

WINTER PRUNING OF DECIDUOUS BONSAI **by Jules Koetsch**

The articles on pruning appearing in the current issues of PBA Clippings were adapted from a Japanese bonsai publication. The reader can compare the applicable parts of those articles with the following notes taken by the author at the Lecture/Demonstration by Warren Hill, Yoshimura Center, National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, Saturday, February 7, 12:30 - 3 pm. The author takes sole responsibility for the content.

Deciduous trees are best pruned in the winter. What better time is there to do it than when all the leaves are off the tree and the

branching is exposed?

If one year of pruning is missed, the tree's development is set back 3 years.

Deciduous bonsai are considered more valuable than coniferous bonsai because the leaves or needles on a conifer can hide the internal branching, whereas the branching on a deciduous bonsai is revealed in the winter. If the deciduous tree has been properly pruned over the years, the branching and twiggyiness of a deciduous bonsai can be a thing of beauty. This is very apparent to those who attended the recent winter silhouettes show of bonsai held

this January at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.

The age of the bonsai determines what should be pruned. As the bonsai ages - what is to be pruned changes.

Some trees are "sleepers" and some trees are "early wakers" and their different periods of dormancy set the timeframes for winter pruning. Even among the same species of tree, the timeframes for dormancy can vary if the trees are not from the same stock.

How a tree grows determines how it should be pruned, i.e., does it grow naturally as a straight, formal upright, or prefer a broom style, an informal upright, or is a weeping style the tree's natural way to grow?

Because of the different energy levels in a tree such as the top growing faster than the lower por-

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1998 SPRING BONSAI FESTIVAL POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

APRIL 24TH TO 26TH

FRIDAY 12:00 TO 4:00

SATURDAY 9:00 TO 4:00

SUNDAY 10:00 TO 4:00

**NATIONAL ARBORETUM
3501 NEW YORK AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC**

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

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EDITORIAL by Jules Koetsch

The July '97 issue of PBA Clippings had a brief article by Jerry Antel, Jr., titled "Bonsai Stamp Status" along with a sample letter suggesting that those interested in seeing bonsai on U.S. postage stamps could sign the letter and send it to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC). I cut out the sample letter in the August issue of PBA Clippings which had nothing on its back and sent it in. Not long after I received a very nice reply explaining in general terms why suggestions are not acted on. "Each year, the Postal Service receives thousands of letters suggesting hundreds of different topics for new stamps. Since 1957, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee has reviewed many worthy subjects and has recommended a limited number based on national interest, historical perspective, and other criteria. Unfortunately, a vast majority of suggestions submitted, including many meritorious and meaningful subjects cannot result in a stamp." In that same period of time, Jerry Antel informed me he had made a telephone call to the CSAC. They stated that bonsai was removed from their list of potential candidates for a postage stamp. This was grim news since Jerry has been trying for a number of years to convince the CSAC to issue such a stamp or series of stamps. Being a part-time stamp collector, and having written the letter mentioned above, I felt a little indignant that the CSAC

should reject electing bonsai as the subject for a stamp. So I decided to do a little research into how subjects are qualified to be represented by stamps. A check in the local library of the Scott's catalogues for '93 and '94 had an interesting observation: the CSAC had chosen an identical number of subjects (22) for each of the years. Of course, one of them honored the National Postal Museum - how about the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum? The extent to which any horticultural item makes the annual list is usually once and most frequently under the general classification of "garden flowers." The other stamps depict subjects that are strictly homegrown - all are in some way connected with the U.S.A. - the people are Americans, the events are part of American history. Perhaps bonsai and penjing are not considered to have enough of a strictly American heritage? According to the instructions in the CSAC's booklet, "Suggesting Subjects for Stamps," a stamp's subject ". . . should feature American or American-related subjects." So why can't there be bonsai focusing on the American style of bonsai on exhibit in the "American Collection" of the U.S. National Arboretum's National Museum of Bonsai and Penjing?

