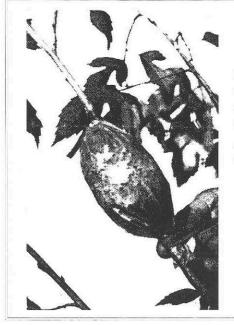


Wow, what a view.

Peter Bauer who was a member of the Brookside Bonsai Club moved to Canada. He wrote a article on the trials and tribulations of moving Bonsai across the Border. He now drops a line to let everyone how the family is doing (trees included).





Last month in "Clippings" the art of mound layering branches was discussed. This month the continuation of the story with Air Layering. See page 6 for the whole story.

| | والمطا |
|---------------------|--------|
| President's Message | 2 |
| CALENDAR OF EVENTS | 3 |
| EDITORIAL | 4 |
| MONTHLY CARE TIPS | 4 |
| A Canadian Update | 5 |
| Air Layering | 6 |
| Sensei Sam | 11 |
| | |



VOLUME 26 NUMBER 7, JULY 1996

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

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President's Message

Regardless of the type or size of organization you join or belong to, there are certain expectations that you have with regard to the organization and to its leadership. You expect to be treated fairly, and with dignity and respect not only by the organization but by its leaders, who set the tone for the character of the organization. You expect, therefore, that the leaders of the organization are possessed of veracity, honesty, respect for an individual's rights and dignity, compassion and caring, and a true interest in furthering the aims of the organization and each individual member thereof. In the end, however, the two most important characteristics you expect from any organization and its leaders are CARING and INTEG-RITY.

Integrity speaks more to the character of the individual and caring is more concerned with the relationship of individuals to each other.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will see printed a pair of letters that have been brought about because of a relationship between an organization and its leaders and an individual gone awry. When the leaders of an organization, by their actions, perpetrate the implication and suggest by innuendo that an individual is unfit to serve as one of its officers, and refuses to state objective facts to support these contentions, then one must begin to question the veracity, honesty, intentions, and integrity of those leaders. There is absolutely no justification for character assassination or for impugning one's reputation and good name, by the meaningless and nebulous term "negative input" from

unknown and secret sources. It is a very basic tenet of common human decency, and therefore our legal system, that a person has the right to face his or her detractors. One simply cannot be chastised and castigated for unknown and unspecified accusations or charges.

PBA has properly and rightly spoken out on behalf of principle, propriety, dignity, and the adherence to by-laws and policies and procedures and most importantly of all, basic human decency. You must all be proud of your organization and its leadership. Your organization is YOU! I congratulate you, salute you, and I am humbly proud to be one of you.

PBA and the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society wish to express a very deep sense of gratitude to John and Gina Simpson. John has for about 20 years regularly hosted the June meeting of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society at his home overlooking Lake Barcroft. The meeting at his home this past June was the last to be hosted by John and Gina. For their gracious and generous hospitality, PBA and the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society are most grateful.

Since retirement from his law practice, John has also been a very regular volunteer at The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, helping to maintain the trees in the collection. Now, John and his wife will be putting their home up for sale and will be moving to San Diego, California, area in order to be near their grandchildren. PBA and the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society wish them good luck and good health and will miss them.

BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB

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

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July

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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 CHAIRMENS.

MOST CLUBS HAVE NO MEETINGS SCHEDULE DUE TO IBC '96

August

Saturday August 10 Northern Virginia Bonsai Society Chase Rosade will be giving a demo/ lectrue.

President's Message continued

At its most recent meeting, the Board of Directors of the National Bonsai Foundation added several new members. Newly named to the board of NBF were Jeff Stephanic, and C. F. Kwok. Chris Yeapanis has been asked to serve as new Treasurer of the NBF. Maryann Orlando will also be joining the Board effective upon her retirement as the Executive Director of the NBF. Felix Laughlin was elected the new President of the NBF Board, replacing Fred Ballard. Also on the Board of Directors from PBA are Dave Garvin (the outgoing

treasurer), Janet Lanman, and Bill Merritt. Mary Mrose is an honorary Director, and Joe Gutierrez, as President of PBA, attends the NBF Board meeting as well.

