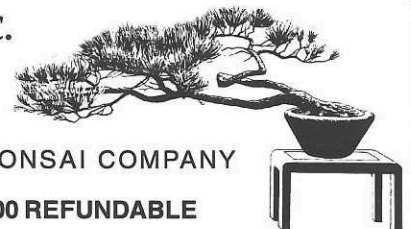
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POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 Annapolis and Baltimore, MD; Lancaster and Philadelphia, PA; Rappahanock, Richmond, Northern VA and the Washington, DC metropolitan areas are expected to join a club to receive all membership benefits including *PBA Clippings*.

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

Individuals residing beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to PBA Clippings. For a subscription only (does not include participation in club events), complete application and mail with a check payable to PBA for US \$15.00 (US \$35.00 for an international subscription) to: Judy Wise, 1259 4th St., SW, Washington, DC, 20024. For additional information, please call Judy Wise: (202) 554-3045.

Regular meeting times and places are listed. Meeting times and locations are subject to change. Call first! Events are listed monthly in the Calendar section of PBA Clippings.

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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

CHESAPEAKE BONSAI SOCIETY
Call for meeting time and location
Marc Jartman, (410) 263-2748

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
4th Sunday, 2 PM
Essie Wilson, (301) 839-2471

LANCASTER BONSAI SOCIETY
Manheim Twp. Park, Stauffer Mansion
Lancaster, PA
2nd Thursday, 7 PM
Ken Morgan, (717) 872-5941

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
Michael Smith, (703) 255-2629

RAPPAHANOCK BONSAI SOCIETY
Call for time and meeting location
Todd Ellis, (540) 372-2084

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

Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc.
c/o U.S. National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002

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