

IJA News & Muse
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Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter
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APRIL ACTIVITIES

APRIL 17-18 SPRING SHOW
Des Moines Botanical Center

APRIL 20, 7 PM, DES MOINES MEETING
Des Moines Botanical Center
Proper Pruning Techniques for Style and Proper Healing, Mike Adams
Tree of the Month - Mulberry
Bring any tree

April/May EIBA Calendar
April 7 Board Mtg 6:30 pm Panera Bread
April 15 April Club Mtg 7 pm Chris Burr residence
April 18 Work Day and Critique Your Tree Day at Noelridge Greenhouse
May 5 Board Mtg 6:30 pm Panera Bread
May 9 Mother's Day Show Noelridge Greenhouse
May 20 May Club Mtg 7 pm John Denny or Keith Carris Home
Ivan Hanthorne guest speaker on Accent Plants
May 22 Informal EIBA Club Workshop

SPRING SHOW NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The spring bonsai show at the Botanical Center is this weekend. There will be 18 inch wide tables lining each side of the center isle of the showhouse with room for 30 trees. I just talked to Dave and at present he has all of 10 trees lined up, including his own trees that he plans to exhibit. E-mail Dave NOW at: lowman@netins.net with the number of trees you plan to bring.

Here's the plan: The Botanical Center will be open at 8 AM Saturday morning to set up the show. It opens to the public at 10 AM when your trees should be in place. Teardown will begin at 4:30 Sunday afternoon. Dave will be vending in the lobby so come with your shopping list. There will be TV's running some of Ivan Hanthorn's excellent Power Point presentations all day.

We would like to have people working on trees all during the show and visiting with people. Everyone is encouraged to bring a tree or two to work on, it is a wonderful way to recruit new members. You do not have to be an advanced bonsai artist to do this, people are fascinated watching someone work on a bonsai. Please give an hour or two for good club PR.

Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven't done a thing. You are just talking. -Wangari Muta Maathai, activist and Nobel laureate (b. 1940)

TIMELY TIPS

Wow, this has been one weird spring. We left town for a week and the huge piles of snow disappeared while we were gone. Then it snowed again. I managed to get my repotting done and left town again for a week and we came home to green grass, daffodils and a lot of yard work to catch up on.

All your trees except for tropicals should be outdoors by now. Tropicals trees need nights above 55 degrees before they should go out. Start them out in a sheltered spot with filtered sun and gradually introduce them to full sun. I put my trees out as soon as I got home and I am already seeing new growth on my conifers and swelling buds on the pines. The deciduous trees are well leafed out.

Trees will need more water now that they are actively growing. Today it is quite windy which can dry out trees and damage tender new foliage. Check under the surface to see if they need water, if not, a bit of misting will make them happy.

It is time to start fertilizing your trees. Start with a slightly diluted solution. I use fish emulsion as it is lower in nitrogen and will not cause a big flush of growth. Keep fertilizing on a regular basis as there is very little, if any, nutrition in bonsai soil. I fertilize every two weeks and switch around different

fertilizers to cover all the bases. Hold off a few weeks on newly repotted trees so the pruned roots have a chance to heal over. Hold off fertilizing white pines. Wait until the new buds have developed needles and the needles have hardened.

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Now is the time to pinch and prune your trees into shape. Pinch back new growth on deciduous trees to 2-4 leaves when they have put on 6-8 leaves. This will help keep the internodes shorter and encourage fine branching. If you wire your trees now watch them very carefully as they will be putting on a terrific spurt of growth and the wire could cut in in a very short time.

Watch for pests. This is prime time for aphids and spider mites. There is also a nasty fungal disease that attacks junipers called juniper tip blight. It can turn the foliage yellow and kill a branch rather quickly. It is a good idea to spray your bonsai when you put them out and again in a few weeks. I use Orthene which is both an insecticide and a fungicide. I also spray the junipers in my garden to keep the juniper tip blight from spreading to my trees. To keep spider mites under control I give the foliage on my trees a pretty good blast from the hose when I water.

*Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war; no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both. -Abraham Flexner, educator (1866-1959)*

### **Exhibit Trees and Suiseki for 2011 ABS/BCI Seminar**

June 16 through 19, 2011, the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society will be hosting the ABS/BCI Bonsai in the Bluegrass Show and Symposium. An outstanding group of bonsai artists has been scheduled, and vendors throughout the US will be here to display and sell bonsai related materials. There are presently 46 demonstrations, workshops and learning seminars scheduled during this 4 day show.

We have reserved a large space in the conference center for a bonsai tree and suiseki exhibit. The Greater Louisville Bonsai Society is requesting that bonsai enthusiasts from the Mid-west area nominate trees for inclusion in the show. There are many outstanding specimens in our area, and we would like to display them at this show.

The symposium would like to display all sizes, styles and varieties of trees. The bonsai will be judged by a panel of visiting masters scheduled to be at the show. The Louisville club is hoping to have a display of the finest, most outstanding trees in our area. We know they are out there. I personally have seen many of them and find them breathtakingly beautiful. Since Louisville is centrally located, it should be fairly easy to transport trees and viewing stones to this location. The show and symposium will be held at the Fern Valley Hotel and Convention Center, Louisville Ky. The show can only be successful if you submit your trees and suiseki for display. The trees will be well taken care of by experienced local bonsai members. We are planning professional security personnel to look after the trees.

If you are interested in helping out and displaying your trees and/or suiseki, please submit a picture and description to Earl Ekman, 160 E. Mt. Zion Dr. Crestwood, KY 40014. Phone (502) 222-7419 or [earl.ekman@gmail.com](mailto:earl.ekman@gmail.com)

I will accumulate all the information and present it to the show judging committee. Following their recommendations, I will get back with you.

This will be the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society's 40th anniversary and we are very excited about presenting this show. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see old friends, and make many new ones.

We are looking forward to seeing you in the Bluegrass. Earl Ekman Exhibit Chairman

Sorry this is such a short newsletter but I seem to be short of time and brain activity. ED