



PBA
Clippings
 NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Volume 30, Number 7
 July 2000

Viewing Stones at the National Bonsai and

Penjing Museum *contributed by Chris Cochrane of Richmond*

On Saturday, August 12, the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum opens its latest viewing stone exhibit in the Special Exhibits Wing. On opening day, Kemin Hu will also be in attendance at the Special Exhibits Wing Museum from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 and from 1:30-3:00 p.m. to introduce viewing stones to Museum guests.

Kemin has recently donated three extraordinary stones to the Museum-- its first three Chinese scholar's rocks (a.k.a. *gongshi*, "respect" + "stone"). Kemin's father was a noted scholar, penjing artist, and *gongshi* collector in China. Many of his stones are now displayed in a Shanghai Museum. Kemin carries on her father's tradition of *gongshi* by purchasing rare stones in China for resale to Western collectors.

The three stones chosen for the NBP Museum are exceptionally fine representations of their aesthetic. Two are classic in form. The third is a very rare evocative form.

A classically contoured, vertical, black Lingbi stone suggests overhanging cliff faces on a soaring top-heavy peak. It could be interpreted to represent the humanly unattainable mountain realm where the Immortals of Chinese mythology reside. The Immortals can only get to these heights by riding on the backs of cranes.

The large vertical Taihu (from "Lake Tai") Chinese scholar rock is the classic vertical "fabulous rock" form. It is abstract in design and intentionally heavy at its top to suggest precipitous balance. As with most valued Taihu stones, this one is substantially perforated with sizable channels running along its surface and holes running entirely through it. Kemin chose this particular stone because it has primarily natural weathered holes rather than carving by man to create the perforations--a form favored by Chinese collectors. Her evidence to distinguish this is fascinating and concerns water in natural stones creating carving from within the stone as well as from the stone's surface.

Kemin's third gift is a Chinese scholar's rock landscape stone which is more horizontal than vertical in orientation. This stone displays a large depression to accommodate a lake found at the foot of a precipitous mountain ridge. It is exceptional in that the depression is naturally formed, not carved, from the stone. The horizontal orientation represents a format for displaying Chinese stones popular in the 18th century.

Each of these stones is worth a museum visit. To see all three and speak with the donor will be a rare delight.

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Editorial by Jules Koetsch

After you have ventured into creating bonsai and stayed with it, I'm certain you have paused at least once to wonder whatever attracted you to the art form and why you've bothered to stick with it. I think the answers may be in the dialogue that accompanied a video tape Bill Orsinger let me copy a short time ago. It was recorded on November 8, 1989, at the U.S. National Arboretum and aired on *Capital Edition* on November 26, 1989. This timeless recording runs for only 6 minutes and was done to introduce viewers to the national treasure that is the Arboretum's Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Bob Drechsler, Bill Merritt, and Bill Orsinger all have parts in the video. The commentator was Jamie McIntyre and the very fine camera work and compilation of the video was done by Miriam Wright.

A very plausible answer as to why one does bonsai was given by Bill Orsinger at the conclusion of that video. However, the entire dialogue is given below so that the reader is can reflect on things you already know.

The video is rife with beautiful shots of plant life including bonsai in the Japanese garden and bonsai exhibit as they were in 1989. The commentator introduces the program with the following: "The Western idea of small as quaint is not that of the Japanese. Their idea is - to make something smaller is to make it more understandable." To continue on that thought line, Bill Merritt appears and helps introduce us to what a bonsai is using all too familiar words: "The Taoists believe that by miniaturizing a landscape, a royal garden, or a setting, they could exercise considerable influence/control over that setting . . . over the consequences of any action that might take place in the garden."

Next, Bill described what every bonsai enthusiast tries to have in his bonsai: "The ultimate purpose is to create an illusion of

a magnificent old tree with all the characteristics that are respected in age: splayed roots - buttressed roots; a trunk with lots of bark, a trunk that perhaps is misshaped by storms, weather, age; branches that droop because they are old and tired. An old tree will have reached its maximum height - it will have an umbrella top."

As the camera shifted to the Japanese garden, the commentator remarked, "To truly appreciate bonsai, one must understand the imagery of the Japanese garden. According to Bob Drechsler (former curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection), the placement of plants, stones and water is based on the Japanese notion of esthetic symbolism." This was the cue for "Bonsai Bob" to define that esthetic symbolism as it applies to the garden: "The dry river bed flows through the garden. And when you approach the first entrance, you'll see a number of shrubs trimmed and very rounded - as it would be if you were in miniature looking up - you would see large mountains. The further away you get from the mountains, the more rounded they become and the more even it (the shrubs in the background) becomes.

"The stones represent the permanency of the garden. More than one-half the stones we have in the garden are in the ground. It's supposed to represent permanency, whereas the plant material is constantly growing and changing with the seasons and light (in the garden).

