

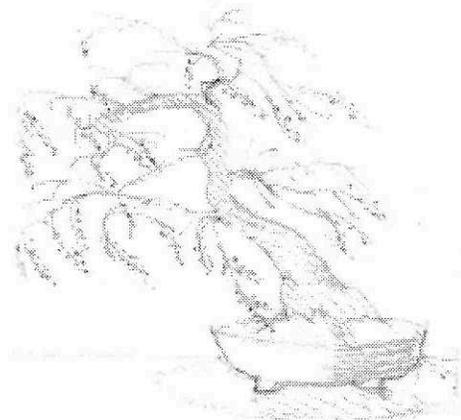


PBA
Clippings
NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Volume 31, Number 11
November 2001

*Yield to the willow
all the loathing and all the desire
within your heart.
~ Basho*

*Ah willow! Willow! Would that I always possessed
thy good spirits . . . it is not only soft and pliant but
tough and resilient, not splitting at the first blow, but
closing its wounds at once and refusing to transmit
its hurts.
~ Thoreau*



Willow drawn by Dave Dambowic, NVBS '84

The above are from the mini-book, *MORNING MIST Thoreau and Basho Through the Seasons*, Mary Kullberg; Weatherhill, New York.

These finds were contributed by Arschel Morell of Baltimore club. Haiku for Fall from "A Little Treasure of Haiku," translated by Peter Beilenson, Printed by Avenel Books, 1980.

A single cricket
Chirps, chirps, chirps, and is still . . . my
Candle sinks and dies
~ Anon

Now in sad autumn
As I take my darkening path...
A solitary bird
~ Basho

Two ancient pine-trees...
A pair of gnarled and sturdy hands
With ten green fingers
~ Ryoto



In This Issue	Page
Editorial	2
PBA Calendar	4
Message from the President	5
Report from Newest Club - PVSG	6
Contribution from Baltimore	7
Cloches Straight from the Bonsai	8
Fashion Runways of Puget Sound	
Bamboo, Graceful and Elegant	10
Olde World/Newe World Synergy	12
Monthly Care Tips	14
Bits	15



PBA
Clippings
NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION

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

Subscriptions: PBA Member Clubs/Societies: Annual subscription is included in the membership dues paid to the PBA club or society of your choice. Telephone numbers of points of contact for information about any member club or society and its annual dues, are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Non-Member Subscriptions: Individuals residing within the metropolitan areas of our clubs are encouraged to become members of a club to receive the newsletter. Annual subscription for 12 issues of the *PBA Clippings* only is US \$15.00 (US \$35 for international mail) which should be made payable to the Potomac Bonsai Association and sent to Judy Wise, 1259 4th St., SW, Washington, DC 20024.

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

Please send paper ad copy/articles to the editor:
J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152.
E-mail or 3 1/2" diskette contributions can be sent in Word, WP, PageMaker, MacWord, or Text documents to bittenhand@erols.com.

PBA Officers:

President	Chuck Croft, NVBS ccroft@mindspring.com
President Elect	Arlene Polinsky, NVBS
Educ. Vice-President	Jim Hughes, BBS jjhughes@erols.com
Secretary and Membership	Judy Wise, NVBS (202) 554-3045
Treasurer	Jerry Antel, Jr., BBS (301) 320-5251
Newsletter Editor	Jules Koetsch

PBA Clippings staff:

Editor	Jules Koetsch (703) 569-9378 jkoetsch@earthlink.net
Assoc./Type Editor, and Art Director	Betty Yeapanis, NVBS after 11 a.m. (703) 591-0864 bittenhand@erols.com
Mail Room Supv.	Judy Wise, NVBS
Advertising Editor	Jerry Antel, Jr., BBS (301) 320-5251
Calendar Coordinator	Arschel Morell, BBC ajmorellsr@hotmail.com
Original Art	Frank Thomas, LBS
Staff Photographer	Chris Yeapanis, NVBS

Editorial by Jules Koetsch

Of all the times of the year - the days of autumn are the least popular with me since it's the time that the bonsai must be bedded down for the winter. It's a time that prompts thoughts like 'how did I ever get so many potted plants?' Unfortunately for me, in my younger days I built a poly-house against the back wall of my house's basement. It's a bit of a trek from the bonsai's benches to the poly-house, and even more regrettable when it involves moving 30-inch-long trays of would-be forest bonsai. The moral of the story is that if you want a poly-house make it so the plants can stay put for the year round. Having a poly-house or a cold-frame to overwinter one's bonsai allows one to keep the deciduous plants happy. Last winter I left two hornbeam forest plantings hunkered down in the ground. One variety survived with no visible ill effects. The other hornbeam (actually a grove not a forest) did not bud out on the previous year's branches; and when they did, they were helter-skelter. Some branches bit the dust, and new branches emanated from where some of the dead branches met the trunks. This time they're going into the poly-house. There are some bonsai growers who take their bonsai out of the containers and bury them in the ground in the same type of soil as in their containers. As always, keeping them out of the wind or behind a windbreak and in a shady place is the recommended procedure. Placing them at the corner of a building should be avoided since the winds are the strongest when they come whipping around the edge of a building. Burlap wind breaks fencing in the bonsai can be beneficial. Unfortunately some wet snows may be too heavy for a deciduous tree's delicate branch structure. The smallest branches can be broken off and the beauty of the ramification can be irreparably lost. When snow or ice storms are forecast, it

might be well to cover the plants with plastic trash bags or trash barrels. Hence you might consider building some kind of winter protection for your bonsai. A cold-frame is the simplest way to go; but one must be careful to lift up the top to permit air circulation whenever the temperature of the outside air is above 32°F. A change of air is important and any type of poly-house should have vents at the top. In spite of the fact that I had 2 small fans continuously circulating the air in my poly-house, some fuzzy looking type of mold hit some of the plants. Now I have the task of using a solution of TSP to wash the inside of the poly-house.