One series of stamps now being issued depicting plants and insects comes with very little information as to what each image is. All that I could determine from some

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An Error was made in Last Month's "Clippings" .
Janet Lanman of the Brookside Bonsai Society was
the author of Yuji Yoshimura article.
Our apologies for the omission.

Calender of Events

March

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
 Saturday 14
 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Crab apple Design by Richard Meszler. Crab apple workshop from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Brookside Bonsai Society
 Thursday 19
 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. AUCTION! Auction at North Chevy Chase Rec Center. The auction will begin at 7:15 p.m. 20% of the sales proceeds will benefit BBS and the rest to the owner.
 Sunday 22
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bill Spencer - Collecting trip at Ned's Woods.

Richmond Bonsai Society
 Friday-Sunday 20-22
 The Home Show- Display and recruiting new members. Contact RBS for additional information.
 Saturday 21
 10 am -1 pm Shimpaku Workshop/Demo at the Imperial Plaza. Led by Gardens Unlimited. Limited to 10, \$60.
 Monday 23
 Pete Jones- Demonstration and Lecture on grafting. (contact RBS for details)
 Saturday 28
 10am-12pm Beginner Workshop (Piccolo Holly) Bruce Stoneman- Instructor. Contact RBS for details.

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
 Sunday 22
 2pm Pot selection discussion.

April

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
 Saturday-Sunday 4-5
 NVBS Spring Show
 Sat-Sun 18-19
 Roy Nagatoshi will be in town for workshops. Call Chuck Croft (703) 978-6841

Brookside Bonsai Society
 Saturday 18
 9am-12pm Tree selection for PBA show at Janet Lanman's house. Note date change from regular meeting date.

Spring Bonsai Festival Potomac Bonsai Association Friday-Sunday 24-26

PBA show at National Arboretum. Check Clippings for details.

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
 Saturday 25
 12 pm Collecting trip to Azalea Trace

May
Brookside Bonsai Society
 Sunday 10
 12pm-4pm BBS Show at McCrillis Gardens in Bethesda.
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
 Saturday 9
 9am-12am Japanese Black Pine Care and Styling lecture/demonstration- Jim Barrett
Kiyomizu Bonsai Club
 Sunday 24
 2pm Maple pruning and wiring seminar- bring trees.

1998 Upcoming Events

April:

National Arboretum

April 11: 1pm - 3pm Bonsai Refinement Workshop. Staff member will work with small group (5 max.) on evaluation and refinement. \$45 (\$35 FONA member) Contact Arb. for details.

May:

NVBS: On the 9th Jim Barrett from California will Lecture/Demo on Japanese Black Pine. There will be a workshop to follow. This will be held at the National Wildlife Federation. Call Chuck Croft 703-978-6841 for more information.

National Arboretum:

May 10: Jim Barrett from California will be giving a Lecture/Demo in Administration Building from 1:00 pm to 4:00.

May 16: Choice Natives for Small Gardens. Horticulturist Martha Eden leads a tour through the Yamaguchi North American Garden.

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) 575-5616

Rappahanock Bonsai Society
 Call for meeting time and location
 (540) 775-4912

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

Potomac Bonsai Association Spring Bonsai Festival April 24 - 26, 1998

The PBA Bonsai Festival is just around the corner. Check to make sure the poster on page 11 from this newsletter has been placed in a conspicuous place. Strong attendance at this event will increase support and awareness for both the National Bonsai Collection and PBA.

The Spring Show Features: • Bonsai and Suiseki displayed by PBA member clubs. • A bazaar with as many as 12 vendors selling plants, tools, pots, books, etc. • Demonstrations on how to create a bonsai: 2 demonstrations per day on Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. • An opportunity to view the National Collection of Bonsai and Penjing including the new North American Collection in the John Y. Naka Pavilion and the recently dedicated tropical greenhouse. • The National Arboretum's azaleas and rhododendrons should be in full flower. Invite Friends and Acquaintances, upon entering the PBA exhibit area, to voluntarily make a tax-deductible \$2.00 donation to the National Bonsai Foundation. A Quality Show All PBA member clubs should support the show by selecting and grooming bonsai and suiseki to be displayed. The following guidelines will apply and be monitored: All trees must be in clean bonsai display pots or on slabs and not in training pots. Bonsai should be exhibited on suitable stands or wood slabs, since this will be an indoor display. Generally there should be no wiring visible, minimal wiring may be allowed in some

