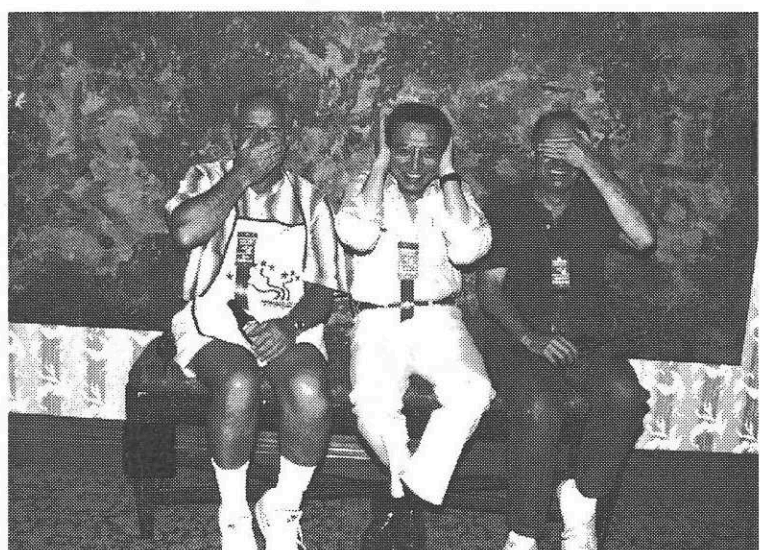


## IBC'96 REVIEWED



See No Evil.....

This issue and part of the next will be dedicated to IBC'96. It will review through text and pictures the wonder of it all. For those few that attended it be will be a review and for those of you that could not attend, something new and your chance to see all the fun that was missed.



Time out with Dan Barton, speaker from U.K.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
MONTHLY CARE TIPS	3
EDITORIAL	4
OUR HEADLINERS	6
THANKS	7
SPECIAL EVENTS	8
OVERVIEW	10
TREE OF THE MONTH	11
VENDORS	12
REGISTRATION	14
SENSEI SAM	14



The *PBA Clippings* (ISSN 0160-9521) is published by the Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc. (PBA), a nonprofit organization, in the interests of its affiliate member clubs and societies. Copyright 1996 PBA.

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

#### Advertising Rates :

Monthly rates: 1/6 page, \$15.00; 1/3 page, \$30.00; 1/2 page, \$45.00; full-page, \$90.00. 10% discount for 6 consecutive months prepaid, 20% discount for 12 consecutive months prepaid. Direct inquiries/payment (make checks payable to Potomac Bonsai Association) to: Jerry Antel, Jr. 6409 Middleburg Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 320-5251. Send ad copy to editor at address listed below for articles.

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

#### PBA OFFICERS:

President	Joe Gutierrez
1st Vice-President	Cindy Blackburn
Educ. Vice-President	
Secretary	Julie Walker
Treasurer	Jerry Antel, Jr.
Membership	Judy Wise (202) 554-3045
Newsletter Editor	Jules Koetsch

#### PBA CLIPPINGS STAFF:

Editor	Jules Koetsch (703) 569-9378
Assoc. Ed./Art Dir.	Beth Potratz (703) 255-9386 Email: Bonsaist.aol.com
Asst. Editor	Jeff Stephanic
Advertising Editor	Jerry Antel, Jr. (301) 320-5251
Sensei Sam	Steve Pilacik 205 Quick Road Elkview, WV 25071
Calender Coord	Doug French (703) 502-9426 Email: Dfrench200.aol.com

## President's Message

This entire issue is being devoted to reporting on IBC '96. Your organizing committee recently held its wrap-up meeting, and we agreed (from our standpoint anyway) that IBC'96, hosted by the Potomac Bonsai Association, was a great success. Our list of headliners was outstanding and quite varied, originating from Japan, East and West Coasts of the United States, South America, England and Europe. (So as not to appear self-serving, no headliners within PBA were on the program, but I assure you we certainly do have the talent within PBA to support any international program.) You all know this to be true if you have attended our Spring and Fall programs, and I wish you would utilize them more for your programs.

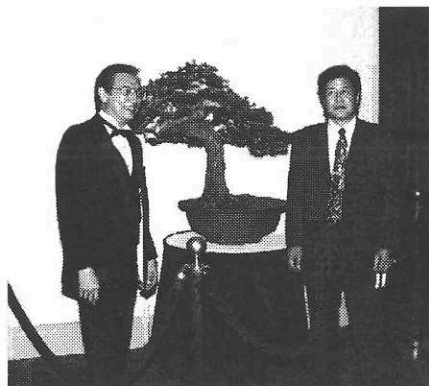
Unfortunately, many of our members missed out on a wonderful opportunity to further their bonsai knowledge, and to meet and get to know those wonderful headliners from all over the world. For those who thought that the registration cost was somewhat high (I reassure you that it was most reasonable given our program, our headliners, and the cost

of accommodations within our city), many could have gotten at least partial registration by volunteering to work with the various committees. Additionally, all workshop observation was free, and this was another wonderful opportunity to learn.

Your officers and your Board encourage each member to support not only your local club activities, but PBA activities as well. Let your officers and your Board know your needs, your likes, and dislikes so that the organization can be run for your benefit. This organization exists for its members, and your input will assure that PBA will remain sensitive toward serving your needs. This year's Fall Symposium, usually held in October, has been suspended in lieu of IBC'96. Next April, we will have our Spring Bonsai Festival; and in October 1997, we shall again be having our Fall Symposium back at the National Arboretum. The recently dedicated new facilities there should make next year's programs even more attractive.

