

PBA Clippings

NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Volume 30, Number 9
September 2000



In this, PBA's 30th Year, we present to you, our membership, Mr Sai Won Kim, Second-Generation Korean Bonsai Master

Solve a mystery!

Attend the Symposium

Learn the secrets of Korean bonsai versus Japanese bonsai and Chinese Penjing. Beginners and experts will find much of interest.

Build your bonsai knowledge. Have your eyes opened. Share an "OH . . ." moment with others.

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PBA
Clippings
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Editorial by Jules Koetsch

One practice I do not pursue rigorously enough is to wander again through the few books in my bonsai library. Of late I started poking through three books that have been in my library for a long time - Deborah R. Koreshoff's *BONSAI-- Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy*, John Y. Naka's *BONSAI TECHNIQUES Part I*, and Jerome Meyer's *The BONSAI BOOK of PRACTICAL FACTS*. The first two books are still being published. However the third book, unfortunately, has been out of print for a number of years and still is a particular favorite of mine.

Why did I pick those three books from all the others in my library? They approach the subject of growing bonsai in more depth than the others but in somewhat different ways. That is not to say that other books on bonsai may cover some particular aspect of bonsai growing not found in another book; but I've found the above three the easiest in which to find answers to the every-day questions.

There is one general problem I run into going back into books I've ostensibly read line by line—I still haven't remembered some what's in some of the paragraphs. Just recently I happened to be looking into Naka's book for the formula for mixing water and buttermilk to fertilize moss. That the formula was written there, I remembered, after having meticulously committed the fact to memory years ago. What I did find was the possible answer to an old annoyance of mine—soil washing away from watering or heavy rains. I'm going to try a "thin layer of dry sphagnum moss which has been screened through 1/8" screen, and then soaked with water." This may work as well as the tip Jack Billet passed on when he and Dori Froning last lectured to NVBS. He showed some mame where the top of the soil had a granular, dark brown appearance. He sprinkles cottonseed husks on the surface of the soil which he claims has a tendency to lock

together and prevent soil from washing away. The resulting crust is porous enough to permit water to pass through. I've tried every possible source I know in this area to get some cottonseed husks, but even the grain, feed and seed type stores don't carry it. I remember a number of years ago Mike Kling using the item in his soil mixture, but it apparently was too moisture retentive and didn't become a favorite part of bonsai soils. Perhaps the most direct answer is to use cheesecloth or get a solid layer of moss growing. But then again, moss can prevent water from getting into the soil in the pot.

There was another concern I've had relative to the fact that when repotting, soil mixes do not generally have any fertilizer amended to them. The reason is that the roots might get burned during watering if they come in contact with any dry fertilizer. Last year I was very lazy in that I did not use any liquid fertilizer or fertilizer balls to feed my bonsai. I relied solely on a product named *Wood Ace* consisting of irregularly shaped pellets a little over 1/8" wide. It is a slow-release fertilizer similar to *Osmocote* but designed for trees and shrubs. One application in the spring seemed to be sufficient. The bonsai survived the year in no worse shape than when I'd methodically applied liquid fertilizer every week or so. I've always been intrigued by the section in the Yoshimura/Halford book (p. 128) which describes applying an appropriately mixed and aged mixture of fertilizer elements so that they form a lining around the sides and bottom of the pot. The lining is put in place before repotting the bonsai. The Koreshoff book (p. 107) also suggests using *Osmocote* or another slow-release fertilizer (*Nutricote*) mixed with the repotting soil. Hence I feel very secure in mixing *Wood Ace* with my soil mixes when repotting the next time. Along the same lines, I've put a layer of super phosphate in the bottom of a wisteria bonsai just like a

Japanese book suggested. Hopefully, next spring there'll be at least one bloom to admire. One drawback to using *Wood Ace* is that it is sold in a large (I believe 50-pound) bag, so if you don't have a number of trees and shrubs to fertilize around your home, you may have to consider going in with others to purchase and divvy up the bag.

Just thumbing through Jerry Meyer's book, *The BONSAI BOOK of PRACTICAL FACTS*, I stopped to read his 5 1/4 pages on *The Watering Dilemma*. Watering is the most important task one must master when growing bonsai. The following words hit home (p. 86): "In contrast to nature, the micro-environment of bonsai would naturally dictate time limits in hours rather than days or weeks for specimens in natural surroundings. And in periods of heavy rain, it may not be necessary to water bonsai for several days thereafter. Most bonsai species have a wide tolerance between the two extremes of moist and dry. During hot, dry periods, however, it may be necessary to water twice a day - once lightly to supply humidity, then thoroughly later on.

"In general, and in the experience of this author, there should be a dry period between waterings for a time interval depending on the pot size, soil drainage capability, sun exposure and species. With synthetic soils, however, this may be deceptive because drainage and surface evaporation become greatly improved. It is better to poke a finger down into the soil about 1/2" when synthetic amendments are used to check the moisture below. If the soil feels damp, do not water."