cases. Trunks should not be wired. Shiny wire is a no-no! Trees should be mature enough that the trunks need not be wired. An appropriate accent plant or accessory may accompany the bonsai but, since display place is limited, it is not required. If an accent is used it should compliment the bonsai and its stand. Delivery of Display Items: Delivery: All trees shall be delivered on Friday, April 24, between 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Note: Exhibitors may have some concern about leaving their prize bonsai indoors at the Arboretum for the full four (4) days of the show. Concerned individuals should make arrangements for a replacement from another PBA member or from their own collection. Accompanying Information: Labels containing background information for each of the trees will be laser printed by Beth Potratz. The cards will be uniform with attractive lettering. PBA member clubs should forward label information to Andy Cook (see contact information in coordination section) no later than April 17. Required Label Information: Please list information for all material according to the following outline for Bonsai and Accent Plants: Owner's name and telephone number. {This will not be displayed to visitors. It will be used only to contact the owner}; Botanical name; Common name; Age; and Years in training; Bonsai style; Source of the material, i.e. either Grown from seed, Air-layered, Graft, Cutting, Nursery Stock, Bonsai in training or Collected.

Special care notes for monitors. Suiseki: {Owner's name and telephone number which will be kept private}. Type of stone. When and where found. Wood used for the display stand.

Retrieval of Display Items: Exhibitors shall pick up their items on display after the close of the show at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26. PBA is not responsible for items not picked up by 4:30 p.m. on the 26th. Unclaimed items will be donated to the PBA Auction in May. Space Allocation for PBA Clubs: Each display table is six feet long.

Plan displays to avoid a crowded or, worse yet, an over crowded feeling. Follow the Japanese aesthetic of shibui, which involves an exercise of restraint, to the point where there seems to be room for one more item. Consider three or four bonsai (with accents plants) per table for visual effect. Pre-planned club layouts will enhance the exhibit and reduce final installation confusion. Emphasis should be on Quality not Quantity. If a person's tree does not get into the show, there's always next year. PBA Member Volunteers Needed Help is needed from PBA members to produce a successful show. The PBA Annual Spring Show is one event that helps build PBA membership. Increased membership enhances program development for PBA and member clubs. Volunteers are needed for: Setting up the show. Dismantling the show. Collecting donations at the entrance of exhibit during show times. Each club must

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Pruning, continued from page 1

tions and some branches sprouting out longer than others, pruning becomes a balancing act so the tree's energy is distributed where you want it to be.

The aim in pruning the bonsai is to make it look elegant. To push a tree's development in that direction, one method is to let it grow first in the ground before putting it in a pot. This will not work for a Japanese maple - to get elegance, it must be container grown. If grown in the ground to thicken the trunk and promote branch growth, there is the likelihood that the upper branches will thicken faster than the lower branches. Also, one may not tend to notice a problem due to the probability that trees planted in the ground often receive less periodic inspections than those in pots and on benches.

What is good and what is bad when pruning?

Wheel branches and bar branches are ruled out for two reasons. First, there is no symmetry in nature. Secondly, if more than one branch is collocated at the same height on the trunk, the trunk will more than likely develop a bulge at that location, thus spoiling the trunk's taper. Another problem that can develop is that when there is more than one branch growing out at the same height on the trunk, the energy at that location can be diverted into a single branch. The likely result is that the other branches eventually grow weaker and then look out of place and may even die. Then again, leaving a second branch coming out of the trunk at one height may be needed to fill in a void in the design of the tree.