"We have a dry riverbed, but the water in a Japanese garden is the thing that is constantly changing minute after minute. And so you have fast changing, as well as slow changing, and the permanent stones. So you have the philosophy of the whole garden. So one can experience a calm pause in the storms of daily life."

Following Bonsai Bob, were shots of the bonsai, and lastly Bob Orsinger adding his interesting and thought-provoking

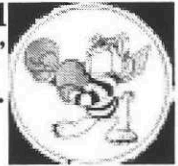
commentary, "I was at a symposium in Philadelphia two years ago (1987) and this Chinese gentleman was very deftly wiring a lovely plant after he had styled it. Someone asked him a question from the floor, 'What do you think about when you are working on bonsai.' He thought a while and said, 'Well, I meditate.' And I think that was just to put an answer on an experience that you just don't define. I think it is borne out in the people whom I meet in bonsai work. They, oh I hate to make it sound cliché, but they show a reverence for growing things and a reverence for the rules for growing things. And they are involved with something going beyond their life spans perhaps. These plants you'll see today that are 350 years old - what short span of that plant's lifetime have we been permitted to be the custodian of that plant. Like our lives on this planet, these plants have a finite life span. But with the care we give them, their life span in nature is extended for the enjoyment of people. People who come to the collection to look at these plants and experience something - but it's something you just can't verbalize, you just can't put it down. And why bother - just enjoy it!"

As for me, Bill's words are aptly put - "... (bonsai is) an experience that you just don't define." I think many people are lured to creating and growing bonsai because it offers many a challenge. I have not tried to explain to my wife why I do bonsai. Anyway, Jane, being more pragmatic, has looked at my association with bonsai as a way to keep me out of her hair since my retirement. Then there's a reverence, to use one of Bill's words, that man has for trees. They have played many roles in man's existence; and some have been on the dark side, like when one is uprooted and cleaves one's house in two, or a large branch falls on the family automobile.

The aspect of our bonsai outliving each of us is an interesting thought. Will one's offspring willingly inherit the bonsai and take care of them. Bill Merritt liked to tell the tale of seeing an elderly gentleman in Japan diligently working on a Hinoki cypress scraping bark with the broken edge of a piece of glass to form shari. The obvious question was why was he styling a tree that he may not live to see reach his envisioned goal. The answer was that it would be an heirloom for his oldest son to, in turn, nurture and keep for a grandson, and so on. However, I heard of one case that is a down side to such an occurrence. A Japanese wife hated the bonsai her husband had inherited from his father because she had to water them.

Apparently her husband had accepted his father's bonsai since it was the traditional thing to do, but had no interest in them, and gave the task of keeping them alive to his wife. I guess his wife would have secretly devised a scheme to kill them if she thought the husband would not suspect the cause for death (makings of a murder plot). The old idea in Japan of passing bonsai from father to son has probably disappeared, but in this country, thankfully, it's not the rule.

As long as what I have is alive, someone will think of something to do with them when I go to the big bonsai garden in the sky. In the meantime, as Bill said, "why bother, just enjoy it" - enjoy your bonsai experiences.



BONSAI STYLES

Mike Ramina of the Baltimore Bonsai Club sent the following which encapsulates in a few words what one should do when considering on how to style a tree.

Dear Jules,

I found an interesting article in Classic Bonsai's of Japan written by John Bester. The basic bonsai styles provide a framework for the appreciation of bonsai; but, the fact remains that since trees are naturally occurring objects, no two will ever be exactly alike. There are general rules provided in the Bonsai World for each particular style, but they are not meant to be slavishly adhered to. It is in the bringing together and transcending of the natural form and the manmade form that the true beauty of the Bonsai lies. The most important requirement in training a miniature tree, so as to enhance its aesthetic appeal, is to base the shape on that of the tree as it occurs in nature, taking care not to violate the essential nature of the species.

Mike Ramina, MMR2823@aol.com

Poetry Corner - Calm yourself

The following are from "MORNING MIST, Thoreau and Basho through the Seasons" by Mary Kullberg; Weatherhill, NY; 1993.

*The chestnut by the eaves,
in magnificent bloom -
unnoticed by men of the world.*

- Basho

*How much of beauty - of color as well as form -
on which our eyes daily goes unperceived by us.*

*The morning wind forever blows,
the poem of the world is uninterrupted,
but few are the ears that hear it.*

- Thoreau

Calendar of Events *compiled by Shari Sharafi (BBS)*

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

July

9 1 pm PBA Board Meeting, Yoshimura Center. Y'all come.

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

Rappahanock Bonsai Society

2 Build your own Bonsai pot; Bonsai Pottery Class with Artist Dan Finnegan, Time and cost TBA, sign up early (limited space)

August

Baltimore Bonsai Club (No Meeting)

Brookside Bonsai Society

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

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

27 Open discussion on Insect and Disease Problems with Bonsai at Clearwater Nature Center.

Lancaster Bonsai Society

\$10 Workshop on tropical trees. Australian Bush Cherry a possibility.

Beginner to Intermediate. Club to furnish plants, soil and wire.