There is also the advice that it would be wise to spray the bonsai with an insecticide before tucking them away for the winter. The insecticide that is usually recommended is *Dormant Oil* which should be applied when the temperature does not exceed 70°F. There is one caveat: *Japanese maples do not take kindly to a dormant oil treatment.*

Another important factor is to remember that, when they go dormant, plants do not require as much water as during their active period. The usual recommendations are: water thoroughly every 2 to 3 days. If the plants are mulched down outdoors, watering is not done when the soil in the pots is frozen.

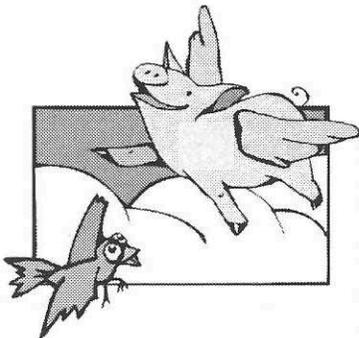
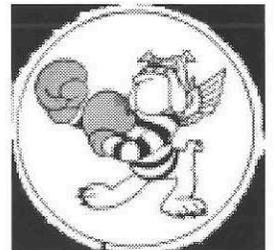
I still rely on my moisture meter to tell if a specific bonsai needs water. Meters can be purchased somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10 to \$20. I prefer the ones with a prong or 2 prongs fixed to the

meter versus those that have a wire attaching the probe to the meter. So every day, I probe each plant's soil - makes me feel like an MD - sort of like giving each plant a rectal exam. It's interesting what you will find out. If the plant has not shown signs of taking up water for a day or two, you can surmise that it may not be healthy. You then have the problem of trying to find out why. Plants stop taking up water when they are about to go to the big bonsai kingdom in sky.

One normally finds the highest moisture reading in the root-ball just under the trunk of a plant. Unless the root growth fills the container, readings will taper off toward the edges of the container - an indication of plant happiness. A happy bonsai's roots are supposed to fill the pot. Usually, I thoroughly water a plant when the moisture meter is reading half-scale. Some plants, however, seem to prefer a dryer situation which can be indicated by their leaf tips browning, and for those I water when the moisture meter shows 1/4 of full-scale. However for those plants, I stop the watering when the moisture meter reads about 50% of full-scale.

After watering, the moisture meter can be used to see what portions of the soil have not received enough water, especially in a large tray such as a forest planting.

Once you've got everything under control for the winter, you can start planning new projects for the coming year.



A note from the Optimist ~

Do you know a business that would like to serve some nice people. We're not too fussy about whom we'll sell space: your fave restaurant/body shop/kite store/tattoo parlor, You could act as a catalyst for improvement by encouraging them to contact Jerry Antel to advertise with us (see p. 2, Col 1.).

Calendar of Events *compiled by Arschel Morell (BBC)*

Send your club's input to Arschel by e- ajmorellsr@hotmail.com or snail mail to:
9 Six Notches Court, Baltimore, MD 21228

NOVEMBER

Rappahannock Bonsai Society

3 11:00 am Shimpaku juniper workshop

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

10 9:00 am Tree o' month - Pine - BYO pine

10:00 Carole Roelofs workshop w/ Kingsville boxwoods collected in October

PBA Board Meeting

11 11 am Mezzanine Conf. Room

Lancaster Bonsai Society

14 7:00 pm Slide show led by Frank Thomas. Pacific Rim Collection slides will not be shown.

Brookside Bonsai Society

15 3rd annual fall auction. **See page 7.**

Washington Bonsai Club

17 2:00 pm Refining workshop - BYO trees

Baltimore Bonsai Club

18 1:00 pm Redesigning a large Hinoki cypress group planting. *Return of the circus trees. Please bring all circus-designed trees to meeting.*

Bowie Bonsai Club

26 7:00 pm Winter Prep - observations and strategies

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club - Thanksgiving Holiday, no meeting

Chesapeake Bonsai Society - No report

DECEMBER

Rappahannock Bonsai Society

1 11:00 am Winter Party. Bring an extra tool, tree, or bonsai book for a gift exchange. Please RSVP to Bob or Todd by 23 Nov.

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

7 6:30 pm - Holiday party (China Garden Restaurant)

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

8 3:00 pm - Potluck Dinner. Location TBA.

PBA Board Meeting

9 11 am Place TBA - Y'all come

Bowie Bonsai Club - No meeting planned

Baltimore Bonsai Club - Holiday party-TBA

Brookside Bonsai Society - Holiday Dinner, Time/place TBA

Washington Bonsai Club - No meeting planned

Lancaster Bonsai Society - No meeting planned

Chesapeake Bonsai Club - Jus-a-sitting - an-a rocking.

Non-PBA Events for November and December

Conifers for the D.C. Area - USNA Admin Bldg Classroom

3 November 10:30 am-12:00 pm Curator of Conifer Collections, presents a 45-min slide lecture highlighting conifers best suited for our area. Sue will discuss the cultural requirements for each selection and lead participants on a special 45-minute tour of the Arboretum's Gotelli Collection of Dwarf and Slow Growing Conifers. Fee: \$10 (FONA \$8) **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

The Fruits of Fall: A Workshop in Botanical Sketching

10 November 10:00 am-4:00 pm USNA Admin Bldg Classroom

Join award-winning botanical artist William Keith Harrison for botanical sketching workshop teaching realistic sketching and representation of plants. Topics covered include seeing accurately, sketching techniques, tonal values and reflected light, foreshortening, perspective, negative space, and basic plant morphology. Class is recommended for beginner to intermediate students. Pack a lunch and dress for the weather - this class may move outside for practical work. Materials list will be provided with registration confirmation. Fee: \$50 (FONA \$40) Class size limited so register early.

A Message from the Prez . . . Chuck Croft

This is an article that I had hoped never to need to write but, considering the current world situation, I am happy to write. I have been able to contact the president and/or board representatives for each of our member clubs and can report that, as far as anyone knows, no PBA member lost their life or the life of a family member in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Also, to the best of my knowledge, none of our members have been directly affected by the biological attacks. If anyone knows of any member or family member that has been affected, I would appreciate receiving notice. Have any of our members or their family members been called to active military duty?