I wonder if the above applies to any, if not all, of the conifers? I looked at the dead Balsam Fir that was our last Christmas tree and wheel branches were the rule, not the exception. Furthermore, I have an Engelmann Spruce in a bonsai pot with wheel branches growing naturally at places all the way up the trunk of the tree. I have not removed any of the branches because it seems that if I did it would spoil the whole appearance of the tree. Incidentally, there are no large swellings at the points where the wheel branches meet the trunk. Maybe the swelling is relatively imperceptible for some conifers. Parallel branches are considered to be undesirable if they are too close vertically. The problem is made very apparent if one looks down from the top of the tree. The upper branch will shade the lower branch and ultimately lead to the demise of the lower branch. When styling a tree, I always have to remind myself to look down on the tree to see which branches are overlapping others.

Branches coming directly out at you from the front of the tree, "eye-poker" branches, are taboo in the lower half of the tree's trunk but permissible in the upper half. Don't overdo it and make the top of the tree look like the rain-forest. One eye-poker branch, by hiding a bit of the trunk, adds a bit of mystique; thereby creating added interest like a lady masking her face with a fan.

Warren Hill said that the time to remove a large branch is when the buds are about to pop. If a branch is removed when the tree is dormant, the tree won't be able to heal the wound and the opening is

an inviting entrance for disease. Warren also said that pruning branches and branchlets of a maple only when the tree is dormant is not necessary to avoid any bleeding to death of the maple, especially when the sap is rising. He noted that every spring maple trees are tapped for their sap to make maple syrup. However there is one caveat - if one removes a branch of a dormant maple at the trunk, everything below on the tree will die. This is not true when pruning branches and branchlets.

The general rule for pruning branches is that up-branches and down-branches should be eliminated. A down-branch does not get enough light and eventually looks weak, out of place, and dies. An up-branch tends to become dominant and stunts the growth of the outer, horizontal part of the branch. An exception to the rule is: if one wants to speed up the thickening of a branch, one can leave an up-branch in place for one to two years and the part of the branch going into the trunk will double in thickness.

The rule for pruning side branches or branchlets is the same as for branches coming out of the trunk. At every juncture on the branch, only two should meet: the main branch and one side branch, one side branch and one smaller side branch, and so on. I like to call it "The Rule of Two" - that at every juncture on the tree no more than two elements meet. As in the case of the trunk, limiting the number to only two components converging at any point on the entire branch will give a taper to the branches and side branches with no bulges at the junctures.

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International Bonsai Stamps by Jerry Antel, Jr.

It is rare that one has the opportunity to combine two hobbies conducted in two distinctly diverse ways, but leading to the same result - the enjoyment of the beauty and artistry of bonsai and penjing. This is made possible if one has a collection of live penjing and/or live bonsai and also has a collection of stamps depicting bonsai and penjing. You don't have to go too far back in time to find when the first such stamps were issued. If you are interested in starting or completing a collection of such stamps, you need only go back to the year 1981 when the first bonsai/penjing stamps were issued by the People's Republic of China and also by Thailand. Since then stamps picturing bonsai and penjing have been issued by six more countries: The Republic of China (Taiwan), North Vietnam, Japan, Maldives, Indonesia, and Monaco.

This article will describe the bonsai stamps issued by the above countries and should be of interest to philatelists as a check, to compare what stamps have been issued against what they have in their collections. It may also tweak the interest of others to start a collection. Lastly, just what subjects were chosen for the stamps should be of interest to the rest of the readers.

Thailand: The trees shown on a series of four stamps all have that distinct "pompom" shape - a style of bonsai which seems to be indigenous to Thailand. In Thailand, trees are considered to be bearers of man's misfortunes. Hence, the shape of a bonsai is supposed to evoke a human appearance with an

attitude or characteristic suggesting a human dancing, being cunning, an athlete, or the like. The four stamps commemorated International Letter Writing Week in 1981.

Peoples Republic of China: The first set consisted of six stamps, all of them classic penjing. Included are 3 junipers, a Chinese elm, a persimmon, and a maidenhair.

