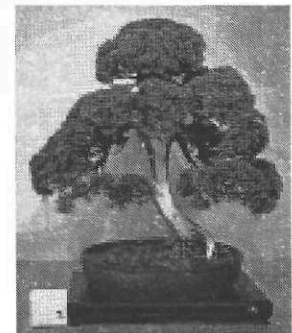
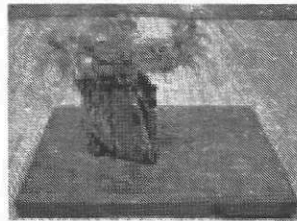
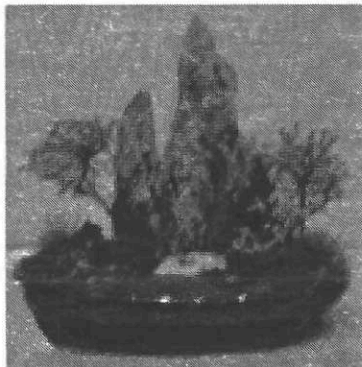
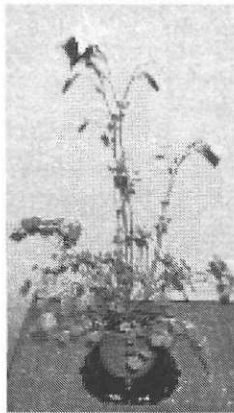
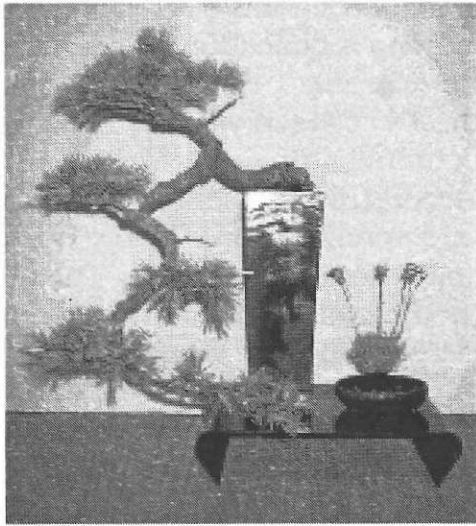


Volume 30, Number 6
June 2000

A Bit of PBA's Y2K Spring Show



Photos by Chris Yeapanis (NVBS)

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Editorial by Jules Koetsch

The PBA Y2K Spring Bonsai Festival, 12 - 14 May, at the National Arboretum was the 28th showing of bonsai by the members of the Potomac Bonsai Association. The article by Janet Lanman titled *How it all Began* which appeared in last October's issue of *Clippings* noted that the first bonsai show held by PBA at the National Arboretum played a significant if not a decisive part in leading Dr. Creech to consider having a collection of bonsai on permanent display at the National Arboretum. Dr. Creech was, in 1972, the newly appointed director of the U.S. National Arboretum. In 1974, I attended one of the demonstrations at the spring show on how a bonsai is created. The next year when the notice of another spring show appeared in the newspaper, the memory of the previous year's experience made me suggest to my wife, much to her surprise, that we should go again. I was hooked and told my wife that I wanted to try creating bonsai. With true, wifely pragmatic concern she asked how much I thought that would cost. In response I gave the casual answer that most males give when they are determined to step into something they know little about but have a burning desire to do - I told her it shouldn't cost much. All one has to do is go out into the woods, dig up a tree, get some dirt and plant the tree in a pot. Nuff said - you know that isn't the way it goes. I thought it would be interesting to get some information about the first PBA show at the National Arboretum so I telephoned Janet Lanman who suggested that I phone Mrs. Ruth Lamanna who now lives in North Carolina. Ruth, along with Robert Roland, was chairperson for the first show. As we talked, Ruth recalled many interesting facets and a number of interesting incidents relative to that first show. She also suggested that I talk to Mrs. Dottie Warren which I did. My idea of a brief note or two for this

editorial vanished in the face of the number of anecdotes both Ruth and Dottie mentioned. For instance, did you know that Ruth and Dottie attended to the bonsai given by Chairman Mao to President Nixon when he visited China? It was in the first PBA show. Does anyone know what happened to it? Dottie and I plan to meet sometime soon and put the story together about the first PBA show. She can then help me make sense of the pictures in the photo album I've been keeping of the first PBA bonsai show. The album was handed to me without a hint of the details.

Getting back to the recent 28th PBA bonsai show at the National Arboretum, I enjoyed a very restful Saturday afternoon pausing to view bonsai, accent plants and viewing stones in uncrowded surroundings. Where were the numbers of people equivalent to what were present at the previous 27 PBA shows at the National Arboretum when they were held during the last weekend in April? Was it because the azaleas aren't in bloom over Mother's Day? Then there was the Million Mom March that probably kept people away from visiting the National Arboretum on Sunday. Hopefully, next year the National Arboretum will schedule the PBA Spring Bonsai Festival once again on the last weekend in April - otherwise even the vendors won't show up.

Then again - how many PBA members bothered to attend the 28th PBA show? It was an opportunity for one to see how PBA members have styled various species of trees; how the containers harmonized with the trees planted in them; the different plant species that can be used for bonsai besides the old standbys (junipers; azaleas, maples, etc); creative ways to make a bonsai stand; and soil mixes which may be obscured by a covering of moss or small stone or the like.

If you didn't make time for the show, you missed seeing some 63 bonsai of 47

different species. Japanese maples and white pines topped the list of most species on display - 5 each. As for styles, every style classified as such in Japanese texts was present with 34 informal uprights far outnumbering the other styles.

