

IBA News & Muse
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Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter
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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 15, 7 PM, DES MOINES MEETING

Des Moines Botanical Center

Inspirational Trees in Nature - David Richmond will present a 10 -15 minute slide show of trees in nature that inspire thoughts of bonsai.

Fall Care and Preparation, Winterizing Trees by David Lowman and Max Miller

Dave will share tips and a handout on winterizing temperate zone trees, and bonsai in general. Max will talk about preparing your trees for winter, diseases and insects to be aware of and prepare for. He will focus on winterizing tropicals in Iowa.

Tree of the Month - Flowering and Fruiting trees
Bring a flowering or fruiting tree - bring any tree, we welcome questions.

OCTOBER 10-11 FALL SHOW AT REIMAN GARDENS

EIBA NEWS

It has finally stopped raining and my trees are beginning to dry out. It is a challenge lately to determine watering needs for each tree with all the rain. Plus, the temps are dropping and the angle of the sun is as well. The trees will need less water now. Several nights this week are projected below 50F, so I will bring my tropical bonsai inside each evening.

Thanks to all who helped or visited our EIBA Bonsai display at Brucemore Mansion Garden and Art Festival. The trees were good and we picked up a couple new members!

September Dates

Sept 13 Fall Flower and Garden Show at Noelridge Greenhouse
Sept 17 Topic - "Autumn Bonsai Tasks"

The actions of men are the best interpreters of their thoughts. -John Locke, philosopher (1632-1704)

TIMELY TIPS

Fall is just around the corner, it may even be here. The maples are showing color already, are you ready for this? I don't think I am but it is my favorite time of year.

As temperatures fall and the days become shorter our trees take up less water. Check each tree before you water. I am finding my trees usually only need water every second or third day. The sun has shifted so a spot that was sunny last month may be mostly shady. Adjust the location of your trees accordingly.

Continue to fertilize your trees but switch to a fertilizer low in nitrogen. A higher percentage of phosphate will help develop strong roots which is helpful as they approach winter dormancy.

Watch the predicted nighttime temperatures if you have tropical trees. When temps drop below 50 F bring your tropicals indoors, at least for the night. I will keep popping mine outdoors during the day to soak up any available sunlight.

Don't prune deciduous trees now, they may put out new growth which will be too tender to survive winter temperatures. Now is a good time to work on mountain pines such as white pines, Scots pines and Ponderosa pines.

Photograph your trees now and compare the growth and development to the photos you took last spring - hopefully.

FALL SHOW

I had hoped to to have more information about the fall show but it didn't get here so watch your mailbox for details.

I refuse to answer that question on the grounds that I don't know the answer. -Douglas Adams, satirist (1952-2001)

STATE FAIR SHOW

The State Fair bonsai show was a great success again this year. Special thanks to David Richmond and Chuck Johnson who showed up bright and early to help set up. They also stuck around and photographed the show. The weather was perfect, sunny and cool, not your typical Iowa August day.

Tom Kedrock judged the show very thoroughly and then talked with all of the participating club members and critiqued our trees. Ron Heinen did a wonderful demonstration narrated by Alan Magruder. Rob Shumaker was the recipient of a terrific demo tree. Here are the show results.

Novice

- 1st, Roger Hershey - Acacia
- 2nd, Roger Hershey - Portulacaria
- 3rd, Angie Allison, Chinese elm
- 4th, Angie Allison, Chinese elm
- 5th, Angie Allison,, Chinese elm

Forest/Landscape planting

- 1st, Ron Heinen - Ficus nerifolia
- 2nd, Roger Hershey - Shimpaku juniper rock planting
- 3rd, Helene Magruder - Shimpaku juniper forest

Needle Evergreen

- 1st, Ron Heinen, Yew
- 2nd, Helene Magruder, Ponderosa pine
- 3rd, Ron Heinen - White pine
- 4th, Roger Hershey - Shimpaku juniper
- 5th, Fred Truck - Japanese black pine

