

Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.org

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



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From the Editor

It's another VERY busy month for Bonsai. If you had trees outside for the winter, you may still be repotting. Early breaking trees that were wintered inside may be ready for first pruning. The long, cold, wet and windy spring means that collecting season has been shortened. So, again, most of us don't

have much time to read. If that's you, make sure you keep this newsletter handy for a time when you DO have time to read. This month we have a portion of an article by Cheryl Sykora, reprinted from the American Bonsai Society website, about a very important issue: What happens to our trees when we can't do Bonsai anymore. Following that article, we've also included a copy of the Heritage Program that the Bonsai Society of Portland is attempting to implement. And here's the question: Would it be a good thing for us, here in Iowa, to consider implementing a program of this sort?

Please consider writing an article for the Newsletter.

Remember that this is your club! If you have ideas, thoughts or comments, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

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Inside This Issue

From the Editor	1
From the IBA President	1-2
Calendar of Events	2-3
Novice Study Group	3
The Issue of Legacy in Bonsai	4-6
BSOP Heritage Program	7-9
Timely Tips	10
Member Activities	11-14
Bonsai Inspiration	15
Bonsai Classifieds	16

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From the IBA President

Dear IBA members and friends,

I think Spring has finally sprung and hopefully we're all done doing the bonsai dance of taking our trees in and out due to lows below freezing.

Ron and I just returned from our first collecting trip to South Dakota, so watch for an article about that. As always, it was an adventure to say the least.

The IBA's first workshop of the year was a huge success. Jennifer Price did a wonderful job and all participants left with a great tree and a wealth of knowledge.

Our Spring Show at the Greater Des Moines Botanical (GDMBG) on April 23-24 was a huge success with just over 1800 people wandering through. Thanks to everyone that showed trees and helped with the setup and tear down of the show. We can't do it without you. The bizarre table was a hit and members were able to sell a lot of bonsai-related stuff.

The IBA BOD has two more workshops coming in 2022.

Friday June 17th with Todd Schlafer at my place. 9-5 \$100 – 1 Slot available (Note...Todd is working hard to build out his garden/nursery in Denver and this may be the last workshop he does in IA)

Friday August 12th with Julian Tsai at my place. 9-5 \$100 – Slots available

The IBA will provide lunch for all participants in the above workshops.

There is also a silent observer options at \$20 per individual, but lunch isn't provided for silent observers.

If you want to register for any of the above contact me and I'll get you registered.

Its time to start thinking about Iowa State Fair entrees. Deadline to register is July 1st.

We still have a few gallon bags of pre mixed soil to sell at \$10 a bag and there are still a few bags of medium akadama at \$47 a bag for club members and \$55 a bag for non-club members. Not sure how long we'll have it so I recommend getting some while we have it.

We sold a few T-Shirts at the Spring Show but we still have a few of each T-Shirt. New shirts are \$25, the second-generation shirts are \$20- and first-generation shirts are \$15. All proceeds will help grow bonsai right here in Central Iowa.

Hope to see you all soon!

Scott Allen
IBA President



Scott Allen Collecting in South Dakota, April 2022

Calendar of Events

Note: IBA Activities are also on the IBA website. Click on the "Calendar" Link.

May 12, 2022, 7:00 pm

EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.

May 14-15, 2022 (Sat/Sun)

Midwest Bonsai Society May Exhibit, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake-Cook Rd., Glenco, IL.

May 19, 2022, 7pm (Thursday)

EIBA Club Meeting: Repotting Workshop. Pierson's Flower Shop & Greenhouse, 1800 Ellis Blvd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. For more information, contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594.

May 21, 2022, 9 am to 1pm (Saturday)

IBA Meeting and Open Study Group & Program at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, (Check with the front desk for location within the Garden). Program: Identification of Insects and Disease.

May 26-29, 2022 (Thurs-Sun)

ABS Learning Seminars and Brussels Rendezvous, Olive Branch, MS. Forms and details available on the ABS website at: <https://www.absbonsai.org/abs-learning-seminars>

June 4, 2022

EIBA Newbo Exhibition. Contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594 for more Information.

June 4, 2022

Novice Work-study Group. Contact Susan Daufeldt (319) 430-3822 for more information.