It would be interesting if any of the PBA members whose bonsai were in the show, and for that matter those whose bonsai were not on display, entered the JAL WORLD BONSAI CONTEST 2000. Closing date is July 31st - contact a local JAL (Japan Airlines) office for details.

One could have also tried for the 2001 BEN OKI INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARD - last entry date for this year was May 1st. Details will appear in the November/December 2000 issue of *Bonsai Magazine*. Terry Adkin's Kurume azalea that won the BEN OKI INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARD some years ago was on display at the PBA show, and he suggested that other PBA members should give it a try - one never knows.

Perhaps some PBA member may even make the first 100 list of entries in the JAL contest . . . and maybe the dates for next year's PBA Spring Bonsai Festival will be returned to our traditional last weekend in April. There's always hope.



ERRATA: In last month's editorial it was noted that "my (soil mix) contained *marble grits*, Perlite and either peat moss or pine bark mulch." Thanks goes to Dave Garvin who sent me a postcard noting that *marble grits* would not do too well if used with acid soil loving azaleas or the like. The correct entry should have been *granite grits*.

Lost at the Arboretum Kent Kise has reported the loss of his mountain stone from the Lancaster club display of the PBA Spring Show. If you know of its whereabouts, or can report knowing it was in the display at a certain time, contact him at wkisejr@aol.com. A photo of the lost stone may appear in next issue if the situation has not changed.

Calendar of Events *Send your club's input to Shari by e- sharisharafi@hotmail.com or snail mail to 4803 Westway Dr., Bethesda, MD 20816*

June

Baltimore Bonsai Club

25 Open workshop - BYO trees for consultation and refinement. Tree of the month: Maple, Display: Mike Ramina.

Brookside Bonsai Society

15 Jerry Stowell on accent plants. He will display several examples and show slides of these delightful compliments to bonsai. Jerry's book, "The Beginner's Guide to American Bonsai" with a foreword by Kyuzu Murata, continues to be a source of valuable information. Don't forget to bring your own accent plants for show and tell.

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

24 Trip to Black Pine Nursery - Meeting place to be determined.

Lancaster Bonsai Society

3-4 Bonsai show at F&M North Museum. Possible evening/Saturday trip to Longwood Gardens. Club Picnic.

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

10 9 am Bonsai Resources Directory - Dixie Cook

10 am Companion Plants - Martha Meehan

12 am Workshop: Companion Plants - Martha Meehan

Rappahanock Bonsai Society

3 11 am Styling of RBS Member Trees Workshop, Gardens Unlimited, bring your own tree

July

Baltimore Bonsai Club (No Meeting)

Brookside Bonsai Society

15 House visits to see members' collections. Details in next *Clippings*.

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

23 Slab Making - Location to be determined.

Lancaster Bonsai Society

Round-table critique of trees. Evaluated on health, styling, pot, and overall appearance.

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

8 9 am Pruning Conifer Foliage

10 am Shohin Bonsai- Dorie Froning and Jack Billet

12 am Workshop: Shohin Bonsai - Dorie and Jack

23 9 am Tropical Bonsai Workshop - George LeBolt

Non-PBA Functions

June 3, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, The first meeting of Dwarf Conifer Study Group, at the Walter Reed Recreation & Community Center, 2909 16th St. South, Arlington, VA. Guest speaker: Mac Stiff, president of the Southeastern Region of the American Conifer Society.

June 3 - 11, Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Exhibit

June 3-4, Sogetsu Ikebana Flower Arranging Show

June 17-25, Bonsai Exhibition and Demonstration

August 12 - 27, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm, Suiseiki-The Art of Stone Appreciation The finest viewing stones or suiseiki from China, Japan, Indonesia, Canada, and the US in the U. S. National Arboretum's collection will be on display in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Each naturally formed stone suggests a scene from nature, such as a waterfall, mountain, object, or animal. Free.

Poetry Corner -

Calm yourself

Here's another of John Hoffman's (NVBS) haiku:

Candles, never burn

Pluck, no feathers, no eyebrows

Japanese black pine



If you have enjoyed John's efforts at haiku, for goodness sake, tell him. We have now printed all his contributions. Maybe with some encouragement from you, he will be inspired to write more.


PBA Fall Symposium by Shari Sharafi (BBS)
 

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Mr. Sae Won Kim, a second-generation bonsai master, from Seoul, Korea, will be guest speaker at the PBA's Fall 2000 Symposium at the National Arboretum. Mr Kim is fluent in English, French, and Japanese. He will be accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Lee Kwang Soo.

He will be working on a magnificent Korean hornbeam with a trunk base of approximately 30 cm (picture, p. 16, May issue). The tree is a gift to us from Mr. Kim and will eventually be sold to the highest bidder through a silent auction at the end of the symposium.

Mr Kim is a full-time bonsai artist and the owner/operator of the Sun You Bonsai Nursery in Seoul since 1987, when he received the business from his father, the original owner.

Mr. Kim was born in 1952, and received his undergraduate horticultural degree from Seoul City University in 1974, and his master's in floriculture from Korea University in 1981. He has taught at Shingu College, and Korea, Joong Ang, and An Seong Universities; and has authored several books on the art of bonsai.

His demo tree, the Korean hornbeam, has arrived and is currently being cared for by Mr. Jack Sustic, an assistant curator of the National Bonsai Museum.