As has been said, until it has become a cliché, this is a time of dramatic change in the United States – indeed, in much of the world. It is important that we as individuals and as PBA members help those affected by these events in any way we can. We can provide financial support, food, clothing, and blood for those injured or the families of those lost. In addition, families that have lost loved ones are currently under a great deal of stress. Bonsai is a wonderful way to provide psychological rest and stress relief, if the opportunity becomes available. I am calling on each of our members to watch for opportunities to help anyone and, as these opportunities arise, to let a PBA Board Member know about the opportunity. I pledge, on behalf of PBA, to do whatever we can to support our membership and their families, as well as our country, during these trying times.

Most of you know by now that the International Scholarly Symposium on Bonsai and Viewing Stones was postponed due to the fear of travel by some of the participants or their families. The symposium has been rescheduled for 17 – 19 May 2002. This is close in time to our Spring Show, but everyone I have talked to has indicated a high level of interest in proceeding with our Spring Show as a separate event. Therefore, our Spring Show will take place 5-7 April 2002. Logistically, it will be very difficult to have concurrent events and it will end up diluting the experience of each event. We must work as best we can with the level of cooperation we can muster from the host venue.

The final weekend of April has been taken away from us again by the Friends of the National Arboretum; and the third weekend would put us in direct conflict with Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies' Annual Spring Festival. Our two Associations have a history of cooperation; and we must do what we can to prevent conflicts for our valued vendors who need to participate in as many events as possible. Most members and vendors alike prefer the first part of April for the PBA Spring Show because this provides a timely opportunity for purchases of repotting supplies.

We are moving into the holiday season for 2001. I hope everyone has a safe and thoroughly happy Thanksgiving, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Chanukah, Christmas, and New Year.

UQCATUS ATQUE NON UQCATUS BEUS ADEREIT ~ UQCATUS ATQUE NON UQCATUS BEUS ADEREIT ~ UQCATUS ATQUE NON UQCATUS BEUS ADEREIT ~ UQCATUS ATQUE NON UQCATUS

BONsaiMOT Dorie Froning, the *Mame' Queen*, once told that after trimming some stock material for a mame', her granddaughter asked why she paid so much money for a plant when she leaves so much on the floor.

Dorie also gave the Japanese classification for the various sizes of diminutive bonsai according to John Y. Naka:

Katade - 8 to 15 inches
 Komono - 4 to 7 inches
 Mame' - 3 to 6 inches
 Shito - 1 to 3 inches
 Keshitsubu - Under 1 inch

John also told of the man who had a beautiful tree but it could not fit into the first category above since it was an inch too tall. To have it classified as a Katade, the man cut 1 inch off the top and ruined a beautiful tree.

. . . and the children are gathering sacred pebbles from the holy streams . . .

For those who go collecting, a large part of the love for viewing stones is the experience in being in a remote, natural place. Potomac Viewing Stone Group had its second collecting trip for the season this past weekend.

Just getting to the collection site was thrilling. The mountains of Virginia have had cold nights causing spectacular leaf coloration. Numerous small towns in the Blue Ridge Mountains and their foothills appear to be celebrating Fourth of July and Halloween simultaneously with flags flying at either proscribed regular intervals or in hodge-podge spacing from almost every house along "Main Street" of different towns. Then, some yards have hay bales with round ends painted orange & with facial features of a grinning ogre. Others have leaning tombstones, scarecrows and even full scenes of mirth or terror. I've never seen these usually sleepy towns so lively – even on the overcast morning as I was driving through. There was a bluegrass festival on one mountain that was drawing traffic – handmade quilts, baskets and bushels/pecks of apples, as well as cider being sold by roadside vendors near the entrance road off the main thoroughfare.

Once on the river with friends, yet still alone with the mountains to the extent we each wished to be, the water was nippy but soon felt acceptable. Cold weather had forced back growth on shore grasses such that shoals of rocks inaccessible in warmer weather could be reviewed for collection. Underwater vegetation had receded somewhat and a cloudy day helped seeing through the water (less reflection) to the river bottom. Of course those bright leaves so beautiful on trees were distracting where submerged over rocks which were being assessed for suiseki profiles.

Several large garden-size stones were collected with friends sharing the burden of loading them ashore, then to vehicles, using a variety of jury-rigged devices. It is amazing what can be lifted by ropes tied to a 2x4 with earnest haulers on each end. Each of the large stones, as well as suiseki-sized stones, were found in areas which were searched earlier in the season, so I have to think the experience of seeing the bottom of the river changes over time to have passed these previously. There would seem to have been no fast flow to redeposit such stones in our relatively dry fall season.

Hope this will encourage others to "get out" for one last trip. Soon, rivers will rise and temperatures will fall in our area.

Chris... C. Cochrane, sashai@erols.com, Richmond VA USA

Next meeting of the Potomac Viewing Stone Group will be announced by Glenn Reusch. PVSG Secretary, (540) 672-5699, Ghreusch@aol.com.

*. . . And as I was
green and carefree,
famous among the
barns*

*About the
happy yard and
singing as the farm
was home,*

*In the sun
that is young once
only,*

*Time let me
play and be Golden
in the mercy of his
means,*

*And green
and golden I was
hunter and
herdsman, the
calves*

*Sang to my
horn, the foxes on
the hills barked
clear and cold,*

*And the
sabbath rang
slowly*

*In the
pebbles of the holy
streams. . . .*

Fern Hill ~

Dylan

Thomas

More member sharing ~ Thanks to Cindy Blackburn (Baltimore Bonsai Club), via Betty, I received the identity of a web-site that should be visited by everyone who has access to the Internet. Cindy's message read as follows:

"Hey Betty ~ Thought you might enjoy this web-site.

http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~rywang/berkeley/magic_small/trees.html

I found it by accident, and go back to it from time to time to see what new photos and verses he's added.

