

PBA Clippings

NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION



Volume 31, Number 12
December 2001



The Feeling Around the Beltway at Press Time . . .

don't think this is what Glenn
Miller had in mind when he
did "In the Mood!"



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Editorial by Jules Koetsch

Here it is the middle of November, and where I live, we may have had only one frost. Some of my bonsai have belatedly started to change color, and an azalea in a flower bed has popped a blossom. I worry a little about the warm weather upsetting my plants' time schedule.

Normally at this time of year I've desperately begun to crowd all my bonsai into a polyhouse that has ceased, many years back, to comfortably hold all my potted plants (a.k.a. bonsai). There's an adage that one's bonsai, if they are not tropicals or subtropicals, should be exposed to two nights of subfreezing temperatures before they go into winter storage. So I'm slowly placing my plants in the polyhouse knowing that the cold nights will soon come. In fact, I'm delaying as much as possible so that the leaves on the deciduous trees fall off before I cram them into the polyhouse. I'm enjoying this comfortably slow transition of the weather from temperate to cold temperatures. It stands in contrast to some of the years past when the weather changed so fast that the subfreezing temperatures occurred sooner than expected and there was a mad scramble to get the plants under cover.

More worrisome is the lack of rainfall for the past months. Have watered the lawn although the evening dews seem to have helped keep the grass green. Also am using a root feeder to water (not fertilize) my trees and shrubs.

The fact that my polyhouse is overcrowded points up that I'm a victim of the syndrome affecting a number of bonsai enthusiasts - trying to bonsai a variety of species and or stockpiling a number of one species in hopes that one will be a respectable bonsai. John Naka once said something to the effect that one should get rid of half one's bonsai in training and keep the better ones. Thereby one will be able to give those that remain twice as much care as they previously received and get better bonsai. At the Annual PBA Symposium in October 1985, Chase Rosade posed the subject of having *Flowering Bonsai Throughout the Year*. Hence in view of John Naka's advice above, I'm grateful but sad that I never pursued something that sparked my interest in 1985 - having different species of flowering bonsai so that throughout the year there is at least one in bloom. Grateful in that their

addition to my collection of would-be bonsai would have increased its number far beyond the limits for its proper maintenance. Sad in that I do not know how far anyone has carried out Chase's suggestion and have some bonsai blooming during the winter months.

A bonsai club could try to establish a collection that would do this. Individual members of the club could each be the caretaker of a bonsai that would bloom at a specific period of the year. They could be brought to the club meeting when in bloom. Of course there is no objection if a member is interested in creating/owning a collection of different species of flowering bonsai that would accomplish the same purpose. Even the National Arboretum could feature throughout the year one or more species of bonsai in bloom.

After Chase's talk, I compiled the table *Bonsai Trees - Order of Bloom* and the *Listing of Flowering Bonsai Material*. I used the *Order of Bloom* listing in Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia by Donald Wyman; MacMillan publishing Co., Inc., N.Y. The entries were cross-checked against the species found in the Japanese text, *Drawings and Designs for Flowering Bonsai*, with articles by different authors.

Looking at the table, *Bonsai Trees - Order of Bloom*, one can see that a number of the species are already in one or more club members' collections - such as Japanese flowering apricot or plum know as umé, Forsythia, Andromeda, azalea, apple, and Wisteria. Unfortunately no plant species was found that would bloom in the month of November and the first part of December. However, one must recognize that the dates for blooming shown on the accompanying table are not ironclad. Since the time for a plant to bloom in each ensuing year is closely allied to the weather, the dates are as unpredictable as the weather. Local changes such as very high, unseasonal temperatures followed by normal or sub-normal temperatures, very dry or very wet spells can alter the blooming dates by as much as many weeks. In fact even the mini-climate around your bonsai display outdoors may be different enough to change the dates for the flower buds to open.

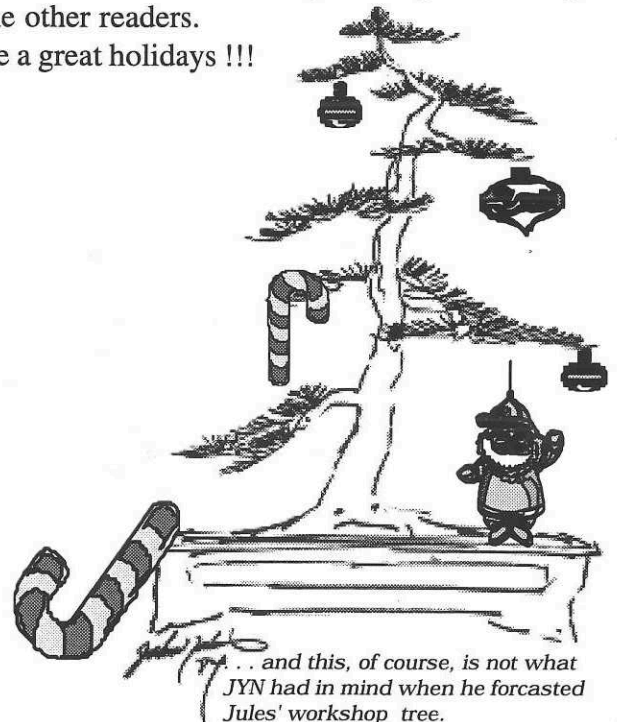
During the winter months those species that bloom should be in some kind of shelter, a greenhouse or

polyhouse or coldframe, where the temperature can be controlled. These plants can be tricked into blooming earlier by raising the temperatures and augmenting daylight with hours of artificial lighting. On the other hand, I've heard of cases where bonsai have been placed in a refrigerator or cool, dark place to retard the opening of the flower buds so that the flowers would be in full bloom during a forthcoming show. About one or two weeks before the show they are removed and placed back where they were before the confinement so that they will in full bloom for the show.