June 11, 2022 (Saturday) 9 am to 5pm

Jennifer Price work-study group at Susan Daufeldt's home. This work-study group is currently full. This is a privately sponsored activity.

June 17, 2022, 9am to 5pm (Friday)

Workshop with Todd Schlafer at Scott Allen's home in Des Moines. For more information, see the IBA President's report. Contact Scott Allen to register.

June 23-26, 2022 (Thurs-Sun)

Mid America Bonsai Alliance Convention, Four Points Milwaukee North Shore, 8900 N. Kildeer Court, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

July 1, 2022

Deadline for Iowa State Fair entries.

July 16, 2022

EIBA Newbo Exhibition. Contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594 for more information.

August 12, 2022

IBA workshop with Julian Tsai. For more information, see the IBA President's report. Contact Scott Allen to register.

August 14, 2022

Iowa State Fair Show.

August 20, 2022

EIBA Newbo Exhibition. Contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594 for more information.

August 19-21, 2022 (Thurs-Sun)

Midwest Bonsai Society August Exhibition, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake-Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL.

The Issue of Legacy in Bonsai

Cheryl Sykora

Abridged and edited by Susan Daufeldt

Trees maintained as bonsai, unlike their owners, are forever young. Trees require attention even if the owner is in a condition where he/she cannot provide the attention. Bonsai are living things, which have needs and are constantly changing. This is a real problem when the owner can no longer provide basic tree care and others are determining what to do with the collection. How many times have you seen neglected trees and been told the owner was too ill to care for them?

“Old” bonsai exist in Japan but do they exist in the United States? One can make the argument that the widespread practice of bonsai is fairly new in the United States - around 50 - 60 years old, and the need for a legacy system has not yet been viewed as important. Addressing bonsai care in the event of illness, nursing home care, and death is not going to be an immediate priority when the event actually happens and may be an afterthought. Care of the bonsai may fall to a family member or friend who admires them in the backyard but has no experience in watering or caring for bonsai. Too often trees get under-watered or over-watered and maintenance gets neglected until the trees are too far gone to save. How is bonsai legacy being addressed in your bonsai community?

Research for this article uncovered strong feelings on this subject but few formal programs. The exception was the Bonsai Society of Portland where a written program called the Heritage Program exists with the goal as follows: “The Heritage Program is formed under the auspices of the Bonsai Society of Portland to provide care for members’ bonsai collections in the event of an emergency, sickness, age deterioration, or death.

The program outlines responsibilities and is free to members with the exception of direct fees incurred. For example, when the sale of trees for the member results in facility rental and or credit card fees.

The Portland Heritage Program is simple but effectively deals with the legacy issues. Lee Cheatle provided the following information on Portland’s plan: “The original plan was conceptualized by one of our past presidents, Bob Laws. The plan originally called for individual members to sign up or opt out. Unfortunately, there were received very few sign-ups. We then made some changes to the plan and it is now a benefit to all members of the club. Besides the unfortunate reason of death, we have also had calls from people who just don’t want to pursue bonsai any longer for numerous reasons, such as illness, getting older, relocating, lack of interest and many other reasons.”

He goes on to say with confidence that Portland has not had one complaint from members or non-members about how their treasures were handled by the Portland Club. Much of it can be attributed to the honesty of the members who handle the items that are donated in full or sold through their program.

He feels strongly that we need to understand that the process of leaving bonsai behind is not easy. Bonsai is like having a pet or even children. One gets very attached. It is important that those who are implementing the program show respect and courtesy throughout the process. The bonsai club is also a social outlet for members and there may be a feeling that they will lose this contact if they are no longer caring for trees.

At the suggestion of Scott Chadd, an ABS Director, I inquired if there was any kind of formal program that he was aware of in California. I also reached out to Bob Hilvers, curator of Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) Clark Bonsai Collection in Shinzen Gardens. California has many bonsai clubs and several public collections. Bonsai accession, as Bob Hilvers calls it, is being discussed by the GSBF board. GSBF has three thriving collections, located in the north, south, and the middle of the state. Each of these collections offers older bonsai members and their families a destination for high quality, unique, rare, and irreplaceable bonsai

that they are no longer able to care for. This option is limited to only a few highly refined trees that are either very unique or owned by well-known bonsai artists. Collections accept bonsai from others, but these are generally sold, as collection space is limited. Many states have public collections at arboretums or gardens that might welcome donations for their displays or to sell for maintenance funds. I have donated several good pots that were too large for me to our local collection.

