

# Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

[www.iabonsai.org](http://www.iabonsai.org)

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



October 2021

Volume 86, Issue 10

## From the Editor

Hey, You All! Fall color is beginning, dormancy is on its way and, by the end of the month, we will be heavily engaged with fall work on trees. Before that, however, we have a lot going on. We hope you can make it to the Reiman Garden Show and Bonsai Bazaar, October 9 and 10. And most of us have a lot to do to prepare for winter. Now's the time. If you are fairly new to the Art, Timely Tips has a discussion of things we need to be thinking about just now.

A few weeks ago, I had a brief conversation with a club member who had collected a Red Maple this spring. It sounded to me like he needed a little encouragement where that tree was concerned.

Michael Hagedorn's post on Red Maple as Bonsai should encourage anyone working with non-traditional and native material. Time cures many ills and there is always hope in the vision. If we had no faith in the future, we wouldn't do Bonsai at all. Time is the critical fourth dimension. Engage with it!

*Susan Daufeldt*

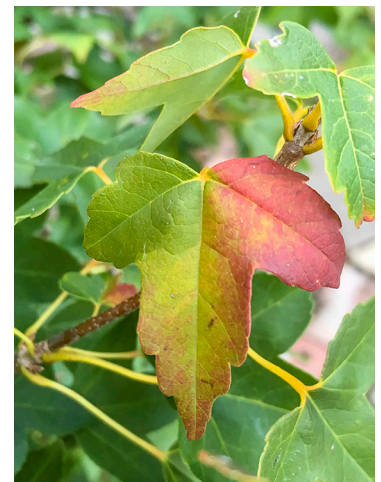
[scaufeldt@icloud.com](mailto:scaufeldt@icloud.com)

[sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com](mailto:sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com)

(319) 430-3822



*Fall Color coming on Grey Dogwood.  
Photo by Susan Daufeldt.*



*Fall Color coming on Trident Maple.  
Photo by Susan Daufeldt.*

## Inside This Issue

<b>From the Editor</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>From the IBA and EIBA Presidents</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Red Maple as Bonsai</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>Timely Tips</b>	<b>7-8</b>
<b>Member Activities</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Bonsai Inspiration</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Bonsai Classifieds</b>	<b>10</b>

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**DaSu Bonsai Studios**



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

Remember that prior Newsletters are available on the Iowa Bonsai Association website ([www.iabonsai.org](http://www.iabonsai.org)). There's a lot of good information there.

## From the IBA and EIBA Presidents

### IBA

Fall is creeping in, which means the Fall Show is drawing near. The IBA/EIBA will be showing some GREAT trees and the Bazaar table is sure to be full of some bonsai treasures. The show is Saturday Oct 9 and Sunday Oct 10 at Reiman Gardens in Ames. Fall is also a great time to work on Ponderosa Pines and we should all be thinking about winter storage. At next month's meeting we'll have a round table discussion on winter storage and different approaches that members use. We had another great turnout at the September meeting. Lots of great bonsai discussion and some really nice trees.

The IBA has scheduled a workshop with Todd Schlafer on Friday October 29th from 9am to 5pm. The workshop will be held at my place and the cost is \$100 per person. Lunch will be provided by IBA.

The next IBA meeting will be Saturday, Oct 16th, from 9-1 at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Bring a tree/trees to work on or just come observe and ask questions. That's why we're here. The meeting locations within the GDMBG change by month so please check with the front desk for meeting location.

Other news: The all new IBA shirts are in and going fast so get them while you can. These are top quality T's from American Apparel and the new design from Jen Taylor of Vividpix & Design is outstanding. See classified ad. If you want one contact Scott Allen as there are a limited number of each size M - 3XL. Shirts are \$25 and all proceeds will help grow bonsai right here in Central Iowa.

Hope to see you all soon!

*Scott*

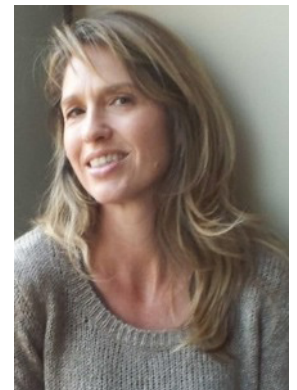


### EIBA

**September Meeting.** We had a great meeting in September. It was wonderful to hear Cat's VERY informative discussion of plant physiology as it relates to Bonsai! It clarified a number of things for me and gave me other things to think about! Thank you, Cat, for your hard work and willingness to share your knowledge with us.