On scanning the plant species listed on the attached table, one might note that many are shrubs and not trees; and also some might have leaves that are large and somewhat out of proportion the size of the bonsai. The Japanese tend to overlook bonsai shortcomings on these species, and consider the enjoyment of the blooms an overriding feature. Furthermore, the table shows that for certain months of the year only a few plants are listed and none for November and part of December. The above points out some of the problems one runs into when trying to fill the entire year with bonsai in bloom.

If any of the readers have any thoughts, experiences, additions or deletions relative to the listing of plant species cited in the attachments, please let me know so that they can be passed along to the other readers.

Have a great holidays !!!



... and this, of course, is not what JYN had in mind when he forcasted Jules' workshop tree.



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

December

Rappahannock Bonsai Society

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

Chesapeake Bonsai Society

2 (Call Sharon Katz for time) A planning meeting for the 2002 year will be held at 1530 Gordon Cove Drive, Annapolis, MD

Baltimore Bonsai Club

2 1:00 p.m. Holiday Party at Cylburn. (Pot luck) Refreshments provided by the club. Bring a bonsai-related gift or craft, or a holiday goody for a gift exchange

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

7 6:30 p.m. Annual Holiday party (China Garden Restaurant)

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

8 3:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner. Location TBA.

Bowie Bonsai Club

No meeting planned

Brookside Bonsai Society A Holiday Dinner, Time and place TBA

Lancaster Bonsai Society

12 7:00 p.m. No topic announced

Washington Bonsai Club

15 2:00 p.m. No topic announced
Real Life supercedes Bonsai - No PBA Board Meeting this month

January

Lancaster Bonsai Society

9 7:00 p.m. No topic yet announced

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

12 9:00 a.m. Open discussion - Wiring
10:00 a.m. Tool Care and sharpening w/demo - Jack FitzSimons-Carol Roelofs - workshop to follow

Brookside Bonsai Society

17 7:30 p.m. Presentation by Jack Sustic, Curator-elect of The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum

Washington Bonsai Club

19 2:00 p.m. Refinement workshop - BYO trees

Baltimore Bonsai Club

20 1:00 p.m. Winter silhouette - BYO trees to show and explain development for the coming year. Planning of meeting topics for year 2002


Kiyomizu Bonsai club

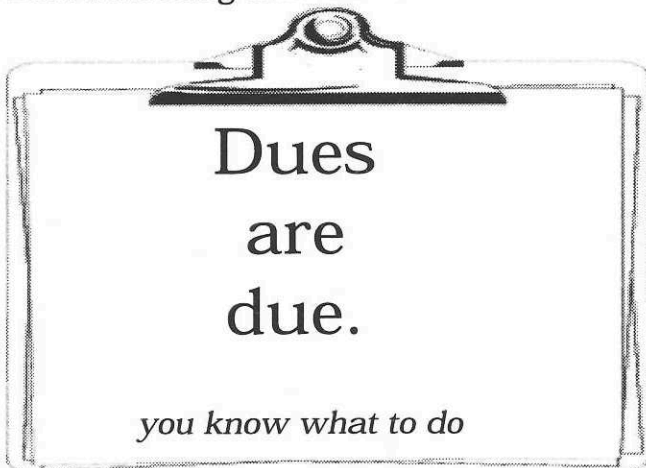
26 2:00 p.m. Planning meeting for 2002
Bowie Bonsai Club

28 7:00 p.m.

Chesapeake Bonsai Society - Planning meeting to be held in December, will advise next issue

Potomac Viewing Stone Group Meeting TBA later

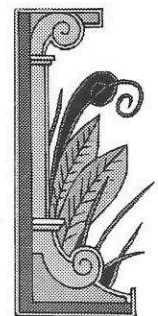
Potomac Bonsai Association- Board meeting will be held first Sunday at 11 am. (BYO brunch )



Volunteer

Opportunity!

See Page 6



Potomac Bonsai Association Board Minutes, 11 November 2001

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am in the Arboretum Conference Room.

Attending: Chuck Croft (PBA President); Jerry Antel, Jim Hughes, P.C. Kumar and Ed Zipeto (Brookside); Jim Sullivan and Jane Ashley (Bowie); Carole Roelofs, Arlene Polinsky, Jules Koetsch, and Judith Wise (NVBS).

Minutes: The minutes of the September 9th meeting were approved. There was no meeting in October so minutes were not approved until this meeting

Treasurer's Report: CD - \$6,000; Savings - \$4,011.33; and Checking - \$148.57 for a total of \$10,159.90. Jerry Antel estimated the spending for the remainder of 2001 to be approximately \$1,200. The balance for 2001 is estimate to be \$9,150 as compared to \$10,543 at the end of 2000.

PBA Spring Show: The Arboretum has informed PBA that OUR spring show, **for 29 years** held on the last weekend of April would not be available **again** as FONA was having a plant sale those dates. PBA has been given the first weekend of April. Chuck Croft requested that all clubs submit letters to him, complaining of the Arboretum treatment of PBA activities in and for the Arboretum.

Fall Symposium.: There was a brief discussion on whether a 2002 fall symposium should be held. The general consensus was yes. A date, place and theme are needed. It was suggested that a hands-on workshop be part of this symposium.

Brain Storming Session: Jim Hughes reported on the suggestions from session. He will summarize it for *Clippings* and urged for establishment of a mentor program. Names were suggested of possible mentors from each club.