Other venues to be considered include club sales, donation to a convention or a collection to be sold with, the family receiving a portion of the proceeds. Harry Hirao's remaining trees and pots were sold at a recent GSBF convention. Bob furthers says that the bonsai and the grower is a dyad of love that presents emotional and ethical issues when the partnership is dissolved through age, illness, or some other misfortune.

The disposition of bonsai that belong to very ill or recently deceased bonsai artists is problematic. The family members can have an unrealistic assessment of value causing discord in the family and distrust of more knowledgeable non-family bonsai friends. Trees are living things growing and changing as the interested parties determine a course of action. The collection can be in a serious state of decline prior to decisions being made. "Bonsai vultures" can also sweep in to cherry pick the best of the collection prior to decisions being made. There are other factors to consider, particularly with regard to someone who has practiced bonsai for a number of years and has a sizeable collection of antique/vintage pots. The antique/vintage pot market has grown in the last few years. Knowledgeable people may concentrate on snapping up the pots, rather than the trees, if the collection is already in a state of decline from lack of maintenance.

So what to do? Advanced directives have been developed by both the Bonsai Society of Portland and the Fresno Bonsai Society, but most people don't want to write a "bonsai will." What can be done instead at a Club level to help members in need?

Downsizing

Many bonsai growers start selling their larger bonsai and multi-tree plantings they find too difficult to handle and concentrate on smaller chuhin and shohin sized trees and fewer, more favorite trees. As the grower ages the collection shrinks to a more manageable level. There is some planning required here, but most club venues offer periodic auctions where trees can be sold with a percentage going to the club. This affords a slow release of trees with some income to the owner. People who are new to bonsai and have not had the opportunity to develop more refined bonsai themselves could have access to trees that may be of show quality when purchased or have good "bones" with the opportunity to develop the tree further. Typically this approach is a win-win for those involved.

Get a Relative/Friend/Neighbor interested in Bonsai

As an alternative to downsizing, an aging bonsai grower could solicit the assistance of relatives and others interested in bonsai but without the facilities to grow their own. These people serve as an apprentice or paid helper to act as watering back up and other activities chosen by the grower.

A Formal Directive

Both the Bonsai Society of Portland and the Fresno Bonsai Society developed templates for developing a formal directive for a grower to utilize in planning for disposition of their collection in the event of illness, incapacitation, and death. Oral directives may not be relayed to the right people, may change with time and

changes in the collection, may no longer be a solution because of death or incapacitation of your designated caregivers, etc. A simple written directive will be effective for temporary care while the grower is still alive but is not guaranteed to be legally binding in the event of death. Incorporating the directive into an existing will is an option. Adding a Codicil (modification) to an existing will to address bonsai is an option.

Some items to address in your Directive/Codicil are:

- Designated person to take custody of or arrange for care of your trees when incapacitated either temporarily or permanently in the case of your death. This person needs to agree to this assignment. prior to being named.
- In the event of a collection where trees are worth substantial money, an appraiser needs to be retained to determine value of each tree at time of disposition planning. Appraisers are generally professional bonsai artists with demonstrated knowledge in determining bonsai value.
- For collections of lesser value, possibly a person designated to arrange an auction of your trees either through a local club or some other pre-arranged venue.
- Direct sale or donation of the more refined trees to an existing public collection. Auction of trees of lesser value.
- A person may elect to donate his/her trees to the local club to be dispersed to members in some manner.

Contributors

I would like to thank Lee Cheadle for sharing the Bonsai Society of Portland written directive information, Scott Chadd for identifying possible sources, Bob Hilvers for sharing his views on legacy issues in California and suggesting that Fresno bonsai society had written directive information, the Fresno bonsai society website legacy information, and Tim Weckman, Berea, KY for suggesting exploration of the topic in the ABS journal.

Future Actions

Many bonsai clubs have experience in legacy issues. It is beneficial for all to share what has worked and what could be done better into the future. The ABS journal is always looking for contributions and your experience can be beneficial to others. Developing a registry for bonsai appraisers and a means for selling refined bonsai on a national level may be a first step.

