

IBA News & Muse

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Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.com



OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

**OCTOBER 21, DES MOINES MEETING, 7 PM,
Des Moines Botanical Center**
Photographing Bonsai-Not at all as easy as it sounds. Learn the key elements to shortening the learning curve. Photographing bonsai can improve your ability and eye for styling your trees!

EIBA EVENTS

October 9, Board Meeting
October 11, Road trip to IBA Fall Show at Rieman gardens
October 16, Club meeting, *Winter Care, Propagation, Maples, Yews*
October 18, Fall Soil Making Day
April 28, 29, 2009, Workshop with Andy Smith

TOOLS & TREES

A lot of members seem to be misplacing their tools lately, or picking up someone else's tools by mistake. It is strongly recommended that you find a way of marking you tools so they are easily recognizable. At least they won't end up in someone else's tool bag. I use a bit of yellow tape wrapped around the handle of mine (Ron Heinen uses yellow tape too- I guess we'll have to duke that one out).

We hope to spend more time working on trees at meetings so marking your tools could really pay off.

Speaking of working on trees at meetings, the only way to do that is for people to bring trees to meetings. Bring a tree that you want some advice on or want to show off or discuss, whatever. It will make for interesting and educational meetings.

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE WITH A TREE AT THE NEXT MEETING!

TIMELY TIPS

You should be planning your winter storage now. It's not time to put your trees in storage yet but it's a good idea to be prepared. Make sure the area is clean so you don't inadvertently introduce a pest, fungus or disease. Be sure to spray your trees before you bring them indoors or into the storage area.

Keep the surface of the soil clean of debris to reduce the chance of infestation of pests and disease.

You may see needles yellowing on some of your evergreen trees. This is normal for many trees at this time of year. I brought a Pitch pine to the show last weekend and had to slip new yellow needles off each day. Five needle pines also shed old needles in the fall.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

(...and I approve of this message!)

The fall Rieman Garden show was a complete success. I would like to thank Ivan Hanthorn for doing such a wonderful job in planning and executing the venue. This show would be considered top notch anywhere. Of course a bonsai tree show would not be much good without trees. I called on several people to bring trees and the response was rewarding. We had forty seven trees (six shohin bonsai) presented by seven people. Thanks to David Richmond for organizing and staffing the club bazaar table. Thank you to all who participated. I did not count the number of members that came to the show and helped staff the floor and the club sale table, but there were many. We have always been blessed with the support and vending of Dave Lowman. Again, thank you Dave.

There was a board meeting on Sunday afternoon. We discussed expenditures around our major

activities of workshops and State Fair show. There were a number of suggestions to help us reduce costs in order to break even for the year. The board approved a motion to invite Andy Smith here in April of 2009 to do a workshop. More information will follow. A nominating committee was formed to nominate board members for next year. The committee is made up of members Mike Dullard, Ivan Hanthorn and David Richmond. If you would like to serve on the board or wish to nominate someone please contact one of the members of the committee.

I announced to the board, and all people attending, that I intend to retire from leadership responsibilities in the bonsai club. I will not disappear, however. For the past thirteen years I have been pleased to organize and run the workshops and most of the shows. It has been a real pleasure because so many of the club members have been involved and very helpful. I am just getting to the age that says slow down a little and let others have the opportunity to lead. Thank you everyone for all the help over all those years.

Alan Magruder

WEBSITE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

I recently received notification of a new website that may be of interest to bonsai enthusiasts. I sent it to Ivan who checked it out with his web person and it seemed to pass the test. Check out: BonsaiClassifieds.com

You may be able to sell a tree you would like to pass on or find something you have been looking for. They have included our club as a link.

PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR TREES

Photographing your trees is the program for our next meeting. I am not going to tell you how to do it, that will be covered in the program. I want to talk about why.

I like to photograph my trees a couple of times a year. I will shoot them when I style them, hopefully before and after although I am usually half way through the styling process before I remember. I will often shoot them after they have

been repotted and then I like to shoot them in the fall when I am putting them in storage.

I usually make a small print, put a date on it and tuck it behind the index card in my file box. Some people put photos in a file on their computer which is a great idea. I just haven't gotten that organized. Anyway, you will be pleasantly surprised to discover how much your tree has developed. It is hard to tell when you see them every day.



Scots Pine 2-20-05



Scots Pine 10-12-08

I find that I see a tree differently when I look at the photo. I guess I look at it in a more critical way. I often see a glaring fault that I had missed or a new styling idea.

FALL SHOW REVIEW

The Fall Show this past weekend was a show for any club to be proud of. We had a lovely room which set off the trees beautifully. Ivan Hanthorn has a great rapport with the staff at Rieman Gardens and they were very supportive and happy to have us there.

There were round tables down the center of the room which held educational displays. One table showed an unstyled tree along with a styled tree of the same variety. Another table had a display of the process of making a diaza for a suiseki along with several finished diazas from our spring workshop with Sean Smith. Another table had a collection of suiseki and the last had an example of Penjing. It was gratifying to watch people stop and read the information sheets on the tables.

As a finishing touch Ivan hung some beautiful antique scrolls on one end, had a table of interesting pots at the other and had two screens showing some videos he had put together. Last but not least was some Japanese music playing softly. It set a wonderful atmosphere.



Scroll display



A bit of fall color



Ivan talking with some of the visitors



EIBA members who came over to visit



Shohin display