

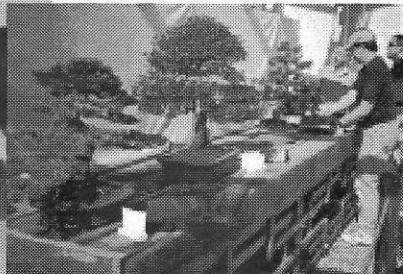
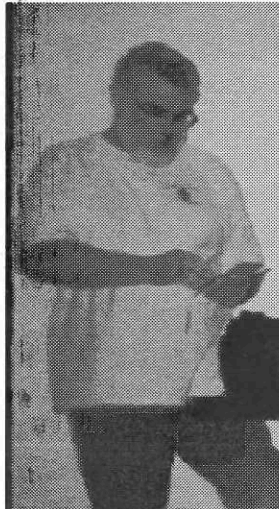
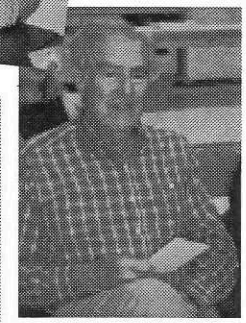
PBA Clippings

NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION



Volume 32, Number 1
January 2002

These people
work for PBA.
If you don't
yet, search
one out and
ask them to
mentor you in
club
volunteerism.



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PBA
Clippings
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Editorial by Jules Koetsch

At the beginning of every year, it is well to review your bonsai's history and count your successes and failures. Sometimes I find that I'm counting more failures than I'd like to have had.

There was the oval tray that I had reported on in a previous issue of *Clippings* (August 1996) where I used *PC-7* to glue back together. It held for a few years but finally gave way while I was carrying it. I've decided that to get a good bond with *PC-7*, one must not try to press the broken pieces together too tightly - leave at least 1/16th of an inch of *PC-7* between the pieces being mated together. It's back together and it looks like it's holding together very well.

I tried transplanting some *Cryptomeria* last September in deference to Japanese advice (see *CARE TIPS* for last September - no transplanting listed for *Cryptomeria*). Five of the trees in the forest planting bit the dust. They were no great loss. Now I have some dead trees to construct a saikei **mimicking** the aftermath of a forest fire. I can use a propane torch to blacken some of the trunks and dead branches. Many years ago when Cliff Pottberg was still giving bonsai lessons, he suggested that everyone should come up with a name or theme for their planting. Hence, in the middle of the saikei, I'll plant one young tree, and as Mary Fox suggested for such a planting - call it "HOPE."

There are some of my plants which have not looked contented - causing me to consider all the possibilities that might be behind their unhappiness. I checked the pH in the soil of a black pine that gave up the ghost, and found it to be a pH of 6.4 - above the maximum value of pH 6.0 for black pines. A good chore for the winter is to use a pH meter on each of your bonsai's soil. There are a few ways to correct the pH. The quick way is to dunk the potted bonsai in one of the following solutions: a. To lower the pH, use a teaspoon of white vinegar in a gallon of water. b. To raise the pH, put a teaspoon of baking soda in a gallon of water. The long-term method is to sprinkle on the top of the soil: aluminum sulfate to lower the pH; and to raise the pH, hydrated horticultural lime.

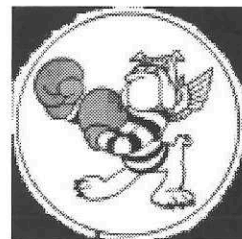
Fixing the pH may have helped; but there also is something that has always puzzled me, and that is that roots on my black pines, junipers, and spruce do not fill up their pots compared to other species in my collection of potted plants. Keith Scott once remarked in one of his demonstrations that if the roots of your bonsai do not fill the pot after being in the pot for a reasonable period of time, you are doing something wrong. My black pine, junipers and spruce have been in pots long enough to have shown appropriate root growth. The only factor that I can blame is that, as the Japanese proclaim, some evergreens require a full day of sun to be healthy, and black pine is one of them. (See *Care Tips* in issues of *Clippings* to check which bonsai need a full day of sun.) I've killed a few white pines trying to grow them in the location where my bonsai are placed outdoors. There they may get 3 to 4 hours of full sunlight. However, the plant species that tolerate half a day of shade have good root growth - for example my Hinoki cypresses, maples, Cryptomeria and hemlocks.

The question of pot depth might play a role in stimulating root growth. Bill Daly once noted that some of my plants are in very shallow pots and proffered that he potted his bonsai in pots somewhat deeper than one might think appropriate. When repotting plants with limited root growth, they can be made more stable in a deeper pot. Perhaps the accepted step of tying down the plants not only keeps them from being uprooted by wind or some brazen squirrel, but also allows for the hair roots to develop without any slight disturbances

transmitted through the plant's trunk when gentle breezes blow. Kingsville boxwoods are known to thrive in pots that are generally deeper than the rules suggest for their trunk diameters.

I just finished talking to Pete Jones about using seaweed and organic phosphate. He's is going to let us in on how he uses them. Pete introduced me to seaweed a number of years ago, but I became lax, didn't reorder it. Recently I found some marketed in a finely powdered form as *Espoma Kelp Meal*. The NPK is 1-0-2 - not much in potassium, P, which is supposed to enhance root growth. However, the crux of the matter is that seaweed contains the much needed trace elements. To give the plant the phosphate to encourage root growth, I'm going to try *Espoma Rock Phosphate*, NPK of 0-4-0. I'm going to dust them on the soil surfaces along with gypsum to cut any salts in the soil.

In addition to doing what is mentioned above to improve all my plants' welfare, I'm going to work out a *Plan of the Month* for when things should be done. Recently when I talked to Dan Chiplis he commented that the important thing in bonsai is to do the tasks that should be done at the times of the year when they should be done. That is a New Year's resolution I'm going to try not to break.