The second set consists of six miniature rockeries. The stamps bear the colorful names that the Chinese favor for describing such scenes: "Green Scenery of Lijiang," "Glistening Divine Peak," "Melting Snow Overflows the River," "Eagle Beak-shaped Peculiar Rock," "Most Uncommon Years and Months of One's Life," and "Peaks Rising in Rosy Clouds."

Republic of China (Taiwan): Two sets of four each have been issued. The first set shows an oak, a five-needle pine, a Lohan pine, and a banyan. The second set shows a Japanese black pine, Ehretia, boxwood, and a hackberry.

Maldives (a republic in the Indian Ocean): One set of eight stamps has been issued. The trees shown on the stamps include Japanese black pine, Japanese five-needle pine, Chinese elm, Satsuki azalea, Japanese wisteria, winged Euonymus, flowering quince, and Japanese persimmon. According to Dan Chiplis and Warren Hill, the Assistant Curator and the Curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, the winged Euonymus pictured on the Maldives stamp is the one in the National Collection. It was styled and grown by Yuji Yoshimura. In addition, two sou-

venir sheets were issued which show a Sargent juniper and a Trident maple to commemorate Expo '90. Expo '90 was the International Garden and Greenery Expedition held in Osaka, Japan.

North Vietnam: There is a set of seven stamps which was issued as either perforated or imperforated. The trees shown on the stamps include Podocarpus, pines and Ficus. Also, one souvenir sheet showing a *Serissa foetida* has been issued.

Indonesia: Two different stamps have been issued. One shows a *Gmelina elliptica* in a bonsai pot, and the other shows a *Mammiliaria fragilis* (a cactus) also in a bonsai pot. There is also a souvenir sheet commemorating Flora '90 which features the *Gmelina*.

Monaco: One stamp has been issued to commemorate the European Bonsai Congress held in 1995. It is a group planting of five trees which appear to be maples.

Another category for collectables is that of special cancellation envelopes. The Potomac Bonsai Association has issued a different special cancellation envelope for each year from 1991 through 1997, with the exception of 1996, when one was issued for the International Bonsai Convention held in that year. The World Bonsai Congress held in 1993 also had a special cancellation envelope.

Anyone interested in further information can contact: Jerry Antel, Jr. 6409 Middleburg Lane Bethesda, MD 20817

Stamps



Pruning, continued from page 5

Warren mentioned “the compensation point,” which is when a leaf is producing only enough food for itself and nothing is left for the tree, at which point the tree drops the leaf. To survive, a leaf must produce more food than it needs, and to do that the leaf needs a sufficient amount of light. That is the reason why you should periodically turn a tree. How often and how much is a matter of where it is located. I’ve turned mine 90 degrees or a quarter-turn once every week. But then again, if your plants are getting full sun throughout the day you may wish to turn them 180 degrees or one-half turn every week.

Do not try to prune or design a tree to make it into a style to which it will not conform. In other words, some trees’ trunks only grow well as formal uprights; you wouldn’t try to make a weeping tree out of one that does not have a tendency to weep naturally. Trident Maple works very well as a root-over-rock style, whereas an elm will never grow as a rock clasp tree.

On a deciduous tree, the aim as the tree ages is to develop more and more twiggy. Twiggy is obtained over the years by “chasing back” or pruning back the branchlets only after there are 3 to 5 leaves singly spaced or in pairs

on them. It is usual that as a branchlet extends out to the fifth node, the leaves grow larger and larger. Warren suggested cutting back so that only one node is left. Doing this over and over again during the growing season ultimately leads to smaller leaves and also closer spacing between the nodes. Other texts on the subject suggest pruning back to leave 2 nodes on the branchlet. If one does this for a Chinese Elm, one can then carefully remove the remaining 4 leaves so that the axils (where the stem meets the branch) are not damaged and smaller leaves will replace them. During the winter, the buds of some deciduous trees may not have swollen on the branches to the point that they can be seen by the naked eye. You can find the locations of the buds by running the branch between your thumb and forefinger - the buds are where slight swellings are felt on the branch.