Because of the increasing number of regional and local programs which seem to fill the needs of most bonsai enthusiasts more satisfactorily, attendance at the bigger international conventions has begun to decline. This may well have been the last of the big programs with such a large and varied, prestigious list of headliners. This issue, therefore, is dedicated to memorializing IBC'96 which your PBA very successfully produced and hosted. Again, to one and all from PBA who participated and volunteered to help make IBC'96 a great success, our heartfelt thanks and our sincere congratulations.

Joe Gutierrez



Joe Gutierrez and Mr. Kimura

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) 527-4000 Ext. 4621
- 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

## September

- Brookside Bonsai Club**  
Thursday 19  
7:00 PM Slab making seminar with  
Godfrey Trammel  
Chevy Chase Rec. Center  
Saturday 21  
8:30 am - 12:00 Slab making workshop.  
Chevy Chase Rec. Center
- Kiyomizu Bonsai Club**  
Sunday 22  
Club Picnic  
Baltimore Bonsai Club  
State Fair- Display and Demos

## October

**Bonsai Estate Sale**  
October 12, 1996

**Beautiful Buttonwood,  
Chinese Serissas, Pines, Junipers,  
pots, tools, etc.**

**Due to the death of NoVa  
member Mike (Kevin) Campbell,  
20 to 25 well-trained trees with  
good potential will be auctioned  
at  
NoVa Club meeting,  
12 October 96.**

**A percentage of sale will go to  
NBF and to NoVa Club.**

## MONTHLY CARE TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

**Coniferous:** Check old wire or wire initially. Prune sprouts on Hinoki Cypress and Larch. Prune unwanted branches on Black Pine. Repot if required: Hinoki Cypress, Blue Moss Cypress, Black Pine, Red Pine, Spruce and Yew.

**Deciduous, Flowering and Fruiting:** Remove wire on Beech, Cotoneaster, Elm, Gardenia, Pomegranate, Winter Jasmine, and Wisteria. Apply insecticides where insect damage is evident. Fertilizers: Apply at the rate you have been using but

switch from a high nitrogen (N2) mixture to one high in Phosphorous (Ph). Remember, the primary markings on a fertilizer always indicate, in order, the amount of N2, Ph, and K (Potassium). For example: Peters 5-50-17 Root 'n' Bloom is read as 5 parts N2, 50 parts Ph, and 17 parts K. The high Ph content is supposed to encourage root growth prior to winter dormancy, as opposed to N2 which stimulates foliage, trunk, and branch growth.

## Editorial by Jules Koetsch

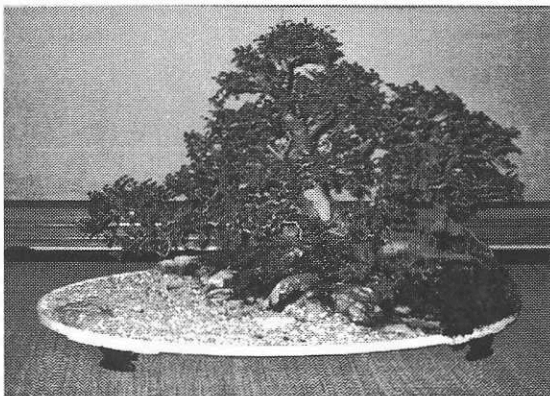
This editorial was started at 4:30 PM. on Saturday, 6 July, while the International Bonsai Convention was winding down.

I'm sitting very comfortably and relaxed in an overstuffed chair in the almost reverential quiet of the bonsai display room in the Hotel Renaissance. I couldn't be in more lovely and impressive company. Like the concluding lines of Wordsworth's poem, I know that this is true:

I gazed and gazed - but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought  
For oft when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills  
And bonds with the bonsai.

Please forgive my substitution for the last line in the original poem which reads, "And dances with the daffodils."

Of the 21 or so trees on display, the one directly to my left is the winner of Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) President's Award for 1996. It is a flawless penjing consisting of 3 thick Chinese Elm trunks that appear to be emanating from a single root. Please see the accompanying picture.



*President's Award Tree*



*Tree of the Month*

My vote for best tree would be for the masterpiece created by Jim Sullivan of the Bowie Club. His very ingenious and artistic creation of tree, pot, rock and novel display stand that harmonize so well are this month's Tree of the Month.

All in all, IBC'96 was an unquestionable success in spite of Dr. Joe Gutierrez announcing in his welcoming speech on Day One that this would be the last time PBA will host an IBC. Reasons will be divulged in the next issue of PBA Clippings. However, contrary to the words in the poem, "Finnegin to Flannigan", that announcement did not "muddle up things to the divil and back." The IBC'96 program proceeded on schedule.

I made a point to watch, Mr. Masahiko Kimura, the star attraction, and noted, among many other bonsai traits, he is a wirer par excellence. As he applied the very first wire to the very first tree, he measured the length to be cut by looping it slightly, conforming to the two branches to be wired. After cutting the wire to what he considered the appropriate length, he deftly bound the wire around the branches and THE ENDS OF THE WIRE CAME OUT WHERE THEY SHOULD HAVE! Not like my wiring, where the wire ends remaining are so long I could almost rewire one-half of the branch again. Or worse yet, the wire comes out inches too short for completing the job. Needless to say, I was very impressed. Dr. Joe Gutierrez informed me that all the times he's watched Mr. Kimura, he's noticed that Mr. Kimura almost never has excess wire that must be cut off. And that's not all - he coils the wire around the trunk or branch not at the 45 deg. angle prescribed in most bonsai texts. If a wire is applied at angle of 45 deg the distance from the top of a coil to the next bottom of the coil, i.e., one-half a turn, is equal to the diameter of the trunk or branch where the wire is being applied. Mr.



## Editorial, Continued

Kimura's wires were applied such that above the distance measured twice the diameter of the piece being wired.