~~Cindy

The web-site contains numerous pictures of trees from which one can draw inspiration for another bonsai. Each picture is accompanied by words written by people both famous and not so famous - words which, in these tenuous times, can be of comfort or give the reader some philosophical thoughts. Here's a sampling of what you'll find on the web-site:



A tree's a tree. How many more do you need to look at?
~ Ronald Reagan, Speech, 12 Sept. 1965



We have nothing to fear and a great deal to learn from trees, that vigorous and pacific tribe which without stint produces strengthening essences for us, soothing balms, and in whose gracious company we spend so many cool, silent and intimate hours. ~ Marcel Proust, *Pleasure and Regrets*

A delight Comes sudden on my heart, and I am glad
As I myself were there! Nor in this bower,
This little lime-tree bower, have I not mark'd
Much that has sooth'd me. Pale beneath the blaze
Hung the transparent foliage; and I watch'd
Some broad and sunny leaf, and lov'd to see
The shadow of the leaf and stem above
Dappling its sunshine! ~ Samuel Taylor Coleridge,
The Lime-tree Bower my Prison, 1800

Ages when custom is unsettled are necessarily ages of prophecy.
~ Walter Lippmann, *A Preface to Morals*



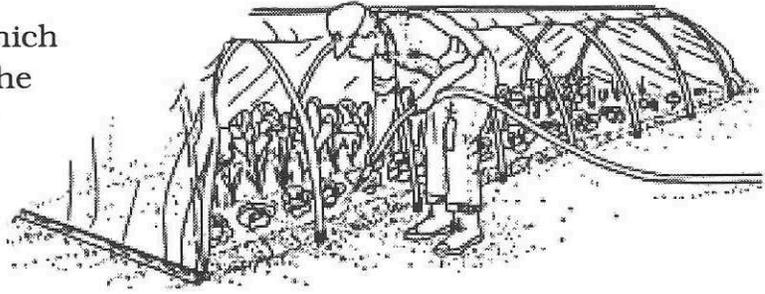
Brookside Bonsai Society cordially invites you
to take part in their
3rd annual fall auction
on Thursday, 15 November.

Everyone is welcomed to attend as both buyer and seller. If you have material to sell, be at the North Chevy Chase Rec center by 7:00 pm. The auction will start by 7:30.

Anyone with questions may call Jim Hughes at 301.779.2891.

Cloche Your Bonsai *by Howard Botz*

A cloche is a covering for a plant which can be moved to different parts of the yard or garden. The word cloche is French for bell, and in the 17th Century, the French used bell-shaped glass jars to protect their plants. The book **Gardening under Cover** describes three flexible, easy-to-construct cloches which are suitable for use in many areas to protect plants from excessive rains and cold winds.



Since I had tried and never really liked the more common method of partially or completely burying my bonsai each winter, I decided 2 years ago to build one of these cloches and entrust my bonsai to it for the winter. The plan I followed was called a PVC Tunnel Cloche.

The original plan called for a structure 5 feet wide by 19 feet long. I modified the plan to a 5- by 10-foot structure which I believed to be more manageable. I built the cloche in November and moved the bonsai to their new winter home. The pots were set directly on the ground with no protection beyond the cloche itself.

On December 18, we had 10 inches of snow and a temperature of 17°F at 5 pm at my house on Queen Anne Hill in Seattle. For the next 2 weeks, my cloche was frozen in place, and I was unable to water or even to check my trees. I was sure that most of the trees would be frozen. However, the cloche with its precious contents proved safe against everything nature threw at it (including wind gusts up to 45 mph).

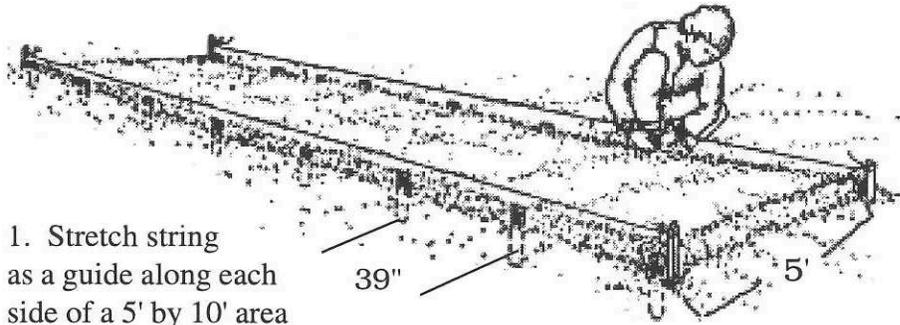
The trees were watered once a week since I was home in daylight only on weekends. With the increased humidity inside the cloche, this was enough for all the trees. Without exception, all the trees thrived inside the cloche.

In early March, I removed most of the bonsai from the cloche and replaced them with my fuchsia baskets which are buried every fall. A few weeks later, I also used the cloche to harden off my seedlings during the long dismal spring.

In November 1991, I got the cloche out of the garage, erected it in less than an hour, and nestled (crammed) the bonsai inside. This year, I fear, I will need to build a second cloche. - Howard Botz

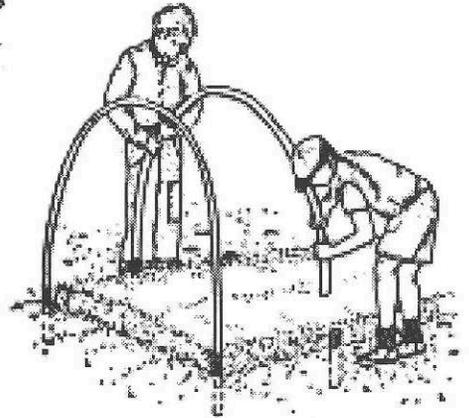
Here's the materials list for the PVC Tunnel Cloche, which is not very costly and is easy to build:

- 4 PVC pipes 1/2-inch diameter, 10-foot length
- 1 PVC pipe 3/4-inch diameter, 10-foot length
- 7 pieces of lumber, 1 x 2 inches, 10-foot length
- 1 10- by 20-foot roll of 4-mil clear polyethylene plastic sheeting (I found thicker 6-mil polyethylene.), nails, twine, eye screws, and stakes



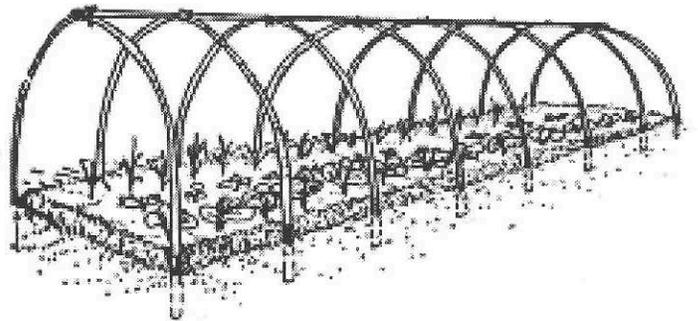
1. Stretch string as a guide along each side of a 5' by 10' area where you want a cloche.