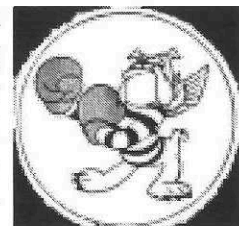
When I started in bonsai, I followed the practice of watering early in the morning every day. I don't remember how many trees didn't take kindly to that approach. Now instead of sticking finger into the soil in the bonsai pot, I use a moisture meter. If it indicates one-half of the full-scale reading, I don't water and check that plant

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again the next day. Then if everything is okay and the plant is healthy, the reading for that plant has dropped below the previous day's reading and the plant gets watered. If the reading is the same for a plant from day to day, you might suspect the plant is having problems. Poking the probe of a moisture meter in various parts of a bonsai pot is also enlightening in that the root ball will show the highest moisture reading. Readings will decrease as the probe is moved towards the edge of the container. You will find that you have to water in more than one spot on the soil, especially for a forest planting, in order to eliminate dry areas. Also, for deciduous trees with a dense canopy of leaves, you may very well find that very little rain will get into the soil of the pot. Most of the rain

has been shed off by the leaves. In nature, the rain sheds off of a deciduous tree with dense foliage at the so called drip-line beneath the extreme edges of the branches - the place where you fertilize your big garden trees. That's why the roots grow out that far. Hence the moisture meter will help you ascertain if after a rainfall, any rain of significance has reached the pot or dripped off outside of the pot. A moisture meter is an interesting gadget to toy around with.

If for no other reason, I'm going to start spending some time going back over my bonsai books, and reacquaint myself with the areas I've forgotten or chose to skim over.



NEWS FLASH! BANQUET FOR FALL SYMPOSIUM - We will be treating our Korean guests to an authentic American steak dinner which will be affordable and available to all members. Free parking within a well-lighted 1/2 block. Outback Restaurant, 7720 Woodmont Ave, near corner of Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Make arrangements NOW - don't wait - with Jerry Antel to dine with our new friends - you can never know where a simple meal or introduction will lead . . .

Garden Clubs Have Decided to Do it on Salt Water

The following is the first advance notice of reservations for the 2002 Cruise to Bermuda for the NCSGC National Convention. The ship, the Crown Dynasty, has a limited capacity so "the earlier, the better" if you are interested!

NEWS FLASH! The Scoop on the 2002 cruise to Bermuda, NCSGC, Inc., Annual Convention, May 1-8, 2002

The Central Atlantic Region, excitedly invites you to send in your reservation NOW for our first ever Convention Cruise to Bermuda on 1 May 2002 from Baltimore, MD or Philadelphia (Navy Yard), PA.

We are asking for an early booking deposit to show good faith and interest, so the steering committee will be able to make a deposit to hold our convention ship, the luxurious m/v Crown Dynasty.

This \$200 pp deposit (check or credit card) will hold a space for you. Selection of staterooms will be by postal service postmark in order received. Deposits will not be processed until a contract is signed. (The cruise line must wait for final approval from the US Coast Guard for a departing port, but it WILL be from the Central Atlantic Region) The \$200 will be applied to your reservation. Complete cruise prices and details will be mailed to you as soon as available and will be available at the fall board meeting in Princeton, NJ. If you must cancel, refunds of \$190 pp will be given until 1 January 2001. (The \$10 deducted is a processing fee.)

For more info, call 703.660.8661 or e- Posst@aol.com

Poss Tarpley

Gosh am I jealous . . .



CHUCK'S PLACE

(For those of you who don't keep up, this would be our PBA president from NVBS, who wanted an unpretentious title for his column. Have we succeeded?)

This is the first of several messages you will receive from me over the next several months. I will use this column to inform you of details of the activities PBA will be participating in over the next several months.

I don't expect this to be a monthly column, rather it will appear as needed. I hope you find it informative. If any one of you has questions, please feel free to contact me at the number or e-mail address below. Thank you.

Next year's spring show is going to be very different from those we've had in recent years. To begin with, we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the National Arboretum's Bonsai and Penjing Museum, and, therefore, our spring show will be used to kick-off the celebration. In an effort to provide the greatest exposure to the Museum and to contribute to the best celebration possible, we have invited Ikebana International and the PBA suiseki group to participate in the spring show. In addition, we will have in attendance several senior bonsai professionals from Japan and the Far East, who will be here for the celebration.

To begin with, we will be getting the fourth weekend of April back (27-29) - so long as the people who have been invited to attend from Asia can make this schedule. If not, we will go back to the first weekend in April. We have been offered the Chinese Pavilion for our bonsai displays, while the Special Exhibits Wing of the Education Center (as well as part of the Education Center proper) will be devoted to Ikebana exhibits; and the Suiseki exhibits will be placed in the current Viewing Stone exhibit area in the Education Center. The auditorium will be used for the 25th Anniversary Opening Ceremonies, lectures, and demonstrations. Our vendors will be located in a tent at the usual location.