Education program: P.C. Kumar noted that new members need mentors. In addition, mentors could provide educational programs to schools, retirement communities, etc.

Behnke's Auction: Ed Zipeto reported that the plant auction at Behnke's nursery will be 25 May at the Beltsville facility.

Calendar: Board meetings will be held every other month, starting January 2002 on the first Sunday of the month, beginning at 11 am.

Annual Meeting: The PBA annual meeting will take place after the 5 March 2002 meeting of the board. An Arb. classroom will be requested as a meeting place. Arschel Morell was appointed to select the slate of officers.

Washington. Home & Garden Show: The question was raised if PBA should participate. There is need of a chair to replace Ed Suarez who so competently ran the last two displays. The show is in early March, 2002. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Baltimore Bonsai Club News *contributed by Arschel Morell*

On the 5-7 October, the Baltimore Bonsai Club held it's First Annual Fall Bonsai Show at Valley View Farms Nursery. The show was an unqualified success. When the show was first proposed, the interest was not overwhelming because of the site, but it grew as the show date approached.

On Friday morning we started the set-up with more than enough trees to fill the exhibition room. The people at Valley View were so pleased with the show and it's reception by their patrons that they invited us back for the Fall of 2002.

During the weekend we put out a sheet for persons who had an interest to sign to receive additional information. We also handed out flyers with club contacts. Even though there was a steady flow of people through the show, only 19 people signed the sheet. Letters were sent out the following week inviting those nineteen folks to our next club meeting.

On October 28th (our next meeting) there were 12 visitors in attendance. Nine of those visitors were from the show list and two were in attendance due to the PBA web site. One visited due to the flyer. After the visitors were welcomed, there was a discussion of members' displayed trees with fall color. Visitors' trees were discussed and tips for improvement were shared.

After an extended coffee break, a 'bring your own tree' workshop was conducted to the delight of the visitors who got a chance to see bonsai created on the spot.

A good time was had by all, and three visitors joined the club right away. Several others indicated interest in joining at a later date.

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

PBA Mentoring Program

Many PBA members who have grown bonsai for years have knowledge and experience they could share with less experienced PBA members. In order to facilitate this sharing, the PBA board is initiating a mentoring program.

The PBA mentoring program will match less experienced club members with the more experienced members. Advice about horticultural practices, design issues, propagation techniques, and use of pesticides are typical bonsai-related topics that may be discussed. The mentor can choose to communicate by phone, exchange a series of e-mails, or even arrange face-to-face meetings. Time constraints, geography, and other factors, will dictate the best way. Each month *Clippings* will print the current PBA Mentors and their phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses. Less experienced PBA members, especially new members, will be encouraged to contact these mentors when they have bonsai-related questions.

Anyone interested in being listed as a mentor should send their name, club affiliation, city of residence, phone number, and e-mail (if possible) to Jim Hughes at 301.779.2891 or jjhughes@erols.com. Please mention if you prefer to be contacted by phone or e-mail. If you want to be contacted by phone, suggest the best time to call. If there are any other restrictions, please specify. Informally, PBA club members have been sharing their personal experiences and knowledge of bonsai for years already. The mentoring program intends to provide a structure to welcome new people to PBA and encourage them to build relationships with more experienced club members. In the next few months, let's build a mentoring program that will be fully operational by spring 2002!

Jim Hughes, PBA Educational Vice President

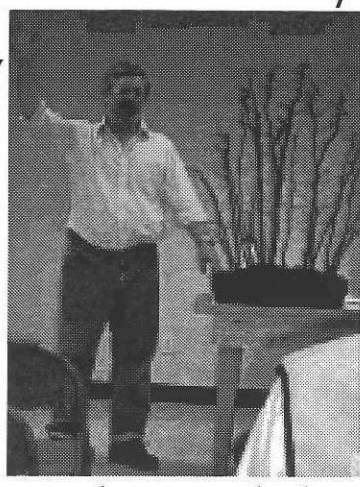
The Annual Brookside Bonsai Auction

*

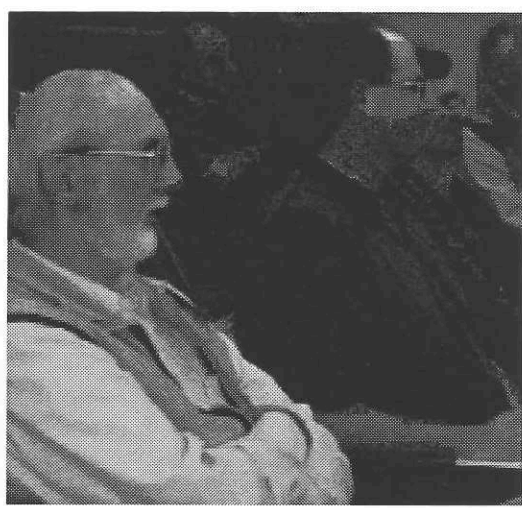


Jim Hughes opens the action and tries to warm up THIS crowd - tough assignment.

Who would believe it! - I was innocently photographing an additon to the Yeapanis Collection and captured the image of a ghost - Can you see it too? It bears a striking resemblance to a face from the past, Bill Spencer.

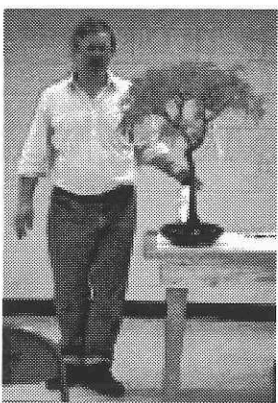


Bill showed up because he was asked to help. What a novel idea.



The BBS Treasurer has reported in with the preliminary results of the 2001 BBS auction.