2. Cut the larger pipe into 8 15-inch segments. Push or hammer these pieces about 9" into the ground at 39" intervals along the string.



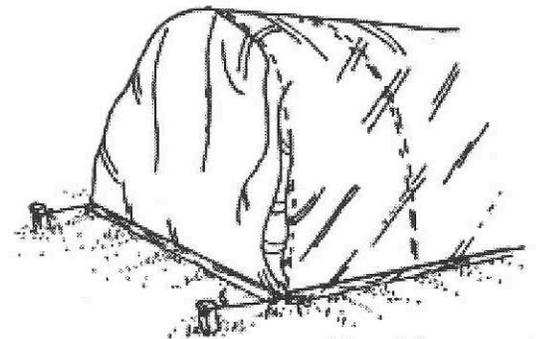
3. Insert one end of 1/2-inch pipe into the in-ground pipe segment, and arch it over the bed into the opposite pipe segment. Repeat 3 times more.

4. To give the tunnel rigidity, use heavy twine to tie one of the 1x2s to the arched pipes along the top to make a ridge connector. Tie securely to prevent slipping. [ed note: To make life easy, pre-apply the twine ties to the wood 1x2 at 39-inch intervals.]



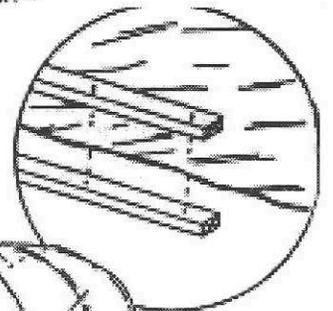
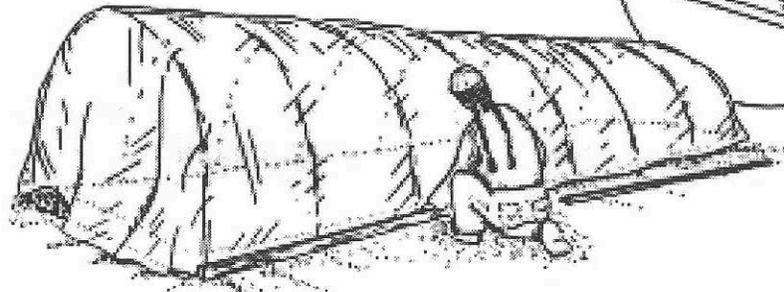
5. Center the polyethylene over the tunnel frame. Check all measurements first before you cut plastic or nail boards! Trim any excess at ground level. Sandwich the bottom sides of the poly between two 10' 1x2s and nail together.

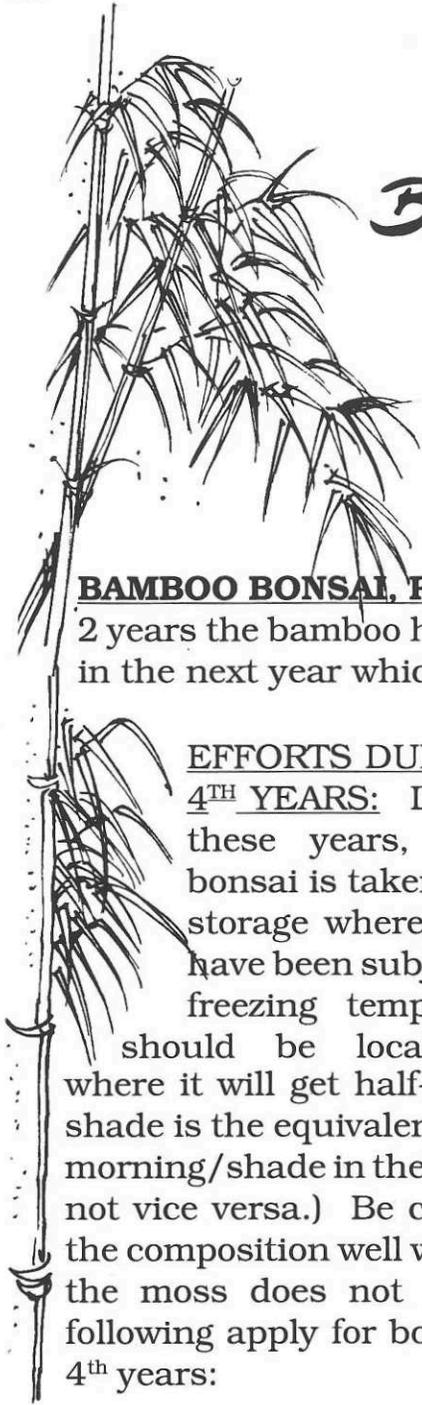
6. Cut the other two 1x2s in half. Center these to sandwich the plastic at ground level on each end.



7. To protect your cloche from heavy winds, stake the four corners about 1' out from the cloche as you would stake a tent. Screw four eye screws at the outer corners of the 1x2s for fastening the stake ties.

8. To water or check your bonsai, use the applied wood strip to raise the plastic at either the side or the end. (See p. 6 illustration.)





Bamboo Bonsai - Graceful, Elegant

translated and compiled by Jules

BAMBOO BONSAI, PART 3 The preceding months' articles covered the first 2 years the bamboo has been in a container. What follows picks up activities in the next year which is cited in the Japanese article as the third year.

EFFORTS DURING 3RD AND 4TH YEARS: During both of these years, the bamboo bonsai is taken out of winter storage where it should not have been subjected to below freezing temperatures. It should be located outdoors where it will get half-shade. (Half-shade is the equivalent of sun in the morning/shade in the afternoon and not vice versa.) Be certain to keep the composition well watered so that the moss does not dry up. The following apply for both the 3rd and 4th years:

Fertilizing: Some time during April 1-10, when the new sprouts pop up through the surface of the soil, you should make the first application of fertilizer. Apply the same fertilizer as in the previous year. Fertilize once again during the first 10 days of June, July, August, September and October.