Mr. Kimura made a strong pitch that one should use copper wire exclusively - even for certain species of trees where aluminum wire has been suggested so that the bark would be less likely to be damaged. He recommended that instead of using aluminum wire, the older technique of wrapping the wire with paper should be used for the trees with tender bark such as Maple and Azalea. Copper wire, if properly annealed, will have the same feel and will flow on smoothly—so to say—just like aluminum wire. But unlike aluminum wire, copper wire hardens as it being worked into coils. This year I've gone back to copper wire for two reasons. One is that I swear when I've used aluminum wire and bent a branch, sometimes within a day or more, the wired branch has crept back to its prior position. Second, the cost of anodized aluminum wire has gone up like most everything else from Japan, so I'm getting my wire from the source advertised in PBA Clippings during the Spring months. Mr. Kimura requested that he be provided with copper wire for his demonstrations, but convention organizers had purchased only aluminum wire for the workshops. I can see Mr. Kimura's point, after all he knows the feel of applying copper wire. I've found that in going from aluminum to copper wire, it's taken me some time to get comfortable with the latter. Anyway, he wiped out all the copper wire from the only vendor at the convention who was carrying it—the same vendor who advertises in PBA Clippings.

Hideko Metaxas from Larkspur, Ca., former president of the Golden State Bonsai Federation, did an excellent job of translating for Mr. Kimura and fielding questions from the audience when Mr. Kimura was absorbed in styling, wiring, and pruning. After each demonstration, Mr. Kimura asked if there were any more questions besides those he had answered while he was working. Ms. Metaxas noted that individuals who try to anneal copper wire on their own may not be bringing the wire to the optimum softness, and suggested that they purchase some Japanese annealed copper wire to find out how it feels when it is coiled.

Mr. Kimura, while wiring, mentioned that he believes he is the first person to have used raffia to bind parts of a tree that will be subjected to severe bending stresses. It was also noted that if he breaks a branch while bending, he wraps it with raffia. Ms. Metaxas said that before raffia, thin strips of linen were used where the width of the linen prevented grooves from being made in the bark as is the case when cord is used. The only mention of raffia predating Mr. Kimura's use is that in Yuji Yoshimura's book suggesting the wrapping of grafts. In either case, the raffia will serve its purpose and rot away in time.

Ms. Metaxas said bonsai should have depth besides frontal width in tree structure. In fact, the bonsai should be defined so that the overall width of the bonsai from front to back should equal the overall width when viewed from the front, - as deep as it is wide. This does not mean that the front to back distance be evenly split by the location of the trunk.

Besides seeing how a master stylist and wirer works, I learned from watching Mr. Kimura that almost no part of the tree escapes being wired, and all branches are bent down after wiring - all others have been cut off. My impression is that there is a Japanese fetish that all branches must be bent down. So with turnbuckle or whatever, one must get the bottom branch bent down. Why? All of the trees I see in the wild don't necessarily have their bottom branches bent

Continued on page 9

### Matsu-Momiji Nursery



#### Japanese Black Pine by Steve Pilacik

The most comprehensive English book on Japanese Black Pine. (*Libro de texto en Espanol puedo ser ordenado.*)  
 ♦ Over 50 pages ♦ 34 detailed sketches ♦ 23 Photographs  
 To order: Send \$15.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling for surface mail in US. For airmail shipment to Canada and Mexico add \$4.00 shipping and handling, elsewhere add \$9.00. Wholesale inquires welcome.  
 Bonsai catalog - \$2.00  
 Matsu-Momiji  
 205 Quick Rd.  
 Elkview, W. VA. 25071  
 304-965-2705

## OUR HEADLINERS IBC'96 Speakers by Joe Gutierrez.

During the winter of 1991-1992, your PBA Board requested me to perform two tasks. First to present a PBA bid to host IBC'96 here in Washington. Second, to serve as Chair of the Speakers Committee and recruit a very varied and outstanding list of headliners for our program should our bid be accepted. I consented to take on these responsibilities, and at the Memphis Convention our bid was accepted. My first challenge then was to try to recruit Masahiko Kimura to be our number one headliner. It was my idea to recruit 8 to 10 major headliners so that we could be assured of a grand, outstanding program. Your Board agreed with that recommendation. I have known Mr. Kimura for about 10 years, having first met him on his initial visit to the United States to headline in Anaheim, California. I next got to meet Mr. Kimura in Omiya, Japan. It was the Spring of 1989 when IBC was folded into the International Bonsai meeting held

for the inauguration of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation. I was fortunate enough to visit Mr. Kimura at his home on a visit arranged through the courtesy of Ben Oki. In fact, Maria Elena Duran and her husband were part of the small group that went to visit Mr. Kimura at his home. He was a most gracious host and showed us his garden and koi pond and his collection of bonsai trees and allowed us to photograph him and his trees that afternoon. He also very generously autographed his book for us. In the Fall of 1990, Mr. Kimura again visited the U.S., coming to San Francisco for the Golden State Bonsai Federation meeting. We got to renew acquaintance sitting together at the rear of the tour bus on a pre-convention tour through Yosemite National Park and to Carmel and Monterey. Mr. Kimura was the headliner in Memphis for IBC'92 where our bid to host IBC'96 was accepted. That's where I began to pursue

Kimura to be our headliner for IBC'96. With the very kind help of Hideko Metaxas (Golden State), Mr. Kimura told me that he would very seriously consider coming to Washington, and while not giving me a definite affirmative commitment, he felt that there was a great likelihood he would accept. After much correspondence back and forth (again with tremendous help from Hideko Metaxas), Mr. Kimura finally committed himself to coming to Washington. Mr. Kimura arrived several days before the start of the Convention, and I had the opportunity to take him on tour seeing Washington by night as well as by day. We toured the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, and The National Arboretum. We also toured Great Falls Park where we picnicked for lunch one day, and I took him through Mt. Vernon and Georgetown. We went out to Skyline Drive, and he was deeply fascinated by the Luray Caverns. He also very much enjoyed the

Continued on page 13



*Mr. Kimura working on California juniper*



*Mr. Kimura in the Master's Class*

## Thanks from Bob Sitnick

Now that the dust has settled and IBC'96 is over, it's time to reflect on what took place. I can remember IBC'96 as the "case of the missing copper wire." (That's an inside joke.) It was a lot of work, a lot of meetings, a lot of fax paper, a lot of phone calls — and a lot of fun! The speakers, the vendors, the participants, the committees, the volunteers, and even the hotel staff all had a wonderful time and called it a great convention.

