

IJA News & Muse
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Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter
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AUGUST ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 14, JERRY MEISLIK WORKSHOP
1 PM, Magruder Farm

AUGUST 15, STATE FAIR BONSAI SHOW
Hope to see you there. The trees will be judged in the morning by visiting artist Jerry Meislik. In the afternoon Ron Heinen will demonstrate how to create a bonsai with Alan Magruder narrating. This is always a popular event with the public.

AUGUST 17, DES MOINES MEETING
7 PM, Des Moines Botanical Center
Creating and Carving Jin and Shari, Max Miller and Larry Totten
Tree of the Month -Yews, Ron Heinen
Bring a tree to carve or any tree

AUGUST 20-22 , MID WEST BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW, Chicago Botanical Gardens, Glencoe, IL

AUGUST 19, EIBA MEETING
7 PM, Pierson's Flower Shop

AUGUST 28, EIBA EXHIBIT
Brucemore Garden and Art Show

TIMELY TIPS

Wow, This has been such a crazy summer! I don't ever remember so much rain in July and so far August. However, there have been a number of pleasant days when we have been able to sit on the patio and enjoy my trees. If you are concerned that some of your trees are not draining properly you might put a piece of 2 x 4 under one end which helps drainage a lot. I also

use a chopstick to poke holes in the soil which helps too.

Some experts recommend not fertilizing in mid-summer because the trees will not take it up if it is too hot. I don't fertilize on really hot days but if the temperature is in the 80's I will fertilize. I figure it can't hurt and it may help. Start using a lower nitrogen fertilizer now, Fish Emulsion works well for me.

There is a wonderful product called "Pro-Tekt" which is a silicon solution which "improves heat and drought tolerance, increases resistance to environmental stress, and enhances growth for healthier, stronger and hardier plants". Just add a 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon per gallon when you water. It's good stuff.

Watch for pests, spider mites love to attack in this weather. Junipers are especially tasty targets for them so I give my junipers and my pines a hard spray of water on the foliage when I water. This knocks them off for a while but keep doing it because they keep coming back. An occasional spray with an insecticide that kills mites is a good idea.

Growth has slowed down so work on trees has slowed. Check on wire applied earlier this summer to make sure it isn't cutting into the bark. Don't do any more major pruning.

Remember that the **workshop with Jerry Meislik starts at 1 PM**. If anyone needs directions to our farm send me an e-mail at: helenem@hughes.net. I will send you a map.

Roger Hershey is having surgery to remove a tumor on his pancreas. Everyone say a prayer that things go well for him.

*Just being there and listening is friendship.
Dove candy wrapper.*

MATT OUWINGA WORKSHOP

The EIBA hosted a workshop with Matt Ouwinga last weekend in Cedar Rapids. Matt is an expert in Trident Maples. Two of our Central IA members attended and Bob West reported back to me.

“Nice workshop, Matt is very knowledgeable! He has a mission to teach Americans to properly (Japanese way) train and care for trident maples.

I, unfortunately do not own a trident, but I took a poor man's maple, an old Amur to the workshop. I ran into Ivan there, who brought two tridents, one to work on and the other to be evaluated.

Matt has a very nice power point that he gives away to each club he visits. He gave a copy to the EIBA and I got a copy for the central Iowa club. I told Ivan I would get him a copy for the library. I have attached a few photos.

Trees worked on included trident maples, Japanese maples, my one Amur maple and a beautiful little boxwood.

Bob West



Matt and John Denny discuss the future of John's Japanese maple



Bob West's Amur maple after the workshop



Ivan Hanthorn and John Denny are attentive as Matt discusses a tree

*Everyone is kneaded out of the same dough
but not baked in the same oven. -Yiddish
proverb*

DEATH OF A TREE

I have several Ponderosa pines. One I bought a couple of years ago was a clump which grew from a single pinecone. I had never seen a clump Ponderosa so, naturally, I had to see what I could make of it. This spring I noticed that one of the branches was dying so I cut it off. A week or so ago another branch appeared to be dying. When I cut it I noticed something white and squishy so I peeled the bark off. I discovered several white larvae burrowed into the cambium in little pellets of sawdust.



The larvae

After conferring with Gary Wood we guessed that it must be some kind of pine beetle. I researched them on the internet and discovered that there are several kinds of pine beetles. I have no idea which kind my tree was infested with. They are a real problem in the forests of California.

I found that healthy trees have some kind of immunity to the beetles but there is no insecticide that will kill them except when they emerge ----- whenever that is. The recommended form of control is removal of the tree. As I have a number of pines I regretfully decided that this was the way to go. I was afraid to throw it in the compost pile or in the trash for fear they might emerge and find their way back

here. Alan built a pyre of wood scraps and soaked them with diesel fuel. When the fire was good and hot we dropped the tree on it.



Building the funeral pyre



The real index of civilization is when people are kinder than they need to be. -Louis de Berniere, novelist (b. 1954)