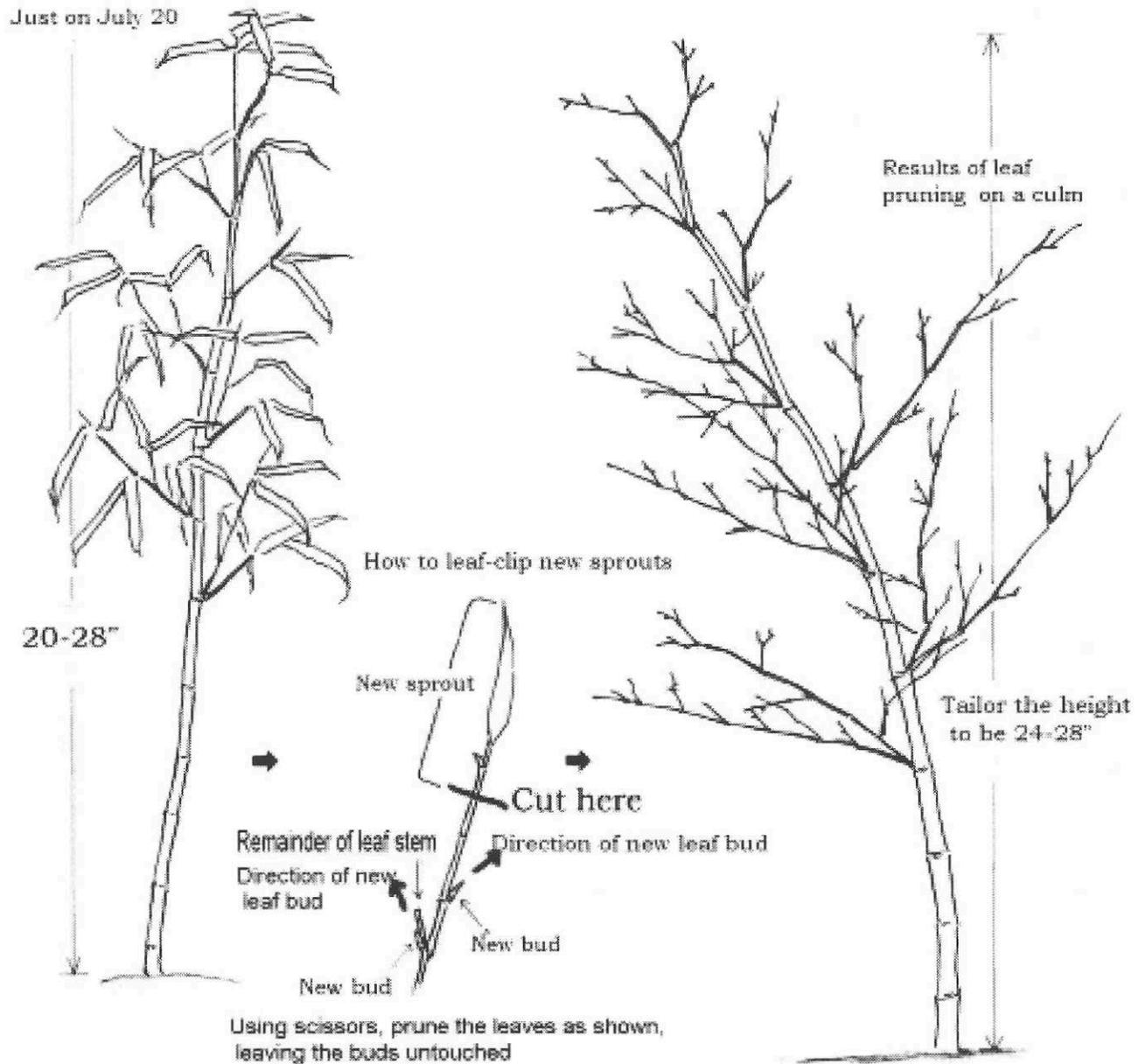
Leaf Trimming: This is done during April 20th to 30th. The leaves should be "spread out flat like a quilt" from the parent branch and those buds pointing up or down from the parent branch should be removed. Each year this leaf pruning should be done so that the bamboo has a close-cropped look. *Proviso: Yaboki bamboo should not be leaf pruned.*

Touch-up Time for New and Old Shoots: During May 1-10, the numerous new bamboo shoots that have appeared will have to be reduced so that the entire bonsai is not weakened. Select the old and new shoots to be removed in order to refine the design. The shoots should be removed by making V-shaped cuts as shown in the sketches.

Proviso: For the new shoots that have been left to develop into culms, they must be subjected to the husk peeling techniques previously described in the 2nd year efforts.

THIRD YEAR (Actually 2nd year in training pot)

APRIL 20th to 31st: LEAF CLIPPING PROCEDURE (Existing culms)



Above is the way a culm with its leaves appears on July 20th during the first year in the training pot. When the weather is clear (no rain), water the plant 2 times a day.

The above figure shows the results of leaf pruning which should be done every year at this time.

Artwork on p. 10 by Frank Thomas, Lancaster Bonsai Society ~ Thanks, Frank.

Olde World/Newe World Synergy by Carole Roelofs (NVBS), Chris Yeapanis and Chris Cochran (PVSG), Janet Lanman, Jim Hughes, Fred Mies, and Ian Burke (Brookside)

For several years now I have been one of the team begging for you to help with your newsletter. Saturday I attended this fun joint function and asked, at a break in the demo, for a show of hands of all who had e-mailability. I then asked that each of the 23 members send at least a paragraph to Clippings (granted, the deadline was short ~ 24 or so hours) telling something they'd learned (for the edification of all who could not attend). I am especially grateful to the members listed above as co-authors, who did not already know it all and were willing to share it with you. This function was so interesting there must be special bits that have been left out. ANYONE else moved to share will be gratefully included next issue. ~~~~~

Our October meeting was a joint venture with Brookside and featured Jim Doyle and Walter Pall. The meeting was a great success. Jim and Walter are very dynamic together and we saw some great transitions of trees to potensai. We watched Walter carve several trees: yew, American hornbeam, and juniper. Walter made modifications to the juniper and carved on the dead wood. He make some major changes to the hornbeam and yew, transforming them into works of art, though time will be needed for the trees to fill out. Walter is definitely not a traditionalist, using a small blow torch to burn away the shreds created by the carving tools and also burned away soft wood to get to the old harder wood. The burning process also created natural cracks in the woods. *No*, the fire department did not have to pay us a visit.