BSOP Heritage Program GUIDELINES, ORGANIZATION AND POLICIES

The Goal:

The Heritage Program is formed under the auspices of the Bonsai Society of Portland (BSOP) to provide care for members' bonsai collections in the event of an emergency, sickness, age deterioration, or death. On occasion, this service is also provided for non-members for a fee.

How It Works:

1. A member in need (or their designated representative) contacts the Heritage Program committee via the BSOP Board.
2. The member (or representative will be visited by the Heritage Program and a plan will be composed. The member will always be in complete control.
3. Once an agreement is reached, the Heritage Program will carry out the plan.

Requirements for Participation:

1. Must be a member of BSOP in good standing. Decide what is to be fully donated and/or what is to be sold at the rate of 80% of sales proceeds to the member and 20% to BSOP.
2. If not a member, decide what is to be fully donated and/or what is to be sold at the rate of 60% of sales proceeds to the member and 40% to BSOP.

BSOP Obligation:

The BSOP agrees to provide, through the Heritage Program, the services as outlined in this document. The Heritage Program assumes the responsibility for the care of the member's trees, but neither the BSOP nor the Heritage Program assumes any liability in the performance of these services.

Member Obligation:

The member agrees to assist the Heritage Program in caring for the trees of members in need to the best of their ability.

The Plan: Three general alternatives:

1. Short-term temporary care: the Heritage Program will arrange for care at the member's home.
2. Tree care at the owner's home by the Heritage Program; disposition by owner or family.
 - A. The Heritage Program will arrange for care at the owner's home.
 - B. All donations or sales will be the responsibility of the owner.
 - C. The Heritage Program will assist owner in any way possible as needed, including announcement in BSOP newsletter, if requested.
3. Relocation, care and sale of trees by the Heritage Program.
 - A. The Heritage Program will identify, number, and record the collection.
 - B. The Heritage Program will be in charge of getting the trees picked up and cared for until sold.
 - C. The Heritage Program will organize an auction at a regular BSOP meeting or BSOP function.
 - D. A sales report will be provided to the owner and proceeds distributed to the owner; or, if material is donated, to the organization receiving the donation.

Cost:

All sale proceeds for materials processed through the Heritage program will be split 50% to the owner and 50% to BSOP. This applies to members and non-members alike.

Organization:

1. Chairperson
 - A. Overall responsibility
 - B. Act as contact person
 - C. When contacted, meet with person in need
 - D. Reach agreement as to what is to be done
 - E. Refer to Emergency Care Committee and/or Records Committee
 - F. Assist Records person in setting up inventory and assuring accurate records are kept.
 - G. Arrange pickup and care of trees
 - H. Refer to Auction Committee
 - I. At the end of each sale verify the accuracy of sold price to item number.
2. Emergency Care Committee
 - A. Responsible for getting volunteers to give emergency care at the member's home.
 - B. Comprised of the number of people appointed by the Chairperson.
3. Records Committee
 - A. Responsible for naming, numbering, and recording the collection.
 - B. Responsible for recording and reporting disposition of each item in the collection.
 - C. Comprised of the number of people appointed by the Chairperson.
4. Auction Committee
 - A. Responsible for organizing an auction at a regular BSOP meeting or BSOP function.
 - B. Keep accurate record of each item sold and report sales to Records Committee.
 - C. Comprised of the number of people appointed by the Chairperson.
5. Caregivers: When assigned, Heritage Program caregivers assume responsibility, but not liability, for the trees. They will be given a list of trees and will be responsible for an accounting of all trees or bonsai related materials involved.
6. Addendum regarding record keeping: at times the size of a donation is such that it becomes necessary to group items, i.e., 100 magazines or books or pots. These should be reviewed to see if there are any high value items to be singled out and recorded individually. The remaining should be grouped; for example, 100 assorted magazines, 35 assorted books, 62 assorted pots.