There were 19 sellers and 21 bidders. BBS asked that 20% of the selling price be given to the club. Nine of the sellers donated 100% of the selling price to BBS. Materials totaling \$1070 were sold. Of that, \$606 was donated to BBS and \$464 will be paid out to the sellers. Several PBA members from other area clubs attended the auction as buyers and sellers.



This little Iqacey maple put on quite a fiery display and was admired by many. If we could only print in color you'd see it's a striking hue. Or . . . you could have attended and seen it for yourself.



Here's Jim Reidan elucidating on the tradition of the last successful bidder needing to take home and nurture an unsold orphan for the next year.

These photos are here because we thought to take our camera. When your club has an event, why don't YOU take your digital camera, and forward some shots (jpg or bmp) and some words to the *Clippings* staff via e-mail. Sharing the fun may encourage good things to happen in a sister club.

* Note the empty seats.
Photos by the Sorcerer's Apprentice

8 FROST RESISTANCE OF PLANTS *by Reiner Goebel*

Winter is here and all our trees should be safely tucked away in their winter quarters by now. So, let's review what makes plants resistant to our cold winters, how they themselves prepare for it, and what we can do (or could have done) to help them along. To address the last point first: there is very little we can do at this stage to help them along. The trees are dormant and no amount of trickery is going to rouse them for a while. However, next year, follow these few simple rules:

Stop using fertilizer rich in nitrogen and potassium around the beginning of August. This will have the result of reducing new growth and hardening old growth.

Do not prune your trees between the middle of August and the time they enter dormancy - somewhere around the middle of September. Late pruning could encourage new growth which will not have time to harden before winter.

Do not water quite as generously in the fall. Reduction in moisture will beneficially influence hardening of the young shoots. On the other hand, make sure you do not underwater during the summer months, since this may result in - aside from early death of the whole tree - premature hardening of the new shoots and renewed growth under favourable conditions which will then be winter-killed.

Tricky stuff, this bonsai business!

Different plants have different ideas about "frost." Some tropical plants may show "frost" damage at temperatures below +14°C, while other plants take temperatures of -50°C or lower in their stride. Plants that are native to this area will only show frost damage at temperatures below 0°C.

There are two distinctly different types of winter damage that can occur: winter dryness, and ice damage.

Winter dryness ~ Winter dryness will occur in plant parts growing above ground during long and sunny cold spells because water loss occurs even in winter

and even in deciduous plants. Since the root ball is frozen, the moisture lost cannot be replaced; and as a result, the plant will partially or totally dry out.

To guard against winter dryness, trees should be sent into freeze-up with lots of moisture at their roots; and they should be protected against sun and wind during the winter months.

Ice damage ~ Real frost damage occurs as a result of the formation of ice in the plant cells. The point at which such damage occurs will not only vary from species to species, but also from one part of the plant to another and from season to season. Frost resistance is therefore not a permanent, but an acquired state. Constantly decreasing temperatures in the fall trigger chemical changes in the make-up of plant cells that increase their frost resistance. A decrease in mean temperature by 5°C increases frost resistance by 10°. Freezing temperatures in the period from October to February and even March will therefore rarely damage a bonsai. (For greater clarity, I emphasize that this slow change from the frost sensitive to the frost resistant stage only occurs in trees or plants native to areas of the world which have cold winters. In its native habitat, a ficus benjamina or other tropical plant has had no reason to develop a defense mechanism against cold temperatures, and therefore will take no hint from the shortening days to prepare for winter.)

In spring, the process is reversed, except that instead of light being the trigger, it now is temperature. The gradual

warming results in a slow reduction of frost resistance, so that plants that could have withstood temperatures of -30°C in winter will now be damaged by temperatures of -3°C .

It follows, therefore, that in preparing our hardy trees for winter, they need not be protected against the occasional frost in the fall, and the prize maple that is whipped indoors at the slightest chance of frost in spring is nonchalantly left outside in November. I must admit, though, that even in fall I do not let touchy material (like most Japanese maples) be exposed to frost below -5°C while they are above ground in bonsai or nursery pots. The reason for this is that roots of all plants are always much less frost resistant than the above-ground growth, and the soil in the small bonsai container will be the same temperature as the cold air around it. If the plant were growing in the ground, there would be no reason for concern,

since the great mass of soil around it would provide plenty of insulation. Maximum frost resistance of root systems, depending on species, varies between -5°C and -15°C . Because of the insulation provided by Mother Earth, soil temperatures are fairly stable throughout winter and are not subject to the wild swings experienced above ground. Another layer of insulation is usually provided by snow.

Snow, incidentally, is wonderful stuff to a plant. While cold, it nevertheless insulates marvelously against colder temperatures and provides much needed moisture and humidity around a plant. It is therefore well worth the effort to shovel some of it onto your trees if they are not covered by it naturally. Be careful, though, when the snow is wet and heavy - the load you shovel on could break your only back branch. ~ Reiner Goebel



POETRY CORNER - CALM YOURSELF

*If only they had fragrance!
these heavy snowflakes settling -
lilies on the rocks.*
~ Basho

*The thin snow now driving from the north and
lodging on my coat consists of those beautiful star
crystals . . . Nature is full of genius, full of divinity;
so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand.
What a world we live in! Where myriads of those
little disks are whirled down on every traveler's coat*

...

~ Thoreau

The above appeared in the booklet, MORNING MIST, Thoreau and Basho Through the Seasons by Mary Kullberg; Weatherhill, NY; 1993



Listing of Flowering Bonsai Material *from Jules*

The following listing of flowering bonsai material is arranged in alphabetical order of the plant's common name. The numbers correspond to their location on the table.

