

IBA News & Muse
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Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter
www.iabonsai.org



OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 16-17, FALL SHOW

Rieman Gardens, Ames
Hours: 9 AM-4:30 PM

OCTOBER 19, DES MOINES MEETING

7 PM, Des Moines Botanical Center
Bonsai for Beginners, simple concepts to keep trees alive, Mike Adams
General Survival Discussion
Tree of the Month: Maple
Bring a colorful or a silhouette tree.

EIBA News

The weather is changing and so are our trees. Fall is a great time to enjoy them! Do your best to keep them healthy during Fall and begin making your winter storage plans. We completed making our club soil for 20011. Thanks for a great turn out!

Calendar

October 16 Road trip to IBA Fall Show meet at Rise and Dine on 16th Ave
October 12 Board mtg Panera 6:30 pm
October 21 Club mtg at Pierson's Flower Shop 7 pm

John Denny

FALL SHOW

This is such a beautiful show I hope everyone is planning to participate or at least attend. If you have not been to the Fall Show before, believe me it is well worth your time. It is a wonderful setting for our trees and with his deep knowledge of Asian art, Ivan adds elements that give the show elegance.

I hope everyone has sent Alan information about the trees or suiseki you plan to bring so he can have things set up and in place before you arrive.

Don't forget the Bazaar table. Round up items that you no longer use and bring them, it's kind of like a bonsai garage sale. Someone will have a use for them. If they are inexpensive items you can donate them to help fill the club coffers. Ten percent of the sale price goes to the club anyway.

If you can spare a few hours of your time don't forget to volunteer to help out at the show. Contact Ivan Hanthorn at: ivanhanthorn@hotmail.com
Your help will be appreciated by all.

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little. - Edmund Burke, statesman and writer (1729-1797)

TIMELY TIPS

My apologies for skipping this column last month, but we had a glorious trip. What gorgeous weather we are having, making up for that incredibly rainy summer I guess. I am finding it a great time to just wander among my trees checking for weeds, wire that needs removing, looking for pests, turning the trees or just generally enjoying puttering around.

With the advent of fall, (my favorite time of year) and the shorter days, I'm sure you have noticed that your trees are not needing water nearly so often. Pay attention to each tree, they all have individual needs.

I have just about given up hauling my tropical trees in and out with the nighttime temperatures dipping into the forties. But then it is awfully nice out there during the day. Anyway, I have given them all a bath, washed the pots and sprayed them for bugs. I don't need all those little spiders that drop down and swing about in my house.

I am also trying something that Jerry Meislik recommended when he was here. He uses Bayer Tree and Shrub which says it protects and feeds for 12 months. It claims to kill insects and prevent new infestations and also includes a slow release fertilizer. This is not a good time to use high nitrogen fertilizers but it is only 2-1-1 so I doubt it will be a problem. Jerry claimed that I could even use it on my Fukien Tea tree which is the touchiest tree I have ever owned when it comes to insect sprays. If it really kills the constant infestation of scale on that tree I will be a devotee. On the label it claims to control a long list of insects. You can pick it up at Lowes or Home Depot in the garden department. It is always a little confusing to convert mixtures from full grown trees to a bonsai but Jerry recommended 2 tablespoons per gallon.

Have you planned your winter storage area? If not, it is time to do that. It is a good idea to have it ready when the time comes. I have a special climate controlled room which I use. I am cleaning it thoroughly and wiping it down with a bleach solution. Your storage area should be clean so no fungus or bugs can be introduced to your trees. Don't move your trees into storage until they have had a few light frosts. This will help them enter into dormancy for the winter.

Remove all leaves and debris, clean the pots and spray for pests and fungus before putting trees into storage. The debris part takes me forever as we have a huge Linden tree in the yard which drops little balls into the pots.

You can continue to fertilize with a very low nitrogen or zero nitrogen fertilizer. The reason for this is that you don't want to stimulate new

growth so late in the year which could be damaged by frost. Phosphate and Potash (the P and K on the label) help maintain strong roots so you want to continue to provide that until the trees go into dormancy.

Enjoy the weather while it lasts and cross your fingers we don't have a repeat of last winter.

Earth is here so kind, that just tickle her with a hoe and she laughs with a harvest. -Douglas William Jerrold, playwright and humorist (1803-1857)

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

There is a variety of things to look forward to in the bonsai world next year. I just received the flyer for Rendezvous at Brussel's Bonsai next Memorial Day weekend. There is a wonderful lineup of artists including Ryan Neal who just completed a six year apprenticeship with Masahiko Kimura, one of the top bonsai artists, in Japan, Marco Invenizzi, Italy's bright young star, Marc Noelander of Belgium, Guy Guidry of Louisiana, Kathy Shaner, and John Powell who is an expert on Japanese gardens.

This is a really fun weekend filled with good bonsai, good potential bonsai, good guest artists, good food and good friends. Check it out at: www.brusselsbonsai.com

May 20-22, 2011 is the Shohin St. Louis convention held in Collinsville, IL. If you like the little bonsai this is a great treat. The particulars aren't available yet but Google Shohin St. Louis.

June 16-19, 2011 is the Bonsai in the Bluegrass Symposium held in Louisville, KY. It is a combined effort by the American Bonsai Society (ABS) and Bonsai Clubs International (BCI). There will be instructors from all over the world, workshops, classes, demonstrations and lots of vendors. Go to: www.bonsaiinthebluegrass.com for more information.

All of these events are fairly close by, a days drive so give them some consideration if you

are looking for a fun weekend for learning about bonsai.

Life is something that happens when you can't get to sleep. -Fran Lebowitz, author (b. 1950)

BONSAI PUBLICATIONS

There are several bonsai publications out there for people interested in learning more about bonsai. The club has a full collection of "Bonsai Today" which is now "Bonsai Focus". These magazines are full of articles about every aspect of bonsai that you can think of. There are many "how to" articles on specific varieties of trees, photo galleries and articles on artists and the miracles they produce. Take time at a club meeting to browse the collection and check out a few.

The American Bonsai Society (ABS) supports American bonsai learning and events. With a membership you get four very nice magazines a year. They also have an online bookstore with lots of books on bonsai and members get a discount. Their website is : www.absbonsai.com for more information.

Bonsai Club International (BCI) is, obviously, an international organization which also holds symposiums all over the world. Their magazine also comes out quarterly and includes stone appreciation. If you want to travel the world to pursue bonsai you could go to Japan, China, Africa, Indonesia, Taiwan, Europe, Australia, you name it. Go to : www.bonsai-bci.com

International Bonsai Magazine is edited and published by Bill Valavanis of the International Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester, New York. It is also full of articles about bonsai techniques, and anything you want to know about bonsai. Check it out at www.internationalbonsai.com.

I need someone to protect me from all the measures they take in order to protect me. - Banksy, street artist (b. 1974)

TAKE A LOOK

Fred Truck sent me a link to view some photos he took of Bristlecone Pines on a recent trip to Cedar Breaks National Monument in Utah. These are the most amazing shots of shari in nature. Click on this link for a look.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/32652998@N04/sets/72157624985596539/>