

IJA News & Muse
August 2009
Volume 26 Issue 8
Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter
www.iabonsai.com



AUGUST ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 16, BONSAI SHOW AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

AUGUST 18, 7 P.M. DES MOINES MEETING

Des Moines Botanical Center

Styling Workshop by Dave Lowman

Dave will conduct a mini-workshop on styling and potting a shefflera. Trees and supplies may be purchased from Dave (I hope you ordered your tree from Dave last month when he sent out the notice), or you may bring your own shefflera or other tropical. Leave with a great little tree.

Tree of the Month: Shefflera by Rob Shumaker

Bring a shefflera or any tree. We welcome any questions.

AUGUST 20, 7 P.M. EIBA MEETING

Noelridge Greenhouse

How to Shorten, Tighten a Tree by Keith Carris

AUGUST 22, BRUCEMORE SHOW

NOTICE

Naomi Maahs, a past member of the club from Adel, has donated several bonsai related items to the club. The following inventory will be brought to the August meeting for all to see. A silent auction will be conducted with all proceeds going to the club at the Reiman Garden show in the Fall.

Wooden stands-3

Tool Kit- Scissors, wire cutters, tweezers, pocket saw, pocket knife

Pieces of wood-2

Medium sized pots-24

Small pots-10

Wire-1 roll aluminum #2

3 small rolls copper #12, #8, #10

Bonsai books-10

Futuru-1 ??????

Cut paste-1

Drift wood piece-1

Volcanic rock-1

Plastic pots-5

Chop sticks-10

Rich Osburn, another past member of the club has donated a number of nice pots to the club. Some of them are pots from the Chinese who came to Des Moines in 1993. Look for them at the Fall Show at Reiman Gardens also.

TIMELY TIPS

I hope to see a lot of you at the bonsai show at the State Fair this coming Sunday. Even if you have not entered I hope you will come and support the club as well as viewing a nice show. Ron Heinen will be doing a demonstration narrated by Alan Magruder in the Agriculture building at 2 PM. They have done this for many years and it is always a popular event with the public.

Now is the time to be putting the finishing touches on your trees that you have entered in the show. Thousands of people come through to see our trees so make us proud. It would be nice if you could wear a club shirt and hang around as many people have questions.

Growth has slowed down on our trees by now so you have time to sit back and enjoy them. Check under the surface to make sure they really need water, with the slowed growth water uptake has diminished somewhat. If the weather is hot they will still benefit from a misting or having their pot cooled off with water.

Keep an eye out for pests, they can be very active this time of year. Use a strong spray of water on the foliage to keep spider mites under control.

An unhurried sense of time is in itself a form of wealth. -Bonnie Friedman, author (b. 1958)

BLACK PINE CARE

A few weeks ago Ed Pogensee sent me an article on black pine care from his California bonsai club, Kusamura, which he suggested I share with you. It is so clear and easy to understand that I am happy to do that. The methods they use are almost exactly the same as the ones I was taught.

Black pine are considered by many to be the king of bonsai. They make stately and majestic bonsai and are a pleasure to work with. They have flakey bark, the needles reduce and they bud back easily. Information on black pine care is often confusing and/or contradicting. All trees grow differently in different climates. Sometimes we read something said to be gospel that doesn't apply to trees in our area. Keep that in mind.

I decided to scan the article Ed sent me and send it along with the newsletter. Doing that stretched my computer skills and I couldn't figure out how to reproduce the excellent drawings any other way. So bear with me.

I will make a few comments as Iowa and California have a few climatic differences.

Growing Black pines in Iowa as landscape plants is very iffy, they are, at best, marginally hardy here. They do very well as bonsai here with winter protection.

When to repot. I do it in March or April. I guess we have so much shorter a growing season that newly repotted trees need all the growing time they can get. The authors don't say what their conifer mix for repotting is. I use one part lava, one part hoga and one part akadama.

Fertilizing. I give my pines a half strength shot of fertilizer in early spring as soon as I notice a slight change in the color of the needles indicating that they are waking up from dormancy.

The information on cutting candles is exactly how I do it except that in Iowa the time to do it is about mid - June.

I hope you find this information helpful.

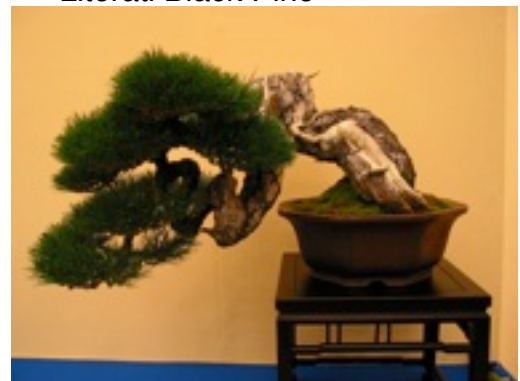
Here are a few photos of black pine I saw in Japan.



Informal Upright Black Pine



Literati Black Pine



Semi Cascade Black Pine



Black pine in shohin display