Thanks . . . Once again another year has passed and the same relentless crew - Betty Yeapanis and Judy Wise have contributed their efforts toward getting each monthly edition of PBA Clippings in the mail. My sincere thanks goes to them and PBA's stalwart treasurer, Jerry Antel, who antis up the postage and tries to get advertisers. Thanks to Arschel Morrell for putting together the PBA calendar of event for each month. Thanks to Frank Thomas for his original artwork appearing from time to time. Thanks to Chris Yeapanis for being the Staff Photographer. Also thanks to those who have taken the time to contribute articles to PBA Clippings.

~ The Editor

Dues are due.

Do what needs doing.

Clippings won't come to you in March (maybe even February if we're on the ball), if you haven't sent an appropriate payment to your club's treasurer.

We don't pay these treasurers the big bucks to sit around looking smart. Give them some-thing to do to earn their keep.



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

JANUARY

Potomac Bonsai Association

6 11:00 a.m. Board meeting will be held in the meeting room on the mezzanine in the Admin Bldg at the National Arboretum - All dues-paid-up members encouraged to attend.

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. Tools - Care and sharpening w/demo-Jack FitzSimons - Carol Roelofs - wksp to follow

Brookside Bonsai Society

17 7:30 p.m. Presentation by Jack Sustic, Acting Curator 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 - Bring your trees to show and explain development for the coming year-Planning of meeting topics for 2002

Kiyomizu Bonsai club

26 2:00 p.m. 2002 Planning meeting

Potomac Viewing Stone Group -

27 1-3:30 p.m. USNA Admin Bldg Classroom, Subj: American Stones, BYO for show'ntell.

Bowie Bonsai Club

28 7:00 p.m.

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

FEBRUARY

Northern Virginia Bonsai Society

9 9:00 a.m. Pot selection considerations

10:00 a.m. Air layering - Pete Jones
Lancaster Bonsai Society

13 7:00 p.m. Soil. Watering, and fertilizers - Speaker - Howard McNeil
Washington Bonsai Club

16 2:00 p.m. Soil preparation and repotting

Baltimore Bonsai Club

17 1:00 p.m. Meeting as scheduled - topic tba

Brookside Bonsai Society

21 7:30 p.m. Speaker - Bill Orsinger
Potomac Viewing Stone Group - TBA

No report from the following for this month. As far as I know, meetings are still being held. Stay tuned:

Bowie Bonsai Club

Chesapeake Bonsai Society

Kiyomizu Bonsai Club

Rappahanock Bonsai Society

Call for Mentors!

The PBA Mentoring Program matches up 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, are 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, jjhughes@erols.com. Please note 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 always shared their personal experiences and knowledge of bonsai. The mentoring program intends to provide a structure to foster that continued tradition. There are many qualified members who could be added to this list. Don't wait to be called. Contact Jim before the next *Clippings* is created [ed. note: by the 10th of any month - sooner the better. Why put off an opportunity to contribute?].

MENTOR	CLUB	PHONE	E-MAIL
Chuck Croft	NVBS	703.978.6841	ccroft@mindspring.com
Jules Koetsch	NVBS	703.569.9378	koetsch@earthlink.net
Carole Roelofs	NVBS	703.257.7142	croelofs@erols.com
Chris Yeapanis	NVBS	703.591.0864 (after 11 am)	ibonsai@erols.com
Jim Sullivan	Bowie	301.262.9633	sullivja@ors.od.nih.gov
Jim Hughes	Brookside	301.779.2891	jjhughes@erols.com

Jim Hughes, Educational Vice President

Dont forget! **The International Scholarly Symposium on Bonsai and Suiseki** is coming to a National Arboretum near you! It has been rescheduled for 17-19 May 2002. Don't let this unusual opportunity pass you by.

Always looking for the next good tool . . . At the Brookside Holiday Dinner, table talk turned to searching out legged pests on the personal tree collections. (Those who *expected* to find bugs on their trees shall remain nameless.) A decent magnifying glass was the answer! How to find one? One would expect Brookstone to be the answer, but no. So an arm was twisted [only gently] and herewith some practical help.

From Al Parker, Brookside member:


I have looked around in the past for a good magnifying glass and have usually only found the ones at the drug store or places like the Discovery Store. These are good glasses, but are only 2X with a small 4X section. They are great for reading small print, but not for examining things that are small. Also, most of these are not real convenient to carrying around in your pocket. So I recently went looking on the Internet.

If you search for magnifying glasses on a good search engine (google.com or yahoo.com), you will get all kinds of links. As I went to each site, I would look for the folding, hand-held, multiple-lens type mags. You can find them priced from around \$4.00 to \$75.00. The one site I ended up ordering from was www.einsteins-emporium.com

I ordered a 3X, 4X (this is the power of each lens) and one that was 5X/5X/5X. The last one is a little strong for looking up close at plants and coins, which is what I ordered them for, but the first one is great. They were both priced under \$6.00 and close up on themselves in a plastic housing. They fit nicely in a pocket or bonsai tool kit/bag; and you don't have to worry about scratching the lenses.

This is just a small part of what is available out there on the Internet, and if you are not bothered by ordering with a credit card, the possibilities are vast.

Happy hunting!

The  had some success at an Army/Navy style store - five or six varieties priced from 99 cents to \$20 or so, the cheapest was shaped like the traditional Holmse -ian glass with handle, only tiny. The type which folds into a protective sleeve started at \$2.69; and there were several more versions and magnifications from which to choose.