A few facts about the convention you might like to know: 402 people representing 13 countries attended, 38 vendors set up shop and sold their wares, 153 people styled trees at 15 different workshops, 390 people who "never eat sweets" made ice cream sundaes at the 4th of July dessert party, 477 people chowed down at the barbecue, 410 people got dressed up and danced the night away at the banquet.

What I feel made the convention such a great success was the amount of help I received in planning and carrying it out. Special thanks go to committee chairs Bill Spencer, cochair/publicity; Joe Gutierrez, speakers;



*Bob hard at work helping out.*

Jerry Antel, finance/registration; Beth Potratz, registration; Chris Yeapanis, vendors; Russ Kinerson, workshops; Arschel Morell, displays; Chris Cochrane, manpower; Jim Sullivan, security; Jim ?D? Ford, photography/signs; Mike Ramina, packaging; Julie Walker, raffles; and Dana Sitnick, social; as well as all the volunteers who offered their time.

Also, I'd like to thank the Renaissance Hotel staff including Wilton Madison for video services; Executive Chef Gerhard Wurth; Carlos Seda, Banquet Captain for the social events; and especially Meredith Sanderow, our convention services manager, who not only

worked with us from beginning to end on every detail, but also became a bonsai enthusiast in the process.

Finally, thanks also to Mary Ann Jarvis and staff at the National Arboretum, Rocklands Barbecue, Atlantic Tent Rental, Eyre Bus Services and drivers, All Stage and Sound Company, Balloon Bouquets, Inc., Robert Harned Insurance, and Johnny Matic.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my lovely and patient wife Dana for all her assistance and support over the last three years.

Once again, thanks to everybody for your help.

Bob Sitnick, Chairman IBC'96

### BONSAI ASSOC., INC.

3000 Chestnut Avenue, #106  
Baltimore, Maryland 21211  
(410) 235-5336



YOUR EVERYTHING FOR BONSAI COMPANY

CATALOG \$2.00 REFUNDABLE

BOOKS  
PLANTS  
POTS

TOOLS  
SOIL COMPONENTS  
ANNEALED COPPER WIRE

INSTRUCTION  
LECTURES, DEMOS

Call or write for current schedule of classes



## Special Events by Dana Sitnick

Special Events festive red, white, and blue balloon decorations transformed the Renaissance Hotel ballroom into an elegant setting for the gala Saturday night banquet. The party atmosphere was enhanced by the delicious four course dinner, along with dance music from the 21-piece Richard Bray Orchestra.

IBC'96 Chairman Bob Sitnick used the occasion to recognize and thank the convention committee chairmen, as well as their helpers

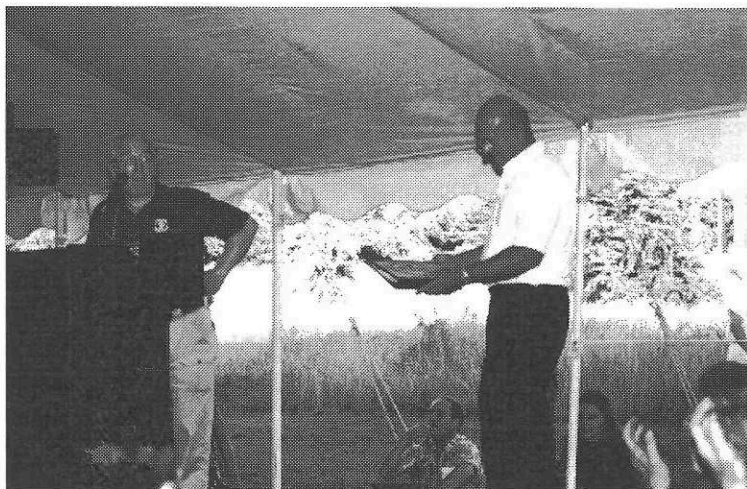
and volunteers. Bowie member Terry Adkins received this year's Ben Oki Award, presented by award sponsors, Charles and Cheryl Owens of Elkhart, Ind. Jack Douthitt, outgoing president of Bonsai Clubs International (BCI), and incoming president Mary Bloomer, each expressed their appreciation to PBA for hosting an exceptionally fine program, and PBA president Joe Gutierrez closed the formal part of the evening by thanking Bob Sitnick and inviting everyone to get up and dance.

The banquet was only one of several social events enjoyed by IBC'96 participants. The pleasantly cool weather on July 4 enticed us to view the crowd-pleasing fireworks (thank you, National Park Service) and then make our own sundaes at the After-the-Fireworks Dessert Party.

The next afternoon we climbed aboard chartered buses for a very special after-hours visit to the recently dedicated bonsai museum at the National Arboretum. For many out-of-towners (and some of



*Above: Terry Adkins from the Bowie Bonsai Club accepts the Ben Oki award.  
Below: "Bonsai Bob" Dreschler accepting the tree donated to the National Arboretum from the Toronto Bonsai Society.*



*Enjoying free trees donated by the National Arboretum at the BBQ.*

us locals, as well) this was a wonderful opportunity to view the bonsai collection in a leisurely fashion. However, the seductive aroma of barbecue lured folks over to a tent behind the herb garden where everyone chowed down! Following opening remarks by National Bonsai Foundation President (and NoVa member) Felix Loughlin, he introduced Reiner Goebel of Toronto, Canada, who presented an Eastern White Cedar to the Arboretum on behalf of the Toronto Bonsai Club. The tree was accepted by bonsai curator, Bob



## Editorial continued from page five,

down. What if the bottom branch is angled slightly upward? The tree is happy - it made the branch that way.