Broadleaf Evergreen

- 1st, Helene Magruder - Azalea
- 2nd, Ron Heinen - Boxwood
- 3rd, Roger Hershey - Boxwood
- 4th, Fred Truck - Boxwood
- 5th, Fred Truck - Pyracantha

Deciduous Trees

- 1st, Max Miller - Vitex (Chaste Tree)
- 2nd, Helene Magruder - Japanese Hornbeam
- 3rd, Ron Heinen - Corkbark elm
- 4th, Ron Heinen - Mulberry
- 5th, Roger Hershey - Chinese elm

Tropical trees

- 1st, Ivan Hanthorn - Chinese sweet plum
- 2nd, Ron Heinen - Ficus retusa
- 3rd, Roger Hershey - Dwarf shefflera
- 4th, Ivan Hanthorn - Lavender star flower
- 5th, Ivan Hanthorn - Chinese sweet plum

Shohin

- 1st, Helene Magruder - Trident maple - Best of Show
- 2nd, Helene Magruder - Crabapple
- 3rd, Ron Heinen - Shimpaku juniper
- 4th, Ivan Hanthorn - Chinese sweet plum
- 5th Ivan Hanthorn - Potentilla



1st - Novice



1st - Shohin
Best of Show



1st - Needle Evergreen



1st - Tropical



1st - Deciduous

MORE ON PINE CARE

One of my fellow newsletter editors, Dave Billings from the Cincinnati club, sent along an additional suggestion for information on black pine care. "The MABA web site has a couple of articles by Doug Hawley that you might find interesting. Look at the Articles page, <http://mababonsai.org/pages/articles.html>, for two articles by Doug entitled "Pine Bonsai in the Midwest" and "Detailing Your Pine." While not exclusively about black pine they are full of black pine information." Both are excellent articles.

I recently invested in "Ponderosa Pines as Bonsai" by Larry Jackel. It was highly recommended by Andy Smith who was our guest artist for the club workshop last spring. Since I have four of Andy's Ponderosa pines I thought it was a good idea to own the book. The author listed the pros and cons of Ponderosa pines, developing Ponderosa bonsai, care and maintenance. One of the things I appreciated very much is a detailed description of their growth cycle. He also had experts from around the country discuss care in their area.

I was most excited by his method for increasing ramification. He uses selective needle removal to stimulate back-budding where you want it. He goes into great detail about his Fall Ponderosa Pine

Techniques which is based on black pine techniques. I was all ready to dive in when I read the caution that only one one major procedure should be done on a Ponderosa in single growing season, such as repotting, wiring/styling or the fall pruning technique. Since all of my Ponderosas were either repotted or styled or wired I guess I'll have to wait until next year. Mr. Jackel recommends taking your time developing a Ponderosa pine so I guess I had better hold off for a year.

There is a very nice photo gallery of Ponderosa bonsai for inspiration.

I second Andy's recommendation for this book. It is available from the American Bonsai Society bookstore. You can order online at absbonsai.org and click on Book Service. You will have it within a week. If you join ABS you can get a discount plus four excellent magazines a year.

HAPPY COINCIDENCE

This past weekend Alan and I were visiting family in St. Louis. Our family members had planned a trip to the Botanical Gardens there as the Japanese Festival was going on. It is a very big event and we ducked rain showers to see as much of it as possible.

There was a very well presented bonsai show and we were delighted to see several of the St. Louis club members we have known for several years. We missed the bonsai demonstration by Lindsey Sheba which, we were told, was terrific. There was a stunning fashion show of Japanese kimonos, drummers, a conjuror, cooking demonstrations and numerous other events going on. They even had sumo wrestlers! Last but certainly not least, there were numerous food booths and other vendors (including bonsai).

The club members told us they are already hard at work planning another shohin convention in 2011. I am looking forward to it.

Choose only one master -- Nature. -Rembrandt, painter and etcher (1606-1669)