One can only control to a limited degree the overall size of a tree. Any tree inevitably tries to grow - that’s why old bonsai are big. There is a school of thought that once you have designed the tree, that’s it. Whereas others feel that as the tree ages and grows, the design may best be changed.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

MARCH MONTHLY CARE TIPS

The following tips have been compiled from 4 Japanese bonsai magazines and Yuji Yoshimura's book.

All bonsai come out of winter storage, weather permitting.

CONIFERS:

Black pine: Remove from winter storage, wire any time during month; fertilize starting at end of month; grafting can be done.

Cryptomeria: Remove from winter storage; prune unwanted branches; begin fertilizing at end of the month.

Hemlock: Remove from winter storage; prune branches; wire, but be ready to remove the wire in 3, 4 or 5 months; begin fertilizing in the middle of the month; repot at the end of the month.

Hinoki cypress: Remove from winter storage, wire any time but be careful to remove any wire before it scars tree; fertilize at start of month; thin out branches; repot; appropriate time to purchase tree.

Larch: Remove from winter storage, begin fertilizing at the beginning of the month; wire at the end of the month.

Shimpaku (Sargent juniper): Remove from winter storage and repot during the first week; begin fertilizing at end of the month; wire any time.

Spruce: Remove from winter storage in first 10 days of month; wire anytime; repot after first 10 days of the month; begin fertilizing at end of month.

White pine: Wire anytime; prune to remove unnecessary branches; repot anytime; begin fer-

tilizing at beginning of month; begin watering twice daily.

Yew: Prune branches; wire also between October and the first ten days of March remove any wire which has been on 3 years,

DECIDUOUS: (Non-fruiting/non-flowering)

Beech: Repot anytime after the 10th of the month; remove the previous year's leaves. Note that a beech drops its dead leaves at this time of year so do not remove them in the fall; buy or select the tree.

Chinese elm: Remove from winter storage; repot; procure tree this time of year.

Ginkgo: Remove from winter storage during the middle of the month and repot.

Hornbeam: Remove from winter storage during the first 20 days of the month; repot any time during the month; begin watering twice daily after the middle of the month; procure tree at this time of year.

Japanese maple: Remove from winter storage during first 10 days of month; repot during this month only; prune unwanted branching; obtain seeds or seedling.

Trident maple: Repot during the first 20 days of the month; procure tree this time of year.

Weeping willow: In the first 10 days of the month, remove from winter storage and repot.

Winged Euonymous: Remove from winter storage and repot.

Flowering/Fruiting Plants:

Cherry: Remove from winter storage during the first ten days of

the month; begin watering once every two days during the first half of the month but increase to once every day thereafter; procure the tree; grafts can be made; enjoy the blossoms.

Crabapple: Remove from winter storage during first 10 days of the month; begin watering once per month; repot during last 10 days of the month; in the end of the month appreciate the blossoms; grafts can be made. **Gardenia:** Remove from winter storage at the end of the month; don't repot until first 10 days of April; procure seedling or seeds.

Holly: Remove from winter storage any time during month; repot during last 10 days of the month; water once per day; procure tree.

Pyracantha: Remove from winter storage during first 10 days of the month; repot during the last 10 days of the month; begin watering once per day; purchase tree.

Quince: Remove from winter storage during the first 10 days of the month; every third year repot during the last ten days of the month; begin watering once per day; procure tree with flower buds; apply preventive medicine.

Satsuki (Azalea): Remove from winter storage the first 10 days of the month; begin watering once per day.

Ume (Japanese flowering apricot or plum): Prune so that 2 nodes remain; remove blossoms; in the last 20 days of the month before repotting - reduce the root-mass; continue protection from frost; begin watering once per day.

Wisteria: Thin out root mass and repot.