This spring show is to be used to dedicate the three new Satsuki azalea bonsai that have been donated to the Museum. Thus, the individuals donating the trees will be in attendance; and these three trees will be on display in the Special Exhibits Wing of the Educational Center. Senior

members of the Japan Satsuki Azalea organization will be in attendance and have offered to give a lecture/demonstration on Satsuki azaleas. Mr Kato has been invited also. Other dignitaries (such as the Japanese Ambassador and senior US Government officials) that may attend have not yet been identified. This spring show will be an opportunity for PBA to not only support the 25th anniversary of the US National Arboretum's Bonsai and Penjing Museum, but will also be an opportunity to educate many people in the Washington metropolitan area (and from abroad) about our activities, our goals, and the quality of our work.

We often hear about how good the annual shows are in other locations and how great their trees are. I think we also have many very good trees, and if we begin now to prepare our trees for the show, and support the National Arboretum to make this the best possible show, we will have a spring show that will be talked about for years to come and that will be second to none.

Additional details about the spring show and other activities in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Museum will be discussed in future editions of the *PBA Clippings*. These activities will include such items as: bonsai pot competition, fall symposium, lectures and demonstrations at the museum, a special ceramics sculpture/bonsai show, etc. I look forward to this next year with a great deal of anticipation, and I hope you do too.

Chuck Croft, (703) 978-6841
crcroft@mindspring.com



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

September

YOUR FALL SYMPOSIUM

16-17 8:30 - 4 pm Taste of Korean Bonsai
Baltimore Bonsai Club

Supplying National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, Special Exhibits Wing with members' trees

2-10 10-3:30 pm

10 1-3 pm Demonstration

17 Trip to Meehan's - Arrangements to be presented as completed.

Brookside Bonsai Society

21 7 pm Monthly club meeting, Details in next club mailout.

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

No meeting- Members to attend PBA Symposium.

Lancaster Bonsai Society

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

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

9 9 am NVBS Picnic (don't forget to bring your assigned contributions)

Rappahanock Bonsai Society - Gary from Nature's Way - intermediate to advanced workshop, \$10. Plant material to be discussed.

October

Baltimore Bonsai Club

22 Collected Material Workshop, Bring any collected material to be evaluated and refined. Tree of month: Collected, Display: Arschel.

Brookside Bonsai Society

7-15 10 - 3:30 pm Bonsai Museum Special Exhibits Wing Installation

15 1-3 pm Demonstration

19 7 pm Monthly club meeting, Details in next club mailout.

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

22 Picnic - To be determined.

Lancaster Bonsai Society - Frank Thomas to graft live tree? A? Phoenix Graft? On dead wood.

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

14 9 am Viewing Stones

10 am Viewing Stones (Cont.)

Rappahanock Bonsai Society

7 11 am Hardy Bonsai Workshop, Gardens Unlimited, Further info, details and cost TBA.

Non-PBA Events of Interest

Slug Mating Season - they're not just climbing the walls to see what they can see. If you've noticed vertical trails, go out after 10 pm with a flashlight and see one of the marvels of nature.

Japanese Koi Show - Admin Bldg Terrace and Auditorium, co-sponsored by the Potomac Chapter of the Zen, and Nippon Airinkai

9 September, 9 am (vendors 10:00) - 5 p.m.

10 September, 9-4 pm

See brilliantly colored nishisigoi, "fancy koi," and watch as the distinguished koi judge Japan, Mr Tsuyoshi Tokutake, selects award winners during this annual competition. Vendors offer koi/pond equipment, and related products. Special koi and equipment auction takes place Saturday at 3:00 pm. Food vendors and free admission. Attend educational lectures in the auditorium:

Saturday

Noon: Can Waterlilies and Koi Be Friends? (speaker Chip Chum is from Koi Unlimited Aquatic Garden Center)

2:00 p.m.: Koi Identification and Japanese Pronunciation (speaker Ed Gillenwater is from the ZNA Potomac Club)

Sunday

10:00 a.m.: Fish Health (speaker Dr. Galen Hansen, from California, is known at the "E.R. doctor of koi" and conducts research on koi health and diseases)

Noon: Sex in the City: Koi Breeding (speaker Dr Grant Patton is a certified ZNA judge)

2:00 pm: Monsters of the Deep: Growth and Feeding of Koi (speaker Dr Gene Ewy is a certified AKCA judge)

Introduction to Bonsai

October 21 and 28

1- 3 pm Yoshimura Center - This two part course is designed to educate the novice in the basics of bonsai. Students will learn the fundamentals of bonsai, shapes, styles, pruning, wiring, and horticultural care of plants. The first Saturday meeting will be lecture-based, focusing on history and fundamentals of bonsai. The second Saturday will be hands-on experience creating your bonsai to take home. Fee: \$35 (FONA \$28). Registration required.

