

Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.org

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

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IBA October Activities

**October 19 - 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: Brief discussion of Winter care by Dave Lowman.
Everybody is welcome.*

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

EIBA September Activities

October 17, 7:00 PM, EIBA Club Meeting of 2018, Pierson Flower Shop on Ellis Blvd.

Topics: Nomination of Officers, Putting trees into winter storage.

November 14, 6:00 pm, Board Meeting at Panera Restaurant on Edgewood Road.

Topics: Holiday Party, Ideation session for 2020 Calendar.

November 21, 6:00 pm, EIBA Annual Holiday Party held at Leonardo's Restaurant.

Bonsai Soil Components for Sale

**Pumice \$15 for five gallons
Akadama \$29.50 per bag**

Contact Scott Allen or Tim Peterson

**Crushed Lava \$5 for five gallons
Bring a bucket to DaSu Bonsai Studios
Call First 515-769-2446**

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IBA Fall Show at Reiman Gardens – a Review John Denny

This show is always great. I haven't missed one in years. This year's show was no exception. The show is always organized well. The display area is large and allows many well spaced displays to be shown. There is plenty of room for demonstrations. One demo seated approximately 50 people. There was very good public attendance on both days.

Each year there are small changes. For one, the theme or focus of the show changes. The layout





MABA/MILWAUKEE 2020

WE COME TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES
STRONGER THROUGH BONSAI

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.

BEGINNER FRIENDLY

Beginner friendly headlining artist Ted Matson from Southern California will help you get started.

WORKSHOPS

One of the most enticing events of any bonsai convention should be the workshop and material opportunities. The guest artists have worked hard to provide quality material by selecting the trees for you to select and gain valuable insight from them.

10 REASONS TO ATTEND MABA MILWAUKEE

Learn from the Best: François Jeker is a world class artist in design. His carving techniques are arguably the best in the world. Ted Matson is a stellar teacher. Todd Schlafer and Jennifer Price are two of the best new artists in North America. Mark Fields leadership skills are among the best along with his artistry. Watch them transform a piece of raw material.

Regional: Take the weekend to discuss techniques, care, trees with others from our region. Those of us who have distilled information from numerous artists and adjusted it for our region will be available to answer your questions and talk about our particular challenges.

Value Priced: MABA/Milwaukee 2020 has many sponsors to help offset the cost of bringing quality artists, material, and experience that is value priced. Included in registration are educational presentations, observing of all workshops and diverse demonstrations.

New Trees: Twelve workshops have material provided! The artist usually picks the material so that you get the best material along with their guidance. And the material is geared to our climate and can be developed by you into show quality bonsai

Community: Become involved and connect with a community of bonsai enthusiasts in your area. Get recognized for your skills, connect with friends and make new friends, network with experts in your area. Attend some great lectures in a small intimate environment.

Workshops: Workshops range from beginner friendly, intermediate to advanced; including a set of “experience with” workshops that highlight treatment for collected, nursery, and pre-bonsai material. There is a workshop for everyone.

Quality Vendors: Our careful selection of vendors allows you to purchase material, containers, and supplies without risk of inferior products. The vendors are partners in our convention. Win some great bonsai items from a raffle and or buy yourself something new.

Bonsai Exhibits: Exhibit your tree to receive written critiques by the headlining artists. See your tree among other quality bonsai in the innovative exhibit area. Experience not only the exhibit at the hotel but enjoy the Bonsai Exhibit and viewing stone display at LSG.

Local Attractions: Take advantage of all Milwaukee has to offer during the weekend and extend your stay with your family. Summerfest, Harley Museum, Art Museum, Discovery World, Milwaukee County Zoo are just a few attractions.

Lynden Sculpture Garden: Experience art in nature through its collection of more than 50 monumental sculptures sited across 40 acres of park, lake and woodland., along with the Bonsai Exhibit which is collaboration with the Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Milwaukee Bonsai Foundation; and the private collection of viewing stones by Artist Tony Ankowicz.

changed this year. Whether you like the changes or not, changes do keep the show fresh. This year the show was run by Ron Heinen with help from Alan Magruder, Scott Allen, Ivan Hanthorn, Tim Peterson, Zoe Nady, and several others.

The quality of the trees displayed was very high. There were several superb trees shown.



The show had a large vending contingent in the hallway outside. Dave Lowman of Dasu Bonsai always has a large variety of tempting items for sale.



The IBA club sponsored several tables of member's wares, which sold like hotcakes – pots galore, bonsai, pre bonsai, accent plants, books and magazines, some very nice display tables, etc. It is great to move bonsai items from someone who no longer needs them to someone who does.

Recycling at its finest.

For a club the size of the IBA club, they put on a great show. If you have not attended in the past, seriously consider attending next year.

Managing Needle Length of Single Flush Pines

Michael Hagedorn

It's summer and our single flush pines have stopped growing. What now?

For starters we can clean out old needles. While we're doing this we may notice that some year's needles are longer than others. This post ends with a few reasons they might be longer and how to plan for the future.