Editorial, continued from page 2

brief information in a USPS flyer was that the art from which the stamps were copied was done by Maria Sibylla Merian, 1699 - 1700. The stamps have no captions describing the plant material. All I could do was guess that all of the plant material was tropical. Furthermore, I searched my encyclopedias for any reference to the name Merian which does not even appear on the stamps, and found none. Since the CSAC agreed to issue those stamps, I can't see why the CSAC won't issue stamps with bonsai on them. According to the CSAC booklet, "Stamp subjects must have broad national interest." I wonder how broad the national interest will be for that series of stamps. If it could be pointed out how many people in this country pursue bonsai, and the various museums and the like where they are displayed, I believe this would be a boost to getting bonsai on stamps. Bonsai stamps will never equal the Elvis stamp which holds the all-time record for volume of stamps sold - netting in 1993 over \$36 million for the Postal Service; but I think it would outperform the Merian issue.

Then there's the thought that someone with clout should champion the cause. Our 32nd President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was an enthusiastic stamp collector even up to the day he died. He made his old political cohort James A. Farley the Postmaster General. There is a special exhibit at the National Postal Museum with the title "Mail to the Chief: The Stamp Designs of Franklin Delano Roosevelt." If you visit the museum, you'll find that

FDR had a direct input into the designs/layouts of some seven stamps but he probably passed judgement on every stamp's subject matter and design before they were issued. Know any influential people? Then there's always the possibility of giving the President or the Vice President a bonsai and getting good press for the occasion. How about someone in the Department of Agriculture pushing for a series of stamps showing "American Bonsai at the National Museum of Bonsai and Penjing?"

However, as the CSAC stresses, the average citizen can have an input as to what stamps are issued. The USPS CSAC is issuing a limited-edition stamp series with the title "Celebrate the Century" which commemorates the most significant people, events, and accomplishments of the 20th Century. There will be 10 souvenir sheets (stamps are not to be separated), each containing 15 different 32 cents stamps. The sheets for 1900 and 1910 are already available at your local post offices. The remainder of the series will be coming out sequentially up to the year 2000. The local post offices currently are carrying an "Official Ballot" on which everyone can select 15 of 30 candidates to represent the decade of the 1950s. Drop dead date for submission is Feb. 28, 1998. However, there will be more ballots for the remaining decades. What's my point in writing this? Well there's one blank line at the bottom of the form with the caption: "If you have an idea for a stamp, please send it to:

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee Attention: CTCTM
United States Postal Service 475
L'Enfant Plaza SW Room 4474E
Washington, DC 20260-2437"

I think if everyone in bonsai could/would simply send a postcard to the above address with a simple statement such as: "I would like to see American bonsai on stamps" that would help turn the trick. Don't forget to put your name and address on the card. According to CSAC's booklet, they receive approximately 40,000 submittals per year recommending subjects for stamps. The CSAC consists of 12 members from varied walks of life and none of the fields of employment listed next to each of the current members suggest that any member has any familiarity with horticultural subjects. Perhaps that is why Jerry Antel recently received word that the subject of bonsai for stamps was taken permanently off of CSAC's list of potential candidates after having been on it since 1993. It takes 3 years from the date when the subject for a stamp is approved to when it is issued. It was Jerry's intent that it would be issued in time for the 20th anniversary of the opening of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.

I think another try should be made. The way things are done here in Washington is: you form a committee as a lobbying group and start promoting the cause. Someone should be the focal point for the effort and everyone associated with bonsai should write to CSAC that they would like to see American bonsai on stamps.

Spring Bonsai Festival Continued

arrange for monitors and maintenance of their club's trees. Coordination: All PBA member clubs should solicit volunteers for the above activities. It is recommended that each PBA club appoint a member to coordinate the selection of items for the club display, submit display information on time and recruit volunteers for show activities. Questions relating to the organization of this event should be directed to the 1998 Annual Show coordinator: Andy Cook, 4408 Buchanan Avenue, Baltimore MD 21211 410-889-3296. Set-Up: Setting up the display tables and arranging the display area will take place on Friday, April 24 starting at 8:00 a.m. Helpers can report anytime after 8:30 a.m. The earlier everyone arrives, the sooner the job will be finished. The setup should be completed by 11:00 a.m. Volunteers arriving before 10:00 a.m. should use the Bladensburg Road gate. The New York Avenue entrance will not open until 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Dismantling: The exhibit will be taken down on Sunday, April 26, at 3:00 p.m. Individuals coming to retrieve display item/s are encouraged to consider spending a little time helping the dismantling effort. Taking