Policies:

1. Urgency is a key issue. Contacts must be followed up as soon as possible and plans carried out with diligence.
2. Collections are to be disposed of as rapidly as possible.
3. The usual method of disposal would be to have a silent auction at the earliest possible regular BSOP meeting.
4. The owner, member, or representative does not lose control and will be able to make changes up to the time of disposition. Any changes are to be reported to the Heritage Records Committee.
5. Since the owner has control, if he/she should offer to make a gift to the caregiver, it is permissible to accept; however, this should not be encouraged. Any gifts are to be reported by the recipient to the Heritage Program Records Committee for accounting purposes.
6. It is the goal of the Heritage Program to keep the trees alive and healthy, not to groom or style them.
7. Accurate records will be kept of all trees and bonsai related items with each identified and numbered at first contact. At each level of Care and Disposition, it is imperative to relay accurate information to the Records Committee so that an accounting can be provided to the owner if needed.

Timely Tips - April

Cat Nelson

May is another busy month in the world of bonsai. Deciduous trees and conifers should be out of winter storage and tropicals will be coming out soon. April has been cool and wet this year, beneficial if you've been doing a lot of repotting, but not so great when it comes to fertilizer regimes. It's time to start feeding, heavily for trees that are in development and lightly for trees in refinement stages. If you're using liquid fertilizers, try to time the applications for when there's a break in the rain; otherwise I've put some granular feed down - if you can't stop the rain might as well use it.

As I write this, there are some 38F degree days forecast, so the tropicals will be staying in for another week or two. Once night time lows stay above 50F, they can be moved outside. Don't stress over a night that dips into the 40Fs, but avoid or bring in tropicals if the temps go below that. Mother's Day weekend is the traditional "no more chances of freezing" date so things get worry-free (for low temps) after that.

It's not too late to repot deciduous trees or collect in May, just remember that it requires additional attention to the aftercare and you would take off fewer roots if repotting. It's too late to repot pines as they're touchier with root recovery. Buds are starting to elongate on everything. Don't be afraid to remove extra buds before they grow if there are multiples or in bad locations. You want the tree's energy to go towards the branches you want and not be wasted on branches you would remove later.

It's also time to start thinking about pinching. Maples can be pinched as soon as you can get fingers around the second pair of new leaves. With other deciduous trees, wait until the new sprouts have gotten 5 to 6 leaves before pruning back to 2. For flowering species, it's time to remove every part of the spent flower down to the stem unless fruit is desired for later display. Even then, chose a small number of places you'll let fruit develop and don't let the rest mature, as fruit takes nutrients away from the tree. Remember that the trees will prioritize the flowers over other growth, diverting energy away from leaf and root development. For that reason, only allow trees that are healthy and vigorous to flower.

Junipers can be pruned back to scale junctions - never removing all the foliage from a branch. Pines - this is where things get complicated. Five needle pines: Pinch elongating candles off at about 1/2 to 1/3 - depending on the size of the candle. Only allow two candles to extend at the end of each branch, if you have more than two buds (3 is typical) you'll want to remove the largest one. Your aim is to determine how much canopy extension that you want that year. Two and Three needle pines (generally the 'two-flush' pines): Pinch back candles for balancing energy over the tree in preparation for later shoot removal.

It's time to start the "wire watch". Vigorous trees, or branches higher in the canopy, will start to swell with the surge of spring growth. Slight imprints of wire are often accepted, as they can sometimes help developing trees hold their shapes faster, but don't allow deep imprints or branches swelling around wire. Too deep an imprint can weaken a branch and in some species block cambium flow (think junipers with their more direct branch - root connections). On smooth barked species wire marks can become a permanent flaw.

Members Activities

Pictures From the Jennifer Price Workshop on April 1



Jennifer Price works with Bob West.



Michael Lee works on a tree.



Brian Thacker watches as Jennifer Price works on his tree.



Dan Morton and Jennifer Price discuss an Azalea.



Jennifer Price discusses a ficus with David Richmond.



Ron and Jennifer Price discuss Ron's Spruce. Jared Wall watches in the background.

Members Activities

Pictures From the Jennifer Price Workshop on April 2



Jennifer Price explains Black Pine work to Bruce Pendland.



Noah Butler works on a tree.



Jennifer Price discusses design with Jared Wall.



Bruce and Noah at work.

Harvey Ireland and Susan Daufeldt also participated in the workshop.

Other Activities

Cat Nelson went to Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, held April 8-10, 2022. Look for an article about that trip in next month's Newsletter.