Bonsai Fall Foliage Show

October 28 - November 5,

10 - 3:30 pm National Bonsai and Penjing Museum Special Exhibits Wing

RUST ERASER by Jules (NVBS)

Some of you may already know and use the product which, for want of a better term, I call *Rust Erasers*. I've seen one product made in Japan and another brand from Germany. The German product comes as 3-1/4 by 2 by 5/8 inch block which can be easily held in the hand. The block looks like an oversized pencil or ink eraser containing fine, abrasive particles.

I have found the block with the *fine* particles especially useful for cleaning my bonsai scissors and clippers. The abrasive in the eraser is fine enough to remove all those stains resulting from the sap and any light tarnishing that may have occurred without scratching the cutting blades. For places where corrosion has set in, you may have to resort to one of the other blocks which have coarser abrasives, the *Medium* or the *Coarse*. The blocks have also been found to be useful in removing stains from bonsai pots, especially from the insides. As for the outside of a bonsai pot - do not use the block on any glazed pot exteriors. For the outside of a non-glazed pot, try the *fine* grit first in a spot that is not visible to insure that no scratching occurs.

I use the *fine* block to clean my scissors while pruning a bonsai. Some people take extra precautions when pruning. They clean off the cutting parts of a scissor after every cut with alcohol to prevent any possible spread of disease. I feel that rubbing the blades of a scissor with the *fine* block does the same thing.

The block package indicates the following popular uses which should convince you that that there should be one or more in your household: clean rust from tools and unfinished metals; remove rust from outdoor equipment; clean stainless sinks, pots and pans; restore nap to suede; clean electrical contacts; remove mineral deposits from ceramic tile and toilets; clean tires and rubber products.

Unfortunately I've found no local source for the items. I showed one to the local hardware clerk and he was impressed enough to try stocking some. However, he was unsuccessful in finding a source for the items. So, the next opportunity you have, either when the vendor's are at the Arboretum or by mail order, get yourself a set of *Sandflex Hand Blocks* from Nature's Way Nursery (see their ad in this issue of *Clippings*).



Poetry Corner - Calm yourself

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

*Pine ponder so slow
Not white, nor black nor even Scots
Doctor Joe digs you.*

A THANK YOU NOTE !

Having the opportunity to meet Kemin Hu and learn about Gongshi was an experience not to be missed. I just want to say thanks to all of you who made this such a memorable event.

- Dixie Cook (NVBS)

When was the last time you got a THANK YOU NOTE? Ms Dixie, we're gonna miss you. You got class.

Some of the folks she's thanking are: Felix Laughlin (NVBS, and President of the National Bonsai Foundation) who made the decision to open this event to the entire membership of PBA; Chris Cochrane, Richmond Bonsai Society, Local Dog with a Bone; Glenn Reusch, Potomac Viewing Stone Group, Chauffeur Extraordinaire (and so much more - look for his article on the subject next issue); Warren Hill, Curator of our fave museum, who let us stay way past closing (into his personal time).



KEYAKI or GRAYBARK ELM *by Takeyama Ko*

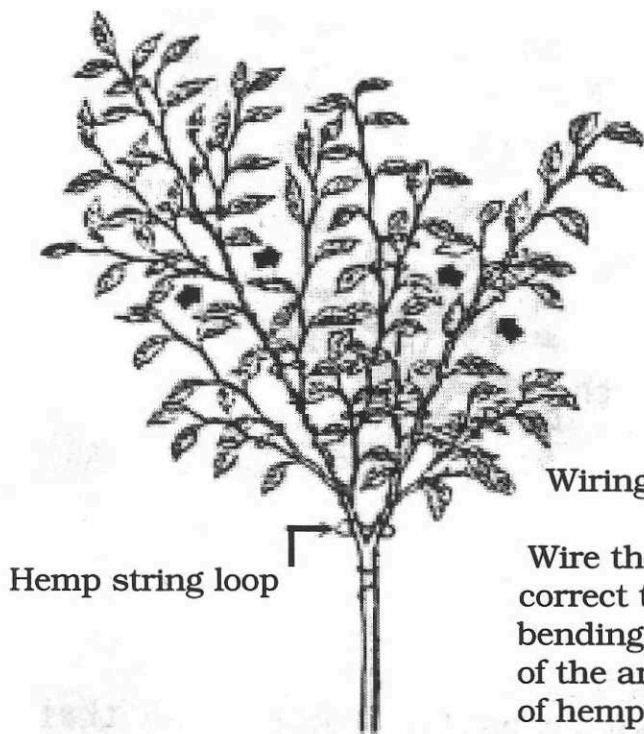
Part III - Translated from the Japanese by Jules back in 1982

THIRD YEAR OPERATIONS

During the third year, the same operations are done in the same time periods as cited for the second year, but with the addition of wiring.

Wiring is done during June-July using paper wrapped copper wire which has the strength to correct, by bending, any and all the branches to the broom style, twin fork arrangement. Permit the wire to remain in place for about 20 days.

