

JUNE'S GARDEN

Three miles north of Gearhart on the east side of Highway 101 is a small sign: "OPEN, Bonsai Trees and More." My friend Bev and I were curious as to what "more" meant. We turned off onto the one lane graveled road next to the sign, and drove through thickets of trees and underbrush. Just as we were beginning to wonder if we had made the wrong turn, we saw a house with an attached greenhouse surrounded by a landscaped yard.

A young couple greeted us. "Hi, we are Jim and Tracy Fairless." Paths led through tables and stands filled with potted bonsai trees. Jim conducted the tour and enthusiastically explained how he had developed each bonsai, the name of each tree and its age. They have a collection of conifers and deciduous trees, each enhanced with either moss, sedum or rocks, and priced according to size, age or species. He also showed us their private collection, each one carefully potted and trained to resemble a vignette of a naturalistic scene. I pointed out a shallow bonsai pot filled with several small maple trees grouped together to resemble a grove. The trees were only inches high and appeared to be young trees. We were told they were older than they looked.

I asked what "more" meant and they showed us a variety of plant materials for sale and information to help customers create their own bonsai.

Jim and Tracy's enthusiasm for creating bonsai had inspired me. "Bev, maybe I could create a bonsai with a small twin-berry tree that sprouted in one of my sedum pots. Twin-berry trees are easy to grow. If I am successful I could come back to buy a small conifer to try."

Bev said, "June, don't you have enough garden to attend to as it is?" My reply was a sigh.

As we backed the car around to leave, Jim said, "Watch out, don't run over my Cheshire cat." Startled, we looked to where he was pointing. It was an escallonia hedge trimmed to resemble a huge grinning cat guarding the paths to their garden. Jim also enjoys the art of topiary.

I laughed and said, "Bev, you know the loosestrife Mary gave me and calls 'Goose-Goes-Walking.' The flower heads of these plants resemble geese, and all turn together each day to follow the sun. I can trim a small shrub next to those plants to resemble a chicken or a duck!" The only response from Bev was a sigh.

If you are interested in learning the art form of creating a bonsai, visit Jim and Tracy Fairless's collection of plants. They would be most helpful. Phone (503) 738-9018 (P. O. Box 595, Seaside, OR 97138).

The two-syllable word *bonsai* means *bon* (basin, pot) *sai* (to plant) ... the art of growing dwarfed, ornamentally shaped trees or shrubs in small, shallow pots.

Quoting from *Sunset Bonsai Book*, "The history of bonsai is centuries old tradition in China and Japan. The first evidence of this art form is shown in paintings. Chinese

frescoes dating sometime before Han's Dynasty A.D. 220 clearly show floral bonsai--more what we would think of as flower arrangements in containers. These frescoes were discovered in the 1970's. The first depiction of bonsai plants, rather than flowers, comes from Tong Dynasty tomb murals dating A.D. 760.

"The first records of bonsai in Japan, like those in China, are pictorial. The scrolls date from the year 1185 to 1300.

"China and Japan were closed to Europeans for centuries, and Western contact with Asian culture was at a minimum. History goes on until in 1900 records show that there was a bonsai collection at Windsor Castle in England. The first serious practitioners of bonsai in the U.S. were Japanese-American residents who brought their knowledge and appreciation of the art with them when they settled on the west coast in the early decades of the 20th century. What originated as an exotic Asian art form has captured the fancy of cultures far beyond its homeland, for bonsai is more than simply evidence of the gardener's ability to copy nature. To many it represents the essence of the natural world."

Today bonsai societies abound throughout the United States. For further information, *Sunset's* new 1996 edition on bonsai is an excellent source to explain step-by-step how to create different styles of bonsai.

Our visit to Fairless's nursery tugged at my memories of years past when my husband, Les, raised bonsai. I used to kid him that the time he spent caring for and nurturing his collection reminded me of caring for a herd of milk cows. Bonsai also need daily attention to survive. I always encouraged him to continue to grow these plants, even though we would have to get a plant sitter if we were to go on an extended trip ... or that our dining room turned into a potting shed, the table at times filled with plants, pots and soil ... as he had a natural ability to copy in miniature the many scenes from the years he spent fly fishing in rivers and streams of Oregon's forests.

A scene I'll never forget is when we camped along the McKenzie River in September. A scarlet-leafed vine maple appeared to be growing out of a huge rock covered with emerald green moss which was constantly sprayed by mist from the falls. Les never duplicated exactly this scene lacking a waterfall, but was successful creating a bonsai with rocks and moss.

I have found just the right rock and shallow container, and I could collect moss that grows in my lawn, and the tiny twin-berry tree is still small enough to train. I wonder if I can find a place in my cottage garden for a bonsai.

I'll forget the art of topiary. The loosestrife *goose-goes-walking* has sent out runners. Instead of one goose, I now have a gaggle of geese. That's enough fowl for my small garden.

Please send your questions, comments and suggestions to *June's Garden*, P. O. Box 74, Cannon Beach, OR 97110.

I like not only to be loved, but to be told I am loved.
-George Eliot





Copies & Fax

Still performing **ALL**
Our Usual Services
PLUS
SIGNS & BANNERS
of all kinds
&
SMALL BUSINESS
BOOKKEEPING

Owners - Jeff & Gladys
Womack
1235 S. Hemlock
P.O. Box 985
Cannon Beach, OR
97110
(503) 436-2000
Fax (503) 436-0746

Arcadia
Landscaping

FOR
GARDENS DESIGNED
TO REDUCE OR
ELIMINATE
PESTICIDE USE.

ATTENTION BUSINESSES
WE CREATE & MAINTAIN
FLOWER BOXES, PLANTERS
&
HANGING BASKETS
436-0738 RES

LICENSED • BONDED
INSURED
#6852

NORML

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE
REFORM OF MARIJUANA LAWS
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW
SUITE 1010
WASHINGTON, DC 20036



1235 S. Hemlock, Cannon Beach, OR
(503) 436-1016
"Innovative & good to the taste"

Good communication
is as stimulating as
black coffee, and just
as hard to sleep after.

-Anne Morrow
Lindbergh

THE RAGE

Great Gifts Jewelry
Beads
Custom Framing

247 N. Hemlock Cannon Beach
503-436-2210

Edible Food
Affordable Prices


TRILLIUM NATURAL FOODS


Lincoln City

**The
Birkenstock
Plus**
A Birkenstock Specialty Store

139 N Hemlock
P.O. Box 909
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

BIRKENSTOCK
The original comfort shoe.





NORTH COAST TIMES EAGLE

A JOURNAL OF ART AND OPINION
PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN ASTORIA,
OREGON 255 5TH STREET 97103
MICHAEL PAUL, MANAGING EDITOR
AND PUBLISHER

If you are all wrapped
up in yourself, you are
overdressed.

-Kate Halverson

GRAMICCI PANTS & SHORTS

Instant Comfort For Men & Women

We also carry...

- TEVA & MERRELL
- PATAGONIA
- MONT-BELL
- WOOLRICH
- RUSTY SURFWEAR

...for a great time on
the coast!

- SANDALS
- FEET HEATERS
- SWEATS
- T-SHIRTS
- SHORTS



Cannon Beach



Outdoor Wear
Astoria, USA

(503) 436-2832
239 N. Hemlock • P.O. Box 905
Cannon Beach, OR 97110