Pictures From the IBA Spring Show



David Lowman works on a Zelkova.



Jared Wall, Ron Heinen and Chris Martin man the sale table.



Cat Nelson worked on this large collected juniper throughout the weekend and fielded many questions from the public.



Dave Lowman's Albyn's Prostrate Scotch Pine. Accent Plant: Ajuga 'Chocolate Chip.'



Ron Heinen's Japanese Maple.



Cat Nelson's Dragon Viewing Stone.



Azalea (exhibitor unknown).



Susan Daufeldt's woodland wildflower kusamono.



Dan Morton's Elm planted in a Manzanita root.



Scot Allen's Hornbeam in a Horst Heinzlreiter pot



Dave Richmond's collected Elm.



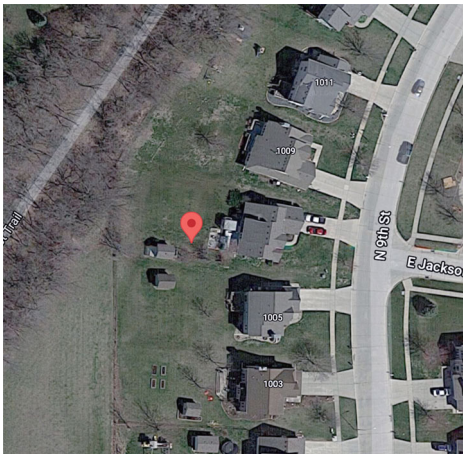
Bob West's collected Honeysuckle.

Bonsai Inspiration

David Richmond

This photographic image was captured on the morning of April 30, at 7:30 AM Central Standard Time. One day before May 1, a day traditionally known as May Day.

Imagine this scene as a Penjing Landscape.



You can find this imaginary landscape here, $41^{\circ}22'11.3''\text{N}$ - $93^{\circ}32'53.0''\text{W}$ (See location indicated on the satellite photograph).

The first day in May has been and is still celebrated around the world. This day holds many reasons for celebration. Some are meant to honor advances for all workers and some are to celebrate spring and new beginnings. Festivals on this day have been held for thousands of years.

The Greeks introduced the Romans to the fertility Goddess Floralia. The name Floralia is derived from, "Flora," an ancient word for flower. In the western world, great festivals were dedicated to this goddess. When the Romans invaded Briton, their Floralia festival was intertwined with the Celtic holiday of Beltane, also held on May first.

The word "Beltane" is derived from a Celtic word for a fertility Goddess, "Bel," meaning 'the bright one' and the Celtic word 'teine' meaning fire. Together this word means, "Bright Fire" or "Godly Fire." Traditionally during this May festival, the fertility ritual of dancing around a May Pole was performed and in the evening bonfires were lit.

You can learn more about May Day at this URL, (See URL Below)

<https://www.almanac.com/content/what-may-day>

When I was a young adolescent we used to make May baskets and would take them to the neighbors' houses where our best friends lived. This was a tradition based on a watered down version of the original May Day fertility celebrations. As a culture, we have moved away from this customary practice. We have become very isolated from our neighbors. In fact, it is possible that we have become isolated to a point of agoraphobic behavior.

If we were to revisit the May basket tradition, it might help us through these uncomfortable times of modern isolation. May is a good month to practice the art of Bonsai. Practice Bonsai and share it with others. May peace be with you and yours.

Bonsai Classifieds

FOR SALE: IBA T-Shirts – \$25.00 each. Unisex sizes m l xl xxl xxxl. We still have some of the new T-Shirts as well as some of the old ones. New shirts are \$25, the second generation shirts are \$20 and first generation shirts are \$15. All proceeds will help grow bonsai right here in Central Iowa.



DaSu Studio, lowman@netins.net

Has LOTS of Tropicals, new dwarf conifers and 128 new companion plants - many varieties at good prices.

FOR SALE: Pumice 50lb bag \$30 , 5 gallon bucket \$15 Need to bring buckets. Medium Akadama \$47 a bag for IBA Members and \$55 a bag for non members. Bio Gold fertilizer from Japan, \$92.50 per 5kg bag. Contact Scott Allen or Tim Peterson.
Lava - Contact DaSu.

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