

# Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

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

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



September 2022

Volume 95, Issue 8



## From the Editor

FIRST AND FOREMOST –  
**A HUGE THANK YOU to IBA President Scott Allen** for his tireless (and utterly exhausting) exertions before, after and throughout the weekend of the Iowa State Bonsai Fair. Scott's weekend included hosting Julian Tsai (And yours truly), a workshop, demos at the Des Moines Botanical Garden, Show set up, tear-down AND exhibiting his trees.

Wow. Thank you SO Much, Scott for all that hard work. He was not, thank goodness, completely alone – **A BIG THANK YOU to IBA Board Member Dave Richmond** for his organizational efforts. And thanks to everyone who was able and did help with Fair set up and tear down. **A special thanks, also, to EIBA Member Tony Rose**, who prepared the exhibit labels and even, at my request, did special labels designating the origin of collected trees. It takes a community to support the Art and provide education and opportunity. Thank you all for being a part of that!

SECOND – **Congratulations to Cat Nelson** for her first issue of the ABS Journal. Editing the Journal is no small task. Great first issue, Cat. If you aren't a member of our national organization, the American Bonsai Society, please give it serious consideration. You will not be sorry! Membership carries with it many benefits. Check it out at <https://www.absbonsai.org>

BECAUSE so much went on in the month of August, we actually have To Much Content!!! WHAT a GOOD problem to have! We have articles on the Julian Tsai workshop, State Fair and the Chicago Show. Accordingly, Club and Member Activities is a bit abbreviated this month. More on the Julian Tsai Demos at the Garden will be featured in an upcoming issue. If you're new, be sure and have a look at Timely Tips!

**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.

*Susan Daufeldt*  
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## From the IBA President

Dear IBA members and friends,

I hope all is well and you're enjoying the temps, as I am. This fall-like weather has me thinking about wintering trees. I'm hoping we have a few months of fall, as that is my favorite season. Our August meeting was well attended and we got a few more new members. The new members were from a Bonsai for beginners class that Tim and I taught at Ted Lare Garden Center & Nursery in July. If interested in attending one of these classes, please reach out to Ted Lare. I think there may still be space in our September 10, 2022 Class. Contact Ted Lare directly at 515-981-1075.



Julian Tsai time in Iowa went well. Julian has a wealth of knowledge and, at just 26, he's sure to become one of the top Bonsai practitioners in the US in the years to come. It's crazy to watch these professionals grow into their own as they travel the world doing what they love. Todd Schlafer, for instance. Back in 2016 or 2017, the IBA was the first club to hire Todd for a workshop. Within 5 years, Todd built a client base in Iowa that could keep him working for weeks on end. This of course was driven by Todd's hard work and unmatched talent in the art of Bonsai. Julian's path will surely be similar to Todd's, as he already has a few individuals, as well as the Nebraska club, bidding for time the next time he makes the trek to Iowa.

The Iowa State Fair show was better than ever. Dave Richmond did another great job is organizing the show and it showed. Thanks Dave.

The next IBA meeting will be Saturday, September 17th, from 9-1 at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Bring a tree/trees to work on or just come to 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 the meeting location.

Our fall show is just around the corner. I hope you're all planning to show some trees and bring some bonsai-related stuff to sell at the bizarre table. This is our biggest show of the year and a great opportunity to see some great Bonsai trees. There will also be a myriad of bonsai related wares. Pots, pre bonsai, yamadori, and lots more. Dasu Bonsai will also be there selling all things bonsai so mark your calendars for October 1-2 and join us at Reiman Gardens in Ames.

Hope to see you all soon!

*Scott Allen*  
*IBA President*

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## EIBA Vice President's Report

The Eastern Iowa Bonsai Association held its last exhibition on Saturday August 20th, 2022 at NewBo City Market in Cedar Rapids, IA. We had a good turn out, with five members displaying their trees, and a total number of twenty-nine different trees on display. The day was a cloudy one, with sprinkles every so often, but the crowd was still very good. We had people working on trees, which always draws questions from

the public. We are looking forward to next year, as is the director of NewBo. They told us to come back as many times as we would like. This is a great venue for our events.

The EIBA held its August board meeting as scheduled. Topics included trying to finalize a soil mix for the members. Discussion centered around whether to make a three part or a four part mix. The final decision should be made next month. The members also decided the topics for the remaining club meetings for this year. September 15th: The topic will be tropical bonsai; October 20th: The topic will be getting your trees ready for winter, how to store your trees, and care during this time of year. Both meetings will be held at Pierson's Greenhouse. November 17th, 2022, will be our Holiday Party at Leonardo's in Cedar Rapids. More information will be forthcoming as meeting times draw near.