There may be many 'behind the scenes' stories, but the following tale is in keeping with the noblest traditions of bonsai. Ernie Kuo, one of the IBC'96 headliners from California, had written to Mr. Kimura some months before IBC'96 asking Mr. Kimura if he would like to work on a large California Juniper which Mr. Kuo had in his collection for some seven years. Since Mr. Kimura is notorious for not answering mail, Mr. Kuo decided to ship the Juniper to Washington, D.C., to be his IBC'96 demonstration tree. The day before Mr. Kuo was to leave California to

give his lecture/demo at IBC'96, he received a telephone call from IBC'96. The call was about Mr. Kimura having looked at the trees offered to him for his demonstrations and deciding that he preferred to work on Mr. Kuo's tree. Since Mr. Kuo previously offered the tree to Mr. Kimura, he had no recourse but to say, 'Yes.' Mr. Kuo now had to hurriedly pick a tree from his collection and get it packaged for his flight the next day. (By prior agreement, any demonstration tree was to be auctioned or raffled.) Rod Gipson, a member of the Minnesota Bonsai Society and a former student of Mr. Kuo, bought eight raffle tickets at \$5.00 each and won the tree. Mr.

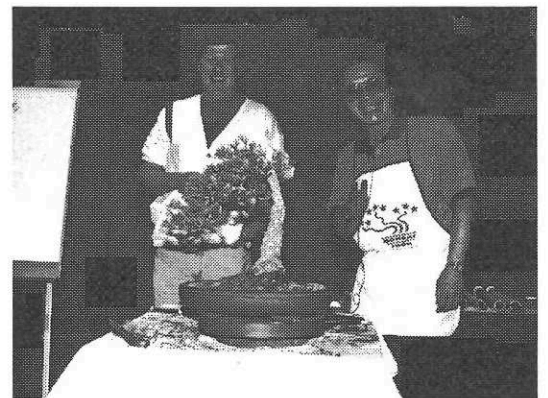
Gipson knew the tree was one of the first bonsai Mr. Kuo had made some 15 years ago, and one with which Mr. Kuo hated to part. Upon winning the special tree, Mr. Gipson gave it back to Mr. Kuo, who needless to say, was emotionally overwhelmed to have his treasured bonsai once again.

Not having attended an IBC since July 1991 in Birmingham, England, this IBC'96 was a great way to catch up with what's been going on in the bonsai world. It's been a long 2 to 3 years for the PBA members who had to do the planning for IBC'96 and see it through to fruition. All of PBA owes those members a resounding vote of thanks for a super convention!



*The photo to the left is Ernie Kuo working on the Black pine that was in his personal collection.*

*The photo to the right is Rod Gipson who won the tree and is presenting the tree back to Mr. Kuo.*



## Events continued from previous page

Drechsler, as was a book donated to the museum by convention headliner Masahiko Kimura. Bob, who has been the only bonsai curator for the last 15 years, was then honored (and surprised) as Jack Douthitt presented him the BCI Meritorious Service Award for significant contributions to the bonsai community during the year and thanked Bob upon his retirement after 40 years of federal service.

Helpful volunteers collected meal tickets and herded guests on to and off of buses. This is a serious job risking life and limb because of their placement between attendees and tables of food. We're especially grateful to Norma Merritt (NoVa), Pat Trammell (KBC), Beth Potratz (NoVa), and David and Abigail Spencer (BBS) and Bob Sitnick, Head Bus Patrol. David and Abigail also were responsible for

ticket counting and only missed collecting tickets for the Dessert Party because it started after their bedtimes.

Tired but happy, our exuberant conventioners grabbed the open microphone at the Sunday Farewell Brunch and invited us to their upcoming bonsai events. All in all, the whole five days was one heck of a party!

## Overviews from an 'Old-timer' By Bill Spencer (BBS)

Another International Bonsai Congress is now behind us. I don't know whether I've gotten older and wiser (older certainly), or if the bonsai world has changed a lot in the past ten years. I have definitely noticed a great deal of difference between 1986 and 1996. Not any less fun or interesting, but somehow more serious and businesslike. I suppose, due to recent losses at other IBC conventions, people have become more cost conscious than in the past. This had an impact on the planning atmosphere which made things a little tense at times. However, that tension was not transmitted to the convention itself. I really thought that the whole convention was superb.

The demonstrators were the best I have seen. I thought the format enabling people to either sit and watch or move about freely was exceptional. Kudos to Joe Gutierrez (NoVa).

As to the vending area, the selection and variety was second to none. There were many new faces which was truly a treat. Hats off to Chris Yeapanis (NoVa).

Workshops and materials were SUPERB. How did they get those huge trees through those tiny doors? Russ Kinerson (NoVa), you and your crew were tireless. I can't thank you enough. Jerry Antel and his staff made the registration as smooth an operation as I have seen. Sure there were some ruffled feathers, but Jerry handled them with patience and diplomacy.

Packaging was truly a yeoman task undertaken by Mike Ramina. I know the people who needed your skills were grateful for your presence and so was I. Thanks Mike.

Raffles raised hundreds if not thousands of dollars and our thanks go to Julie Walker (WBC) for her time.

Security. What can anyone say about it. You only know about it when it doesn't work. It did work, and well, I might add. Thanks to Jim Sullivan (Bowie. P.S.: Thanks for the walkie-talkies, that was a stroke of genius.