Apply loops of hemp string, as in the second year, in April and let them remain in place until September 20th to 30th. By applying the string, no injuries will occur to the branches as the loops maintain the narrow spacings in the forks of the branches. Also as between the first and second year, to quickly narrow the spaces between forked branches, the branches can be wrapped into a bundle using hemp string once all the leaves have fallen in the Fall-Winter time frame.

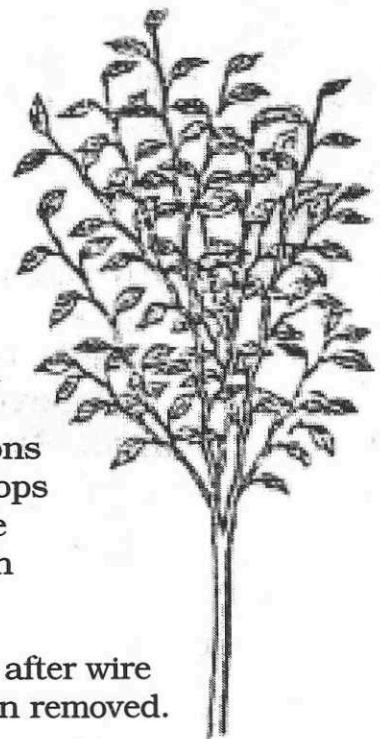


Wiring - 1-10 June

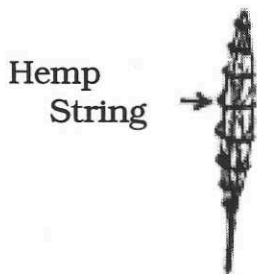
Hemp string loop

Wiring applied.

Wire the long branches and correct their placement by bending them in the directions of the arrows. Also apply loops of hemp string to narrow the angle at each. Wire is left on for 20 days.



Results after wire has been removed.

Optional Method of Operation

For the first 1 to 3 years after the leaves have fallen from the tree, apply wire and bend the branches together so that they can be wrapped in a bundle with hemp string. The string and wire are left on until the week of the Spring Equinoctial.

Part IV coming next month.

BONSAI IMMIGRANTS *by*

Jules who interviewed Dorothy Warren in August 2000 (A founding member of PBA in 1970)

You probably well know, any plants brought into this country are generally kept for a period of time in a location designated by the Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the quarantine is to keep the plants under surveillance to insure that they are not harboring any plant diseases or pests. The trees which formed the nucleus for the Japanese collection at the US National Arboretum were no exception. When they arrived in Washington, DC, they were immediately taken to the Department of Agriculture's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center not too far off of the Capitol Beltway in Maryland. That was in early 1975. The next problem after getting the plants here by airfreight, was to find someone who could monitor the care of the bonsai. The only knowledgeable people to be found in the Washington area were in the Potomac Bonsai Association. Dr. Creech asked Ruth Lamanna and Dorothy Warren if they would do him the favor of helping in the care of the trees. In the beginning, the two ladies spent about



Ruth Lamanna, Dottie Warren, unidentified man

3 days per week in Beltsville. Having arrived in the spring of 1975, the trees were in the process of throwing new growth, so they received close attention from Ruth and Dorothy. As time went by, the trees seemed to be acclimatizing to the D.C. area, so visits were reduced to one day a week.

While the trees were in Beltsville, officials from the Nippon Bonsai Association visited to insure that all was going well with the trees. Among the delegation of 5 persons plus an interpreter were Messrs. Murata, Hiruma, Koide and Chugun. It was noted that the Japanese bonsai masters couldn't keep their hands off of the trees, trying to refine them and prune away an eyesore here and there.

Dorothy and Ruth continued to work on the trees after they were settled in at the Japanese Pavilion in the US National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.



PBA working - July '76 before opening of collection

Mr Kim is coming ... If you don't come to at least observe his work,



you'll never know what you could have learned from this teacher that would make a positive difference in your approach to bonsai.

One of our respected teachers says he's the cat's meow. That ought to be enough recommendation.

Don't be content with attaining a certain knowledge base and not going beyond it?

One of our respected teachers said it this way: I have always felt that we (bonsai nuts) need

Here you see him in his greenhouse working on a *Cydonia sinensis* (Chinese Quince).

to learn from as many teachers, masters, what ever you want to call them, as possible. If you take 5 or 10% of the information they have to offer and retain that, adapt that to your abilities and aesthetic tastes, then you can't help but advance and start attaining that higher level, creeping a little closer to the end of that bonsai "rainbow." We all know that a person cannot learn bonsai in one class; and Mr. Kim is another small step in the direction of the

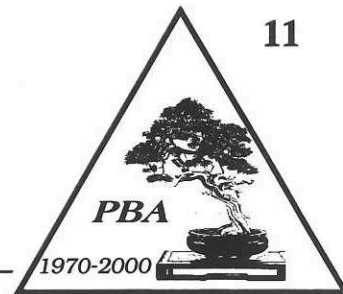


"rainbow." This is also an opportunity to learn something from a person relatively unknown to us. Mr Kim is a new face and a little freshness. He may say something you've heard before, but in a new way which will give you that "Ohh" moment we all need.