NEXT MONTH WE START LISTING VOLUNTEERS BY CLUB AFFILIATION



Update: Potomac Viewing Stone Group Formed mid-1999, the Potomac Viewing Stone Group (PVSG) is a small group of individuals who want to have fun with and learn about stones. We are made up of bonsai, suiseki, Chinese scholar stone enthusiasts, rock hounds, and stone lovers. We intend to meet about every two months, usually in the Yoshimura Center at the US National Arboretum.

Our objectives are primarily educational, as we are mostly novices. We have agreed to emphasize and study the following:

- Encourage all stone traditions (Japanese, Chinese, other)
- If and when a stone should be improved (cut, polished, repaired, etc.)
- "Show and Tell" at each meeting
- Establish a library for members AND give notice of books, web sites, exhibits, etc.
- Critique of stones AND Proper display
- What makes a good viewing stone, and look at new approaches
- Collecting trips and hints
- Visiting experts, an occasional exhibit
- Stone photography

Dues have been set at \$15.00/year. The officers of the PVSG are:

Chris Yeapanis, President	703/591-0864	ibonsai@erols.com
Chris Cochrane, V-Pres./Prog.Chair.	804/355-0569	sashai@erols.com
Jean Goertner, Treasurer	301/871-8029	jgoertner@prodigy.net
Glenn Reusch, Secretary	540/672-5699	ghreusch@aol.com
John Carlson, Librarian.	301/864-6637	jcarlson@deans.umd.edu

Our dues are \$15/year for 2000. Tentative dates for future meetings are as follows:

July 16	Yoshimura Center	Making a diaza* (Possible Topic)
Aug	Arboretum	Possible show
Sept 10	Wilds	Possible Collecting Trip
Nov 12	Yoshimura Center	No Subject

All interested people are invited to visit and join. Please contact one of the officers to confirm the next meeting; and get on our email list for notification.

* Don't know what a diaza is, come and find out.

Zelkova Serrata - Japanese Grey Bark Elm by Ted Matson, who has a real life, a lively sense of humor, works hard for his clubs, turns out award-winning bonsai, volunteers in many capacities to make the Golden State Conventions splendid, and still has time to write articles to educate the rest of us

Characteristics for Bonsai The zelkova is one of the classic deciduous varieties used in bonsai. Among the characteristics that make it so desirable is a small, toothed leaf that reduces further with repeated pinching. It also produces good color in the fall, ranging from deep reds to oranges to brilliant yellows. The trunk, branches and surface roots also offer subtle, but pleasing, color variations, turning from coppery-brown in their youth, to the more familiar smooth, grey bark as they age-- and the zelkova is a relatively long-lived tree in containers. The texture of the bark also makes the zelkova ideal for trees of all sizes, even the smallest mame.

The single most exceptional characteristic of zelkova is its twigging, which makes it one of the very best trees for display as a winter silhouette. With repeated prunings and in a relatively short time, the trees can produce a very dense "cloud" of fine, angular twigs, offering both delicacy and movement in the ramification. Leaf pruning will accelerate this process.

Suitable Bonsai Styles and Sizes While the stately zelkova is adaptable for all upright styles, the most common style for this species is the broom style. In fact, it is about the only tree that really lends itself to the classic broom style because of the fine twigging, and radiating branches and roots. (Regular elms typically look too "stiff" because they don't produce the fine, wispy twigging that zelkovas do.)

Because it can be easily trimmed to shape and maintained by pruning, the tree also lends itself well to group plantings.

Because of its stately nature, the tree does not lend itself to severe styles (extreme windswepts, cascades, etc.).

Because the roots don't fuse, the tree does not work for rock-clasping styles, although

many books say that zelkova is suitable for these styles.

Natural Characteristics The branching and twigging of the zelkova are its strengths. It can be pruned to form the classic broom shape, where all main branches emerge from the trunk at the same point and take on the familiar "martini glass" silhouette as they reach up into the canopy which, at maturity, assumes the shape of a rounded mushroom cap.

The branching system on a zelkova will take on a beautiful structure fairly quickly, with delicate ramification. However, branches will grow long and straight if unattended, and can quickly outgrow their proportions if not pruned often enough. The trees continue to break new buds all along the trunk as well, which also can ruin the structure. With zelkova, the more often you trim, the better the tree looks.

The roots of zelkova can be quite elegant as well, especially if they radiate evenly around the tree; however, some roots can "take off" and get quite large quickly, ruining the delicate proportions. Care must be taken to trim roots when transplanting to ensure that they develop properly and evenly around the trunk.

Natural Environment Zelkova is native to Japan. It grows in open fields and low mountains in temperate areas. It's natural form is a broad broom shape.

Pruning Requirements Major pruning and clean-up on zelkova is best done during the dormant season, when the tree is bare. However, zelkova should be one of the last trees to be trimmed; and it is best to wait until just before the buds begin to swell in late winter/early spring. If pruned too

early in the winter, there is a greater chance of twig die-back from prolonged exposure.

Zelkova should be trimmed continuously throughout the growing season, concentrating on eliminating long internode growth back to the first or second leaf, and completely removing any suckers that pop on the trunk. On younger trees, allow sprouts to grow five to seven leaves before trimming. On older trees with established forms, cut back when three to five leaves appear.

Zelkova can be leaf-pruned during mid-summer (when leaves look their worst from exposure to harsh sun, heat and/or hard water) to reduce leaf size and promote better autumn color. Late July or early August is the best time. Zelkova will generate scar tissue that will cover quite large cuts, as might be the case when a sacrificial branch or overdeveloped upper branch is removed. The scar tissue tends to be thick, and it is easy to get swelling, so concave cutters should be used for removing any branches of size. Large cuts on zelkova should always be sealed.