In addition to those named above to serve on the NBF Board, PBA is also proud of its volunteers who help to maintain the trees and all other aspects of The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.

PBA is happy that so many of its members can serve the bonsai community!

Joe Gutierrez, M.D.

Editorial by Julius Koestch

Have you noticed that all too soon your bonsai seem to have gotten taller faster than you'd like? Unfortunately, this is a natural thing with them - their striving to get their share of the daylight makes it a difficult thing to keep in check. I snip and clip trying to get decent chase-back of the foliage mass so that the branches stay within an overall tree outline commensurate with the size of the container. But all of a sudden one day, the top portion of the tree looks like it belongs in another pot with branches whose thicknesses vie with those well down on the tree, and the top of the trunk has grown over an inch and a half and thickened to loose any sign of taper.

Somehow in the past I've missed ever seeing the above problem directly addressed in publications or

talks - what to do to keep the apex of a more established bonsai from going amok. Books tell you how to first create a bonsai. Articles tell you how to restyle a bonsai. Do I have to restyle the bonsai to remedy the problem apex? I hate the task of thinning out thick branches at the top of the tree. Then there's the trunk - you could jin the top of the tree, which I've done to a few of my conifers; but jin isn't in vogue for deciduous trees. Do I fall back on the old trick of creating a tapering trunk? That is to cut the trunk above a forward facing branch which you may not have if you followed the styling dictum of no forward-facing branches. Then wire it upright to form the new trunk-top. Or do I take it to a workshop to get the answers? Dan Chiplis

of the U.S. National Arboretum has held workshops on chase-back. All I can say is it's a tough struggle to keep the trees from outgrowing their containers so that every four or five years I don't have to buy new pots. The discarded pots then become a temptation to start other bonsai in them, which is something I have not been able to avoid. I wind up with more plants than I can properly care for. Somehow I feel that a well-needed book is one covering chase-back and how to keep the height of bonsai suppressed so that the bonsai pot still fits the bonsai.

If anyone knows of any in-depth writing on the above matter, please let me know.

MONTHLY CARE TIPS FOR JULY

Watering: Do any overhead watering before 10:00 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. to prevent sun damage to the foliage. Do not overhead water after 5:00 p.m. as the moisture on the foliage may cause fungi to form. When the day is very hot and especially if it is a dry one, the plants may need two waterings.

Fertilizer: Some people feel that fertilizing the bonsai during July and August stresses the plants too much.

If you are not of that school of thought, fertilize according to your schedule if you're using fertilizer balls or liquid fertilizer. If using liquid fertilizer, rotate between different brands and include a fish emulsion one.

Wiring: Check to see that none is digging into the bark. Wiring can be done on the coniferous species.

Insecticides and Diseases. Be alert for any infestations and use the appropriate insecticides and fungicides. Usually a good dousing with a water spray in the late afternoon will discourage any insects from making a permanent roost in your bonsai. Good air movement often prevents any fungi from forming.

An Update from Peter Bauer, now in Canada.

Preface: A while back Peter and Sandra Bauer left the area and PBA to settle in Nova Scotia, Canada. In his letter, which follows, you may wonder about their dark winter storage spot for the bonsai. In Japan, some bonsai enthusiasts have a pit which is covered and no light reaches the bonsai while in winter storage. However, they must be kept watered. Peter and Sandra's address is R.R. 1, Box 804, Bras D'Or, N.S. BOC lBO. My road atlas shows that their home is somewhere on Cape Breton Island.

Thanks, Peter and Sandra, for keeping in touch.

The Editor

Dear Jules:

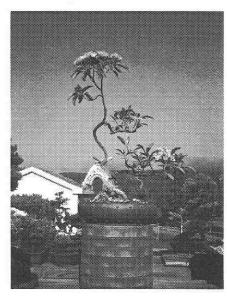
Many thanks for your note with the past issues of the PBA Clippings. I have paid in for the Clippings for 1996 for mailing to Canada, so hope that it'll come automatically. We are very sorry that the snow (that we should have had here) ended up in Washington again and again. Instead of that, we had a lot of rain and almost no skiing - and that we miss sorely.