There was no EIBA club meeting in August due to all the community activities going on.

The September Board meeting will be on September 8th at 7:00 and will be virtual.

*Bill Englert*  
*EIBA Vice President*  
[bandrenglert@mchsi.com](mailto:bandrenglert@mchsi.com)

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## Calendar of Events

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

**September 8, 2022, 7:00 pm**

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

**September 15, 2022, 7:00 pm (Thursday)**

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

**September 17, 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: Show preparation, formal display and brief round table discussion.**

**September 30, 2022 (Friday)**

**Set up IBA Reiman Garden Show.**

**October 1 & 2, 2022 (Sat/Sun)**

**IBA Reiman Garden Show, Ames, IA.**

**October 20, 2022, 7pm (Thursday)**

**EIBA Club Meeting: Getting Your Trees Ready for Winter, How to Store Your Trees and Winter Care. Pierson's Flower Shop & Greenhouse, 1800 Ellis Blvd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. For more information, contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594.**

**October 22, 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: Wiring, Advanced Wiring Techniques and Round Table Discussion.**

**November 17, 2022, 6 pm (Thursday evening)**

**EIBA Holiday Party at Leonardo's in Cedar Rapids.**

**November 19, 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: Wintering (Roundtable Discussion); Auction followed by Lunch at Trellis (Members responsible for their own lunch).**



The 2023 American Bonsai Society learning seminars, Mile High Bonsai, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society will be held at the York Street location of the Denver Botanic Gardens June 8-11, 2023. This beautiful facility includes a permanent bonsai collection curated by Larry Jackel, and a wonderful Japanese garden. Check out the facility here:

<https://www.botanicgardens.org>

Just FYI, the average temperatures in June in Denver are 53 degrees for the low and 83 for the high. While there is a 21% chance of rainfall, the average rain is 0.1".





## IOWA STATE FAIR 2022

The Iowa State Fair Bonsai Show was held on August 14, 2022. Again, WHAT A GREAT TIME! The Show is an important activity for the club because it exposes the public, including young people, to the Art. Most are people who would otherwise never know that this beautiful art is being practiced in America.

We had good participation from the IBA Members and EIBA founder Jeff Flansburg brought trees to show. It was great to see Jeff.

We were privileged to have Julian Tsai of Southern California judge the Show. Cat Nelson's *Portulacaria* won Best in Show and received the First Branch Bonsai Award of Excellence. Zoe Naddy's Chinese Elm received a first place ribbon and received the Helen Fagan award. Helen Fagan was a founding member of the Iowa Bonsai Association and is known for her concerted efforts to rescue and preserve bonsai that belonged to Japanese Americans who were sent to internment camps during World War II. Scott Allen's *Shimpaku Juniper* received a first place ribbon and the George Rupe Award. George Rupe was a founding



*Cat Nelson's Portulacaria won Best in Show at the Iowa State Bonsai Show, August 14, 2022, and was awarded the First Branch Bonsai Award of Excellence.*

member of the Iowa Bonsai Association. The First Branch Bonsai Award of Excellence is sponsored by Todd Schlafer's First Branch Bonsai and carries with it a cash prize of \$100.00.



*Fair visitors view Cat Nelson's Best in Show winner.*



The Helen Fagan Award is sponsored by Ted Lare Design and Build Garden Center, Des Moines, Iowa, and carries with it a cash prize of \$75.00. The George Rupe Award is sponsored by the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden and carries with it a cash prize of \$50.00.



Scott Allen's Shimpaku Juniper received the George Rupe Award at the Iowa State Fair Bonsai Show, August 14, 2022.



Zoe Nady's Chinese Elm received the Helen Fagan Award at the Iowa State Fair Bonsai Show, August 14, 2022.



Children examine Zoe Nady's root-over-rock dandelion accent.



Cat Nelson brought this lovely little accent – a bronze duck in a pool of water. I was grateful, however, that it was a duck! Last year, Cat brought the pool and in it there was water with DuckWEED. It was absolutely charming and I loved it. But it was like Holy Water. There wasn't a child that passed by who didn't want to stick their fingers in the water and push the duckweed around!



Of Course, there's more than Bonsai at the Iowa State Fair. Those of us who were there for the day were able to enjoy many events and activities. And the Food. One of my personal favorites is the Weed Identification Contest. Yes. That's right: The Weed Identification Contest. (Not sure that's the official name). This event can be viewed across the hall from the Bonsai Show. Someday I hope to know my weeds well enough to participate!