Root Pruning As zelkovas grow quite fast, it is a good idea to repot and root-prune the trees every other year, to promote a fine network of roots and prevent long, heavy roots from forming. If left too long in the pot, the roots can get massive and look out of proportion to the trunk/branching, and, in some cases, can get so heavy that they begin to push the tree out of the pot. Zelkova root structures mirror the branching system. If there is a heavy branch in the tree, it is very likely that a heavy root will be feeding it under the soil. When pruning, don't hesitate to remove these heavy roots and force more hair roots to emerge.

As a member of the elm family, zelkova will take quite severe root pruning. Young trees can be treated almost like cuttings if the goal is to establish/ correct the spread at the base of the tree. Older trees also will

take this treatment. An extreme example is a healthy tree with poorly or overly developed roots which must be corrected, and even specimens with relatively well-developed branching systems can be treated as cuttings, pruning away all heavy roots below the soil level and planting them deep in sand. The best time to do this work is during late winter/early spring, just as the buds begin to swell. And, when removing large roots, it is best to use a sharp knife to clean the cuts after pruners or root cutters do the heavy work.

Potting The best time to transplant zelkovas---both young trees and established bonsai--is in late winter/early spring, just as the buds begin to swell. Again, because the roots of zelkova can get over-developed in the pot, a transplanting every other year will help to maintain a dense network of fine hair-roots rather than long, fat runners. On very young stock, transplanting/root pruning every year also helps to promote a finer root network.

Soil Requirements Zelkovas have no out-of-the-ordinary soil requirements. They prefer a soil which drains quickly but retains some moisture because they also don't like to dry out too quickly. Heavy mixes or very coarse mixes are not suitable. And, because a fine root structure is desirable, it is best to use relatively fine, sharp sand or decomposed granite, along with organic material, such as peat moss (which provides some acidity to counteract the cumulative effects of the hard water in the western U.S.), potting soil or ground fir bark.

Suitable Containers If proper repotting and root pruning regimens are followed, and if the soil mix is right, zelkovas can grow in quite shallow containers, including rock slabs.

The colors for zelkovas can range from the chocolate browns (which accent the brown

twigs and young wood) to reds (not too bright) to greys (which accent the mature bark). Pot textures should not be too coarse as they will tend to make the pot overpower the delicate twiggling. High-fire pots and pots with hand rubbed finishes complement these trees very well.

While pictures from Japan show more deciduous trees in glazed, colored pots, choosing the right color for a zelkova is difficult. The fall color of the leaves should be the determining factor if one is determined to choose a pot with a colored glaze, making sure to pick a complementary color and a non-glassy finish.

Watering/Environment Zelkovas can take a range of environments, but above all else, they prefer consistency. While they will survive in wet conditions, they don't like wet feet and will have problems. They prefer an environment on the dry side, which also helps to produce tougher, smaller leaves. At the same time, allowing the soil to dry out too much, too fast, will cause leaves to collapse and twigs to die back. Washing the leaves once a week helps keep the tree pest free, but don't water on leaves during the heat of the day as it will cause spotting.

Zelkova will grow in both semi-shade and sun; however, shady conditions will produce bigger, more tender leaves that will burn during hot weather. They prefer bright light and will take full sun in a sufficiently large container. They can experience leaf scorch during hot summers, so it's best to put under shade cloth during hottest months of the year.

During the winter when the tree is dormant, take care to protect the bare tree from desiccating winds. If the winter is too cold, or if the tree is exposed to dry winds, it will cause twigs to die back. Where winter temperatures approach or drop below freezing, storage in a cold-frame is recommended.

Pests/Diseases Zelkovas are relatively pest- and disease-resistant. They will get

aphids or mealy bugs once in a while and are also susceptible to scale, which always seem to attack when the tree is full of leaves, making it difficult to recognize the problem. Clues to look for include ants (which "farm" scale insects) and/or sooty mold (a black powdery coating on trunks and branches which forms on the exuded "honeydew" of the scale). For aphids and mealy bugs, Malathion is effective, while the scale requires a volck oil/Malathion combination spray in multiple applications to fully eradicate the pests. [ed. Note - Or, if you'd like an environmentally friendly answer to the problem, put a teaspoon of mild dish soap in a quart of water and spritz the infested plant. Let it sit 15 minutes and then rinse with clean water. Repeat once a week for three weeks, then check for infestation.]

A wet spring or damp conditions through the year can also promote anthracnose fungus. This is a very hard to eliminate disease which can destroy an entire collection of trees if not treated. The symptoms are black blisters which appear on leaves new growth. The new growth quickly turns black and shrivels after it emerges. Both conditions occur in sections and spread through the entire tree. Control can be established by the use of sprays or dust containing sulfur or copper. Daconil (a weaker formulation of Bravo), Captan, Zineb, Bordeaux mixtures, Koside, Zithaine and Maneb are reported to be effective. However, the best solution is to cut away all infected areas and dispose of properly; and sterilize tools when done.

Propagation Zelkovas are very easy to propagate from seed, cuttings, or layers, even from quite large-diameter stock. The best time to take cuttings is in the early spring. Summer hardwood cuttings also will take.

Zelkovas also propagate well as root cuttings; so when transplanting, collection and planting of root segments will produce

a number of new starts, usually with interesting curves. Although root cuttings sometimes have a reverse taper problem, with zelkova, the root can be planted upside down so the trunk tapers properly toward the top.

Grafting Because zelkovas propagate so easily from cuttings and air layers, and because both the root systems and branch/leaf systems have their inherent strengths and can be developed through pruning, there is no need to graft zelkova.

