

*IBA News & Muse*  
*October 2009*  
*Volume 26 Issue 10*  
*Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter*  
[www.iabonsai.org](http://www.iabonsai.org)



**OCTOBER ACTIVITIES**

**OCTOBER 20, DES MOINES MEETING**

7 PM, Des Moines Botanical Center

**Major Branch Bending Techniques**-Ron Heinen.

Ron will briefly share some techniques for bending large branches.

**Shohin Bonsai**- Helene Magruder. Helene will share her expertise about shohin bonsai. Learn how to select, prune, care for, and show your shohin.

**Inspirational Trees in Nature**- David will show a 10-15 minute slide show on trees in nature that inspire thoughts of bonsai. This time we may even have a projector.

EIBA News

Temps have dropped recently and we should have a hard freeze tonight. Some of my deciduous trees have put on their Fall colors - a real treat. I hope to get my camera ready this weekend and begin photographing bonsai. Last weekend our club sifted soil ingredients for the next couple years - thanks to all who helped! October 10, our club plans to make a trip to see the IBA Fall Show at Reiman Gardens - always a fun and rewarding experience. It is a chance to see many very nice trees and displays in a beautiful setting and an opportunity to meet with bonsai lovers from all over the state.

Hope you can attend the October Club meeting where we will have elections and discussion of plans for 2010. The Officer slate is: Jim Rajtora - Treasurer, Chris Bur-Secretary, John Clemens - VP, John Denny - Pres.

Calendar

Oct 3 - Soil Day

Oct 10 - IBA Show Road Trip

Oct 15 - Club Meeting Topics Winterizing Trees, Elections, Plans for 2010

Nov 19 - Holiday Party

.....

**TIMELY TIPS**

We are having some pretty wintery weather, 2 inches of snow here last Saturday and temperatures in the upper 20's a couple of nights! Sure hope you have all your tropical trees tucked in safely for the winter.

Don't be in too much of a rush to put your temperate trees in storage. A few freezes isn't going to hurt them. As a matter of fact it is desirable to set them on the road to dormancy. We will probably have some more nice days, maybe even an Indian summer- I hope.

It is time to prepare your winter storage area. It wouldn't hurt to clean it thoroughly and wipe it down with a disinfectant. Think about spraying your trees with an insecticide and fungicide a couple of times before you bring them in. You can spray them once they are in storage but it will stink to high heaven.

I start bringing the more tender trees such as azaleas and trident maples in first ending up with the most hardy like the pines. Inspect each tree carefully, check wire, remove dead leaves and other debris and any weeds which can harbor insects and diseases. Remove the leaves of deciduous trees once they start to fall. Do this carefully as the buds for next year are tucked into the joint of the branch and leaf. If they don't pull off easily take the time to snip them with scissors so you don't damage the buds. Check under the pot and remove spider nests, you'll be glad you did when you bring them in.

This year I plan to put a marker in each tree that needs repotting in the spring. If I have a pot for it I will make a note of it on the marker.

*Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible. -Frank Zappa, composer, musician, film director (1940-1993)*

## HOT TIPS ON DVD

Ron Heinen has come up with a fun idea for making an educational DVD full of great tips on anything related to bonsai.

"I would be willing to put together a DVD highlighting club members tricks and treasures of the trade. Send me photos (jpeg) or quick time clips and I will render them into an imovie format. ( Or bring your pictures or clips to a meeting ). We have all created little bonsai related items; a clever chopstick, a soil screening method, a new stand, or a time tested manner of wintering trees. Share your indoor tropical sites, or your outdoor sites. Anything you think might be interesting to share. I will put them to music and we could possibly share them at some time through a DVD. ron h"

To make this project work we need everyone to participate. Put on your thinking cap and get out your digital camera. Ron's e-mail address is:

[reheinen@ames.k12.ia.us](mailto:reheinen@ames.k12.ia.us)

*All I ask is this: Do something. Try something. Speaking out, showing up, writing a letter, a check, a strongly worded e-mail. Pick a cause -- there are few unworthy ones. And nudge yourself past the brink of tacit support to action. Once a month, once a year, or just once. -Joss Whedon, writer and film director (b. 1964)*

## FALL SHOW

The Fall Show at Rieman Gardens was spectacular. Once again Ivan Hanthorn worked his magic and created a Japanese atmosphere complete with Japanese music, scrolls, videos and educational tables. A very respectable number of club members displayed their best trees.

A lot of club members helped to make it a great success. Some came Friday afternoon and helped to set up, everyone there helped to break it down Sunday afternoon making quick work of it. Members volunteered to man the bazaar table, be available to answer questions from the public, demonstrate working on trees and running out for coffee. Ivan did a couple of well attended Kousamono demonstrations.