Photo Right:  
A Walk Through  
the Barns.



Photo Left: The Weed Identification Contest – Now we all have the Common and Botanical Name for a Bonsai Staple.

## Fair Awards

### OPEN DIVISION

#### BEST IN SHOW

Cat Nelson                      Portulacaria (First Branch Bonsai Award of Excellence)

Blue Ribbons (first place) went to the following exhibitors:

Scott Allen	Shimpaku Juniper (George Rupe Award); Bristlecone Pine; Chinese Elm
Daufeldts	Trident Maple
Zoe Nady	Chinese Elm (Hellen Fagen Award); Double Flowering Pomegranate

Red Ribbons (second place) went to the following exhibitors:

Scott Allen	Colorado Blue Spruce
Daufeldts	Colorado Blue Spruce; Dawn Redwood.
Jeff Flansburg	Korean Hornbeam; Ponderosa Pine

Max Miller	Vitex; Oriental Sweetgum; Weeping Fig
Shirley Miller	Crabapple
Zoe Nady	Japanese Maple, Ponderosa Pine, Narrow Leaf Ficus

White Ribbons (third place) went to the following exhibitors:

Daufeldts	Snowbell; Mulberry
Dave Richmond	Weeping Ficus, Shimpaku Juniper
Cat Nelson	Narrow Leaf Ficus

### NOVICE DIVISION

Jeff Hagan	First: Japanese White Pine (Jeff is grateful to John Denny for this tree!)
Jeff Hagan	Third: Dwarf South African Fig (Ficus Burt-davyi)

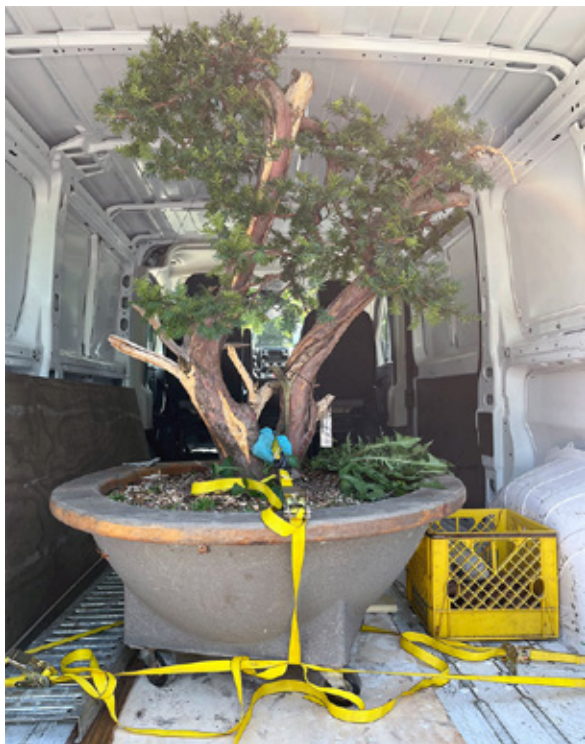
## Julian Tsai Workshop

*Susan Daufeldt*

On August 12, 2022, a number of us had the privilege of working with Julian Tsai. The workshop was held at Scott's place – Thank you, Scott and Jen, for having us! The participants were IBA Members Ron Heinen, Dan Morton, Jared Wall and Susan Daufeldt; EIBA Member John Hicks; and Victor Neece from Kansas City. It was a little hard choosing trees to work with at this time of year because we're moving into fall. If trees begin to grow in response to the work, the new growth may not have time to harden off before freezing weather sets in. Because of this, I brought Elm and Grey Dogwood, as I know these trees will not be bothered by early frosts, even after heavy work.

Julian has a clear vision for the progression that the work must take in order to bring the tree, over time, to its best potential. He is primarily concerned with the future of the tree and will not seek to make the tree into "instant bonsai" at the expense of the tree's long-term potential. Having spent time in Japan studying bonsai, he has knowledge of many techniques and the ability to explain and demonstrate well. We enjoyed hearing stories about his time in Japan.

Dan Morton brought a GIANT Yew to work on. He had to rent a cargo van to get it to and from the workshop. One of the many interesting aspects of the workshop was watching and listening to Julian talk about making shari on the participant's Yews and Junipers, including how to find the live vein or tell where the dead wood is running beneath the bark.