**Soil Day.** Wow! A BIG THANK YOU to EVERYONE who showed up to help with soil! This was truly an example of many hands literally making the work much lighter! Because of you, we have soil for new members just getting started in the art, a less expensive option for trees in early development, and a viable alternative in the event that it is not possible to obtain traditional soil ingredients. I am very grateful to all of you!

**Meeting Time/Days and Locations.** Thursday evening meetings have been sparsely attended. It is my belief that this is not really due to COVID. Rather, the week day evening in North Cedar Rapids is sufficiently difficult that anyone who doesn't live in the neighborhood (and is not retired) can't really do it with any consistency. The Board is considering using the meeting format that is currently being used by the IBA: We would meet on a Saturday morning (either the third or fourth weekend of the month) from 9 am to 1 pm. We would potentially meet at a more centralized location, probably in North Liberty. This would be a Bring Trees and Work On Them kind of thing EVERY month. We may also have a program at some



time during the morning. Members could come and go during the morning. **I would welcome Member feedback concerning this possibility and any other feedback that you think would help to make the club more accessible and useful to the Members.** Thank you!

Note that EIBA board meetings are OPEN meetings. This means that you do NOT need to be a board member in order to attend. Because board meetings are now being routinely held on ZOOM, the meetings are more accessible. The link for the board meeting will be sent to all members. Please feel free to attend

If you haven't had the opportunity to pay your dues yet, you can send dues or donations to our club Treasurer: Jim Rajtora, 3512 Sue Lane NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. Checks should be made out to "EIBA." Dues without soil: \$15.00. Dues with one bucket of Soil: \$30.00

*Susan Daufeldt*  
scdaufeldt@icloud.com  
sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com  
(319) 430-3822

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## Calendar of Events

### **October 14, 2021, 6:30 pm**

EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. The link will be sent out the Monday or Tuesday prior to the meeting. Please contact me by phone prior to the meeting if you think you have not received the link.

### **October 16, 2021, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (Saturday)**

IBA Meeting and Open Study Group at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, (Check with the front desk for location within the Garden).

### **October 8, 2021, 1pm to 5:00pm (Friday)**

Reiman Gardens show set-up, Ames, IA

**October 9, 2021, 8:30am to 9:30am (Saturday)** Reiman Gardens final show set-up, Ames, IA

### **October 9-10, 2021, 10am to 5:00pm (Sat/Sun)**

Iowa Bonsai Association Fall Show, Reiman Gardens, Ames, IA

### **October 10, 2021, 1:00pm (Sunday)**

Iowa Bonsai Association annual meeting of members/board of directors, Reiman Gardens, Ames, IA

### **October 21 2021, 6:30 pm**

EIBA Club Meeting: Denny Molumby will present on The Littlest Trees: Shohin and Mame Bonsai. Location to be announced.

### **October 29, 2021, 9am to 5pm (Friday)**

Workshop with Todd Schlafer at Scott Allen's home in Des Moines. Contact Scott Allen ASAP if interested. \$100/person. Lunch provided by IBA.

### **November 13, 2021 (Saturday)**

Workshop with Jennifer Price at Susan Daufeldt's home in Conroy, Iowa. Contact Susan Daufeldt if interested. This is a privately sponsored activity.

### **November 18, 2021, 6:00pm**

EIBA Holiday Party at Leonardo's, 2228 16th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

## **American Bonsai Society**

Learning Seminars resume May 26-29, 2022, Olive Branch, MS. Forms and details available on the ABS website.

## Red Maple as Bonsai

Michael Hagedorn

Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*, is a North American forest tree with a range extending from southeastern Canada to Florida. It's well regarded as a street tree for great fall color and less sidewalk issues than other maples.

It's a bit of a stretch to suggest I have wide bonsai experience with Red Maple. I have, however, taken care of an older one for 10 years, and have a few thoughts.