While in this particular store I spied another product which might be of use to people prone to poking around in woods and perhaps wandering onto private properties. There were several baseball-style caps embroidered with "INS," "Border Patrol," "FBI," etc. Of course, if faced down with that shotgun we've all joked about ruefully, you'd better have a slick patter ready to back up the "costume."

Regarding the front cover, we know there are a passel of people who work to make PBA a better group of clubs. If someone was left out, it is only because Betty Yeapanis doesn't have a photo of them. To prevent this completely unintentional slight in the future, send in photos of your club activities with suitable captions. The *Clippings* staff would be very grateful.

* When you're checking out the photos, please don't ascribe more hours in the day for those folks. They have the same amount of time in each day that the rest of us have.

What did you miss in 2001?



A new addition to the Chinese Collection

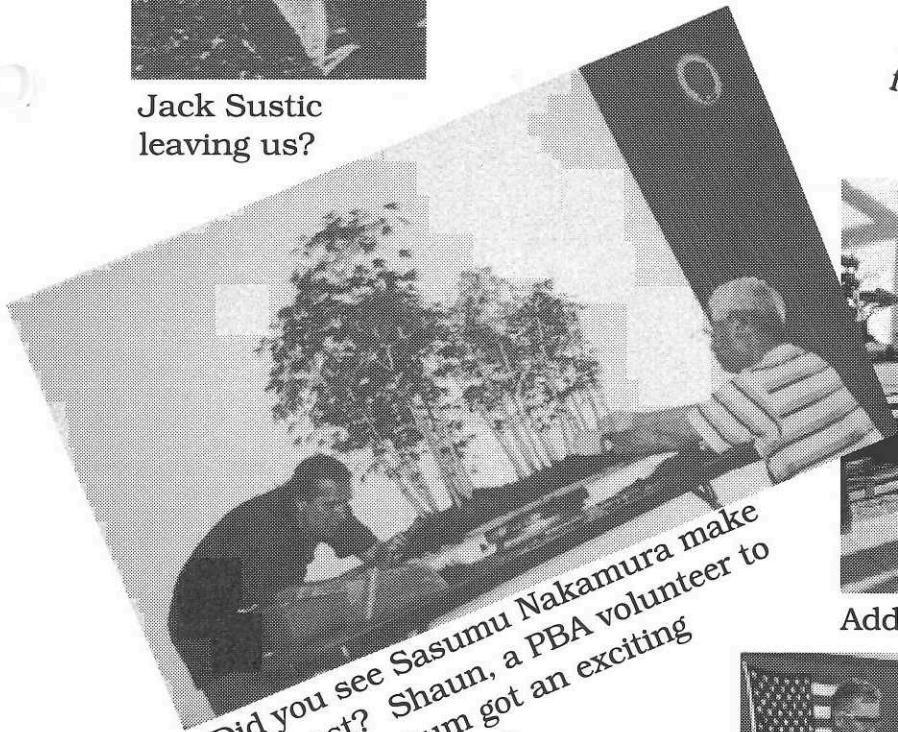


Jack Sustic leaving us?

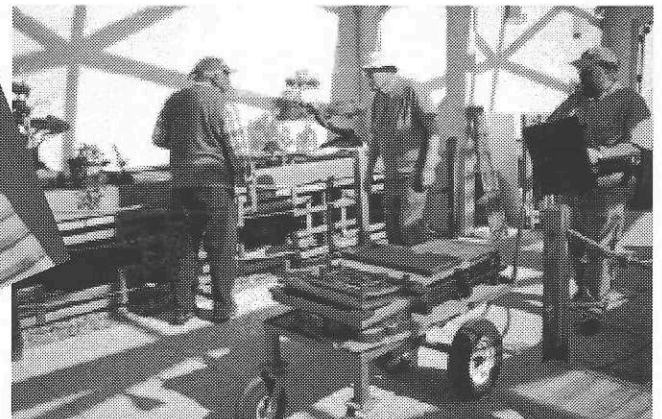
What will you change so that you don't miss out in 2002?



Making new bonsai friends?



Did you see Sasumu Nakamura make this forest? Shaun, a PBA volunteer to the B&PMuseum got an exciting learning experience.



Adding to old friendships?

Walter Pall's and Jim Doyle's fun visit to NVBS



Jack coming back to us?

Since last issue was put to bed, I've been corresponding with Dave Bogan of Greater Evansville Bonsai Society. They've had an interesting month. I think their experiences are worthy of sharing . . . I had some unusual assistance in this effort. With Dave's help, I found the excellent newspaper coverage in *The Gleaner* of Henderson, KY, and was given permission to reprint. All it will cost PBA is an issue of Clippings. In the past, we have requested reprint permission from real newspapers for interesting bonsai bits and been told to send a check for \$150. *The Gleaner* is generous indeed and we appreciate their cooperative spirit..



Seven stolen bonsai took years to develop

by Judy Jenkins,
Gleaner columnist



The thief may have thought that stealing miniature trees was no big thing. But the act had huge ramifications for Joe Martin, who spent 10 to 15 years cultivating each of those seven bonsai trees that stood in earthenware pots in his backyard garden.

"It was devastating to me," said Joe, who is only half kidding when he describes those long-tended dwarf trees as his "babies."

They were taken on either Nov. 1 or 2 from the yard of the 23 S. Main St. residence that also houses Martin Studio of Photography, which Joe and his late wife Margaret founded in 1947.

Joe badly wants them back, and is offering a reward for information leading to the recovery of the plants. Anyone who might be able to help is asked to call him.

He probably has about 50 of the trees that he shapes through a system of pruning roots and branches and using copper or aluminum wire to train the limbs, but these seven are particularly special to him because he's invested so much time, imagination and care on them.