On moving here 1? years ago, we had built a dark basement/cellar with a dirt floor of 6 inch gravel (for drainage) beneath an addition to the old house. We put in wide heavy shelves and store trees there for almost 6 months (in winter & spring) at temperatures of 30 at one end and 40 degrees at the other end while a timer-controlled fan blows intermittently to combat any fungus trouble. So far that has worked quite well (second winter now), although some of the trees clearly don't like to be cooped up that long. Night frosts start to occur here in about October. certainly become regular by the end of November, and can persist still as late as the beginning of June. Very high winds and gusts even in summer, after many mishaps (!!!), have made me appreciate bunji-cords for tying down trees and pots.

There are no bonsaiists in the area for a few hundred miles; so it is a somewhat lonely matter.... However, we discovered a Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in the middle of nowhere in the Highlands (about 100 miles away from us), and one of the monks (a retired elderly Canadian) has an interesting collection of smaller stunted trees. Perhaps one could call this "The eremitic way of Bonsai." The trees survive some extraordinary stress, I surmise. The fellow goes in for 8 months retreats every year - no care for the trees, except for occasional watering by lay persons - yet the trees look ok...perhaps the meditations do the trick...? It is more likely that the weather in the location is so rough that growth is very slow.

Here one can find wonderfully shaped and marked stones. We sent a few small ones to Janet Lanman to see whether anybody might be interested in such viewing stones. I remember Nick Lenz talking about collecting Larches in our area. Indeed, there are some wonderful stunted





The above and to the left photograph shows a portion of Mr. Bauer's collection. This will also give an idea of the true size of the Mountain Laurel seen in the picture above and to the right.

Air Layering by John Creech, continued from last month's Layering Article

Air layering is really more suitable to the gardener since any branch within reach can be propagated and there is not the necessity of preparing a layering-medium under the plant. It may be that this has caused the continual experimentation to improve the method. From a beginning when air layers were used only in greenhouses or in the tropics (without continual attention), we can now employ air layering under almost any climatic condition.

Before the advent of plastics, various means were used to keep layers moist. Rubber tubing was sometimes wrapped the moss or layers were encased in waterproof paper with a glass wick running into the moss from a water bottle. None of these methods really were efficient for the moss still dried out or the waterbottles were cumbersome to attach to the branch. Finally, in 1947, W.R. Grove described the manner in which he used plastic film (now a patented process) to make a successful waterproof wrap around the moss. Using it, he rooted a great number of tropical trees and shrubs. Since that time, plastics have been tried under various climatic conditions and a wide range of woody plants have been layered by this method. The Arnold Arboretum has described its results with a long list of plants, many of which are considered difficult to root from cuttings. The results were observed only at the end of the first year, however, and many species were listed as not rooting. Since that time, we have observed that many shrubs require more than two or more years to air layer, a fact already discovered in mound layering. Although there are many kinds of plastics, not all are suited for air layering. It is essential that the film be low in moisture transmission and at the same time relatively high in carbon dioxide and oxygen permeability. Also, the film must be sufficiently tough to withstand the variations in climate that occur during the year. Typical of the films that are suited for air layering is polythene. The Arnold Arboretum used film of 0.004 inches. The film offered by the successors to the late W. R. Grove is under the name of Airwrap and other appropriate plastics are sold under such trade names as Alathon, Pearlon, Tralon, Howard-seal and Polythene.