The scientific names of the plants are given, along with the adult height of the plant in nature, the lower limit of the hardiness zone, and the color and size of the blooms. Note that the hardiness zone for the Washington, D.C., area is Zone 7 and any plants with a higher hardiness zone number will not be able to survive an outdoor winter in this area unless they are put in a greenhouse or possibly a coldframe.

40. Albizia: julibrissin (silktree); 36 feet; Zone 7; pink and white ball-like flower clusters, about 2 inches across.
8. Alder: alnus; Zones 5 to 3; male and female catkins.
14. Andromeda: pieris; Zones 7 to 4; heights range from 6 to 9 feet. Flowers are upright or pendulous clusters or panicles of tiny, white buds.
19. Apple, crab: malus; 15 to 45 feet high; Zones 5 to 2. Flowers range in size from 3/4 to 2 1/2 inches in diameter, and in color from white to red to pink.
16. Apricot: prunus armeniaca; 30 feet tall, single white or pinkish flowers about an inch in diameter; Zone 5.
2. Apricot, Japanese flowering: prunus mumé sieboldi et succ.; pink or white flowers about 1/2 inch diameter; Zone 7.
25. Ash, European Mountain: fraxinus excelsior; 120 feet tall; Zone 3.
15. Azalea: rhododendrum numerous species; 11 to 15 feet; Zones 7 to 2. Colors range from white to red, pink, orange, yellow, violet and in diameter from 11 to 3 inches.
33. Beautybush: kolkwitzia; 10 feet tall; Zone 4; pale pink flowers.
10. Birch: betula; 30 to 90 feet; Zones 5 to 2; flowers are catkins.
29. Blueberry: vaccinium; 8 inches to 18 feet; Zones 7 to 2; small, urn shaped flowers.
12. Camellia: 15 to 45 feet tall; Zones 9 to 7; large blooms around 4 inches in diameter with colors that are waxy, white, pink, red or variegated.
7. Cherry, Japonese: prunus; 20 to 25 feet tall; Zones 6 to 5; white or pink flowers, 3 to 5 in a cluster, about 1-inch diameter per flower.
26. Chokeberry: aronia; 1-1/2 to 12 feet tall; Zone 4; small, white, 5-petalled flowers.
42. Chrysanthemums: There may be some question as to why what many people may classify as neither a shrub or tree but a flowering plant, is included in this listing. Every Autumn in Japan various places hold chrysanthemum shows with the mums in magnificent full-bloom. A cascade chrysanthemum is a popular style in Japan which comes closest to being bonsai. 15 inches to 5 feet tall, Zones 5 to 2. Flower heads range in size from less than an inch in diameter to over 6 inches. Colors are varied.
41. Chrysanthemum parthenium: 1 to 3 feet, Zone 4, white-rayed flower heads 3/4 inch in diameter. This mum blooms early in August.
34. Cotoneaster: 1 to 12 feet tall; Zones 7 to 4; White flowers.
43. Crape-myrtle: lagerstroemia, 21 to 60 feet; Zones 10 to 7; flowers in cluster 4 to 9 inches long; colors range from pink to red, lavender, bluish and white.
22. Dogwood: cornus, 9 to 60 feet tall; Zones 8 to 2; flowers are small and yellow surrounded by four large white, pink, or red bracts which are often erroneously referred to as the flower. The bracts are about 2 inches in diameter.
18. Enkianthus: a member of the heath family, 6 to 30 feet tall; Zones 7 to 5; flowers are bell-shaped clusters of 10 to 12 blossoms.
9. Forsythia: 2 to 10 feet; Zones 5 to 4; yellow flowers about 3/4 inch diameter.

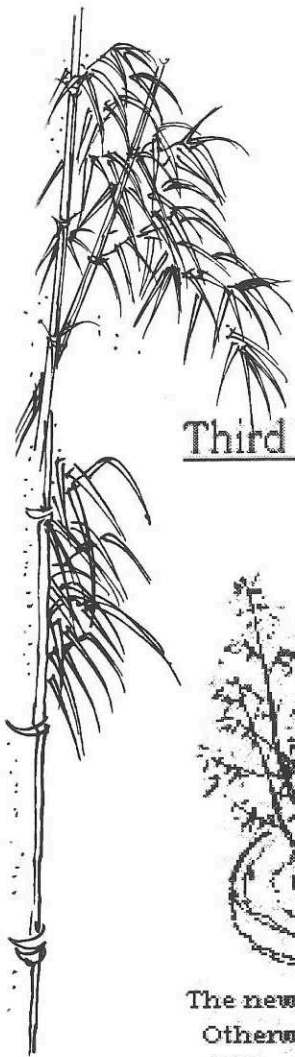
BONSAI TREES
ORDER OF BLOOM

Tree or Shrub	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. Wintersweet	XXXXXXX											X
2. Japanese flowering apricot	XXXXX											
3. Winter blooming jasmine	XXXXXXX											
4. Japanese witch-hazel	XXXXXXXXXX											
5. Chinese witch-hazel	XXXXXXXXXX											
6. Pussy willow			XXXXX									
7. Japanese cherry				XXXXX								
8. Alder				XXXXX								
9. Forsythia				XXXX								
10. Birch				XXX								
11. Winter-hazel				XXX								
12. Canellia				XXX								
13. Honeysuckle				XXX								
14. Andromeda				XXX								
15. Azalea				XXXXXXXXXXXX								
16. Apricot				XXX								
17. Hawthorn				XXXX								
18. Enkianthus perulatis				XXXX								
19. Crab apple				XXXXXX								
20. Plum				XXXXX								
21. Lilac				XXX								
22. Dogwood					XXXXX							
23. Common quince					XXX							
24. Flowering quince			XXXXXXX									
25. European mountain ash					XXX							
26. Chokeberry					XXX							
27. Yulan magnolia					XXXX							
28. Tamarisk					XXX							
29. Blueberry					XXX							
30. Wisteria					XXX							
31. Japanese wisteria								XXX				
32. Ilex						XXXX						
33. Beautybush						XXX						
34. Cotoneaster						XXX						
35. Mountain laurel						XXX						
36. Privet						XXX						
37. Pyracantha						XXX						
38. Linden						XXXX						
39. Stewartia							XXXX					
40. Albizia (Silk tree)							XXX					
41. Chrysanthemum parthenium							XXX					
42. Chrysanthemums								XXXXXXXXXXXX				
43. Crepe myrtle								XXXX				
44. Witch-hazel (Hamamelis)										XXX		
45. Bohea tea											XXX	