"There is no instant bonsai," he said of the methods requiring several years for success to be achieved. In addition to the pruning and training, the trees have to be regularly watered, fertilized and turned to receive just the right amount of sunlight. Some, however, go dormant in winter and need less attention. How serious is Joe about his plants? Serious enough to have made a trip to Japan a few years ago with fellow bonsai enthusiasts, and serious enough to be an active member of the Greater Evansville Bonsai Society that

exhibits the examples of living art in spring and fall shows in the area.

That society, by the way, meets locally at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Henderson County Public Library.

Joe became interested in the 1,000-year-old horticultural practice about 20 years ago when he came across a slightly damaged tree at an area garden center. Its price was reduced and it bore a sign reading, "Good for bonsai development."

He knew very little about the techniques that can utilize most any kind of tree, but purchased that specimen and began learning everything he could about the ancient methods first utilized by the Chinese and, around the 14th century, adopted by the Japanese.

Joe said the avocation relaxes him and he's interested in the Japanese philosophy in which the bonsai symbolizes changes wrought by the seasons "and much, much more."

He prefers his bonsai especially small, at around ten inches in height, and he favors pines and junipers for the hobby that gives him so much pleasure.

Here's hoping he and his lost "babies" are soon reunited.

Displaying the true Spirit of Bonsai Camaraderie . . .

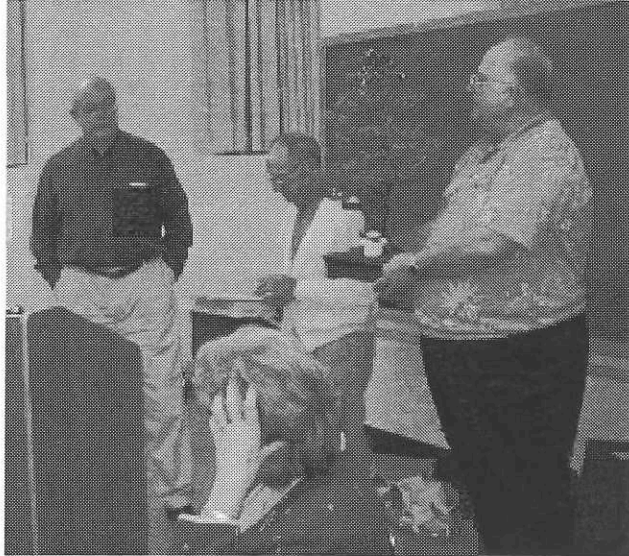
We had our annual Christmas meeting last night, probably one of the best we ever had.

Our club is small 40-50 members. We had over a 50% turnout. I had mentioned to you before, we had planned to honor one of our oldest and founding members - Joe Martin. I have never in my life seen an 82-year-old man cry and be so overwhelmed he couldn't talk. He was so appreciative.

I had called every member - first telling them he had

lost several trees to theft, and earlier spring fungus (total loss of over 20 trees) and begging for a donation of a tree to him; but also to ask them to tell a short memory about Joe.

Bill Jagoe, a founding member who had not attended for 4 years, showed up. He gave Joe a pine tree - wow! It was beautiful. He had trained it for



Bill Jagoe is the gent in the dark shirt who gave the JYN pine. Honoree Joe is in the cardigan

15 years. Still had the original drawing by John Naka from the tree's start in a workshop with John. I gave Joe a nice twin-trunk juniper which had a nice story behind it. This tree was originally started as a bonsai 12 years ago another one of our founding members, Charlie Redding. Mrs Redding passed the tree to Bill Jagoe who passed it to me 5 years ago. She asked me to keep it in his memory. I have maintained this tree exactly as he had. I always take it to our shows and display it as his and in his memory. She usually came by the show to see it and always thanked me for showing his tree. Anyway, I gave it to Joe because he and his wife (who has also passed on) were great friends with Charlie. I also gave Joe pictures of this tree and Charlie from years ago. Joe was speechless and so honored I almost cried.

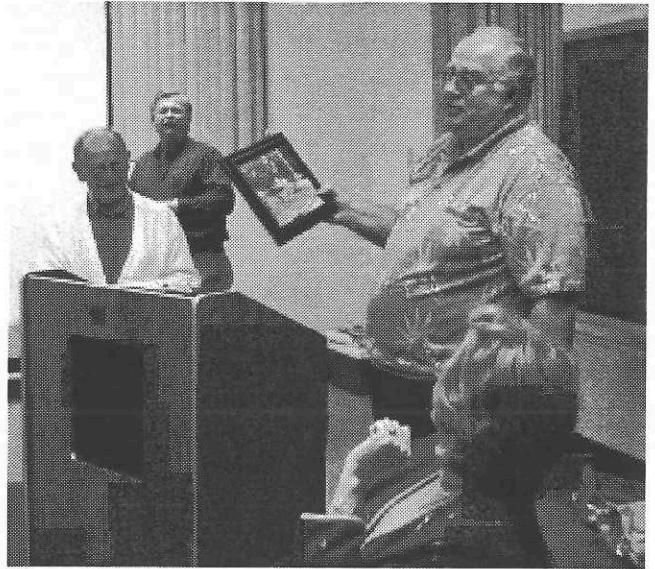
In total, Joe received 8 very nice trees. He again was speechless.

We also lightened the mood by giving him a few joke items. We gave him one of those little Bonsai starter kits - little pot, soil, seeds, etc. He loved it. We also had framed a picture of Joe working on a couple of large Junipers we helped earlier this year.

They were growing in a boulevard in front of a member's house. Anyway, the picture had a notation saying, "Joe, did we go too far, will these trees live?" He loved it.