Signage was great. Jim Ford (RBS) did an outstanding job pointing attendees in the right directions. The signs expressed energy and were truly beautiful. I know that all the teachers who received the signs used to mark their doorways will appreciate them for years to come.

Like security, staffing is only noticed when it is lacking. This time there was no scurrying around at the last second looking for helpers. Congratulations and thanks go to Chris Cochrane (RBS) for scheduling and coordinating, no easy task to accomplish from Richmond to the source of most of the volunteers.

Meals. What more can be said than, "Thanks, Dana" (Sitnick, NoVa), they were delicious. Most of you don't realize how much of Dana's personal culinary skills went into the banquet, or that she had to make three trips downtown for tastings and reworkings of recipes, but you all certainly enjoyed the results. Didn't you?

Thanks go to my wife, Jay, for arranging to have a live band scouted by Shellie and Jerry Antel

(BBS) at our banquet—a first at any International Bonsai Congress. Thanks, dear.

Arschel Morrell, aided by Richard Meszler (BBC) and Fred Meis (BBS), created a quiet oasis away from the hustle-bustle of the rest of the convention. Tasteful and artistic—the Display room was a place where quiet and contemplation reigned. Thanks, gentlemen.

I would also like to thank all of the many volunteers for their efforts on our behalf. The convention would not have been as great as it was without your help. Thanks, all of you.

And last but not least, my personal thanks go out to everyone's right-hand person, Beth Potratz (NoVa). Beth was always cheerful, never complained, and was always willing to help at a moment's notice. Thanks again Beth.

If you think that I've been gushing, I haven't! There were no arguments, no temper tantrums, no major crises. Everyone did their job with cheerfulness and grace resulting in an exceptional convention.

Oh, I almost forgot to mention someone. One person you might not have been aware of as much as others, Bob Sitnick. Bob, we all thank you for allowing yourself to be dragged into this and running this whole wonderful convention. There was never a doubt in my mind that this would be a quality convention. You proved me right when I told people that this would be the best convention in years.

Only heartfelt thanks to all of you for a great convention. Did someone say 2006?

## TREE OF THE MONTH" by Jim Sullivan, Bowie Bonsai Club

I received some favorable comments regarding my bonsai display at IBC'96. Those who liked it and the other trees on exhibit can thank the Display Committee chaired by Arschell Morrell. Those who didn't are beneath contempt (just kidding). The tree, stand, and stone were also displayed at the '96 PBA Spring Show at the National Arboretum. Jules Koetsch suggested I supply some information in a "Tree of the Month" article.

The tree, Deodar Cedar, *Cedrus Deodara*, was collected about seven years ago in Maryland in a friend's yard. It was a seedling, about 1/2" diameter x 18" tall, of a specimen tree. The seedling had already developed some of the grey bark plates that indicate age, thus, my guess at its current age of 25-30 years. I had long admired the beautiful foliage of this species and the grace of its form, young or old.

As I had a bench full of informal uprights (doesn't everybody), the decision was to give cascades a try. They are quite dramatic, but believable. I was inspired by natural pine and juniper cascades near the C&O Canal, and by prints and paintings such as Chang Dai-chien's "Overhanging Pine in the Yellow Mountains" at the Sackler gallery.

I wired the tree to the shape you see now and grew it for a few years, first in a one-gallon, and then a two-gallon plastic nursery container. Over time, I reduced the number of branches by creating jin; and introduced lichen from an oak tree by placing small pieces in bark crevices. I also used a mixture of the lichen, flour, and water, and later lichen and plain yogurt. It is difficult to tell which of the three methods worked

best. About seven years ago (one bonsai pot later), I purchased a Don Gould container. To me it had just the right colors, texture, and form for that tree. I formed the stand from brass sheet. It is a true indoor/outdoor stand. Initial chemical treatment and subsequent rain and fertilizer exposure have created an interesting patina. The rock used in the display is limestone from the upper Potomac River.

The growing media for the initial potting and for the bonsai containers was approx. 25% Turface, 25% Grani-grit, and 50% fine pine bark mulch. Drainage is usually not a problem in tall containers, so soil mixtures and watering schedule are not as critical as in shallow pots. I occasionally immerse the entire pot in a diluted (1/3 strength) fertilizer solution to insure that I have saturated the entire root/soil mix. I feel that watering from the top only may establish drainage paths of least resistance which may deny moisture to some portions of the media and roots.

There has been no noticeable decline in the lower portion of the cascading trunk, a common problem. This weakening is described in bonsai literature. To deal with the prob-

lem, it is suggested to lay the pot on its side to help invigorate the lower branches. I have not found this necessary. Perhaps it is because of the pendulous nature of the branches of this specimen. I do lay the tree on its side and cover the pot with mulch for winter protection. I immerse it in water whenever the temperatures are above freezing, let it thoroughly drain, and return it to its protected spot. Last winter temperatures approached zero degrees F. but resulted in only some discolored foliage which I removed in Spring. The Deodar Cedar lends itself to all the single-trunk bonsai styles and is easy to grow. Its continuous growth throughout the warm months provides opportunity for design changes and fairly rapid fixation of wired branches. Growth can be left pendulous, or pinched back, as with my cascade, to create a pine-like appearance. The Deodar seems to be more disease and insect free than other conifers. The needles, however, seem to bruise easily when in the soft or immature state; so take care when wiring.

I have found this graceful native of the Himalayas a joy with which to work. Give it a try.





## Vendors by Chris Yeapanis

The vendor area was populated by 34 vendors. For buyers, it was a paradise. The competition and variety were excellent. The vendor area officially opened Wednesday at 2:00, but we had some very slippery, clever, or charming gate crashers. Some came from deep in the South-

items, 1 lady selling handcrafted Japanese paper art, and no partridges, but maybe a pear tree. As an adjunct to one booth, Melba Tucker was signing her newly released book, *Suiseki*

& *Viewing Stones, An American Perspective*. I got mine 'cause I was there.