Training Zelkovas can be wired; but they respond so well to trimming, many trees can be shaped without using wire at all.

Feeding Zelkovas will respond to any number of fertilizers, and do very well on a

light feeding schedule. Slow release organic fertilizers are preferred because their moderate release of nutrient will help to avoid a burst of growth with oversized leaves. In the fall, a fertilizer with less nitrogen and more phosphorus and potassium will help strengthen roots and branches for the winter.

This piece was written by Ted Matson, with reference assistance from:

Bonsai Design: Deciduous and Coniferous Trees by Peter D. Adams, Ward Lock Limited, London, England, 1990.

Bonsai: Miniature Potted Trees, by Kyuzo Murata, Shufunotomo Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, 1964.

PBA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The election of PBA officers at the PBA Annual Membership Meeting held at 6:00 p.m. at the U.S. National Arboretum resulted in the unanimous election for Y2K of the following:

- President - Chuck Croft, NVBS
- First Vice-president - Arlene Polinsky, NVBS
- Educational Vice-president - Shari Sharifi, BBS
- Treasurer - Jerry Antel, BBS
- Secretary - Judy Wise, NVBS

It was extraordinarily obvious that many of you did not show up for this much-publicized meeting. Part of what you missed was this report of how your dues were spent in 1999, and input as to how they should be spent this year. If you decide you want the full report, don't expect one without sending a SASE to Jerry Antel, 6409 Middleburg Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817.

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>
Dues	2,775.00	—	2,775.00
PBA Clippings	1,630.00	5,070.35	(3,440.35)
Spring Bonsai Festival	4,482.75	3,186.03	1,296.72
Auction	6,776.00	5,461.60	1,314.40
Symposium	7,568.50	6,699.90	868.60
Miscellaneous	<u>874.45</u>	<u>6,633.13</u>	<u>(5,758.68)</u>
	24,106.70	27,051.01	(2,944.31)
Bank Balance 1/1/99	14,506.19		
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	2,944.31		

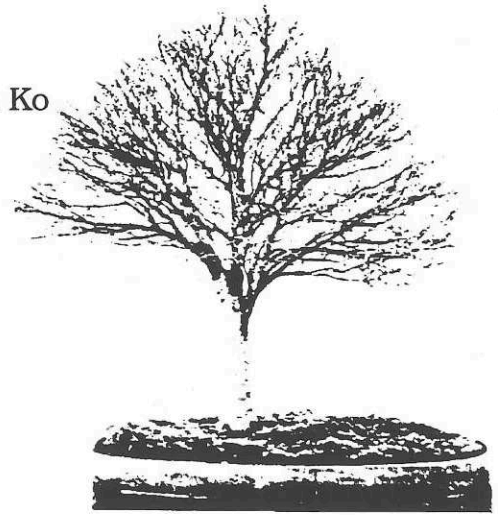
P.S. You also missed some yummy pizza, beverages, and camaraderie.



Keyaki or Gray Bark Elm by Takeyama Ko

Keyaki or Chinese elm, in the Spring it spouts growth, in the Summer there are the new leaves, in the Fall the leaves turn crimson, in the Winter the leaves are gone and there is the branching, all reminiscent of one's own fields of military glory. The growth on a Chinese elm or Keyaki is rapid and is an example of delicate branch structure. Keyaki has a yatsubusa variety (very small leaves) with a rough, peeling bark. The newly formed sprouts on the small branches have stems of red. Another variety of excellent beauty has bluish sprouts. Either of the two varieties can be used for bonsai. One should preferably select a seedling tree with leaves that are small, and a nicely textured trunk, one which has branches so that the tree is upright in shape. Also, the branches should be arranged in the form of an unfolded fan so that the tree can be styled into a broom shape.

PROPAGATION METHOD AND FIRST YEAR Keyaki can be propagated from seed, purchased (one about 3 years old) or collected in the mountains. In order to unify the shape and control the direction of the growth, it is best to concentrate one's efforts on growing from seed. First of all, the seeds should be collected or possibly purchased in the Fall, placed into a plastic bag along with moist soil, and stored in a cool, dark place. Remove the seeds between March 20 and April 10. The time frame for sowing the seeds can coincide with the Spring Equinoctial week (Vernal Equinox); and the sprouts will slowly emerge. Having sown the seeds in rows, apply tap water and place them in a sunny place, and after April 20, sprouts will emerge. After the sprouts have

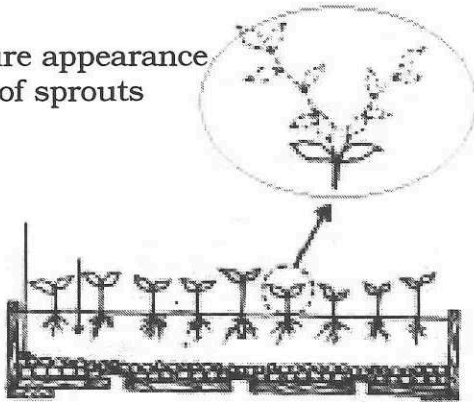


emerged, once every day, water until it flows out of the bottom of the box. Sprinkle rape seed fertilizer powder between the rows of seedlings in a line parallel to the rows. Thereafter, the fertilizer is sprinkled once per month and the watering is continued on a daily basis. When Summer has arrived, much of the branch growth has been in the interior, and a satisfactory, healthy arrangement should be attained by pruning in accordance with the illustration. In order not to risk destroying the tree shape, and not to deprive the healthy branches of nourishment, and also to assist the desirable branches in growing more rapidly, the internal branches should be pruned. The pruning of the long branches should be done so that a broom style is achieved. The question is what is the visible difference between the shape of the tree growing naturally and the desired broom style? The key to the above problem is to understand what branches are to remain. The ideal broom style into which one wishes to develop the finished tree is one wherein the lower 1/3 of the height of the tree is free of branches. For example, if the ultimate tree height of the bonsai is to be 12 inches, the selected branches should start 4 inches from the surface of the roots. The basis of the