The stories we told on him were great. I shared how 12 years ago he helped me in my first workshop and how it started me into Bonsai. Many other members told some very funny stories, as well as saying he had helped them learn Bonsai the correct way. Joe is merciless in a workshop. He will tell you like it is. One lady told of asking Joe his opinion on a small elm (1/4" trunk). Joe said, "Plant it in the yard for 5 years, and then bring it back." I remembered a member asking Joe just how much you should wire a tree. Joe said, "If you don't wire it all, don't even start."

He is just a lovable guy, and once you see through his firmness, he is a real likeable guy. I told him that between him and Bill Jagoe, they had taught me more about Bonsai than any master I had ever listened to; and I strive to be even half as good at bonsai as they are.



Dave Bogan in the background,, and Frank Komar, M.C., presenting a photo.

On a positive note, Joe informed us he had now received back five of his stolen trees. Two on the steps of the Catholic Church and three on the steps of the Baptist church. The last three had a note attached by the thief saying, "I had no idea these trees meant so much to you until I read about it in the paper (article about the theft) and went on to say he was sorry - signed the "Bonsai Bandit."

I gave out several trees and bonsai-related items to my fellow club officers as a sign of their hard work and how I appreciated them doing all the work and making me (president) look good. I also donated two of my carvings to a free raffle. We always give away several small trees and items as Christmas gifts from the club. The members love it. They get something back for all their work during the year. Even the ones who don't contribute get something from the free raffle.

How a club gets started: Bill Jagoe was interested in Bonsai. He asked around to see if anyone in this area knew anything about it. He was directed to Joe Martin who had been practicing Bonsai for around 15 years. They decided to start a local club and ran an advertisement in the local (Evansville IN) newspaper.

Originally, they drew 5 interested people (Joe Martin, Bill Jagoe, Doug Collins, Charlie Redding and another) and our club was founded 12 years ago. I joined two months later. I worked with one of the founders, Doug Collins, who had a small tree here at the office. I loved it, and the rest is history ~ Dave Bogan, President, Newsletter Editor

Bonsai are Back ~ Decorative Trees Returned to Main Street Owner

by Judy Jenkins, The Henderson Gleaner Staff

Even the Grinch reformed and returned the things he had stolen.

And so, perhaps, has a certain thief. This rascal didn't steal Christmas, but did take seven long-nurtured and much-cherished bonsai trees from the South Main Street yard of local retired photographer Joe Martin.

That was in the first week of this month.

On Sunday, two of those prized miniature trees that Martin had carefully pruned and trained for years turned up on the steps of Holy Name Church.

With them was an unsigned note explaining that they were bonsai trees written about in a Gleaner article regarding the theft. The note requested the trees, still in their original pots, be returned to Mr Martin.

Martin, who has cultivated dwarf trees over the last 20 years and displayed them in his back yard, heard the good news upon returning home from services at his own church Sunday, and hastened to retrieve them.

"I was tickled to death," he said, adding that the gesture gives him more faith in mankind and fuels his hopes that eventually the other five plants may also come back to him.

He had feared, he said, that the bonsai may have been taken by someone passing through town. But now he believes the remaining plants likely are still in this vicinity. The two, which he said were "in excellent condition,"

They also embarrassed me. The club gave me a painting of a beautiful sunset, by Frank Komar, and a couple of gag gifts. I hate these times, I get embarrassed and would rather see others have the fun of receiving.

Anyway, hope I didn't bore you but thought I would tell you we have a great club and I'm honored to be part of it.

appeared on the church steps prior to the 7:30 a.m. mass.

Jay Mitchell, a local carpenter who sometimes ushers at that service, was approached in the sanctuary by a church member who told him there was something he needed to see. "I didn't know what it was," Mitchell said. "I thought maybe the doors weren't opening right."

Instead, he was shown the plants and their note, which was written on a piece of scrap paper. He took the note to pastor Ed Bradley, who asked him to make sure the tiny trees were returned to their owner.

Mitchell made the necessary calls and took the trees to his North Elm Street home, where Martin was quickly reunited with them. "He looked pretty happy," Mitchell said.

Rev. Bradley said the person who returned the plants was, probably unknowingly, resurrecting an old-time practice in which those who had taken things made restitution by bringing them to churches.

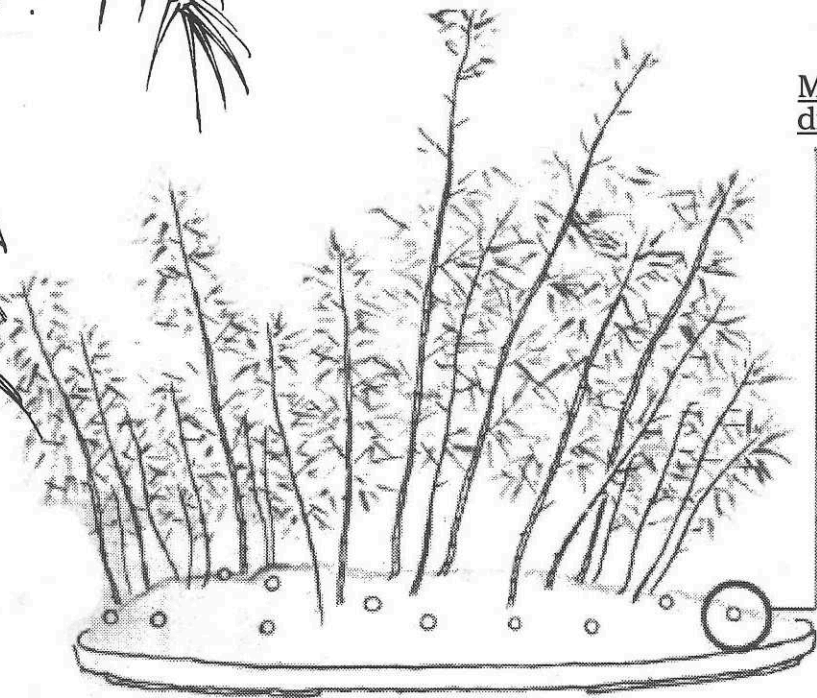
Asked if he'll henceforth keep his bonsai trees safely out of reach, Martin replied that he'd sooner stop cultivating them than hide them away.