How about we take this weekend and learn some bonsai ways? Even if its 5%. Each of us will likely retain a different 5%, which we can later share with each other, multiplying the experience.

Think of each class you expose yourself to as a gold coin in the pot at the end of the rainbow -- you, and only you, can make the deposits.

PBA 26th Fall Symposium Registration Form
Taste of Korean Bonsai
September 16 & 17, 2000
U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC



Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please indicate your club affiliation: _____

Full registration includes both days, Sat. Lunch, and Sat. & Sun. Coffee Breaks.

Full Registration PBA Member \$ 75 \$ _____

Full Registration Non-PBA Member \$ 90 \$ _____

(Includes a PBA Corresponding Membership for one year.)

Saturday Registration PBA member \$ 55 \$ _____

Saturday Registration Non-PBA member . . . \$ 70 \$ _____

(Includes Lunch & one morning and one afternoon Coffee Breaks)

Sunday Registration PBA member \$ 25 \$ _____

Sunday Registration Non-PBA member \$ 40 \$ _____

(Includes 1 Coffee Break)

Extra Lunch \$ 10 \$ _____

Mr. Kim's Workshop (6 people max.) \$ 175 \$ _____

Mr. Sustic's Workshop (8 people max.) \$ 85 \$ _____

Total Enclosed. \$ _____

Make checks payable to "PBA," or "Potomac Bonsai Association."

_____ Vegetarian Lunch

_____ Interested in Saturday night dinner banquet at Bethesda Outback
Restaurant (Cost under \$25)

_____ Check if you are interested in bringing a tree for Sunday morning
critique.

_____ I will bring item(s) for silent auction.

Mail to: Jerry Antel
6409 Middleburg Lane,
Bethesda, MD 20817

Phone at a respectful hour:
(301) 320-5251

MONTHLY CARE TIPS for SEPTEMBER

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

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

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

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 in the hot summertime while others like a full day in the sun. Locations are those suggested by the Yoshimura/Halford book. In this area the plants requiring half-day shade during the hot summer months can be placed in full sun when autumn begins.

The gardener's mantra is: "Morning sun, afternoon shade equals being in the shade for the entire day; morning shade, afternoon sun equals being in the sun for the entire day," 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 drenching the soil with a solution of one teaspoon of vinegar to one gallon of water. The latter method lowers the pH a value of 1.0 on the pH scale. 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 the dosage to reach the desired pH.

CONIFERS

BLACK PINE: Water 3 times per day. Note that the Japanese usually plant a 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. Any time after the 10th of the month remove unwanted sprouts and 2-year-old needles. Also after the 10th of the month, one can wire the tree. The pine may be repotted any time after the 20th of the month. Repotting need only be done every 3 or 4 years. Fertilize during the first week of the month. Keep in full sun all day and preferably where there is wind or air movement. pH 4.5 to 6.0

CRYPTOMERIA: During the month, water 2 times per day, including the leaves. In the last 10 days of the month apply fertilizer balls. Wiring can be done any time during the month. Prune every new sprout to maintain the desired shape, and pinch back new growth. Wire any time during the month. Apply fertilizer balls during the last 10 days of 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. Apply fertilizer balls

once during the middle of the month. Wire after the 20th of the month. 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 up to the 10th 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. Grasp leaf between thumb and forefinger and pinch off rounded leaf edge to reduce new growth. Apply fertilizer balls once during the last 10 days of the month. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

LARCH: Water whenever the top of the soil appears dry. Repotting can be done during the first 10 days of the month. Repot every 3 years. During the last 10 days of the month, apply fertilizer balls once and **clip off excess lengths of growth.** Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.5

NEEDLE JUNIPER: Water 2 times per day including the leaves. Wiring can be done any time after the old wire that is digging into the bark has been removed. Pluck new growth to reduce its length so that it does not become too leggy. Apply fertilizer balls once during the last 10 days of the month. Keep 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 done during the month. Repotting can be done during the first 10 days of the month. Repot every 3 years. If the plant has not been repotted, apply fertilizer balls once during the first 10 days of the month. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

SHIMPAKU (Sargent juniper): Water twice per day and at the same time, and sprinkle foliage. Wiring can be done any time during the month. Apply fertilizer balls once during the middle of the month unless you are repotting. Repotting can be

done after the 10th of the month, and it need only be done every 3 years. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.0 - 6.0

SPRUCE: Water 2 or 3 times per day. Apply fertilizer balls during the last 10 days of the month. Pruning, wiring and repotting can be done during the month. If repotting, do not apply fertilizer balls. Repotting need only be every 3 to 5 years. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.0 - 6.0

WHITE PINE: Water 2 times per day. During the last 10 days of the month remove the old needles by cutting each of the 5-needle groupings with scissors so that about 1/8 inch remains above the branch. The new growth on the end of the branch is left untouched. Also during that time frame, remove unnecessary branches and old needles. Wiring can be done during the last 10 days of the month. Fertilizer balls can be replaced during the last 10 days of the month. Keep in full sun all day and preferably where there is wind or air movement. pH 4.5 to 6.0