First Year

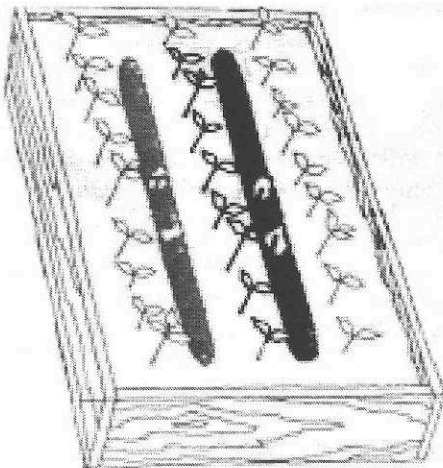
Seedling box propagation soil: Red clay mixed with pebbles and gran-i-grits.

Future appearance of sprouts



Drainage layer - Red clay pellets

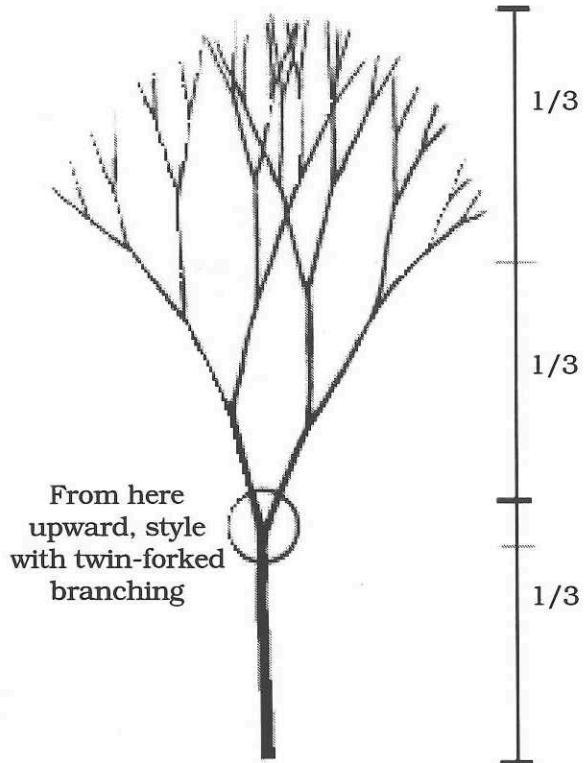
April 20-31: Results of sowing seeds in rows with adequate daily watering as a necessity.



May 10-20: Apply a thin layer of rape seed oil fertilizer dust between the rows of seedlings once per month through September.

broom shape lies in the makeup of the branch segments. Again and again, keep in mind that no more than two branch segments are to emanate from a fork. Summer having passed and Autumn having arrived, fertilize for the last time in September, but continue to water adequately. In November, the seedling has reached a height of about 8 inches. Between November 20 and 30, place the tree indoors for Winter protection.

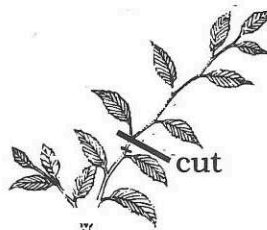
Points to remember in preparatory shaping of tree top



From here upward, style with twin-forked branching

Broom Style - Shape so that branches fork in pairs

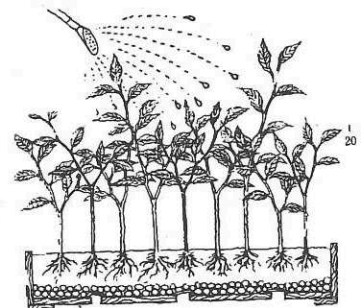
June 20-August: Cut Long Branches



Healthy, long branches are cut so that 3 or 4 leaf segments remain.

For a tree height of 12", the first branching begins at 4".

Cut long branches of early growth so that 3 to 4 leaf segments remain. Do not cut the secondary branches emanating from the twin fork. Maintain the twin fork pattern as growth occurs during this season.



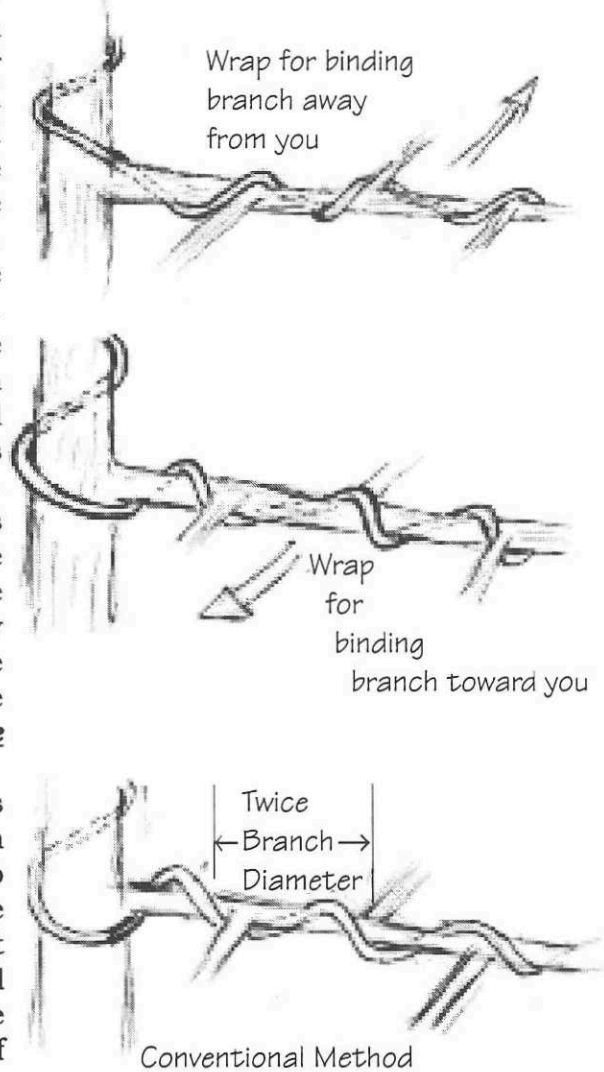
Outdoors on a shelf, the trees have grown uninhibited having been fertilized once per month and frequently watered. By November, the seedlings should reach a height of 8 inches.