Passersby enjoy seeing them, he said, and often stop to comment on them. For him, that's one of the benefits of practicing the ancient art of Bonsai.



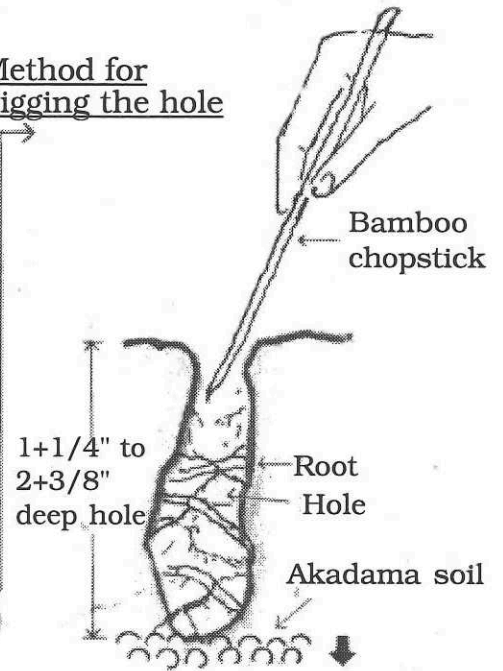
Bamboo Bonsai - Graceful, Elegant

translated and compiled by Jules



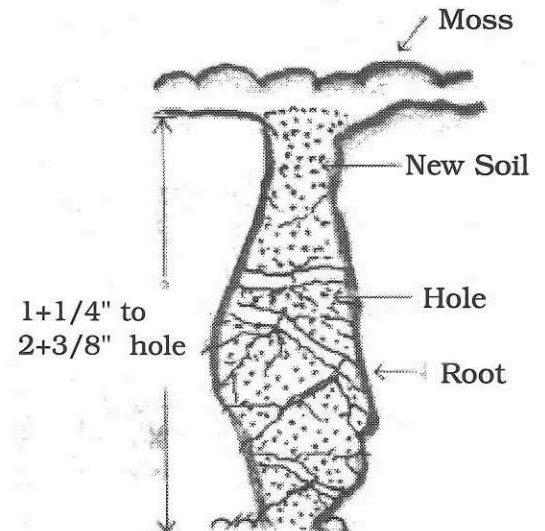
The soil is renewed by using a chopstick to open holes 1+1/4 to 2+3/8 inches deep at locations shown by the circles in the above sketch. New soil just like the originally used soil is inserted in the holes. Method is demonstrated for the bamboo in a bonsai pot; but it is the same for the slab planting.

Method for digging the hole



Try not to cut or injure the roots when removing the old soil.

HOLE WITH NEW SOIL



Hole should be about 1/4" in diameter. Cover the top of the new soil with moss and water to complete the effort.



The end.

Integrated Pest Management Tips *by Scott Aker, IPM Specialist*

The following have been taken from USDA web-site <http://www.ars.grin.gov/ars/Beltsville/na/> for December 2001. Unfortunately the December tips did not come on the web until after Clippings went to press. They have been condensed and edited to reflect what might be applicable to bonsai.

Cold winds this winter could cause winter burn injury to your broadleaf evergreens. Needles or leaves may be discolored or develop a burned appearance, especially on windy sites. Winter burn injury is caused by wind blowing across the leaf or needle surface and drawing moisture out into the air. When the ground is frozen, roots cannot absorb water to replace the lost water and the leaf tissue is burned. This problem is especially noticeable in winters following a dry fall where plants were not watered adequately. To help prevent winter burn injury, water your plants this winter whenever there is a thaw. If your plants are in a particularly windy or vulnerable site, you may want to consider protecting them by wrapping them with burlap.

The use of anti-desiccants is another possible way to protect your broadleaf evergreens such as hollies, azaleas, and magnolias. Anti-desiccant sprays create an invisible, watertight film on the leaf surface reducing the amount of water lost to the wind and the sun. Anti-desiccants should only be applied when temperatures will be above freezing for 12-24 hours. More than one application over the winter may be required. Be sure to follow all label instructions for the brand you purchase.

Winter is a good time to look over your bookshelves and see what you need to add to your bonsai and gardening library. Look for books on plants you have wanted to grow or on how to diagnose disease and pest problems. Books with color photos can be especially helpful in identifying problems. Landscape design books are great not only for designs, but also as a source for new ideas and plants to try.

Also you can go through your bonsai books to study photos of completed bonsai and get ideas on how to better create and style your

trees. It's funny how many things you are reminded of when you open up one of your old bonsai books.

Clean up trees and shrubs this year with a good pruning. Remove suckers and dying lower branches. If you're dealing with a Bradford pear or another densely branched tree, thin the tree's canopy. Look for and remove any crossing or rubbing branches. By opening up space in the tree, air circulation is increased and sunlight can penetrate further into the tree's interior. Use sharp, clean tools and prune close to the raised area around the base of the branch known as the branch collar. Do not leave stubs as they provide a ready entry point for disease. Pruning improves overall tree health by reducing the energy needed to support limbs lacking vigor or compromising the tree's structural integrity. When you're done pruning, you might note that the tree's aesthetics are improved, too.