YEW: Water as needed. During the first 10 days of the month, apply fertilizer balls once unless repotting during the month. Repotting need only be done every 3 years. Wiring can be done after removing wire that may be too tightly wrapped. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

DECIDUOUS

(Non-fruiting/non-flowering)

BEECH: Water 3 times per day and drop back to 2 times per day after the 10th. Remove wire during the first 10 days of the month. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 7.0

CHINESE ELM: Water as needed. Apply fertilizer balls once during the middle of the month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.5

GINGKO: Water often. Keep in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.0

HORNBEAM: Water 2 to 3 times per day. Prune unwanted branches and pinch

back new growth. Remove wire during the first 20 days of the month. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

JAPANESE MAPLE: Water 3 times per day. Prune to establish the desired contour of the tree and remove unwanted growth (branches) before the 20th of the month. Apply fertilizer balls once during the first 10 days of the month. Wiring should be checked to insure none is about to dig into the bark. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

TRIDENT MAPLE: Water 3 times per day. Remove unwanted branches, sprouts and leaves before the 20th of the month. Wiring should be checked to insure against wire marks. Apply fertilizer balls once during the middle of the month. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

WEeping WILLOW: Water once per day and keep in dish of water during the month. Apply fertilizer balls once sometime during the middle of the month. Remove unwanted lengths of branches and those not desired. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

WINGED EUONYMOUS: Water as needed. Prune unwanted branches and pinch back new growth. Apply fertilizer balls once during the middle of the month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.5 - 7.0

Flowering/Fruiting Plants

CHERRY: Water twice per day up to 10th of the month and thereafter once per day. Remove wire. Repotting can be done after the 10th and need only be done every 2 to

3 years. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

CRAB APPLE: Water 3 times per day. Check the wire and remove any about to dig into the bark. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.0 - 6.5

GARDENIA: Water as needed. Remove unwanted lengths of branches. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 5.0 - 6.0

PYRACANTHA: Water once per day. Apply fertilizer balls once during the first 10 days of the month. Remove unwanted lengths of branches. The berries will appear during the middle of the month. Keep in full sun all day. pH 5.0 - 6.0

QUINCE: Water 3 times per day up to the 10th, and thereafter 1 to 2 times per day. Remove wire after the 10th. Repot after the 10th. Repotting need only be done every 2 years. Keep in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.5

SATSUKI (azalea): Water 3 times per day. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 4.5 - 5.0

UME (Japanese flowering plum or apricot): Water 3 times per day. Remove wire during the first 20 days of the month. Apply fertilizer balls in the first 10 days of the month. Repotting can be done after the 20th of the month. Repotting need only be done every 2 or 3 years. Keep in full sun all day. pH 6.0 - 7.5

WISTERIA: Water often. Apply fertilizer balls once during the middle of the month. Remove wire. Place where it gets half-day of shade. pH 6.0 - 8.0

BONsai MOT

Bill Orsinger's list of John Y. Naka quotes from a symposium near Philadelphia on 24 April 1988, contains the following concerning pots:

When a person uses a round pot, you know he doesn't know where the front is.

On the other hand, starting to train a tree in a round pot gives the creator a chance to fine-tune or even alter where the front will be. Then you can commit it to an oval or rectangular pot when it is ready

IPM Tips for August

The following has been taken from the USDA web-site <http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/Beltsville/na/> for August. They should apply for September. Unfortunately the September tips do not come on the web until after **Clippings** has gone to press.

At the US National Arboretum we manage our pests with a program called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM means using a combination of methods to control and prevent pests. Here are some tips with a variety of control methods to help you start your own IPM program.

Are you observing messy webs in your trees and shrubs? The *fall webworm* can cause serious defoliation, but never fear, this pest only damages the aesthetics of the plant. As their name implies, these webworms create a nest of thick webbing at the tips of branches in late summer and fall. Mature larvae are about one inch long, hairy, and greenish yellow with black spots. Webworms feed on leaves in the webs for four to six weeks and expand their webs as more food is required for development. Webworms are easy to control because they feed together and never leave the web. Prune out small nests and destroy them. Nests containing young caterpillars, less than one inch long, may be sprayed with *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is a naturally occurring soil-borne bacteria which controls caterpillars. Toxins created by Bt paralyze the digestive tract of caterpillars causing them to cease feeding and die. Bt isn't hazardous to humans or other non-target animals and can be used right up to harvest time.

Observe your hardwood trees, especially sugar maples, for a newly arrived pest, the *Asian longhorned beetle*. The adult is easy to identify because it's more than an inch in length, and is shiny black with white spots. The long, segmented antennae have alternating black and white bands. They have been spotted in New York City and the Chicago area and adults are evident

from July to September in these areas. Look for signs of the beetle in your trees; sap flow, large holes, and sawdust are obvious signs of infestation. Asian longhorned beetles are serious pests and their populations need to be contained. If you think you've seen them, contact your state Department of Agriculture.