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society (Info not available)

Rappahanock Bonsai Society

5 11:00 a.m., Tropical Bonsai Workshop, Gardens Unlimited, Further info, details and cost TBA

Non-PBA Functions

12 - 27 August, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm, *Suiseki - The Art of Stone Appreciation*. The finest viewing stones or suiseki from China, Japan, Indonesia, Canada, and the United States in the US National Arboretum's collection will be on display in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. See articles, front page and pg 10. Free.



These sketches appear through the good will of NBF. We're hoping the first English edition of Saburo Kato's book on forest plantings published in 1962 will be coming soon to a Foundation near you.

Minutes of 11 June PBA Board Meeting *provided by Arlene Polinsky (NVBS)*

All PBA members are encouraged to attend all board meetings. Keeping Arlene company were: NVBS - Chuck Croft, Jules Koetsch, Betty Yeapanis, Jack Wells, Arash Afshar; BBS - Shari Sharafi, Jerry Antel; BBC - Arschell Morell; BOWIE - Jim Sullivan; NB&PM Asst Curator Jack Sustic

Minutes of April 2d meeting accepted.

Treasurer's report: CD \$6000; Check \$214.56; Savings \$5831.67; Total \$12,046.43

To remain fee-free, bank requires minimum \$5000. The CD at \$6000 covers it, so we will stay at that bank.

OLD BUSINESS: Shari Sharafi (BBS) - FALL SYMPOSIUM Chair

Mr Kim of Korea will work on tree Saturday w/assistant. Sunday morning will do tree critique of all trees, not just hornbeam. Sunday afternoon there will be 3 workshops, mostly hornbeam. Chris is looking for sources for raw material. Mr Kim's tree will be offered for sale during the silent auction - \$600 base price with \$25 increments.

Workshop #1- best hornbeams, cost approx. \$200, six to seven participants, and possibly silent observers. Other 2 workshops also Korean hornbeams, but lesser trees. Chris is looking for raw material w/ Brussels, Doyle and Valavanis, and also workshop leaders.

Looking into a dinner, probably on Saturday or Sunday night, at an American food restaurant or steak house. Some discussion of having it catered on the Arb grounds. Jerry and Shari are looking into dinner catering.

There was a question as to whether Mr Kim has received his letter of invitation, mailed on May 25. Shari will e-mail him to confirm. Chuck will e-mail the official invitation, and will courier a copy on official letterhead if the original did not arrive. After Mr Kim formally accepts the invitation, the airline tickets for him and his assistant will be purchased.

Letters for vendors (approx. 18-20 vendors): Arash will mail on Wednesday. \$175 vendor fee. Expect 10-12 to accept. Will send verification to accepted vendors first week of August. Will need vendor count to know how many chairs and tables to get. Tent set-up is Thursday, vendor set-up is Friday. Much discussion led to defining one person to be designated as sole liaison for vendors to avoid damaging misunderstandings such as occurred at spring show.

Advertising Fall Symposium in Clippings

Need specifics about workshops, i.e. who conducts workshops, what trees will be used, etc. The Schedule of Events and registration form will be put in July and August *Clippings*. Need submissions for July *Clippings* by June 15. In July *Clippings*, symposium registration will note the workshop registration will be in the August issue. Also need something on registration form to find out what trees are coming for the critique.

Full symposium registration: PBA member - \$75; Non-member - \$90, includes subscription to *Clippings*. Saturday only: PBA - \$55; Non - \$70. Sunday only: PBA - \$25; Non - \$40. Extra lunch - \$10. Jerry is arranging for the food.

SPRING SHOW: To FONA: \$1000; Receipts: \$3911; Expenses: \$1972.72 - tent rental \$1795; Net proceeds: \$1938.28; Net: \$938.28. Donations were down from the last 3 years, but it has been lower in previous years. Some discussion, but no decision, on whether or not to raise vendor fee to \$250 from \$200. Discussion of too great a percentage for one raise, even though there has been no increase for

many years; and a question of bad timing considering the very poor Spring Show turnout (reflected in some of our vendors not even covering their expenses). This issue will be revisited.

For next year, we will try for 1st weekend in May or 1st weekend in April. Can't have it the last weekend in April due to favoritism given to FONA (Friends of the National Arboretum); or the 3rd weekend in April due to competition of MidAtlantic Symposium. PBA Pres, NBF Pres, and Arboretum Dir are slated to meet on this subject soon.

There was discussion about finding a new venue, with its benefits and negatives considered; and on having someone do an analysis of how much money PBA has donated to the Arb, and how much volunteer time comes from PBA members, as opposed to what they get from FONA. PBA gives money to FONA, does the bonsai museum get money from FONA?

More discussion re needing a pub person for PBA, to coordinate with Arb when we have upcoming activities there (to encourage them to use their clout to get our events publicized); and also to get us attention from TV, newspapers, for our "all other" activities.