Inspect the twigs, branches, and trunks of your trees for insect egg masses. Gypsy moths, eastern tent caterpillars, and fall cankerworms all lay egg masses that overwinter on trees. Gypsy moth egg masses are fuzzy and buff-colored and can be located on any part of the tree. Eastern tent caterpillar egg masses can be found on cherries and crabapples encircling small twigs and have a black, varnished appearance. Fall cankerworm egg masses are located in neat rows on small twigs. Hand-pick individual masses off branches and trunks.

Did you know that 90% of the insects around your home are beneficial to or do not harm your plants? They eat pest insects, recycle organic debris, or feed on plants without causing any noticeable damage.

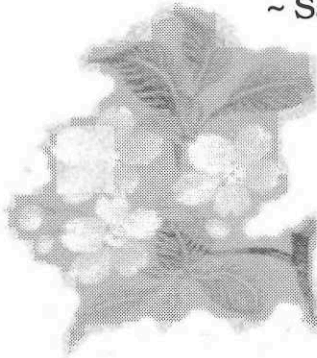
Poetry Corner - Calm yourself

The following are from the booklet *An Introduction to HAIKU* (An anthology of Poems and Poets from Basho to Shiki); Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York; 1958.

THE SEASONS

Cherry-Bloom, cuckoo,
moon, snow - already
the year is through!

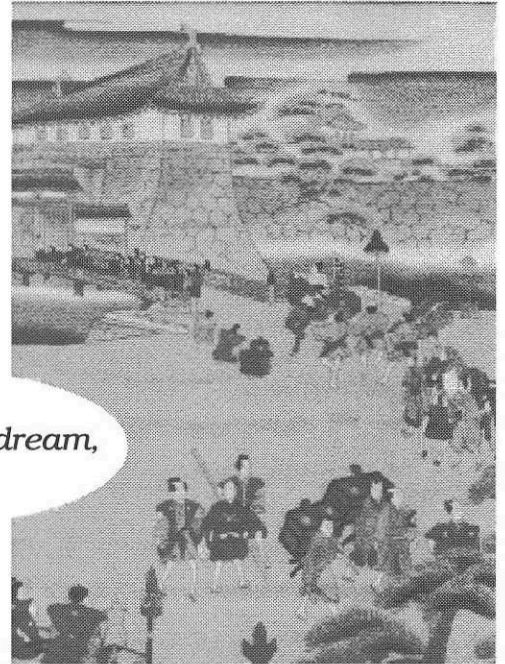
~ Sanpu



HAZE

Morning haze:
as in a painting of a dream,
men go their ways.

~ Buson



Sanpu was one of Basho's students. Matsuo Basho lived in the early 1600s and he is revered by the Japanese as their best writer of haiku. Taniguchi Buson is considered by the Japanese as second only to Basho as a writer of haiku. Buson lived in the first half of the 1700s.

Ah! I intended
Never never to grow old . . .
Listen: New Year's bell!
~ Jokun

On Jolly New Year's Day
My last year's bills drop in
To pay their compliments
~ Anon.

from **Lotus Blossoms**; translated by
Peter Beilenson, The Peter Pauper
Press, Inc., Mt Vernon, NY.

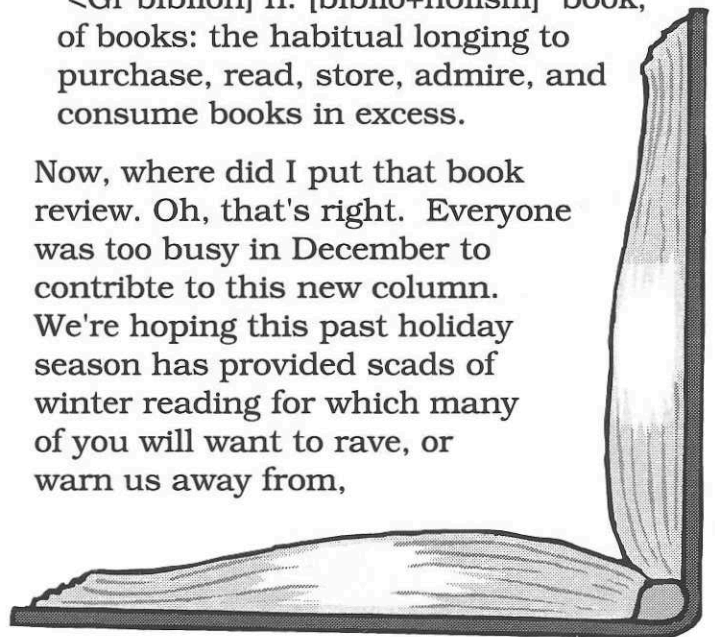


If you miss BONSai Mot this month,
send us one or you'll miss it next
month, too. We've bled Bill Orsinger
dry. It's time for you to contribute to
your newsletter.

The Book Nook

bib'li o hol' ism (**bib' lé ə hól iz' əm**)
<Gr biblion] n. [biblio+holism] book,
of books: the habitual longing to
purchase, read, store, admire, and
consume books in excess.

Now, where did I put that book
review. Oh, that's right. Everyone
was too busy in December to
contribute to this new column.
We're hoping this past holiday
season has provided scads of
winter reading for which many
of you will want to rave, or
warn us away from,



MONTHLY CARE TIPS for JANUARY *compiled by Jules*

The following tips have been compiled from 4 Japanese bonsai magazines and Yuji Yoshimura's book. A major portion of the following schedules are from a Japanese book which cites the various tasks one can perform during each of 12 months for each of 5 climate zones of Japan extending from the coldest parts of northern Hokaido to the warmest southernmost parts of Kyushu. The average temperatures for the region wherein Tokyo lies correspond closely to the average temperatures for the area around Washington, DC. Weather patterns everywhere in the world change from year to year; and those changes play an important role in selecting the dates for doing the various tasks relative to the styling and maintenance of bonsai. For example, the dates to remove plants from winter storage can vary from year to year, as well as when to put them in winter storage. The following listings give the reader suggested periods of time during a year when one should consider doing various bonsai-associated tasks. As you gain experience, you can establish your own schedule for bonsai tasks. It is suggested that neophytes check with experienced members of their respective clubs when there is any doubt about the timing of any task. Nothing in bonsai is inflexible.