Our dealers came from Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, California, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Arizona, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, Louisiana, Minnesota, Canada, Florida, and Massachusetts. We hope to see some of our first-time vendors again at the Spring Show so the general membership not allowed to attend the PBA-hosted International Symposium will have a chance to drool on the wonderful creations missed here. Beth Potratz introduced us to Sarah Rayner's original hand thrown pots. Not often are serious craftspeople so



*Doug French (NoVa) supervising the vendors at the*

west of Virginia for just the few hours they could squeeze into a long day of car travel.

There were 3 potters, 6 pot dealers/importers (for planting not smoking), 2 purveyors of mica pots, 2 jewelers, 7 sellers of tools, 2 dealers of electric tools, 2 magazine publishers, 4 book sellers, 20 pre- & finished bonsai vendors, 7 dealers of quality (finished) specimen trees, 6 sellers of tropical bonsai, 3 dealers of display stands &/or display slabs, 4 vendors of suiseki, 2 dealers of videos, 6 vendors of misc. gift/accent



*Bringing trees into the vending room getting ready to open.*



*Chris Yeapanis in one of the free moments to chat with Sarah Raynor, a new vendor to the area.*

open about their techniques and willing to share as Sarah was during a rare slack time at her booth. We got to meet Maureen Jenigan from Richmond, VA, who makes handmade pots and is a PBA member. Jim and Mary Kaye Doyle, Nature's Way, introduced us to Pat Harrison Peck, who came to origami art through doll design. Pat will soon be the first American in her craft to display at a

## Speakers, Continued from page 6

National Aquarium in Baltimore. Of course, during the Convention itself, he immensely enjoyed seeing the final burst of the fireworks display on the July 4 from a high vantage point in Rosslyn. Mr. Kimura went into the bonsai profession at the behest of his mother who enrolled him in a bonsai apprenticeship which he served for approximately 11 years. He finally went into the bonsai business for himself and currently has four trainees who act as his assistants and who have been with him for between 2 and 6 years. He creates about 250 trees per year, and those of you who have seen his publication or books are well aware of the caliber and quality of his trees. Today the bonsai business in Japan is extremely competitive and some bonsai people have dropped out of the business and gone to other pursuits. He told me that people who go into bonsai must be gentle and sensitive people. He likens the caring for bonsai trees to the caring of infants and pets. He loves animals and raises koi for a hobby. Infants and pets cannot tell you what is wrong with them; therefore, one has to be patient, observant and responsive to their perceived needs. Mr. Kimura himself is a very warm,

gentle, sensitive person. In fact, during his stay in Washington, he spent the better part of one day shopping for friends and family, a total of 35 people in all. Mr. Kimura enjoyed doing his demos. In fact, he selected two out of the three trees on about a 5-minute inspection of each! The Douglas Fir, he eyed for over half an hour before deciding to work on it. He was extremely fascinated by the 4-day-long master workshop, which had never been done at any convention previously. His great concern was that some rather inexperienced beginners in bonsai undertook that master course, and most of the work on their trees was done by Mr. Kimura's assistant. He felt that some more deserving individuals with more experience should have had those spots. Another real "first" for Mr. Kimura occurred when there was an acute shortage of copper wire for the advanced workshop. Initially, he was adamant that only annealed copper wire would do for the very large Junipers in the workshop. However, after some cajoling and explanation on my part about how we did not furnish copper wire for the workshops (major factor being cost), Mr. Kimura yielded and permitted aluminum wire to be used for the smaller branches on the trees.

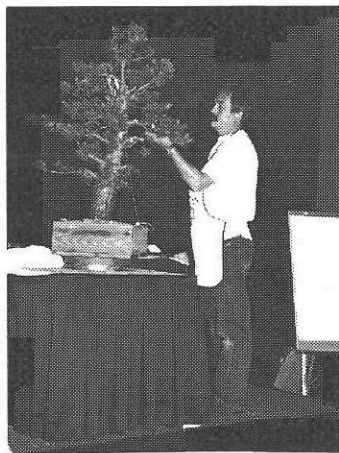


*Pius Notter working on his demo tree*

Believe me, that was quite a concession on his part. I really enjoyed hosting Mr. Kimura and getting to know him much better for the several days that we practically lived together. He, in turn, was most grateful for the very warm hospitality shown him, and the appreciation and enthusiasm for his demonstrations and his workshops.

Dan Barton and Pius Notter did excellent demonstrations on Scots Pines, two upright trees which on completion had very different feels to them. Maria Duran was again enthusiastically received, both during her demonstrations and workshops. As always, she was very warm and charming as many of you may recall from the workshops she conducted here in 1994.

*Continued on page 15*



*Photograph to the left is Dan Barton working on his demo tree.*

*Photograph to the right is Bonnie Korbart in her Saikei workshop.*



## IBC'96 Registration from Jerry Antel

Little did I know three years ago what I was getting myself into as Registrar/Treasurer for IBC'96. It really didn't hit me until January of this year when I received a VISA/MC terminal and didn't quite know what to do with it. I became rather chummy with the VISA/MC people over "What do I do next" when wrong numbers came up on the terminal. As soon as the registration forms went out, the mailman, the post office, the bank, my neighbor's fax machine, and long distance calls were became common in my life. During February, I received 10 to 20 reservations per week. There were also many phone inquiries. Obviously, problems occurred. People's handwriting was undecipherable, especially when it came to writing credit card numbers. This led to "wrong account number" on the terminal. I had to resort to letter writing to clear up the mysteries due to the general unavailability of telephone numbers. Another problem was the failure to clearly identify second

parties on family registration forms. Also, trying to decipher a fax of a fax is hard, to say the least. Now for more mundane things. The total number of full registrants was 320. There were also 26 one-day registrants. For the most part, we filled the offered workshops, with two exceptions, i.e., the bring-your-own-material (four scheduled, only two filled) and the workshops featuring U.S. speakers. There were 25 people who applied for the 10 slots for the Kimura workshop. There were 19 countries represented with several people from Bermuda, Mexico, Brazil, and Canada (site of IBC'97). The job of

