

# Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.org

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

April 2019

Volume 68, Issue 4



## IBA March Activities

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

### April 20-21

*Earth Day Celebration, from 10:00am - 5:00 pm*

### May 4

*Ejorn Bjorholm Workshop at the the Magruders'  
Bonsai Studio, from 9:00am - 5:00 pm  
SILENT observers \$25.  
Contact Scott Allen 515-480-4437*

## EIBA March Activities

**April 18, 7:00 pm. EIBA Club Meeting at  
Pierson Flower Shop on Ellis Blvd.**

*Topics: "Pests, Diseases, Fertilizers" by Al Pierson.  
Discussion and demo on Styling and Pruning. This  
meeting will be jointly held with the Eastern Iowa  
Pond Society, so come early for good parking.*

*May 4. Bill Englert and John Clemens will be giving  
a talk at the District 2, Garden Clubs of Eastern Iowa  
meeting at the Wickiup Center in Toddville. The topic  
will center around the care and growing of Bonsai.  
There will be a display of many trees set up for  
question and answers by those attending.*

**May 9, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Panera  
Restaurant on Edgewood Road.**

*Topics: Club shows this summer at NewBo.*

**Corporate Sponsor DaSu Bonsai Studios**



[www.bonsaitrees.com/](http://www.bonsaitrees.com/)

## Inside This Issue

IBA Activites	1
EIBA Activites	1
Earth Day Celebration	1-3
Wilting Candles On Young Pines	3-4
Long running Bonsai Study Group	4
Mountain Hemlock Branch	5
Timely Tips	5

## Earth Day Celebration April 20, 2019

*By Larry Totton*

*Photographs by David Richmond*

FYI EVERYONE: Our IBA meeting was our annual spring show in cooperation with the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden's Earth Day Celebration, Saturday April 20th.





Thanks to the dozen or so members who brought trees to the Earth Day Spring Show. Promotion by the Des Moines Botanical Gardens was again fruitful. Over a thousand people strolled through,



many with questions. Kids were invited to write an answer to “What I like about Earth” on a paper leaf, then hang it on a tree branch positioned in the exhibit.





We even sold a few t-shirts. All in all we enjoyed the show and the gardens. Take a look at the pics and join in with your own trees next Earth Day.



*Spring growth on a black pine group planting*

Whenever I see subtle wilting, I double check to make sure the trees have enough water. If the wilt is more pronounced, I know the tree is dry. When this happens, I'll water several times in a row and then return to the tree after 30-60 minutes and water a few more times.

---

### **Watch Out For Wilting Candles On Young Pines**

*APRIL 5, 2019 by JONAS DUPUICH  
of Bonsai Tonight*

It's fun to see new shoots elongating on black and red pines this time of year. The light colored growth makes a nice contrast against the darker green foliage from the previous year and the length of the shoots are a good measure of the tree's health.

Because pines grow so quickly this time of year, it's not uncommon for the new shoots, or candles, to wilt a little. This can happen even when a tree has adequate water.



*Wilting foliage*

I was surprised, earlier this week, to see so much wilt on the pine below after a rainy day.



*Wilted red pine*

---

## **Long running Bonsai Study Group**

*By John Denny*

In April, I attended a Bonsai Study Group at the Magruder Farm in Indianola. I have been attending this group for a long time. The group was reminiscing about how long the group has been in existence. Helene Magruder told us her wonderful and large bonsai studio had been built in 2008 or 2009 (I can't recall her specific answer.) The Study Group began shortly thereafter.

Gary Wood of Alabama was the teacher. We met three times a year for both Saturday and Sunday. Gary taught us an amazing amount of knowledge and technique. He told us and showed us how to make our trees better and better. And low and behold, that actually happened! As I look at the quality of trees prior to 2012 and the quality of trees I see being worked on now, the results are amazing. The members of the group are better and have made their trees better. Also, the commitment of the members to buying or acquiring quality trees has increased. Members bring in better trees to

start with – better material. And the types of trees have changed from nearly all nursery grown trees to a large number of collected trees. Many of these yamadori are beautiful and complex old trees. They can be a challenge to style.

Gary Wood retired last year and his teaching spot has been ably assumed by Todd Schlafer of Colorado. Todd trained with Ryan Neal, who himself apprenticed in Japan with the legendary Kimura.



*Todd Schlafer working on a nice spruce for Randy.*

Todd has a great flair for styling, especially with collected trees from the mountains. Members have come and gone over the years. Members still with the group from the beginning are Helene Magruder, Ivan Hanthorn, and myself. Also, we have fairly long time members Pete Svec, Ron Heinen, and Scott Allen. The group gets along extremely well which is critical if you want any group of people to last beyond the first weekend!

This study group has been a tremendous boon to bonsai in Iowa. The quality of trees in our shows is better each year. Our knowledge increases among us and is then spread to others beyond the study group. If you ever have a chance to join a bonsai study group like this one, do so. You will have great fun!

None of this would be possibly without the generosity of Alan and Helene Magruder who have opened their home and facilities to our group. They truly are the pillars of Iowa bonsai!



## Mountain Hemlock Branch

By Michael Hagedorn

A few years have passed since this hemlock was styled, and it seemed a ripe moment for an update on its progress. It was collected by Anton Nijhuis, and is unusual being a naturally rooted branch off a larger tree.

The first styling was in December 2014 when former apprentice Bobby Curtright was here, and he is featured on this post, <https://crataegus.com/2014/12/16/very-old-mountain-hemlock-styling/>, about this tree along with a cameo by Matt Reel.

This post, <https://crataegus.com/2018/04/18/potting-up-a-hemlock/>, covered the potting in a low rectangle in April 2018, featuring current apprentice Andrew Robson and a few students.

This third post is the latest, and doesn't feature anyone. I did the trim and detailing in the last photo, and yet there weren't any cameras around for proof of this.



## Timely Tips

John Deny

Spring is finally here. Maybe a bit windy, rainy, confusing temperatures, but spring has actually arrived. Time to celebrate! We made it through the winter. Now did our trees make it through unscathed as well?

Pines should be outside by now. They can tolerate some frost. Watch them on windy days, so needles do not dry out.

Junipers can be out now as well, however, you may want to bring them back in if temps drop below freezing. Check them for pests and disease. Deciduous trees should be leafing out now. The fresh leaves will be tender and frost will damage them. I keep my deciduous inside until I am 95% sure there won't be a frost. If you only have smaller trees or just a few deciduous trees, you can take them out and if the temps drop at night, then just bring them inside. Trees just leafing out really appreciate fresh sunlight versus being cooped up in a dark garage or shed. Low light will cause legginess – ie long internodes which is bad for bonsai.

Tropicals, of course, should still be inside until night time temps stay above 50 or 55F. You can take them out for an afternoon of sun, which will help them revitalize greatly. But, do not forget to bring them back in unless you are sure of the night time temps. Freshly repotted trees should continue to be protected until you are sure the new root tips are strong. I usually think in terms of two to three weeks. I keep those trees inside. Don't fertilize the freshly repotted trees for about three weeks, then go with a mild fertilization.

Speaking of fertilization, I begin the spring time fertilizing with a 5-5-5 like Bonsai Pro. I also give a little fish emulsion for micro nutrients.

A last tip is to watch the wind. Spring winds can be brutal on trees freshly brought out into the world from winter protection. This holds true especially for newly repotted trees. Enjoy Spring!