Continued next issue maybe. See note, p. 15

KIMURA'S WIRING SECRET *contributed by Joe Gutierrez, NVBS*

Doctor Joe noticed that the world-famous bonsai master Masahiko Kimura's wiring technique seemed to leave a wire almost imperceptible on a branch. On closer examination, Dr. Joe noted the wire on a branch was laid so that most of it was behind the branch when viewed from the front. The wire was twisted sharply around the branch where a side branch joined the trunk. The accompanying sketches attempt to convey the technique. Much has been written about wiring techniques, and the opinions are almost as numerous as those for soil mixes. The oft prescribed technique described in Japanese literature is to coil the wire around a branch as shown in the accompanying sketch where each successive coil starts a distance of 2 times the branch diameter, thus making the wire lie at a 45-degree angle on the branch. Although that may have esthetic appeal as far as neatness goes, it really has little to do with changing the holding power of the wire when the branch is bent. It's the thickness of the wire that does the trick; and that's why you test for the proper wire thickness by pressing the wire against the branch to be bent (to see if the branch can be bent without bending the wire) - ***then it's the wire is the right diameter.***

When wiring, two things should be kept in mind. One is that you should apply the wire so that it does not bind on the branch. The Japanese say that it should be applied so that a cigarette paper would fit between the wire and the branch. I usually push against the wire as I'm twisting it to insure that it is just loose enough. Secondly, as Bill Merritt learned from John Y. Naka, always push on the branch as you bend it to protect against any splitting of the wood.



PBA AUCTION *by Chris J Yeapanis*

The PBA auction held on May 27, was a success for PBA and for the attendees. Attendance was down, but the sales were good. We had the best selection of sale trees I have seen since I started attending PBA auctions in 1985. We had excellent quality "finished" bonsai, pre-bonsai material, and potential bonsai material; as well as stands, great pots, stones (I got a great buy on some stones), and great old books. I believe most items drew fair prices so both buyer and seller won. A few great buys snuck by -- like a great large maple in a good pot for \$100.00. So if you were not there, you missed out on a good auction.

We were at a new location this year--Behnke's on River Road in Potomac, Maryland. The Behnke staff was very friendly and helpful. They brought out a beautiful flower arrangement to grace our bidder sign-up table. So when you shop there, tell them you are with PBA and thank them for supporting us.

The auction was set up and run by Sally Griffin of NVBS, who has done this for PBA for the past few years. She did a fine job. Thank her when you see her. The Volunteers did a great job. Sellers' auction items were mixed during the sale, making it fairer for the sellers.

Also a new method of bookkeeping was implemented, in hopes to reduce trees not picked up after the auction or wrong trees passed out at the end of the sale. The results of the sale have not been calculated as yet. Jerry Antel will have the results at the next board meeting, which every member of PBA is welcomed to attend.

MONTHLY CARE TIPS for June *by Jules*

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

Wherever fertilizing is to be done, it is noted as "apply fertilizer balls" since that is how the Japanese do it. If you do not use fertilizer balls, you can consider applying the fertilizer of your choice during that time. One application of fertilizer balls is expected to be good for about 30 days. For example, if you are using a certain strength liquid fertilizer and apply it once per week, you can apply it once every week for a month starting from when the words "apply fertilizer balls" appear. If a gap of more than a month appears between "apply fertilizer balls" in the schedule, one may consider holding back on applying any fertilizer during that time period.

Wherever the words "push back" appear, it signifies that one reduces the length of new foliage to maintain the tree's shape. If you have questions about how to push back for your species of plant, ask members of your bonsai club to help you.

CONIFERS

BLACK PINE: Water up to 3 times per day until the 20th of the month then begin once a day watering. Note that the Japanese plant black pine in a soil mix, usually sand, which does not hold water for too long. Gage your watering based on your soil mix's ability to hold water, and weather conditions. About the 20th of the month, prune all the needles on the branches in the lower third of the tree except for those needles at the tips of the branches. Ten days later, repeat the process for the branches in the mid-third of the tree. Twenty days later repeat the process for the branches in the upper third of the tree. Place in full sun all day and preferably in a windy location.

CRYPTOMERIA: Water twice per day including the leaves. Wiring and repotting can be done any time during the month. Repot once every 2 years. Thin out, push back the new growth. Apply fertilizer balls during the middle of the month. Place tree where it gets half-day shade.

HEMLOCK: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Pinch back, push back new growth, and continue doing that as new growth gets to the appropriate lengths for reduction. Place tree where it gets half-day of shade.