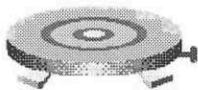
registering over 300 people could not have been done without the help of the following volunteers:

Brookside: Marian Karaberi, Shirley Blumberg, P.C. Kumar, Dan Jannett, Sharon Roberts, John Barnold, Jack Cardon, and my wife Shellie.

NoVa: John Hoffman, Arline Polinsky, Steve McCarthy, Georgianna Aldrich, and Judy Wise. A special thanks to Beth Potratz for putting key registration on the PBA computer

Richmond: Jim Ford.

Washington: Chuck Wahlquist.



## SENSEI SAM

I just got back from IBC'96 in Washington, DC. A few things struck the Sensei's mind. The overall presentation that PBA put together was marvelous. The speakers, aside from being very knowledgeable, were also very skilled. People gathered from all parts of the world to attend, learn, and socialize.

Like all major undertakings, not everything was perfect. However, problems were kept to a minimum. Which brings me to the main point. These things went well because of the workers from Potomac Bonsai Association—the workers BEHIND the scenes, constantly in motion. Whether it was to get an Azalea for a speaker or wire for workshops. At your clubs - tell these people what a great job they did. Conventions like

this are difficult at best and couldn't be done without the host club. Potomac, keep up the great work.

Adjunct: As mentioned elsewhere, Steve's teenage son, Steve, enjoyed doing some work, earning some spare change, meeting different people, and seeing old friends. Cathy, a Girl Scout, age 12, said it was a really good experience to see other people's works and styles.



## Vendors continued from page 12

premier show in Japan, and we got her first! Pat's a winner and I hope we sucked her into our 'world'.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped Betty and me. We arrived early in the afternoon to get the ball rolling. Northern Virginia club provided all our volunteers. Doug French and Judy Wise did serious duty till midnight policing the loading dock and vendor setup in the exhibit hall. Anyone who's seen Judy at work knows she always has to replace her buns after a volunteer assignment. Don't miss the opportunity to get Doug's take on dealing

with irate teamsters on overtime. Doug and Mike Johnson arrived early Wednesday morning and spent more time loading and setting up. Mike, Veda Robinson (a brand new member – make an effort to meet her), Russ Bradley, and Judy Wise helped monitor the vendor room during the convention; and Russ and Judy were back Sunday for the gluttonous punishment of tear down. Also, we had two unexpected volunteers from Pennsylvania. Young Steve Pilacik and his sister Cathy did a number of good deeds such as running for sodas and helping shorthanded vendors to lug merchandise. Cathy who was

attending her first bonsai function of any sort, helped us keep smiling by always being pleasant.

Also, I must thank all the vendors as all went well, and their cooperation was appreciated. There were few complaints, and their acceptance to the situation around using the poorly designed loading dock for setup was wonderful.

SORRY for all the PBA members who did not make it to the vendor area, as they missed a great LOCAL opportunity (and probably their last with this much selection) to purchase quality bonsai items from a great selection of vendors.



## Speakers continued from page 13

Bonnie Kobert, who opened the Convention with the first workshop Tuesday night very generously supplied over \$1,000.00 worth of semiprecious rocks for her Saikai Workshop. The participants probably don't realize how lucky they were, since the rocks used for their workshops exceed in value the cost of the workshop itself! The workshop was very warmly and enthusiastically received. Indeed Mr. Kimura took some of her rocks back to Japan with him. The moss for her workshop got "borrowed" from Bill Valvanis (without his knowledge or consent). Being the gentleman he is, Bill kept his composure - while Bill Spencer and I went did some last minute moss gathering at a secret location in Virginia. We made it back on time, too. Unfortunately Yuji Yoshimura was indisposed and unable to participate as one of our headliners. Nevertheless, Chase Rosade and Bill Valvanis did a

double-header with evergreen and deciduous trees, respectively. Those two artists are well known to you and I need not overstate the fact that the demonstration and workshops were extremely well received. Also well received, were Mas Ishii's grafting workshops, conducted in English as well as in Spanish. His technique of teaching grafts was quite unusual and unique. (We can also add that, to my knowledge, no finger or hand lacerations were reported.) Perhaps the most touching story about our headliners centers around Ernie Kuo. At the last moment, Mr. Kimura decided to do three trees for his demonstration, taking over the California Juniper cascade that Ernie Kuo had provided for his own demonstration. This was extremely generous on Ernie's part, and it required him to bring an additional tree, a Japanese Black Pine from his own collection, for his own

demonstration. At the conclusion of his demonstration, the tree was raffled off. The lucky winner of the tree realized that it had belonged in Ernie's collection for many years. Consequently, he presented the tree back to Ernie so that Ernie could take it back to his collection. This was so touching to Ernie that he had to go behind the curtain to hide his tears of joy. I told Ernie when he shared the story with me, that this reflected not only great respect and admiration by the winner, it also represented the great feeling of respect and admiration for Ernie shared by so many in the bonsai community. I cannot conclude this story about our headliners without thanking Chuck Croft, Jack Wells and Henry Wright (NoVa) who very generously gave up their time to help with picking up some of our artists from the airports. Finally, our thanks again to our stellar headliners who were a pleasure and a joy with whom to work.