Bonsai Therapy Sessions: The representative of the Clinic (who, during the Washington Flower & Garden Show, made a request of our membership to provide training for her patients) has not provided her request in writing nor made any follow-up efforts as promised.

BY-LAWS: The committee (Arash, Jerry, Arschel, Joe) will create a first draft and pass it out for review. They will start work in July.

BEHNKE AUCTION: Information not yet passed from Auction Chair to Treasurer.

DISCUSSION: PBA is an educational organization, we have 3 activities, the Fall

Symposium, Spring Show and *Clippings Newsletter*. Some members doing other activities on an individual basis. It was suggested that we explore other educational venues and opportunities; and that we document what is being done in the name of PBA, and simply in the name of bonsai by club members. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Basic bonsai classes are being offered in Arlington County, formerly at Northern Virginia Community College. Some locations have good response, such as NoVA and Arlington County, some don't anymore, such as Montgomery College night classes.

Ron Lang (Baltimore Club) is an instructor in the College of Art and a curator of ceramics. He is putting together a show pulling together bonsaists with national and international ceramists. Trees specifications will be given to ceramist, who designs an artful (as opposed to traditional) container for the tree--ceramic sculptures of which the trees become part.

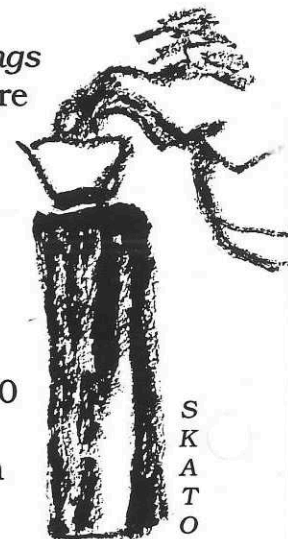
A proposal is in front of the Arb, to display this collection during the 2001 Fall Symposium, which is based on the history of bonsai.

Chuck will send a condolence card to Roy Nagatoshi on the occasion of his father's death, on behalf of the PBA.

Jules suggests that a new section be added to *Clippings* - a swap meet section where members can advertise bonsai items they wish to sell, swap, give away, etc.

No word yet from the ABS about hosting their convention.

Next board meeting is 1300 hr, July 9, Yoshimura Center. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.



POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
Presents
The 26th Annual PBA Fall Symposium
Taste of Korean Bonsai
September 9 & 10, 2000
U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC



This year the Potomac Bonsai Association will hold its fall symposium at the National Arboretum. Mr. Sae Won Kim will be guest speaker and will work on a magnificent Korean Hornbeam with a trunk base of approximately 30 cm at its base. The tree, a gift from Mr Kim to PBA, will eventually be sold to the highest bidder through a silent auction at the end of the symposium.

Mr. Kim, a second-generation bonsai master from Seoul Korea, is 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.

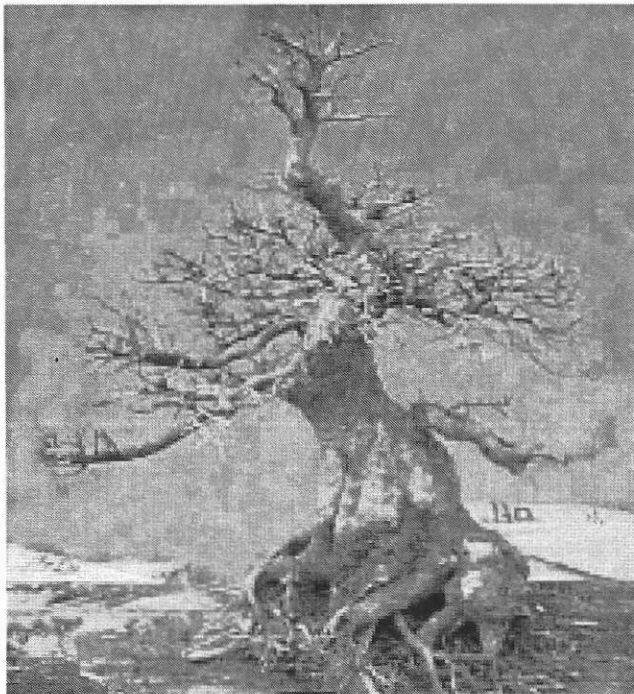
Mr. Kim was born in 1952, received his undergraduate horticultural degree from Seoul City University in 1974, and his master's in floriculture from Korea University in 1981. He has taught at Shingu College, and Korea, Joong Ang, and An Seong Universities. He has authored several books on the art of bonsai, and is fluent in English, French, and Japanese. Mr. Kim will be accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Lee Kwang Soo.

Mr Kim has made a gift to PBA of the Korean Hornbeam demo tree which is currently being cared for by Mr. Jack Sustic, assistant curator of the National Bonsai Museum.

On the second day of the Symposium, there will be a morning session for registrants to have their favorite bonsai critiqued. Mr. Kim will discuss the trees' styles, health, and esthetics; and provide pointers for their improvement.