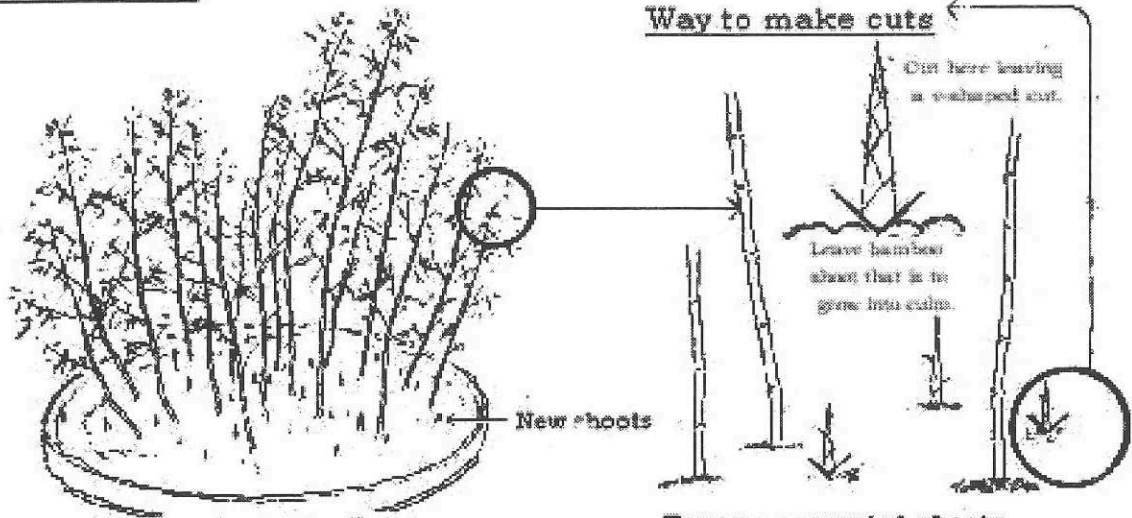
- 17. Hawthorn: crataegus, 5 to 36 feet, Zones-5 to 3, white or pink to red flowers about 3/4 inch in diameter.
- 13. Honeysuckle: Ionicera , 3 to 50 feet as a vine; Zones 9 to 2; flowers range from white to pink, yellow or red, trumpet shaped flowers 3/4 to 2 inches in length.
- 32. Ilex, holly: 9 to 36 feet; Zones 7 to 3; inconspicuous flowers.
- 3. Jasmine, Winter Blooming: jasminum nudiflorum, 15-foot vine; Zone 5, flowers are solitary, bright yellow; about 3/4 to one inch in diameter.

Bamboo Bonsai - Graceful, Elegant

translated and compiled by Jules



Third Year May 1 to 10 - Cut new shoots



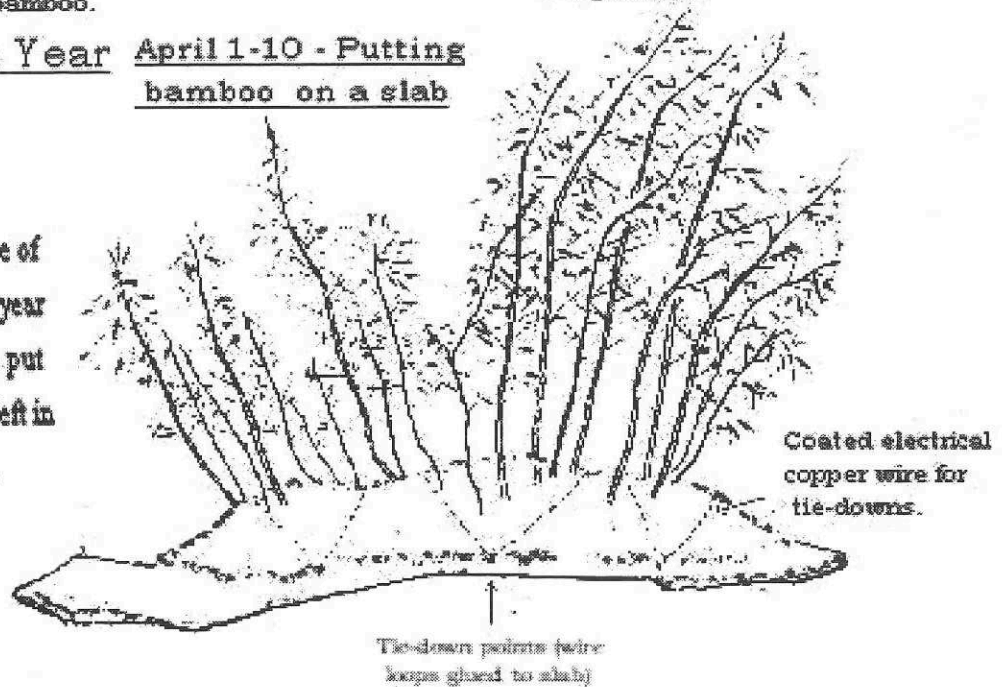
The new shoots that appear should be removed. Otherwise they will eventually weaken the existing bamboo.