Anne Spencer designed and grew the tree featured here for 20 years, from a 3-year old plant. For the last 10 it's been in my garden. Almost all the photos are Anne's, except the last two. And as it looks in August, 2021, exactly 30 years since Anne's first photo of it. Making it 33 years from seed. 19" / 48cm tall from soil line. We upsized the pot after the last photo, needing more wiggle room. A tree as mature as this is going to lose a twig or branch now and then, and you can see one in the crown at about 1:30 that's been getting weaker the last couple years. We're fertilizing it a bit more, which can often resurrect weaker branches. If we lose it, so it goes. Crowns on old freely growing trees are not uniform after all. They are broken up into parts. Which this one is beginning to do, following suit with old tree mechanics.



*The first images from Anne Spencer's 'adoption papers', the complete photographic history handed to those lucky enough to get one of her trees. The photo on the left is from 1991 when it was 3 years old.*

*Here is the Red Maple in 1999, showing the long internodes that Anne said took nearly 20 years to simmer down into polite short ones.*





2004 it's 16 years old.  
The structure that it retains today  
was well in place by then



In 2005 in a show



In 2006

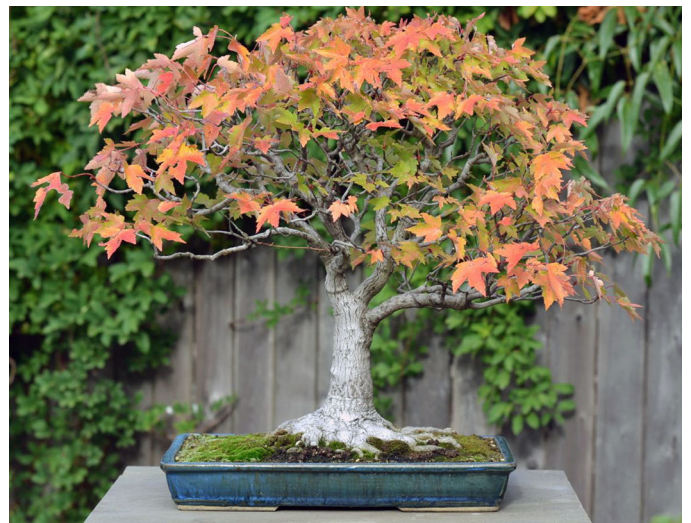
Anne said the internodes were starting to behave  
in 2008, also the nebari is fusing well.





*In 2008 Anne documented her leaf reduction technique to bring light into the interior and balance strong areas*

*In 2014, when the maple had been in my garden for a few years already. Here the tree had settled into middle age and the petioles and internodes were shorter. Much like Anne I've partially defoliated occasionally to weaken overly strong branches*



*And as it looks in August, 2021, exactly 30 years since Anne's first photo of it. Making it 33 years from seed. 19" / 48cm tall from soil line. We upsized the pot after the last photo, needing more wiggle room. A tree as mature as this is going to lose a twig or branch now and then, and you can see one in the crown at about 1:30 that's been getting weaker the last couple years. We're fertilizing it a bit more, which can often resurrect weaker branches. If we lose it, so it goes. Crowns on old freely growing trees are not uniform after all. They are broken up into parts. Which this one is beginning to do, following suit with old tree mechanics.*

## Timely Tips

*Susan Daufeldt*

We just had a really cool week – almost mountain weather. Cold nights, warm days, no humidity. Yesterday, a Southwest wind blew like crazy all day long and I knew we were in for it. Sure enough, hot this week. Hot. But still cooling way down at night. Next week we're expecting cooler temps. The sun is lower in the sky and some parts of the bonsai yard are not getting the sun they were. I find myself juggling trees around, chasing the sun, watching closely to be sure that I haven't moved trees from a shaded spot into too much sun.

Dormancy is just around the corner and I've been fertilizing hard and very specifically to prepare the trees so that they are in the best possible condition to come out strong in the spring. But it's nearly time to stop. Once trees reach dormancy, fall work begins. The pruning and wiring that we haven't been able to do in August and September will commence this month. But as we come into October, deciduous trees are only just beginning to show fall color – a leaf here and a leaf there. Be patient.

Tropical trees should come in when the nights drop below 50 degrees. We've already had a week of nights in the 40s, so many of you may have done that already. Resist the urge to bring your temperate deciduous and conifers in, however. They need these cold nights to make the transition into dormancy. I leave most of my trees out until the weather drops below 25 degrees at night. Shohin, Mame and accent plants come in when the temperature drops to 32 degrees at night.