The afternoon session will be two separate workshops. The first workshop, limited to 6 people, will be conducted by Mr. Kim. He will be using Korean Hornbeam trees with 5 cm trunks and 30 to 45 cm tall, with many branches. The second workshop will be conducted by Mr. Jack Sustic, in which Korean Hornbeam trees with 2 to 3 cm trunk diameters and 25 to 30 cm tall will be used. This workshop will be limited to 8 people, but we do have access to 16 trees. A third workshop, to be conducted by a local artist, will be arranged if there is additional demand.

The symposium will feature a silent auction of bonsai items donated by the vendors and PBA members, in addition to the Korean Hornbeam that is to be styled by Mr. Kim in his demonstration (opening bid \$600 with \$25 price increments).



Mr Kim's demo tree

Our many excellent trusted vendors will, as always, offer many fairly priced bonsai and related items for sale.

For registration information, please write:

PBA Symposium
c/o Jerry Antel
6409 Middleburg Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817

Integrated Pest Management for Vegetable Gardens

The best way to control insects and disease problems is to prevent them.

Soil Preparation

Maintain a slightly acid soil (around pH 6.5). If in doubt, have a soil analysis done through your local Extension office, by a private lab, or with a commercial soil test kit.

Build a biologically active, healthy soil through regular addition of organic matter, such as yard waste, compost, and manure.

Grow winter annual cover crops, such as clover or rye grass, to provide additional organic matter.

Till the soil in the fall to expose pests living near the surface to natural enemies and weather, and to destroy insects in crop residues.

Plant Selection

Plant crops that are suited to the soil and climate. If you do plant vegetables or fruits that are not normally grown in your area, provide them with necessary conditions.

Use disease-free, certified seed, if available. Select insect- and disease-resistant vegetable and fruit varieties, when available.

Select sturdy plants with well-developed root systems. Diseases and insects in young seedlings may start in greenhouses or plant beds and cause heavy losses in the garden.

Buy plants from a reputable grower who can assure you that they are disease- and insect-free, or grow your own from seed.

Cultural Practices

The most effective and most important of all practices is to observe what is going on in the garden. Many serious disease or insect problems can be halted or brought under control early by the gardener who knows what to look for and regularly visits the garden for trouble-shooting.

Water in the morning so plants have time to dry before the cool evening. Drip

irrigation systems prevent foliage from getting wet at all when watering.

Use interplantings in the vegetable garden as opposed to solid plantings of a crop. This can slow the spread of diseases and insects, giving you more time to deal with them if they occur.

Space plants properly and thin young vegetables to a proper stand. Overcrowding causes weak growth and subsequent insect and disease problems.

Keep down weeds and grass. They often harbor pests and compete for nutrients and water. Leaf mulches are extremely effective for weed control.

Use a mulch to reduce sod splash, which brings soil-borne diseases into contact with lower leaves.

Rotate your garden plot, if you can. Do not grow the same kind of produce in the same place each year. Use related crops in one site only once every three or four years.

Avoid injury to plants. Broken limbs, cuts, bruises, cracks, and insect damage are often the site for infection by disease-causing organisms.

Stay out of the garden when the plants are wet with rain or dew to prevent spreading diseases.

Do not use tobacco products, such as cigarettes or cigars, when working in the vegetable garden. Tomato, pepper, and eggplant are susceptible to a mosaic virus disease common in tobacco and may be spread by your hands.

Remove and dispose of infected leaves from diseased plants as soon as you observe them. Remove severely diseased plants before they contaminate others.

Clean up crop refuse as soon as you are finished for the day.

Keep old sacks, baskets, decaying vegetables, and other rubbish, which may harbor insects and diseases, out of the garden.

10

Staking tall flower and vegetable plants or planting them in wire cages prevents the blossoms or fruit from coming in contact with the soil.

Time plantings in such a way that the majority of your crop will avoid the peak of insect infestations. For example, plant squash as early as possible to avoid borers, which lay eggs in July. Keep a record of the dates insect problems occur.

Plant warm-weather crops after the soil has warmed to avoid problems with seed and root rots; growth will be more vigorous, as well.

Inspect plants for egg clusters, beetles, caterpillars, and other insects as often as possible. Hand-pick as many pests as you can. Avoid sprays until the population of insects has reached a critical level.

Where slugs are a problem, use traps and try to create drier conditions. Heavy

mulches may sometimes encourage slugs. Spread crushed eggshells or hydrated lime around affected plants.

Enlist the aid of birds in your garden. Overall, they do more good than harm. Consider planting shrubs and trees with fruits that attract them. Keep in mind, however, if you attract wild birds, you will have to protect ripening fruit (and even some vegetables) by using bird netting or scare devices (aluminum pans banging in the breeze are fairly effective).

Encourage Beneficial Insects

Naturally occurring predators and parasites are found in gardens, orchards, and fields. Learn to properly identify these species as benefits of your environment. Avoid using pesticides around them. They are as susceptible to insecticides as the pests.