Jim worked on a pitch pine with a 2- to 3-inch slanting trunk, but tall with only limbs at the top. The limbs were long and straggly. After wiring it completely, he then got started on the design phase. Jim said he likes to wire the whole tree, and as a reward he then gets to style the tree. (Some of us draw the conclusion that even the pro doesn't enjoy all phases of the art and needs a reward for his discipline.) By the time he was done, Jim had cut the majority of the limbs off and had a beautiful literati.

At the start of the workshop, Jim and Walter analyzed each participant's tree and discussed with the audience and the tree owner the design possibilities. When all the trees were discussed, each person started working on their tree. Jim and Walter walked around to help anyone having problems with execution of their plan. Walter took some trees and carved the dead wood for the owners.

All in all, it was a great day. We were stimulated by Jim and Walter – their synergy



Note: Jim is wiring the entire tree. Then he styles. During styling, he lops off the bits that don't belong - whoa, and there goes half the wire.

was fun, interesting, thought provoking, exciting, educational, and challenged us to grow, lean toward *the natural, open our minds (and 'oh man, did you see that! Gotta have those new tool!')*

~ Carole (did the hard part), and Chris and Betty added bits

Walter and Jim talked about the current direction bonsai design in Europe is going. They both felt that Europeans are going beyond the more traditional approach of the Japanese and Chinese. Walter said when creating bonsai he would rather create 'a person' rather than 'a doll.' In other words, he is most excited about creating bonsai that is more natural looking. He eschews the 'cookie cutter approach.' He prefers to design bonsai which echo trees as they really are in nature rather than something artificial. He calls it the 'Informal Broom Form.' He conceded that 'cheating' is okay even in his approach. After all, 'we are creating illusions' even when they are designed in a naturalistic way. In many instances, he stressed that a smaller, more compact design makes a trunk appear stronger and more dominant. ~ Jim Hughes, BBS

I really enjoyed the demos, Walter & Jim had a really good rapport going. It was especially informative as Walter worked on so many trees with very different outcomes for each of them.

The workshop was great, there was some challenging material and I especially liked the way Walter & Jim went through the design options for each tree with everyone before the work got under way. This allowed everyone to learn from each other's trees. The only complaint - not enough time. ~ Ian Burke, BBS

Yes, Bonsai is an evolving fine art form! Many thanks to NVBS for arranging a visit by Walter Pall and Jim Doyle, and sharing this experience with other clubs.

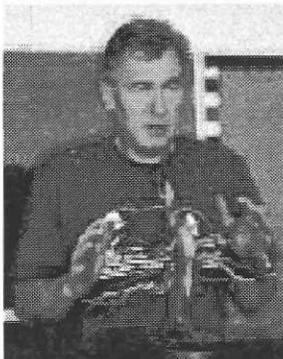
It has been a long time since I have heard such a stimulating discussion of bonsai as an art form. I especially enjoyed Walter's description of his view of bonsai as an artistically evolving process that is open to new forms of expression. This should be an inspiration to all us who admire bonsai. As he emphasized the art in Japan is magnificent, but there is still room for Western innovation, using materials and insights from our own experiences with nature.

I look forward to reading the book that Walter Pall is preparing, I expect it will be a significant addition to the bonsai literature. ~ Fred Mies, BBS, PBA

After Walter and Jim had completed critiques, everyone in the workshop sat down at their stations to prune and wire trees. There was one workshop participant who I'd hoped to know better, and I wandered to his station just as Walter gave some last minute advice. There must have been over a dozen limbs that had to be removed and only one which was clearly a leader most likely to be used. This fellow looked intently at his material as one other observer and I watched. He then, without hesitation, reached in with concave cutters and cut the one leader that was decided to be the must-keep branch. Silence, pathos, despair . . . recrimination – each passed over the artist's face. Walter quickly made light of the accident and suggested two alternatives, and bonsai design moved forward, again. ~ Chris Cochrane, PVSG

Jim Doyle and Walter Pall's exciting, intelligent presentation moves the art of Bonsai into the new millennium. ~ Janet Lanman, BBS

I was one of the many attendees at the Northern Virginia and Brookside Bonsai Societies joint meeting on October 21. The meeting was a great success, including very good, thought-provoking information, a learning experience, good friends, a sales area furnished by Jim Doyle of Nature's Way and the NVBS raffle. We also auctioned one of the demo trees.

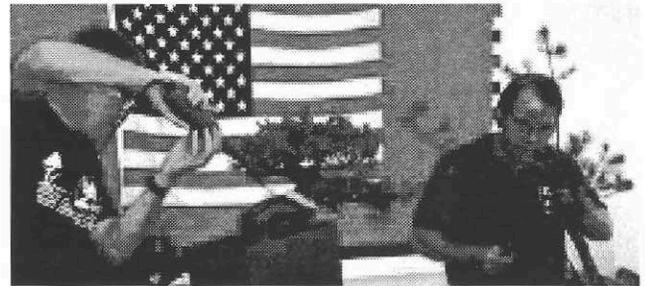


These two photos are shared by Ian Burke.



Walter Pall has an interesting take on bonsai in Europe and its relationship with Japan and the US, and about the 3 concepts on styling bonsai: Traditional Japanese, Abstract, and Natural styles. Walter pointed out, with great respect for the Japanese, that their tradition of magnificent trees is very structured, which leads to abstract bonsai. Abstract bonsai are a bit extreme and artificial. He says he uses the Natural style which is simply copying nature. We generally style trees after pines, but deciduous trees do not follow this structure of flat branches around the tree. The Natural style would be like an oak with branches growing like a broom style, but much more random upward-growing branches. This is a brief description as I understood the concept.