The beginning of October is the time to prepare for winter. The last two years, we have had extremely bitter temperatures in the last week of October. It's important to be ready. Check over your winter storage situation. If you are storing trees outside, be sure they will be in a location where the sun will not hit them, causing freezing and thawing cycles through the winter. The north side of a building is best. Be sure you have good rabbit fencing and the mulch that you need on hand.

If you are storing trees in a heated or unheated building, be sure that your storage area is clean and that your ventilation and electrical systems are working well. Be sure you have enough room. A crowded, dirty, poorly ventilated storage area is likely to result in disease problems. It's a good idea to have a light source in case you need to check your trees during evening hours or at night. I like to have a thermometer with a humidistat at every level and on every wall of my winter storage area. That way I know my temperatures and humidity levels throughout the storage area. In general, because hot air rises, my storage spaces tend to get warmer as you go up. Accordingly, accent plants, shohin and mame are placed at higher levels than large trees in big pots with plenty of soil.

My indoor winter storage is heated. I use a low temperature garage thermostat hard wired to a space heater. The thermostat is on a different wall than the heater. I try to keep the temperature at the highest level below 40 degrees. This often means that the floor is well below freezing, which is fine for bigger trees.

Again, be sure to clean your indoor winter storage is clean before you bring your trees in. I use Zeritol to disinfect everything – shelving, walls, floors. Clean the dirt from the bottoms of your pots and debris from the soil surfaces. It is also an extremely good idea to spray one last time for pests and disease before you bring your trees in.

Consider how you will get water to your trees during the winter months. This is important. I check trees in indoor winter storage every week to ten days to see if they need water. I water accent plants about once a week pretty routinely. I don't let my trees dry out completely during the winter (I don't have pine, however).

Another great thing you can do in October (once your winter storage situation is in order) is to prepare for spring – consider which trees will be repotted and review your pot options. Mix soil. If you are using a mixture of akadama, pumice and lava, Todd Schlafer recommends mixing your soil in a 1:1:1 ratio for pines; 2:1:1 for junipers; and 3:1:1 for spruces and most deciduous trees. For some water loving species, you may choose to use straight akadama. Whatever soil ingredients and mixtures you chose to use, be sure to sift out the fines thoroughly. This is a good time to get all that done so that you aren't spending time doing it during the hectic repotting and collecting season. If you're collecting in the spring, this is a good time to make wooden boxes.

And, of course, once dormancy arrives, pruning and styling begins!

Have a great month and be sure to contact someone in the club for help if you need it. That's why we have a club!

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## Members Activities

*Susan Daufeldt*

### *Newbo Exhibition*

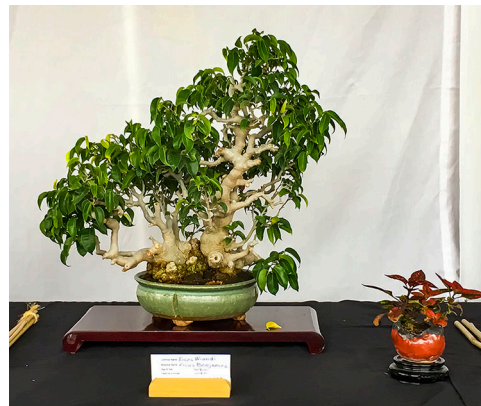
*September 4, 2021*

We had a really good Exhibition at Newbo on September 4, 2021. As usual, the Exhibition ran from 10 am to 3 pm.

Cat Nelson and John Clemens worked on trees during that time and club members were available to answer questions. There was a lot of enthusiastic public interest.



*Bill Englert's Trident Maple.*  
*Photo by Susan Daufeldt.*



*Cat Nelson's Ficus Wiandi.*  
*Photo by Susan Daufeldt.*



*Denny Molumby's Shohin Display.*  
*Photo by Susan Daufeldt.*



*EIBA Meeting  
September 16, 2021*

EIBA had a great meeting on September 16, 2021. Cat presented on Plant Physiology as it relates to Bonsai. The single regrettable aspect was that there was so much to talk about and so many questions that could have been asked that we would have been there all night! I wish we'd had more time!