The show was very well attended. We were delighted to have six members of the Eastern Iowa club drive over from Cedar Rapids to visit the show. A group from the Japan/American Association also visited. There seemed to be a constant stream of interested visitors.



An European Olive raft



Wild Grape yamidori



David Richmond demonstrating

**THE NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM BONSAI  
COLLECTION**  
Ivan Hanthorn

Tired of the known in my small universe, I decided to trek off to the Great Smoky Mountains for a few weeks in September. I had previously traveled through and camped in various parts of the Appalachian Mountains, but not the southern bulge of this ancient mountain range. Wow! The Great Smokies are not only an International Heritage Site but a world Biological Diversity Reference Site. And for good reason. More rhododendron than I had ever seen, more mushrooms than I had ever seen, more fall blooming orchids than I had ever seen, more of just about everything, and 2 bears per square mile in the mountains.

On the eastern edge of this mountain rain forest area lays Asheville, North Carolina. Home of such wonders as the Sunny Point Café (which regularly serves up the finest pecan crusted green tomato croissant sandwich one can find) and great venues for Southern Appalachian traditional music and crafts, the city is also the location of the North Carolina Arboretum. The Arboretum itself is a delightful destination site, with well developed interpretive gardens regarding local historical culture in the native landscape. My destination, however, was the Bonsai Collection itself.

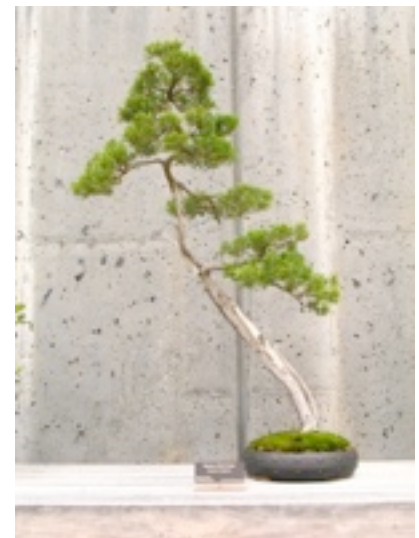
The 'outdoor bonsai' are exhibited in a very modern hillside garden constructed deliberately to not replicate the usual oriental garden but follow core design concepts of relationships of elements and suggestion. Approximately 85 bonsai were exhibited outside at the time of my visit. The slightly smaller tropical bonsai collection resides in a greenhouse located toward the back of the property. In addition to these accessible exhibited portions of the overall collection, there is also a reserve area in which the curator maintains a sizeable number of bonsai in various states of development as well as a rather large inventory of pots and rocks for potential planting usage. I must say that there were more than a few of these 'reserve' bonsai that I would have enjoyed putting forward for exhibition should they have been mine. It should also be noted that the working areas of the greenhouse complex are near state-of-the-art or as usually termed 'to die for'.

Under the curatorship of Arthur Joura, the collection maintains all of the usual botanical suspects within it but in addition brings attention to native materials of the American Southeast which can be utilized quite successfully as bonsai. Examples include an Eastern

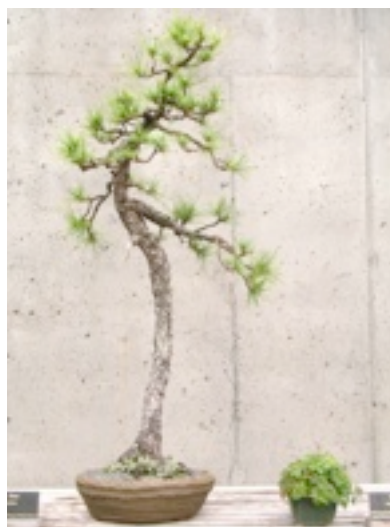
white pine with really reduced needles, American bald cypress, and American hornbeam.

Better than any other public bonsai collection that I recall, the didactic signage succeeds in a succinct manner in demystifying bonsai while telling the general audience all the essentials of bonsai. I was particularly stimulated by the very first sign one encounters at the top entrance, a wood board into which is carved the following coda for the garden: "The world of bonsai is miniature, but the natural world that it evokes is boundless. – Arthur Joura, Bonsai Curator".

I spent the entire day at the Arboretum, most of it perusing and photographing the bonsai. A normal person might want to devote at least 1-2 hours perusing the bonsai. The Arboretum website has all of the information needed for a visit, and there are a couple of photos of the outdoor exhibit area. To really get an idea of how great this collection is, however, one must visit.



Eastern Red Cedar



Eastern White Pine