Hello Potomac Viewing Stone Group members and friends.

Contributed by Chris Yeapanis, NVBS



Our next PVSG meeting will be held from 3:00 to 4:45 p.m., Saturday, 12 Aug, in the Yoshimura Center at the US National Arboretum. This meeting will be held in conjunction with a NBF reception for Kemin (*pron. Kemean*) Hu on Friday, 11 Aug, and the opening of the Museum's viewing stone exhibit in the Special Exhibits Wing.

Here is a summary of the activities:

10:30 a.m. - Noon, and also **1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Saturday, 12 August**: Kemin will meet Museum visitors and respond to questions about her stones and Chinese Gongshi in the Special Exhibits Wing.

3:00 - 4:45 p.m. Saturday, August 12 will be the Potomac Viewing Stone Group Meeting in the Yoshimura Center, where Kemin will briefly discuss her scholar's Rocks, and there will be a sale of some of her fine stones brought from Massachusetts especially for this event. The Bonsai Museum is closed to the public at this time, but PVSG members as well as other regional club members, will be allowed to participate in this sale. Kemin has said she expects to have a very good selection of stones for sale because of expected receipt of new shipments from China. Entrance and exit from the Arboretum, at these after-hours events will take place via the R Street gated entrance. This should be an outstanding weekend for us. All PVSG members, as well as the Ameriseki and New England Clubs are strongly encouraged to participate. Our actual club meeting will be quite short, but we will have ample time Friday and Saturday to share some of Kemin's thorough knowledge and wonderful enthusiasm. You will find she is a most gracious lady, and a very enjoyable person with whom to converse.

Activities of the PVSG Meeting 5/21/00: Our main event on 5/21 was the viewing of two video tapes "Kei Do: The Way of Display and Appreciation" by Ichiu Katayama. These tapes very enjoyably covered the seasonal themes of display for bonsai and suiseki taught by the Kei Do school in Japan. Later we discussed and admired the many stones brought in by members. There were about 15 members in attendance including several first-timers.

The following has been extracted from the US National Arboretum's web-site <http://www.ars-grin.gov/na> for Integrated Pest Management Tips at the beginning of each month. Hence the following appeared too late for the last issue of Clippings. However, the following tips are still useful.

Pest Management

Pay close attention to your azaleas now to prevent ghastly yellowed and stippled leaves caused by the azalea lace bug. The lace bug feeds on the underside of leaves, but damage is apparent on the upper surface. Lace bugs leave cast skins and black, gummy, varnish-like feces on the underside of leaves. They deposit eggs, cemented with a brown crusty material, near leaf veins. Warm temperatures cause the eggs to hatch, usually in May. The damage becomes more visible as successive generations hatch in June and July. The lace bug thrives on azaleas grown in the sun; it falls victim to spiders on azaleas properly grown in the shade. Insecticidal soocultural oil, or a systemic insecticide help to control this pest.

Determine the damage threshold for your plants. Decide ahead of time how much injury you can tolerate and don't take action until this level is reached. Premature measures, taken when they are not necessary, may lead to a resurgence of another pest or harm beneficial insects, mites, and spiders.

Have you heard of an insect with a 13- or 17-year life span? We usually think insects are short-lived, but the periodical cicada can live longer than your cat or dog! Unlike many pests, the adult cicadas don't feed on leaves, but cause damage by depositing their eggs in the bark of trees. The females saw into the bark of small branches, splintering the sapwood to make slits for their eggs. Damaged branches break off easily in a storm or high winds. Once the eggs hatch, the nymphs drop to the ground, burrow into the soil, and remain there for the remainder of their development. Nymphs suck sap from the roots of trees, but not

enough to inflict serious harm. Keep your eyes open for dead twigs and branches. Trees showing conspicuous damage from egg laying include oak, hickory, ash, and dogwood. Mature, established trees usually recover from the damage. Small and newly planted trees may be seriously injured or killed. Protect them by covering them with netting.

Your garden will benefit from your knowledge of what insects populate it. Monitor your garden frequently to find small pest populations before they become destructive. Look for beneficial insects that are feeding on the pests, too. Their relative abundance is a key component in making accurate decisions on whether or not pesticides are necessary. For example, if you observe many beneficial insects and small numbers of pests, you may need to do nothing. Problems usually will not become severe if you notice them early and keep an eye on them. To find small numbers of small insects and mites, place a sheet of white paper under a branch or plant and tap the foliage so these tiny creatures fall onto the paper.

Watch for powdery mildew on your dogwoods. It is a serious disease that stunts new growth and stops growth entirely if severe. Unlike most fungi, powdery mildew does not require water on the leaf surface for spore germination, so it will invade even in dry weather. Neem-based pesticides or horticultural oil will cure the problem.