HINOKI: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Apply fertilizer balls during the middle of the month. Wire any

time during the month. Make certain no existing wire is biting into bark. Repotting can be done any time during the month. Repotting is done every 3 years. Pluck and push back new growth when it gets too leggy. Can be kept in full-sun until start of summer, June 20th.

LARCH: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Push back new growth during the first 10 days of the month. Apply fertilizer balls during the first 10 days of the month. Can be kept in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half-day shade.

NEEDLE JUNIPER: Water twice per day including the leaves. Apply fertilizer balls during the middle of the month. Wiring can be done any time after old wire digging into the bark has been removed. Pluck, push back new growth. Keep in full sun all day.

SAWARA CYPRESS: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Pluck, push back new growth. Apply fertilizer balls during the first 10 days of the month. Keep in half-day shade.

SHIMPAKU (Sargent juniper): Water twice per day (include the foliage). Repotting can be done after the 10th of the month. Repot every 3 years. Pluck, push back new growth; and remove dead growth and unwanted branches. Keep in full sun.

SPRUCE: Water 2 times per day. Pluck,

14

push back new growth in accordance with the rule of thirds - remove 1/3 of the new growth at the ends of branches and 2/3 of the new growth on the sides of the branches. Keep in full sun.

WHITE PINE: Water 3 times per day. Keep in full sun all day and preferably where there is air movement.

YEW: Water as needed. Pinch, push back new growth. Apply fertilizer balls during the first 10 days of the month. Keep in half day of shade.

DECIDUOUS

Non-fruiting/non-flowering

BEECH: Water twice per day up to the middle of the month, and then start watering 2 to 3 times per day. Wire any time during the month. Can be kept in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half day of shade.

CHINESE ELM: Water as needed. Prune, push back new growth. Wire any time during the month. Keep in full sun all day.

GINGKO: Water as needed. Wire any time during the month. Keep in full sun all day.

HORNBEAM: Water 2 times per day. Prune unwanted branches and push back new growth. Wire any time during the month. Can be kept in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half day of shade.

JAPANESE MAPLE: Water twice per day. Pluck undesirable sprouts and prune branches. Wire any time during the month. Can be kept in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half day of shade.

TRIDENT MAPLE: Water twice per day. Remove unwanted branches, sprouts and leaves. Start wiring after the 10th of the month. Can be kept in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half day of shade.

WEEPING WILLOW: Water once per day. Set the pot in a dish of water beginning around the 10th of the month. Apply fertilizer balls once some time during the last 20 days of the month. At the start of the month, remove unwanted branches and wire the remaining branches to the desired pendulous shape. Remove the wire during the last week of the month. Place where there is half day of shade.

WINGED EUONYMOUS: Water as needed. Prune unwanted branches and push back new growth. Wire during the middle of the

month. Apply fertilizer balls once during the last 10 days of the month. Place where it gets sun all day.

Flowering/Fruiting Plants

CHERRY: Water 3 times per day. Repot any time up to the 20th of the month. Prune, push back up to the 20th of the month. Apply fertilizer balls once during the first 10 days of the month. Can be kept in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half day of shade.

CRAB APPLE: Water once every day until the 10th of the month, and then start watering 2 times per day. Apply fertilizer balls once, some time during the last 20 days of the month. Rewire up to the 10th of the month, prune up to the 20th of the month. Place where it gets sun all day.

GARDENIA: Water as needed. Blossoms open during the middle of the month. Can be kept in sun until middle of the month, and then in partial shade. Apply fertilizer balls once during the last 10 days of the month. Keep in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half day of shade.

HOLLY: Water often. Apply fertilizer balls during the last 10 days of the month. Prune unwanted growth. Keep in full sun all day.

PYRACANTHA: Water once per day. Prune branches and unwanted growth. Apply fertilizer balls once during the last 10 days of the month. Keep in full sun all day.

QUINCE: Water 2 to 3 times per day. Apply fertilizer balls once during the first 10 days of the month. Prune and wire up to the 20th of the month. Keep in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half day of shade.

SATSUKI (azalea): Water once once per day. Repot up to the 10th of the month. Wire up to the 20th of the month. Sometime during the last 10 days of the month, apply fertilizer balls. Keep in half day of shade.

UME (Japanese flowering plum or apricot): Water 3 times per day. Some time during the first 10 days of the month, apply fertilizer balls. Prune up to the 20th of the month and rewire any time during the month. Place where it gets full sun all day.

WISTERIA: Water often. Keep in full sun until start of summer, June 20th, then in half day of shade.

BONsai MOT

In 1991 at the BCI International Congress in Birmingham, England, John Y. Naka gave the following sage words of advice.

Don't be prejudiced against certain tree species, and the same applies for peoples in the world, the world.

And in a similar vein he went on to say: *Don't stay with one style - bonsai must offer a challenge to you. Otherwise bonsai is a bore. (And in this recent photo, John is giving one of his paintings to Bonnie Kobert of Brazil in appreciation of her gift, a sculpture of him. The NBF funded the forging of her artwork.)*



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Note to the membership: The article which begins on p. 11 is Part 1 of 6. If Betty Yeapanis doesn't succeed in her quest for the magic pill governing scanning skills Through the Looking Glass, you may be on your own for Years 2-6 of zelkova styling.



Dear PBA Friends:

You may not have noticed at your Spring Show that we have changed our name . . . from Landscape Plant Growers to We Just Grow Bonsai which reflects what we are doing now.

We wish to thank the PBA and many patrons we have served over the past 10 years.

Sincerely,

Bill and Betty Gimbel
We Just Grow Bonsai
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Spring Hill, FL 34608
(352) 683-5919