

Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.org

<https://sites.google.com/site/cedarrapidsbonsai/>

September 2019

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IBA September Activities

**September 21 - IBA Meetings at The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.
909 Robert D. Ray Drive**

Topics: Open Study Group - Bring a tree to work on whatever you want.

10:30 Presentations: Insecticides/Fungicides/Miticides presented by Scott Allen/Hannah. Followed by brief round table discussion. Bring your best ideas and practices. Formal bonsai display, Larry Totton.

Everybody is welcome.

**IBA Board Meeting, 8:00 am
All members welcome.**

EIBA September Activities

September 12, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Panera Restaurant on Edgewood Road.

Topics: Sept meeting prep, Discuss possible Study Group, Garden Fair, Club shirts, NewBo show Sept 21.

September 19, 7:00 PM, EIBA Club Meeting of 2018, Pierson Flower Shop on Ellis Blvd.

Topics: Nomination of Officers, Bring a tree mini workshop.

September 21, 10:00 am, EIBA Club Show at NewBo in Cedar Rapids

Corporate Sponsor DaSu Bonsai Studios



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Up Coming Events

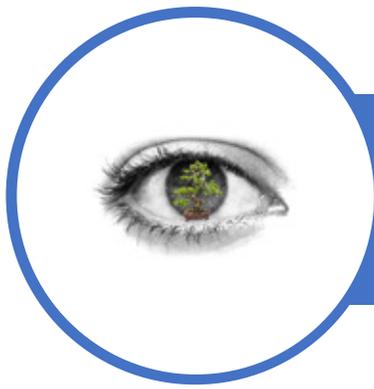
TODD SCHLAFER WORKSHOP

The Iowa Bonsai Association has Todd Schlafer coming on October 19 (and 20th if Saturday the 19th falls) and there are still spots available. The full day workshop is \$75. Please send me an email or call if you're interested in registering. Note: This is a GREAT deal as Todd's workshops are 100+ any place but here.

Scott Allen
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Mountain Viewing Stone
Mountain stone from Kamo river by Grudrun Benz



MABA/MILWAUKEE 2020

WE COME TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES STRONGER
THROUGH BONSAI

MABA/MBS

The Mid-America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) is an organization made up of local bonsai clubs including The Milwaukee Bonsai Society (MBS) to create a rich and diverse community through its inspiring bonsai activities.

INTRODUCTION

On June 25-28, 2020, Bonsai artists and MABA members are heading to Milwaukee, WI for the MABA/Milwaukee Convention! In part to see headlining artist François Jeker from France, Ted Matson from California and any of the other eight artists. [Read more.](#)

TED MATSON



BEGINNER FREINDLY

Just getting started in bonsai, be sure to head to Milwaukee and join other enthusiasts, artist, and MABA members on June 25-28, 2020. Beginner friendly headlining artist Ted Matson from Southern California will help you get started.

Curator of the Huntington Bonsai Collection in greater Los Angeles, Ted Matson is well known for quality care and design of bonsai.



He is also recognized for his great service to the art of bonsai; someone who promoted the art of bonsai and encouraged cooperation and unity of effort to achieve excellence within the entire bonsai community. To impress the significance of this President's Gold Diamond Award, we should note only one other person has ever been bestowed this award and that was John Naka.

Ted Matson's service extends to our area clubs. MBS and others owe a great deal of our continued growth and success to him.

MABA Milwaukee 2020 is offering Japanese black pines that have been developed as shohin by Ted Matson. Another workshop on Experience with Nursery Material will provide guidance to develop bonsai using readily available nursery stock.

Milwaukee Bonsai Society through its Excellence in Bonsai program is honored to pick up all travel, hotel and meal expenses for this generous artist. Take advantage of this affordable opportunity, see a demonstration and take one of his four beginner friendly workshops.

Recommendations for Bonsai Online Courses and a Book

John Denny

Here are three recommendations for bonsai learning. I have not seen or read any of these, however, I have online videos from Bjorn and Michael. All are excellent in content, presentation, and videography. Bjorn's advanced level will be just that, advanced. Michael's new book was initiated 15 years ago. I spoke with him about it back then. His original working title was, "Bonsai Myths". He wants to dispel bad information in the bonsai world. Hooray! Michael is a top notch writer, having had great success with his book "Post Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk". The Bonsai Empire course, "Developing Deciduous Trees" by three top European bonsai teachers (Pall, Stemberger, Harrington) should be good. I have viewed Bonsai Empire videos in the past and they were well done. Below is the promotional information on each.

Bjorn Bjorholm

Advanced Bonsai Course

Runtime: 6 hours

Introducing the Advanced Bonsai Course! Our most ambitious project to-date, this course dives deep into all aspects of Bonsai Art, from its Philosophy and Aesthetics and Design, to Advanced Techniques and Display. Take your skills to unprecedented new heights by enrolling today!