*IBA Meeting and Scott's and Tim's Bonsai Sale  
September 18, 2021*

The IBA had a great and very well attended meeting at the Botanic Garden in Des Moines, followed by an equally well attended Bonsai sale at Scott Allen's place. It was fun wandering around Scott's beautiful garden and seeing his marvelous pots, not to mention picking up a few exciting finds. I was having so much fun that I failed to take pictures! So sorry!

*Other Activities*

If you have something great going on in your yard – anything you're excited about – send me a picture and a little explanation so I can share it with the club!



*Cat Nelson speaks on Plant Physiology as it Relates to Bonsai.  
Photo by Susan Daufeldt.*

**Bonsai Inspiration**  
*David Richmond*

*Photo Credit: David Richmond*



September 16th and I am on my way to the usual rendezvous for my usual Red Rock photographic statement. All of a sudden, it seems, the fields that surround me on my drive have turned to a harvest brown color.

I pulled into my usual spot overlooking Red Rock lake, 41.418824, -93.051583 (see location indicated on the satellite photograph).

The radio was tuned to, 96.3 Iowa Public Radio out of Pleasantville, Iowa. I was listening to, *The Wasps Overture* by Ralph Vaughan Williams that was written in 1909. It was written for the Cambridge Greek Play production of Aristophanes'. (See the URL Below)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBujJu\\_6B1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBujJu_6B1s)



As I make my way on foot to my usual photographic location, I see three bald eagles floating in space around in a circle above the lake side vantage point. This usual magic moment has been captured only in part by the photographic image above.

## Bonsai Classifieds

**FOR SALE: IBA T-Shirts – \$25.00 each.**  
Unisex sizes m l xl xxl xxxl. A limited offer. First come, first served.



**FOR SALE:** At our greenhouse DaSu Bonsai Studio, 27887 Timber Rd., Kelley, Iowa we have sixteen varieties of companion plants stock coming in!! Should arrive this Wednesday or Thursday. Ten percent off to Bonsai Assn. members with a \$100 purchase. Come get some crushed lava for your planting needs and take some very cool miniatures home!

**FOR SALE:** Seedlings will be available at the farm/greenhouse. I have ordered: 100 Washington Hawthorn for sale \$2.50 each, 50 Malus Baccata Crabapple for sale \$2.56 each, 50 Nanking Cherry for sale \$2.80 each. I will also be offering grow bags (one and 2 gallon size) for growing out in the ground and developing your seedlings. \$2.00 and \$2.50 each per bag. As an incentive free lime sulfur will be given away with a seedling or other item purchase. **BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER TO BE TOPPED OFF** or bring a four ounce dark colored bottle with tight fitting lid. Washington hawthorns immediately make great little forests. The other two items are probably best grown out in the ground or a larger container. Bring buckets to fill or waterproof bags for any of our 22 tons of bonsai lava, \$9 per five gallon bucket. Call 515-769-2446 if you have questions or need directions, and/or requests that you would want ready/reserved for pickup. Dave at DaSu Bonsai Studio.

**FOR SALE:** Pumice \$30 for five gallons. Akadama \$32 per bag, \$30 for members.  
Bio Gold fertilizer from Japan, \$92.50 per 5kg bag Contact Scott Allen or Tim Peterson

**FOR SALE:** I have a variety of Yamadori for sale. Ponderosa Pines, Englemen Spruce and Douglas Fir. I also have some 2-4 year Trident's, a couple of Japanese, Maples, a Garden Spruce, some 3-5 year Japanese Black Pine, and a couple Shimpaku juniper. Call if you're interested in seeing what I have. Anything that doesn't sell before the fall show will be sold there. Scott Allen 515-480-4437

**WANTED:** (1) Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata* a/k/a Autumn Berry); (2) Box Elder (*Acer negundo*); (3) any variety of native Hawthorn; and (4) any variety of Oak. Susan Daufeldt, [scdaufeldt@icloud.com](mailto:scdaufeldt@icloud.com), [sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com](mailto:sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com), (319) 430-3822

**FOR SALE:** I do have trees for sale. If you want to have a look, give me a call. I'd love to have you visit. Susan Daufeldt, 1896 P Ave, Conroy, IA 52220, [scdaufeldt@icloud.com](mailto:scdaufeldt@icloud.com), [sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com](mailto:sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com), (319) 430-3822.

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