Remove unwanted shoots. Leave those that when fully grown will enhance the overall composition.

Fourth Year April 1-10 - Putting bamboo on a slab

The potted tree of the previous year can either be put on a slab or left in its container.

Slab



The soil at the planting's edge will fall off. Replace whatever is needed to give the desired slope to the edge.

There's one more chapter. Be patient.

MONTHLY CARE TIPS for December *prepared by Jules Koetsch*

The following tips have been compiled from 4 Japanese bonsai magazines and Yuji Yoshimura's book. By now your plants should be tucked away under winter protection. 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. If your bonsai are protected in a cold frame, polyhouse or the like where the soil in the pot does not freeze, use a moisture meter. When the reading is below 50%, drench the plant.

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.

CONIFERS

Black pine: Water once per day. Remove dead needles. Wire any time during month. pH 4.5 - 6.0

Cryptomeria: Water once per day. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 5.5 - 7.0

Hemlock: Water as needed. pH 5.0 - 6.0

Hinoki: Water as needed. Wire any time during the month. Repot any time. Repotting is normally needed every 3 years. pH 5.0 - 6.0

Larch: Water as needed. pH 5.0 - 6.5

Needle juniper: Water once per day. pH 6.0 - 7.0

Sawara cypress: Water as needed. pH 5.0 - 6.0

Shimpaku (Sargent juniper): Water 2 times per day. Wiring can be done up to the tenth of the month. Remove any old wire before it digs into the bark. pH 5.0 - 6.0

Spruce: Water once per day. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 5.0 - 6.0

White pine: Water 2 times per day. Any time during the month, wire, prune, remove unnecessary branches, and remove dead needles. If the pine has wire on it, provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 4.5 - 6.0

Yew: Water as needed. pH 5.0 - 6.0

DECIDUOUS

Non-fruiting/Non-flowering:

Beech: Water 2 times per day until the 10th of the month and once per day thereafter. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. After the 20th of the month remove unwanted branches and wire. pH 5.0 - 7.0

Chinese elm: Water as needed. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. Wiring can be done. pH 6.0 - 7.5

Ginkgo: Water as needed. Remove unwanted branches. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. Wiring can be done. pH 6.0 - 7.0

Hornbeam: Water 2 times per day until the 10th of the month and once per day thereafter. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. Anytime during the month remove unwanted growth and rewire. pH 6.0 - 8.0

Japanese maple: Water 2 times per day until the 10th of the month and once per day thereafter. Remove unwanted growth and rewire. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 6.0 - 8.0

Trident maple: Water once per day. Wiring/rewiring can be done. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 6.0 - 8.0

Weeping willow: Water as needed. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 5.0 - 6.0

Winged Euonymus: Water as needed. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. Wire. pH 5.5 - 7.0

Flowering/Fruiting Plants:

Cherry: Water once every two days. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 6.0 - 8.0

Crab apple: Water once every two days. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 5.0 - 6.5

Gardenia: Water as needed. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 5.0 - 6.0

Holly: Water once every two days. After exposure to one frost, provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 5.0 - 6.0

Pyracantha: Water once every two days. After exposure to one frost, provide special winter

protection - see footnote. Up to the 20th of the month one can lightly prune only branchlets. pH 5.0 - 6.0

Quince: Water once every two days. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 6.0 - 7.5

Satsuki (azalea): Water once per day. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 4.5 - 5.0

Ume (Japanese flowering plum or apricot): Water once per day. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 6.0 - 7.5

Wisteria: Water as needed. Provide special winter protection - see footnote. pH 6.0 - 8.0

FOOTNOTE: Special winter protection - The Japanese text recommends for this area that the plants so designated should be placed where the temperature doesn't go below freezing (32°F) - such as in a cold frame or polyhouse or greenhouse. The trees so designated as needing winter protection will not survive if they are exposed to freezing temperatures. However they should be placed where the temperature ranges between 32° and 50°F.

DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE

Bonsai Book Nook Read any good books lately? I've button-holed several PBAers to tell you about a few of their favorites. If you can read, please, feel obligated to contribute. I know at least a quarter of our membership have more books on bonsai than bonsai. So, write a note to Awntie Betty and tell her about one in your collection which taught you an invaluable technique or gave you insight... and, if you've spent good money on a book which didn't live up to its promise, save your friends some dough by telling us how the book didn't cut the mustard for you.

Consider this activity part of your club dues.

The Japanese Experience: A Short History

By W. G. Beasley, University of California Press, 1999.