For some species listed below, wiring is indicated as a task in periods when the foliage is present. There is nothing wrong with wiring a plant when the foliage is mature. But it should not be done when any new buds or growth are present because of the high possibility that the wiring will destroy them.

Most practitioners of bonsai in this country have a general rule that in the summer months they do not fertilize their bonsai. The reasoning is that the plants get too stressed and burn out trying to grow after they consume the fertilizer. Those practitioners resume fertilizing in the September/October timeframe and discontinue fertilizing of any kind during the winter months. As in the previous months' schedules, 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. Hence, you will have to make up your own schedule for applying your fertilizer during those 30 days. For example, if you are using a certain strength liquid fertilizer and apply it once per week, you can apply it once every week for a month starting from when the words "apply fertilizer balls" appear. If a gap of more than a month appears between "apply fertilizer balls" in the schedule, you should hold back on applying any fertilizer during that time period. As for fertilizing in the summer months, you will note in the following schedules that for some species, the application of fertilizer balls is called for in June or July. It has been alleged that some Japanese bonsai growers think we do not fertilize enough. You must decide for yourself when to fertilize.

CONIFERS

Black pine: Water once per day.

Cryptomeria: Water once per day including the leaves.

Hemlock: Water as needed.

Hinoki: Water as needed.

Larch: Water as needed.

Needle juniper: Water once per day including the leaves.

Sawara cypress: Water as needed.

Shimpaku (Sargent juniper): Water once per day. Weather permitting or if the plant is in a cold frame, you can consider rewiring

and repotting any time after the 20th of January. Remove the old wire before rewiring. Repotting need only be done every 3 years.

Spruce: Keep the spruce in a cold frame or polyhouse. Water once per day.

White pine: Water once per day. Unwanted branches can be pruned. Wiring can be done; but once the tree has been wired, it should be placed in a cold frame or polyhouse.

Yew: Water as needed.

DECIDUOUS (Remarks on winter protection refer to a polyhouse or cold frame.)

Non-fruiting/non-flowering

Beech: Water once per day. Keep in winter protection such as a polyhouse or cold frame. Wiring can be done.

Chinese elm: Water as needed. Wiring can be done.

Ginkgo: Water as needed.

Hornbeam: Water once per day. Keep in winter protection. Wiring can be done. Unnecessary branches and sprouts can be removed.

Japanese maple: Water once per day. Keep under winter protection. Wiring can be done. Unnecessary branches and sprouts can be removed.

Trident maple: Water once per day. Keep under winter protection. Wiring can be done. Unnecessary branches and sprouts can be removed.

Winged Euonymous: Water as needed. Wiring can be done.

Flowering/Fruiting Plants

Cherry: Keep in winter protection. Water once every 2 to 3 days.

Crabapple: Water every other day. Keep in winter protection.

Gardenia: Winter protection. Fertilize in middle of month with high phosphate.

Holly: Keep in full sun until last 10 days of the month.

Pyracantha: Keep in full sun all day.

Quince: During the first 10 days of the month remove any wire and repot. Repot once every 2 years. Prune during the first 20 days of the month. Keep plant in full sun.

Satsuki (azalea): During the last 10 days of the month, remove any wire and cut back on the watering to once per day. Give plant half-day shade/half-day sun.

Ume (Japanese flowering plum or apricot): Apply fertilizer balls during the first 10 days of the month. Repot anytime during the first 20 days of the month. During the middle of the month, cut back on watering to once per day. Keep plant in sun all day.

Wisteria: Keep plant in sun all day.

WARNING: From the USDA Integrated Pest Management Tips for May: Avoid using shredded hardwood bark mulch on yews. As it decays, it often releases toxic quantities of copper and manganese. Yews are very sensitive to these metals; affected plants are stunted, may turn yellow, and in severe cases, small branches may die. Use pine bark, chopped leaves, or another mulch and limit its depth to 2 inches.

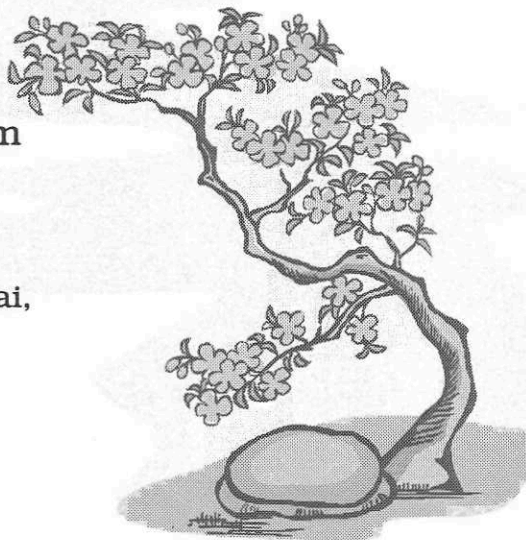
Another member of NVBS and I lost yews this year because hardwood bark was in the organic mulch incorporated in our soil mixes.

Pondering Material

A remark drawn from the Infamous Net

" If it takes 50 or 100 years to develop a bonsai, why should it take any less to develop the artist?"

~ Stephan Rubin



Do you know a business that would like to reach 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.).

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 - ajmrellsr@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 - JHughes@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 times per year
Glenn Reusch, Ghreusch@aol.com - 540.672.5699

Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc.
c/o U.S. National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002



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