Use fertilizer wisely! Plants don't need to be fed every time they're watered. Fertilization should not be used as a quick cure. Only fertilize when you're sure stunted or distorted growth, yellowing, and browning of the leaves are not caused

by a pest or disease. Some problems are magnified by excess fertilizer. Nutrient toxicities are common and many times cause death, especially to indoor plants. Spider mites, scale insects, aphids, hemlock woolly adelgids, and many other pests are encouraged by over fertilization. Instead of purchasing beneficial insects, conserve those that nature sends your way. Spray pesticides only when it is absolutely necessary, and treat only the plants that are being attacked by pests or diseases. Whenever possible, use a reduced-risk pesticide such as horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, or neem seed extract to combat pests and diseases. These pesticides have minimal impact on beneficial insects. Look for insect predators when you note a burgeoning insect problem; they may be working to bring it under control for you. You can avoid using pesticides that harm beneficial insects by exploring other control options. Physically remove pest insects from their host plants with a jet of water from your garden hose, or hand pick them into a bucket of soapy water. Be sure that you are providing your landscape plants with the conditions they need to thrive; healthy plants are less likely to be subject to pest and disease problems. When shopping for new plants, be sure to select pest and disease resistant varieties whenever you can.

Check azaleas, andromeda, and rhododendrons for lace bug hatchlings. Look at last year's foliage; if you notice yellow stippling on the leaves, it is likely that last year's lace bugs laid eggs on the

underside of the leaves. The black eggs are well camouflaged by the tarry black excrement left by the adult lace bugs. It is easiest to detect them using the beat test. Place a white sheet of paper under the foliage and tap the plant vigorously.

Young lace bugs are black, spiny, and no larger than a pinhead. If you detect large numbers of them, spray infested plants with horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, or a pesticide containing acephate.

You can reduce the need for insecticides in your landscape by using plants that attract beneficial insects. Ladybird beetles, hover flies, lacewings, spiders, and parasitic wasps are natural enemies of plant damaging insects like aphids, mites, whitefly, scale, and thrips.

<u>Plant</u>	<u>Attracts</u>
common yarrow	ladybird beetles, wasps, hover flies
coriander	lacewings, hover flies, braconid wasps, spiders
cosmos	lacewings, ladybird beetles, hover flies, spiders
fennel	lacewings, ladybird beetles, hover flies, braconid wasps
Queen Anne's	lacewings, ladybird beetles, hover flies, spiders
spearmint	hover flies, spiders
sweet alyssum	hover flies, braconid wasps

The best way to manage pests is to use a combination of chemical and non-chemical control. Only take action when the problem is serious enough to damage the plant. If we all use Integrated Pest Management (IPM), we can control pests in an environmentally conscious manner.



!ATTENTION ALL READERS!: Jack Billet, PBA friend and member of the board of the National Bonsai Foundation, has started what I think is a daunting project. He needs your help. He is compiling JYNaka's tree sketches into a book for posterity. Long before I came to the world of bonsai, Sensei John was sketching his vision of workshop students' trees as a guide for the student, a mnemonic for future styling, if you will. Next month, we will be providing simple directions for those of you who wish to honor JYN by helping to make Jack's effort successful. So start searching your piles. Root out those sketches and be prepared.

MONTHLY CARE TIPS for JULY *compiled by Jules Koetsch, NVBS*

The following tips have been compiled from 4 Japanese bonsai magazines and the Yuji Yoshimura/Giovanna M. Halford book, Miniature Trees and Landscapes.

Fertilizing: One procedure often followed is to *not* fertilize bonsai during the hot summer months since this can stress the tree by making it expend too much energy producing new growth. It is interesting to note that for some of the plant material listed below, the Japanese book suggests applying fertilizer during July.

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, you may consider holding back on applying any fertilizer during that time period.

Push back: Wherever the words "push back" appear, it signifies you should reduce 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.

Location: Plants thrive best when placed where they will receive an adequate amount of sunlight. Some plants thrive on one-half a day of shade, others like a full day in the sun. Locations are suggested by the Yoshimura/Halford book.

The gardener's mantra is: "Morning sun, afternoon shade equals shade; morning shade, afternoon sun equals sun," from Lynn L. Remly's article "Grateful Shade" in the Sunday Journal, June 4, 2000.

pH: If soil in the pot is not the correct pH, one can consider making it more acid by spreading some aluminum sulfate crystals around the edge of the pot or using 1 teaspoon of vinegar in a gallon of water and drenching the soil. The latter method lowers the pH about 1.0 or one point. To raise the pH use agricultural lime sprinkled on the surface of the soil. Use the aluminum sulfate or lime powder sparingly and monitor the pH before increasing any dosage.