The air layer is prepare in a few simple steps, made either on last years wood or even older stems. (Figures on next page). Older branches may not only be slower to root but also more difficult to establish after they have been

removed. The stem must be wounded, either by a slicing wound as for branch layering, or by girdling. Early horticulturists pointed out that the wound interfered with the movement of sap but a more modern interpretation would be that the natural hormone transport was interrupted. Ringing with copper wire has been used to any extent in air layering yet in mound layering studies this method was far superior to girdling. Either method produced better rooting when the stems were not wounded at all. Ringing would eliminate the problems that accompany wounding for sometimes the branches die or can be broken off by high winds. A growth regulating compound is dusted into the wound (such as is used for rooting difficult cuttings. Hormodin No. 3) and a handful of moist sphagnum is wrapped around the stem, thoroughly covering the wounded area. This enclosed in an eight by ten inch sheet of film that is tightly wrapped so that it overlaps. Tied at top and bottom, the film will keep the moss moist throughout the entire summer and layers do not need to be disturbed until the are rooted regardless of the length of time required. Actually excess moisture becomes a problem if the moss is not squeezed dry prior to application. Ties may

Continued on page 8

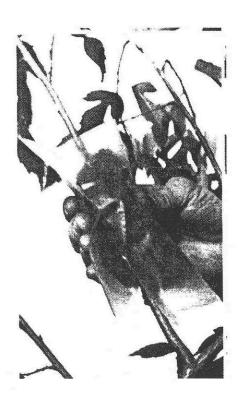
| TABLE 1 |
|---|
| Rooting Of Layers Realtive to Stcok Plant Treatment |

| Stock Plant Treatment | Number Of Layers | Heavy Rooting | Light Rooting | None |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------|
| High Nitrogen solution applied | 19 | 3 | 14 | 2 |
| Low Nitrogen solution applied | 19 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| No Nitrogen solution applied | 19 | 7 | 11 | 1 |





Top: Left, wounding the branch prior to application of rooting powder. Stem can also be girdled. Right, sphagnum moss, when slight moist, is compressed around the wound. Bottom: Left, polythene film is then wrapped around the stem so that it overlaps sufficiently to make a moisture-proof container. Right, the polythene is twisted around the stem and tied at top and bottom with rubber budding strips.





Air Layering, continued from previous page

be either waterproof to electricians tape, rubber bands or florist tape ties. Tape may serve best since it can be applied to the stem above the film and then down over the top sufficiently to prevent rain from seeping down into the layer.

Although layers applied in the spring may be ready to remove the following fall, some must be left through the next year to root satisfactorily. This is true of holly, lilac, the deciduous azaleas, and magnolia. Layers with only few roots may be left on plant over winter safely through winter, the roots survive and continue to grow the next spring. Magnolia kous, in particular, requires a considerable time to root. Layers applied in the summer of 1951 did not start to root until the summer of 1953 and all rooted during that year. During this period, the layers were undisturbed and neither the moss nor the plastic showed any visible deterioration.

Removal of the layers has presented some discussion, for layers may die after removal even though they are rooted. On the other hand, the writer has severed layers in July and August and placed them in a peat bed in a cool,

shaded pithouse without loss of a single leaf. Particularly striking was this behavior in Iles opaca and I. pedunculosa where layers up to two feet tall with a sparse amount of roots handled in this manner. A month after removal, a massive root system had developed, proportionate to the amount of top development.

Perhaps more important than the size of the layer and the number of roots is the vigor of the layered branch. Plants of Callicarpa dichotoma were grown in pots of sand so that they were low vigor. Air layers were applied to each plant usual manner except that no hormone was added. One-third of the plants received no fertilizer, one-third received applications of eight grams of sixteen percent nitrogen per gallon of water, and one third received twenty-four grams of sixteen percent nitrogen per gallon of water. The nutrient solution was applied twice to each pot, once when the layers were made, and after four weeks. The layers were removed after ten weeks with the following results.

During the period that the layers were on the plants, those plants that had received the highest

application of nitrogen made considerably succulent growth while those receiving no fertilizer application produced almost no growth. Plants receiving the lower nitrogen application were intermediate. The layers were cut from the plants and placed in a peat bed. Immediate defoliation of most of the plants resulted. When the transplanted layers were examined six weeks later those receiving the low nitrogen application had made the most progress as shown in the table below.