For \$69.99 you get unlimited access to the online course, without any recurring fees or hidden costs.

Bonsai Empire

Developing Deciduous Bonsai Course

Developing Deciduous Bonsai course, with Walter Pall, Mauro Stemberger and Harry Harrington. The curriculum is centered exclusively on Deciduous and Broadleaf evergreen tree species.

Specific topics covered include setting the main branch structure of a tree, creating ramification, carving, deciduous apex design, yamadori collection, wiring and creating rock plantings. Available for

\$64.99 starting September 7th.

Discount coupons can be claimed at our website now, without any obligation to purchase. Only the first 500 people get 30% off!

Michael Hagedorn

"Bonsai Heresy" is my new book about our misperceptions of bonsai technique and aesthetics. The book is wrapping up and things are advancing apace...

Bonsai Heresy will shortly be copyedited, giving me a much needed break

No fewer than 10 savvy content editors were involved, improving this complex book immeasurably. Our production timeline will give us a book roughly by February 2020

The spring 2020 book reading/signing tour is also advancing, with dozens of presentation invitations (we'll be in touch shortly)

The tour will be by Amtrak, making a big slow circle around the country for nearly a month.

IBA's Bjorn Bjorholm Workshop

At the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Helene Maguder



Saturday, August 10 of this year, before the State Fair show Bjorn Bjorholm demonstrated his incredible talent by transforming three ugly ducklings into

Bjorn Bjorholm Workshop - continued

works of art. The first tree he chose to work on was a twin trunk Ponderosa. He involved the audience in choosing a front and proceeded to create a lovely almost finished tree.



The second tree Bjorn chose was an Eastern Red Cedar with excessively long drooping branches. He used Penjing techniques and curled the branches to shorten them. It was an amazing transformation. He turned the most impossible looking tree into a striking literati.



Bjorn's last selection was some sort of unidentifiable Pine with a lot of faults. He managed to see a Bonsai in it and magically produced a presentable tree.



Bjorn is a pleasure to watch as he can determine very quickly how to create a good Bonsai.

What Is a European Bonsai Show Like?
From a Bonsai Empire Blog Post (part 1)

The 'Best of' 20 years Trophy was a stunning show displaying the best of the European Bonsai scene. In this post we share the winning trees and an overview of the exhibition. Enjoy the photos!

The winning trees



Best Broadleaf tree: Ulmus minor by Andres Alvarez Iglesias in a Koyo container



Best Broadleaf tree: *Ulmus minor* by Andres Alvarez Iglesias in a Koyo container



Best Shohin display by Andy Jordan

Timely Tips

John Deny

We are into the watering season. Watering is one of the harder things to learn about bonsai. As the accompanying article in this issue stated, there are many variables that impact how you water your trees. Having a lot of trees, different species, various soils, etc., really makes things challenging. Wind, temperature highs and lows, depth of pots can add more complexity. The article and video should have

helped bonsai hobbyists understand a lot about watering. I would add a couple more tips. One, water from both sides. I water down one side of my tables and I will spray a bit of water onto the backside of the trees on the opposite side of the table. This is the rain shadow that exists for trees on the far side. Once I am on that side I water normally down the row, but I give a short spray onto the rain shadow of the trees on the first side of the table. Two, I water my trees twice through at least three days a week. It takes a bit more time, but I know that I am getting a true deep watering. Make sure water is running out of the drain holes in your pot. Three, on days that are 90F plus and/or are very windy (15mph plus), I will water twice in one day. Ideally water in the morning, then water late afternoon a second time. The second watering can be just enough to wet the soil to a half inch depth.

Recently, I attended a talk at a garden group that was given by an indoor plant guru on lighting. Since I keep several tropical trees inside all winter, I listened. Here are some tips I came away with. Wash your windows! Dirty windows cut down light and light is key to your light starved trees in the winter. Second, consider removing the screens on the windows your tropical trees get their light from. Screens cut down light by 30%! If you want to increase your light by 50%, simply wash windows and remove screens. Your trees will love you for it.

Another thought on tropical trees regards “hardening off in spring”. Sounds strange. But, I put my trees out for a couple of lovely afternoons recently. I had to bring them in before night as the low temps were going to be 49 to 51F. My trees were used to a winter and spring low temps in the house of 65F. They have not been hardened off, so to speak. Once they sit out on some nights with lows around 55-60F, then they can survive 50F.

Not many folks grow pines for bonsai in Iowa. But we should be fertilizing those in developmental or seedling stage. For those in “adult bonsai” stage with some refinement, we can be fertilizing double flush pines like red and black pines before we decandle in June. Stop fertilizing red and black pines just before decandling and only resume in mid-August and fertilize hard until late Fall. Single flush pines like white or Ponderosa don’t require fertilization now or the needles will grow too much. Wait until the new needles harden off then fertilize them hard, roughly mid-August onward.