Donations at the Door: This task involves staffing a table at the entrance to the exhibit, passing out to interested parties information on PBA and the member clubs, and discreetly asking that adult visitors make a \$2.00 donation to PBA. This station at the door will be staffed: During show times: Friday 12:00 pm. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Morning: 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Afternoon: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers need only man one shift. Display Monitors: Each PBA club should endeavor to have a member at their display tables during the 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. hours on April 24, 26, and 26. The monitors serve the following functions: Answer questions from the visitors or direct them to one who can answer. Ensure that the plants on display are watered and misted as needed. If necessary, special care notes may be provided by the owner. Preventing vandalism and thievery.

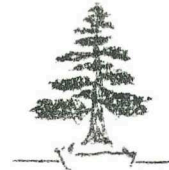
Note: Individuals present at the Arboretum during lunch time may want to bring their lunches. Drinks will be furnished for the volunteers.

Camp Bonsai April 3 ot 5 Matsu-Momiji Nursery

The cost is \$50.00. Food costs will be shared. Bring Tools, trees, pots, wire, etc.

Arschell Morell will assist with design and techniques. The nursery will be closed to the general public. Sleeping arrangements can be made.

Matsu-Momiji Nursery



Maples - Pines -
- Nursery Stock -
Pots - Tools -
- Bonsai Lectures
- Demonstrations

Bonsai Catalog
Route 2, Box 147D
Hurricane, WVA 25526
304-562-9666
Catalog \$2.00

Japanese Black Pine
by Steve Pilacik

LOST PERSON

Manny Arango telephoned the editor and said that he is trying to locate his stepmother, Haruko Kawasoye, who was a member of PBA some time ago. If anyone knows her whereabouts, please contact Haruko Kawasoye and let her know that Manny is trying to contact her, and that she can reach him by writing him at 14921 S.W. 296th Street, Homestead, FL 33033. Tel: (305) 247-0220.

1998 SPRING BONSAI FESTIVAL POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION



APRIL 24TH TO 26TH

FRIDAY 12:00 TO 4:00, SATURDAY 9:00 TO 4:00, SUNDAY 10:00 TO 4:00

COME SEE:

The National Bonsai Collection

Local Club Displays

Suiseki on Display

Demonstrations for Beginners as well as Advanced

Bonsai BAZAAR including:

Plants, tools, books, etc.

NATIONAL ARBORETUM 3501 NEW YORK AVENUE, NE WASHINGTON, DC

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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Club Membership
(Includes <i>PBA Clippings</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>PBA Clippings</i> , Subscription Only, US \$15
(does not include club activities) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Club Membership
(Includes one copy of <i>PBA Clippings</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>PBA Clippings</i> , International Subscription, US \$35
(does not include club activities) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Bonsai Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Philadelphia Bonsai Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowie Bonsai Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiyomizu Bonsai Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brookside Bonsai Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster Bonsai Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chesapeake Bonsai Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Mei-Hwa Penjing Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Virginia Bonsai Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Rappahanock Bonsai Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond Bonsai Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Bonsai Club |

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ +4 _____ Country _____

Telephone: Home: (____) _____ Office: (____) _____

- BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB**
Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD
3rd Sunday, 1 PM
Arschel Morell (410) 744 - 6478
- 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
Tom Snow (410) 923-2783
- 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
Cindy Kamide, (717) 738-3957
- 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
Chuck Croft (703) 978-6841
- RAPPAHANOCK BONSAI SOCIETY**
Call for time and meeting location
Todd Stewart, (540) 775-4912
- RICHMOND BONSAI SOCIETY**
Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave., Richmond, VA
4th Monday, 7 PM
Jim Ford, (804) 272- 3021
- 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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