Table 2

Although this is only a preliminary study relating rooting of layers to stock plant condition, it does indicate that the vigor of the plant considerably influences both rooting and the subsequent progress of the layers after they have been removed. Quite likely, very succulent, rapidly growing branches on large specimens would not be the very best layers and conversely, plants suffering from complete lack of fertilization would make poor subjects to layer.

Undoubtedly, air layering with plastic is still far from being a common propagation technique but this does not alter the fact that a larger plant can be produced in a given length of time (between one and two years) than by any other own-root propagation technique. At present, the scope of air layering extends mostly as far as the garden of the amateur, but with further study to assure more uniform results, and to standardize the procedure involved, it may be a reliably successful commercial method and the counterpart of the extensive mound layering system that is in vogue in European nurseries.

TABLE 2 Development Pf Layers Realative to Stock Plant Treatment

| Stock Plant | Layers with New Roots | Layers Dead or | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Treatment | and Foliage | Doubtful | |
| High nitrogen | | | |
| solution _ow nitrogen | 4 | 15 | |
| solution No nitrogen | 15 | 4 | |
| solution | 7 | 12 | |

Peter Bauer continued from page 5

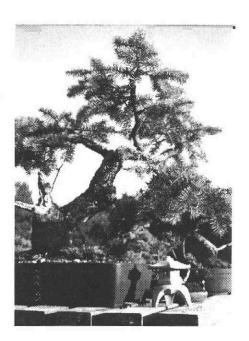
ones accessible in the Highlands, but so far I have seen them only on Federal or Provincial Park land and, even though it's mostly in utter wilderness areas, I don't want to particularly collect illegally.... Some of these Larches can be found in swampy high-moor regions. These Larches can be 6" diameter at the base, 2-3 feet tall (est. 100-200 yrs.), and wonderfully shaped - enough to make any self-respecting bonsai devotee drool

at the mouth. Still, I am searching in other (non-park) Highlands regions, but so far have discovered Balsam Fir (dense 1/4" long needles), singly and in groups, in very respectable shapes and sizes. Collected a group in November. The largest trunk has a diameter of about one and one half inches and a height of 12 inches.

We hope that your polyhouse has not collapsed from the unusual quantity of snow. Wish you the very best and, again, many thanks.

> Yours, Peter Bauer

P.S.: A few photographs are enclosed to give you an idea... The enclosed card is printed from our own photograph of a sunset seen from the back of the house.



To the right is a Douglas fir with a 6 inch diameter.

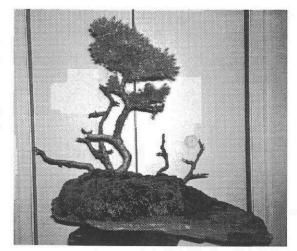
To the left is Pitch pine "Turtle Back"





To the left is a Scots pine that is about 12 inches tall.

To the right is a surviving Spruce about a year ago it was all one plant.

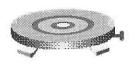


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IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, CALL MARY ANN JARVIS, THE ARBORETUM'S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT 202-245-4565 FOR AN APPLICATION AND INFORMATION ON TRAINING SESSIONS.



SENSEI SAM

The other night I received a phone call asking for some clarification on the article about digging trees. The caller wondered how the trees were cared for after digging. Well, these specific trees were grown for bonsai in the field. This makes a big difference in how the trees are handled. Some of these trees had been in the ground for about twelve years. Right after they were dug, they were misted and the root balls were covered with plastic. It was a 9-hour drive back, so they sat in the van until the next day. The deciduous trees with the tap root were cut back hard, the evergreens very little. The tops of the trees and the soil in the pots were soaked. A treatment with Superthrive is also advisable.

For collected trees you need to be very careful to keep as much soil on the root ball as possible, especially the evergreens.

To the readers, if you have a question just ask. . .

> Sensei Sam c/o Steve Pilacik 205 Quick Rd. Elkview, WV 25071 (304) 965-2705

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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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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) 839-247

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, I 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 Jim Ford, (804) 527- 4000, ext 4621

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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