Fungal diseases are likely to be wreaking havoc in your garden this year with the wet weather we've experienced. *Botryosphaeria* is a fungal disease that attacks plants predisposed by other agents such as mechanical wounding or environmental stresses. It is unable to infect healthy, vigorous tissue and attacks a wide variety of plants including apple, ash, basswood, camellia, cotoneaster, elm, dogwood, hawthorn, magnolia, oak, rhododendron, redbud, and yellowwood. The disease manifests itself through cankers, dieback, and lesions on branches. It often starts at the tips of leaves and produces bands of infected tissue. If stem tissue is infected, you will find a dark stain in the cross section of a pruned branch. Prune out branches that display these symptoms back to the point where the woody tissue is white and healthy. Every diseased branch should be removed and destroyed.

Watch out for conical masses of plant material hanging from branches or leaves on your conifers or deciduous trees and shrubs. These are the work of a pest called the *bagworm*. They are native to North America and feed on many different plants. Bagworms spend their lives in a cocoon-like case made of silk, bits of twigs, and leaves. Eggs hatch in late May or early June. Small larvae feed on the upper side of the leaves and older larvae move to the underside. The whole leaf is eaten except for the major veins. By mid- or late

August, the caterpillars begin to pupate in their bags. Hand picking is an inexpensive control measure. *Bacillus thuringiensis* will control bagworms early in their larval development. For hard to reach bags, an insecticide containing spinosad will work. Watch out for greenish blue to shiny black beetles chewing on your willows and poplars. The adult *willow leaf beetle* begins feeding on leaves as they emerge in early spring and chew holes in the foliage. Eggs are yellowish, cylindrical, and are found in irregular masses on the underside of leaves. The small black larvae cause the most damage by chomping on the underside of leaves, exposing leaf veins. Air pollution studies suggest that leaves exposed to excessive ozone are preferred by the beetles. Ladybird beetles, lacewings, predacious bugs, spiders, and a wasp that kills the pupae help control the willow leaf beetle. Protect these beneficials by avoiding insecticide use and providing suitable overwintering sites.

Water plants deeply and infrequently. Check to see that your soil is moistened to a depth of 8-10 inches. Drought stress makes plants more susceptible to insect and disease damage.

Keep a close eye on your elms and zelkovas for *elm leaf beetles*. The adults are green to yellow with black lateral stripes and chew small, circular holes in the leaves. Larvae are tiny, black, spiny insects that skeletonize the underside of leaves; only the veins and upper surface are left behind. Eggs are yellow, teardrop shaped, and are laid in clusters on leaves. Badly affected trees lose leaves prematurely. Expect damage to decline in late summer. In autumn adults seek overwintering sites in protected outdoor places and larvae crawl down the trunk of the tree. Put a sticky band around sections of the trunk to capture the larvae. Egg and pupal parasites may provide adequate pest management. Bypass the pesticide shelf

to increase the longevity of these beneficials. Plant resistant elms like 'Prospector' and 'Patriot' to rid yourself of elm leaf beetle problems.

Are your beautiful pines deformed and discolored? The damage may be caused by *pine tip moths* or a disease called *diplodia tip blight*. Both problems cause similar damage to pines: dead shoot tips. The whole plant has a reddish-brown appearance resulting from many dead shoots. Tips killed by *diplodia* are dead and disfigured, whereas shoots inhabited by pine tip moth larvae are hollow. Break off tips killed by the larvae. *Diplodia* can be corrected by pruning out damaged sections and removing infected cones. Apply a fungicide when candle elongation occurs and again when the needles have emerged halfway from the candles to prevent the spread of tip blight.

Monitoring temperature and precipitation gives you a head start with pest control. Pests and diseases often require certain climatic conditions to develop or infect host plants. Careful observation of weather patterns allow you to determine when a specific pest will emerge from eggs or pupae or when plants are likely to be colonized by disease organisms.

Determining who's to blame for your unhealthy plants is well worth some careful research. Knowing the pests and diseases that commonly attack your garden or ornamental plants will narrow the quest for a correct identification. First, make sure you've correctly identified the host plant. Scrutinize the damage symptoms. Determine the damage's distribution pattern. Is it random or throughout the whole plant? Record the type of insects and mites that you find. Beneficial insects and mites are often confused with the pests. Count the numbers of each kind. Insects in low abundance are not usually the culprits. Finally, compile the information you've gathered and consult a nursery or

landscape professional or your local extension agency for a definite diagnosis. Effective treatment can only be assured with an accurate diagnosis.

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.

Reduce water usage on your lawn in hot, humid weather. Your grass will go dormant if allowed to dry out and will escape diseases that are common during summer months. Remember to mow high to choke out weeds; and let clippings fly to recycle nutrients and reduce the need for fertilizer.

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 overfertilization.

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

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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.

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.



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