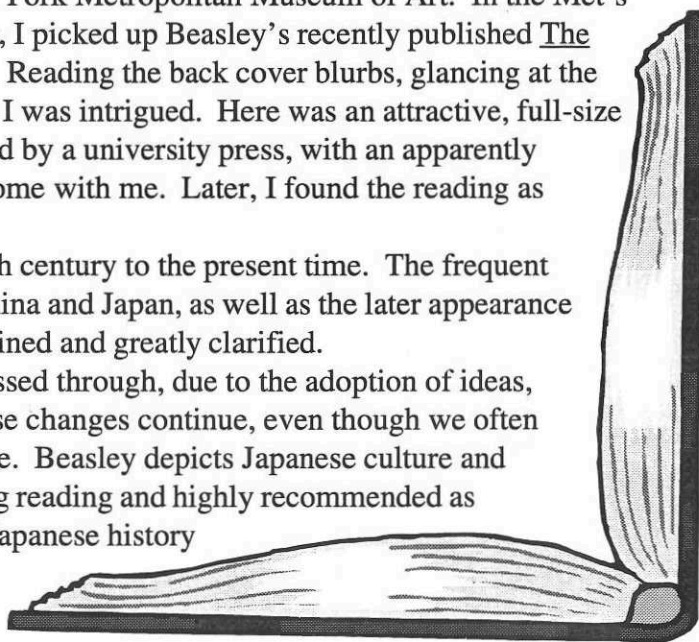
I suspect there are many PBA members, obviously bonsai and possibly suiseki enthusiasts, who have never devoted the time to read a decent history of Japan. I personally read extensively, no small portion being history, but other than Ruth Benedict's anthropology book, The Chrysanthemum and the Sword, I had not read any significant book on Japanese history and culture. With a 16-year experience with bonsai, several Japanese-American friends, and several years working for a Japanese-owned company, this was a gap waiting to be filled.

In frequent bookstore visits, my eyes and hands would often drift over various suitable titles, but the bond never struck until a recent visit to the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the Met's book store, where most books are extra tempting, I picked up Beasley's recently published The Japanese Experience: A Short History of Japan. Reading the back cover blurbs, glancing at the Contents, and reading a few random paragraphs, I was intrigued. Here was an attractive, full-size trade paperback, not too long (299 pp.), published by a university press, with an apparently respected author, and this puppy wanted to go home with me. Later, I found the reading as enjoyable as the selecting.

The author covers Japanese history from the sixth century to the present time. The frequent changes in the love-hate relationship between China and Japan, as well as the later appearance of the dual rulers, emperor and shogun, are explained and greatly clarified.

Striking are the changes Japanese society has passed through, due to the adoption of ideas, literature, institutions, and art from abroad. These changes continue, even though we often regard Japan as homogeneous and slow to change. Beasley depicts Japanese culture and history as very entwined. This book is fascinating reading and highly recommended as the first or twenty-first book you might read on Japanese history and culture.

Glenn Reusch, NVBS



Potomac Bonsai Association Membership Application

Welcome! PBA is composed of the clubs listed here. Join one and be eligible to attend any club's meeting, in addition to receiving *PBA Clippings* monthly. We conduct a Spring Show and a Fall Symposium, as well as other events. Residents of these communities are expected to join a club to receive all membership benefits, including *PBA Clippings*.

To become a member, call the contact person of the club convenient to your needs for current rates and where to send this application and dues. (Please make check payable to the club joined.)

Individuals residing beyond commuting distance of a club are invited to subscribe to *PBA Clippings*. For a subscription only (no entitlement to participation in club events), complete application and mail with a check payable to PBA for \$15.00 (US\$35 for an international subscription) to: Judy Wise, 1259 4th St, SW, Washington, DC, 20024. For more information, please call Judy at (202) 554-3045.

Meeting times and locations are subject to change. **Call first!**
 Events are listed monthly in the Calendar section of *PBA Clippings*.

- Individual Club membership (Includes *PBA Clippings*)
 - Family Club Membership (Includes one copy of *PBA Clippings*)
 - PBA Clippings* Subscription Only, US \$15 (does not include club activities)
 - PBA Clippings*, International Subscription, US \$35
-
- Baltimore Bonsai Club Kiyomizu Bonsai Society Chesapeake Bonsai Society
 - Bowie Bonsai Club Lancaster Bonsai Society Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
 - Brookside Bonsai Club Washington Bonsai Club Rappahanock Bonsai Society
 - Potomac Viewing Stone Group

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ +4 _____ Nation _____

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

Meeting location and club contact number for additional information is as listed. Check for Beginners' Hour, and other special functions. All are welcomed to visit any club's meeting. **Also visit www.bonsai-pba.org.**

Baltimore Bonsai Club

Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD
 3rd Sunday, 1 PM

Arschel Morell, 410.744.6478 - ajmorellsr@hotmail.com

Bowie Bonsai Club

Woodlawn Baptist Church, 500 Church Rd, Bowie, MD
 Last Monday, 7 PM

Jim Sullivan, 301.262.9633 - sullivja@ors.od.nih.gov
 Terry Adkins, 202.667.1016

Brookside Bonsai Society

North Chevy Chase Rec Center, Bethesda, MD
 3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM

Jim Hughes, 301.779.2891 - JJHughes@erols.com

Chesapeake Bonsai Society

Call for meeting time and location
 Sharon Katz, 410.263.3307

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

Clearwater Nature Ctr, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD
 4th Sunday, 2 PM

Essie Wilson, 301.839.2471 - wilson@howrey.com

Lancaster Bonsai Society

Conestoga House, 1608 Marietta Pike, Lancaster, PA
 2nd Wednesday, 7 PM

Marlene Fetherbay, 717.898.0806

Mark Emerson, mmemerson@onemain.com

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

Fairlington Community Center,
 3308 Stafford Street, Arlington, VA
 2nd Saturday, 9 AM

Carole Roelofs, croelofs@erols.com
 Judy Wise, 202.554.3045

Rappahanock Bonsai Society

Call for meeting time and location
 Todd Stewart, 804.448.4499

Washington Bonsai Club

U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
 3rd Saturday, 2 PM (no July or August meetings)

Ross Campbell, 301.587.6898 - rossmo@gateway.net

Potomac Viewing Stone Group

Meets irregularly about 6 time per year
 Glenn Reusch, Ghreusch@aol.com - 540.672.5699

Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc.
 c/o U.S. National Arboretum
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