CONIFERS

BLACK PINE: Water as much as 3 times a day. Note that the Japanese usually plant a black pine in a soil mix, usually coarse sand which does not hold water for too long a period of time. Gage your watering based on your soil mix's ability to hold water, and weather conditions. Needle removal continues as prescribed last month. The new needles in the mid-third of the tree, except for those needles at the tips of the branches, are removed. Ten days later, repeat the process for the branches in the upper third of the tree. Wire during the last 20 days of the month after old wire has been removed. Place in full sun all day and preferably in a windy location. pH 4.5 to 6.0

CRYPTOMERIA: Water three times per day, including the leaves. In the last 20 days of the month, trim new growth to desired lengths. Also apply fertilizer balls in the last 10 days of the month. Wiring can be done any time during the month. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.5 - 7.0

HEMLOCK: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

HINOKI: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Wiring can be done in the middle of 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 the edges of the foliage to reduce the lengths of the new growth when it gets too leggy. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

LARCH: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.5

NEEDLE JUNIPER: Water three times per day including the leaves. Mist the leaves. Wiring can be done any time after the old wire which might be digging into the bark has been removed. Pluck to reduce length of new growth and prevent leggy growth. Apply fertilizer balls during the last 10 days of the month. Place in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.0

SAWARA CYPRESS: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Pluck new growth to keep it from getting too leggy. Wire can be applied during the middle of the month. Keep in half-day shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

SHIMPAKU (Sargent juniper): Water twice per day, including the foliage. Repotting can be done up to the 10th of the month. Repot every 3 years. Pluck, push back new growth and remove dead growth and unwanted branches before the 20th of the month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.0 - 6.0

SPRUCE: Water 3 times per day. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.0 - 6.0

WHITE PINE: Water 3 times per day. Place in full sun all day and preferably in a windy location. pH 4.5 - 6.0

YEW: Water as needed. Keep in half-day shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

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. Push back new growth. Wire any time during the month. Fertilize in the middle of the month. Give plant half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.7

CHINESE ELM: Water as needed. Push back new growth by reducing the lengths of branchlets to 4 leaves. Remove any wire digging into bark. Apply fertilizer balls in the first 10 days of the month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.5

GINGKO: Water as needed. Remove unwanted lengths of branches in the beginning of the month. Also apply fertilizer balls during that time frame. Remove wire digging into the bark during this month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.0

HORNBEAM: Water 2 to 3 times per day. Prune unwanted branches and push back new growth. Wire any time during the month. Apply fertilizer balls during the middle of the month. Half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

JAPANESE MAPLE: Water 3 times per day. Pluck or cut off unwanted leaves until the middle of the month. Wire any time during the month. Remove unwanted growth (branches) starting on the 20th of the month. Give plant half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

TRIDENT MAPLE: Water 3 times per day. Remove unwanted branches, sprouts and leaves. Wire any time during the month. Apply fertilizer balls during the middle of the month. Give plant half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

WEeping WILLOW: Water once per day. Keep the pot in a dish of water during the month. Apply fertilizer balls once some time during the last 20 days of the month. Remove unwanted lengths of branches and wire them to conform to the desired pendulous shape. Give plant half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

WINGED EUONYMOUS: Water as needed. Prune unwanted branches and push back new growth. During the middle of the month, remove any wire that is digging into the bark. Apply fertilizer balls once during the last 10 days of the month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.5 - 7.0

Flowering/Fruiting Plants

CHERRY: Water 3 times per day up to about the 10th of the month and then drop back to 2 times per day. Give plant half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

CRAB APPLE: Water 3 times per day. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.0 - 6.5

GARDENIA: Water as needed. Remove spent blossoms. Reduce lengths of branches where desired to 3 leaf pairs. Apply fertilizer balls during the last 10 days of the month. Give plant half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

PYRACANTHA: Water 2 times per day during the first half of the month and then go to watering 3 times per day. Prune branches and unwanted growth up to the 10th of the month. Apply fertilizer balls once during the middle of the month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.0 - 6.0

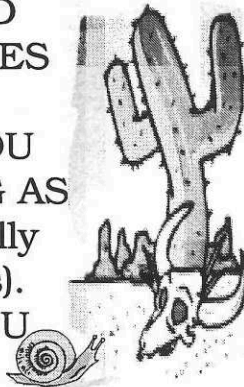
QUINCE: Water 2 to 3 times per day and go to 3 times per day after about the 10th of the month. Apply fertilizer balls once during the last 10 days of the month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.5

SATSUKI (azalea): Water 3 times per day. Sometime during the middle of the month apply fertilizer balls. Give plant half-day of shade. pH 4.5 - 5.0

UME (Japanese flowering plum or apricot): Water 3 times per day. Keep in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.5

WISTERIA: Water often. Likes full sun. Trim back branches so that two leaf pairs remain. Apply fertilizer balls during the last 10 days of the month. Give plant half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

THIS ISSUE WOULD
CONTAIN MORE PAGES
OF INTERESTING
INFORMATION IF YOU
WERE CONTRIBUTING AS
REQUESTED (mutually
agreed in some cases).
YOU KNOW WHO YOU
ARE !



**ORIENTAL
ORIENTATION**

GROWING:
BONSAI, PRE-BONSAI,
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RARE & UNUSUAL DWARF
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You may have noticed 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, gBill and Betty Gimbel
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