I was very interested by Walter's and Jim's tools. They had an extension for the Makita die grinder. (I was able to



buy one from Jim.) It adds about 8 inches between the tool and the bit. This allows carving to become much easier inside the branches of the tree. They also used some fine bits to work more realistic grooves into the dead trunk and branches (shari & jin).

Walter used a very small blow torch which was great as Carole described.

The last tool was Camellia Oil imported from Japan. The oil can be used to protect tools from rust, bring out the color and texture in pots and stones (stones only if your esthetic allows), and bring out the color and shading on bark (as Jim demonstrated on the trunk of a yew after he had brushed it with a wire brush).

This was a great meeting and thought-provoking educational session.

Thanks to Walter and Jim. ~ C Yeapanis (who supplied 5 photos for this presentation)

We invited you all to come! There were empty chairs.

MONTHLY CARE TIPS for NOVEMBER compiled by Jules

The following tips have been compiled from 4 Japanese bonsai magazines and Yuji Yoshimura's book. November is the time of year when one in this area starts to put the bonsai in winter storage, bury them in the ground or cover them with a mulch. If not in a coldframe or poly house, insure that the bonsai won't be exposed to any strong winds either by locating them in a protected spot or putting up a fence of burlap. Watering in winter need not be as frequent as in the other seasons of the year. The watering schedules suggested in the Japanese text and repeated below are not ironclad since the winter environment in which your plants are placed plays an important part as to when sequential waterings should take place. Hence daily checkups are in order to determine if the soils in different species require watering. In winter watering may be skipped as much as 3 days.

When you see 'do X any time,' it means during this month.

DANGER: One tends to relax one's watering routine in winter, neglects to check the plants for more than one to three days and the bonsai die due to lack of water. In the winter most plants can survive with reduced light but never without water!

CONIFERS

Black pine: Watering should be done thrice a day until the 20th - thereafter water once a month or as needed in the winter. Repot any time up to the 20th if needed. Repotting is normally done every 3 or 4 years. Remove dead needles. Wire any time.

Cryptomeria: Water once per day.

Hemlock: Water as needed. It is possible to wire until December.

Hinoki: Water as needed. Wire any time. Repot any time. Repotting is normally needed every 3 years.

Larch: Water as needed. **The larch can be pruned.** Remove any wire. Rewiring can be done in next March.

Needle juniper: Water twice a day.

Sawara cypress: Water as needed. Wiring can be done.

Shimpaku (Sargent juniper): Water twice a day. Repot during the first 10 days. Repotting need only be done every 3 years. Wiring can be done any time. Remove any old wire before it digs into the bark.

Spruce: Water once per day if necessary. Wire/rewire any time. Repot anytime up to the 20th. Repot after the first 5 years in training, and thereafter once every 3 years.

White pine: Water twice a day. Any time during the month, wire, prune, remove unnecessary branches, and remove dead needles.

Yew: Water as needed. Wire.

DECIDUOUS

Non-fruiting/Non-flowering:

Beech: Water twice a day. Leaves turn yellow during the last 10 days. (No need to remove yellow leaves since beech naturally discard the spent leaves in the spring.) After the 20th remove unwanted branches and wire.

Chinese elm: Water as needed. Prune unwanted lengths of branches during the first 10 days.

Gingko: Water as needed. Appreciate the leaves turning yellow.

Hornbeam: Water twice a day. Leaves turn red. After the 20th remove unwanted growth and rewire.

Japanese maple: Water twice a day if necessary. Leaves turn red. After the 20th remove unwanted growth and rewire.

Trident maple: Water thrice a day if necessary. Leaves turn red. Wiring/rewiring can be done after the 20th.

Weeping willow: Water as needed.
Winged Euonymous: Water as needed.
 Appreciate the fall color of the red leaves and the fruit. Remove unwanted growth.

Flowering/Fruiting Plants:

Cherry: Water once per day.
Crab apple: Water once per day.
 Leaves turn yellow color. Appreciate the fruit.
Gardenia: Water as needed. Prune unwanted branches and growth.
 Watch the temperature and winterize plant where temperature remains above 32°F.

Holly: Water once per day. After the 10th - lightly prune only the branchlets.
Pyracantha: Water once per day. After the 10th - lightly prune only the branchlets.
Quince: Water 1 or twice a day.
Satsuki (azalea): Water once per day.
 Remove any wire before the 20th .
Ume (Japanese flowering plum or apricot): Water once per day.
Wisteria: Water as needed.

Keep a good thought or Jules, who does so much of this work without help. He's pestering his doctor this month.

VOLUNTEER PBA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEER PBA NEEDS VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER PBA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEER PBA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEER PBA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Spread wood ashes on the ground under your bonsai when mulching them in for winter storage. The ash will keep earthworms from migrating into your pots through the drain holes.

- Dave Bogan, Greater Evansville Bonsai Society

VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER

Now's the time to get out into the yard and start turning over all your landscaping timbers, bonsai pots stored on the ground, stepping stones, etc. Slugs have been laying clutches of eggs in these secret places for weeks now. If you see clear, or milky, clusters resembling seed pearls or caviar, remove them carefully. Usually the eggs are loosely adhered to each other so if you're very gentle, the entire clutch can be picked up in one motion.

I believe the eggs must be crushed. It is not enough to put them in a saucer to dehydrate or expect the birds to enjoy them. My birds have never so much as tasted them; and the eggs rehydrate quickly with the next rain.



VOCATUS ATQUE NON VOCATUS DEUS ADEREIT ~ VOCATUS ATQUE NON VOCATUS DEUS ADEREIT ~ VOCATUS ATQUE NON VOCATUS DEUS ADEREIT ~ VOCATUS ATQUE NON VOCATUS

Words for the Wise and Caring ~ The following is a copy of the wording on a sign on the wall of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes, Vermont:

THE LIFE OF LITTER - Decomposition Rate for Trash

Paper	2.5 months
Orange Peel	6 months
Milk Carton	5 years
Cigarette Butt	10 - 12 years
Plastic Bag	10 - 20 years
Plastic Bottle	50 - 80 years
Disposable Diaper	75 years
Tin Can	100 years
Beer Can	200 - 500 years
Styrofoam	Never