A Shore Pine with some browning and yellowing older needles. These are the third year needles (the juniors).

*Managing Needle Length of Single Flush Pines
continued*



The removed needles. The large group on top are the old needles, starting to yellow. They were loose and easy to pull off, even though many were still a bit green. The bottom group, the smaller, greener group, were the needles pulled off purely for aesthetic reasons, the dangling ones below the foliar pads. These were mostly second year needles...the sophomores...but more on these shortly.

The tree without three year old needles. Last year's and this year's needles remain on the tree. Unless very full, most pines we use for bonsai will want to retain their second year needles. Some second year needle thinning can bring more budding, which is the tree's response to this, bringing further ramification. Be sure you have a strong tree before doing that, though, and concentrate on taking off some needles on the strong shoots only. If you decide to skip this, at the very least take off the ones that are easy to pull off.

Determining which needles are of which year can be tricky---but looking closely at needle length, needle color, and clumping on the branchlet can help.

Notice that in the smaller pile of needles above (the second year needles) the needles are shorter. Several things can cause needles be shorter:

- less fertilizer
- less frequent watering
- less spring rain
- more sunlight
- smaller pot

Of these the only one we can't easily control is abundant spring rains. Those rains can make one's single flush needles grow twice as long in some years.

Shorter needle length gives us a more compact, in-scale tree. As one takes old needles off in the summer routine, take note of how long they are. In comparing their lengths to past years and past care practices one might find a better plan to limit the length of needles for single flush pines the following spring.

Timely Tips

John Deny

How did it get to be mid-October already? Quite a lot is changing now with our trees. The weather is cooler, often windy, and the sun angle is lower. Evaporation slows, photosynthesis slows, so don't over water.

Tropicals should be inside as the night time temps have plummeted. Make sure to spray them for pests prior to bringing them in. Clean the pots, including the bottoms. Clean up the soil surface and replace with fresh soil if needed. Give plenty of light to the Tropical trees. Windows and extra lighting combine to help photosynthesis. Leaves that have been receiving plenty of sunlight outside may drop off if they can't adjust to lower indoor light levels. Also, consider using a systemic powder over the winter to minimize the chances of pests like scale, spider mites, etc.

Pines can remain outside and should be allowed to harden off. Light frosts will not bother pines. I let pines see temps of 25F before I worry about them. They may begin shedding old needles in the late fall. My white pines are doing that now. November is a good time to prune back excessive growth, if you have good buds that have pushed further back on the branch. You can pluck needles on very strong buds to keep them in balance with buds of average strength. I leave weak buds and average strength buds alone. Also, look at terminal buds that will open next spring. If you have more than two buds at the end of each branch, remove all but two buds. These two buds should be of equal strength. Ideally, the two buds will be on opposite sides of the branch so they do not pop next year on top or the bottom of the branch, but push horizontally.

Now is a good time to clean up junipers. Knock off loose bark on the trunk. Some folks remove all the bark, leaving the cinnamon colored inner bark layer. Clean branch crotches of new growth. Remove new growth from the tops and bottoms of branches, unless you need it for a reason. Take off old wire, add fresh wiring if needed to help place foliage in pads to catch more sunlight and to make the foliage shape look

good. Junipers can stay outside through mild frosts. I protect them around 27F or bring them inside.

There are a wide variety of deciduous trees we use as bonsai. This makes it tough to rely on general rules and guidelines about when to protect your deciduous trees and when to bring them inside. Generally, they can handle a couple of light frosts – 29F, 30F, 31F. This is very general, though. I know folks have species that are damaged by frost. Know the zones of your tree species. If your trees are semi tropical, bring them in earlier. When you decide to prep your trees for winter storage, clean them up. Removes leaves left as some species love to hang onto leaves over winter. Spray them. Clean the soil and pots. Deciduous trees grow fast in the spring, so check your trees for any wires that look tight in late fall and remove them. Wires marks are hard for deciduous trees to overcome.

Prior to bringing your trees into your winter storage area, make sure you have it ready. Clean it up physically, Give your trees room. Remember, you may need enough room to water them. Don't "hide" small trees behind big trees. It is too easy to miss them when watering. Have some sort of temperature monitoring ability in your winter storage area. Learn what goes on there temperature wise. The temps will vary if you check low vs higher up. Temps vary closer to doors or windows. Temps vary with time of day. Generally, we need to know just how cold it is getting from midnight to 6 am. But, in late winter and early spring, we need to know just how warm our trees are getting, too. A warm day in late February might surprise you when you measure the temps in your storage area. Warm temps this time of year can encourage buds to push too early, then those new buds sit in low light and get leggy and weak. So, know your temps with a good monitoring system. I can check temps in my garage while I am inside sipping my morning coffee. I also go into the garage and check additional locations of standard thermometers I have placed in sensitive areas.

"Be prepared." I think this sums up prepping trees and storage areas for winter.