*Dan Morton's Yew in the back of the cargo van after a successful styling.*



*Julian Tsai wires a Yew at the workshop. You can see where fresh shari has been created.*





*Julian draws the lines of a shari on Ron Heinen's Juniper prior to carving.*



*Jared Wall listens while Julian discusses Jared's Korean Hornbeam pair.*



*One of Susan Daufeldt's Slippery Elms after the work.*



*Victor Neece of Kansas City works on a Juniper.*



*John Hicks and Julian discuss John's Juniper.*

## 44th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition

*Susan Daufeldt*

On August 18, 2022, Bonsai Professionals and enthusiasts began to arrive at the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe, Illinois, for the 44th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition. Most of us simply call it the Chicago Show. There were a lot of great trees, including an unusually large number of Mame and Shohin. Mark Fields was judging and I think it is well known that Mark likes small trees and takes them seriously.

The Show ran from August 19-21 (Friday through Sunday) and had, as always, three divisions: Novice (those who have never won a ribbon at the Chicago Show), Open, and Professional.

ABS Attendees enjoyed a variety of workshops, a great deal of bonsai shopping and the Chicago Botanic Garden's incredible collection of bonsai, which were on display in the courtyards flanking the exhibition hall.

IBA/EIBA Member Cat Nelson was an active volunteer for the Midwest club and exhibited a number of trees. Cat's Narrow Leaf Ficus received a first place ribbon and her mame *Portulacaria* received a second place ribbon. Great job, Cat.

Best in Show in the Open Division was a Colorado Blue Spruce, in the informal upright style, owned by Steve Jetzer of Comstock Park, MI. This tree also received the ABS Award of Merit.



*The Matthaei Botanic Garden's Root-over-rock Azalea – Best in Show, Professional Division*



*Steve Jetzer's Colorado Blue Spruce – Best in Show, Open Division, and ABS Award of Merit Winner*

Best in Show in the Professional Division was the Matthaei Botanic Garden's magnificent Root-over-rock Satsuki Azalea.



In the Professional Division, the three best trees are awarded silver bowls. The second and third placing trees were a very large and lovely Rocky Mountain Juniper, Jeff Schulz (Hidden Gardens, Willowbrook, IL) and a very refined and elegant Japanese White Pine, Jack Sustic (Durand, MI, Curator Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor, MI).



*Jeff Schulz's Rocky Mountain Juniper – Professional Division.*



*Jack Sustic's Japanese White Pine – Professional Division.*

Three first place ribbons were awarded in the Novice Division - Stephen Fluett Warrenville, IL (Sport Elm – Mame Display), Mandy Parrish (Portulacaria – Mame), and Robert and Amy Wright (Variegated Ficus – Forest Planting).



*Stephen Fluett's Sport Elm was one of three novice trees to be awarded a first place ribbon.*

*Photo by Cat Nelson*



Cat Nelson's First Place tree -Ficus Microcarpa  
Photo by Cat Nelson



Cat Nelson's Mame Portulacaria took a second. Cat told me that she through this tree in as filler for the show! Good job Cat! Pretty nice filler!



Portulacaria Afra – 'Elephant Bush' with an appropriate accent!

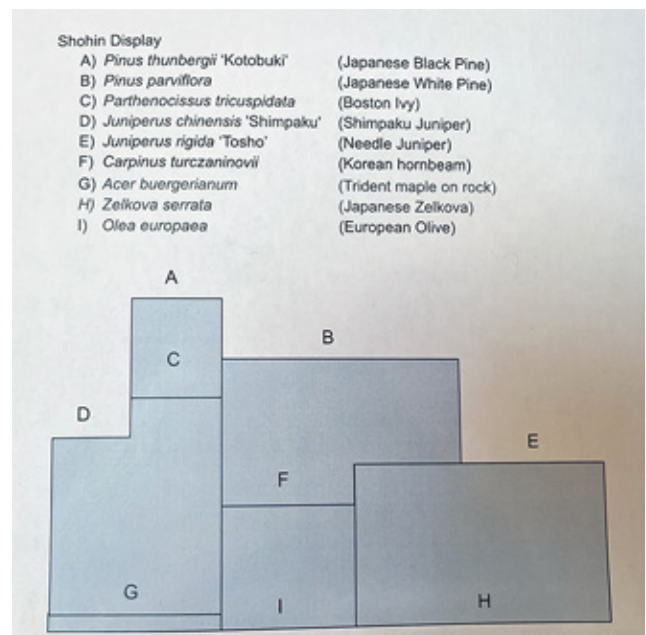
My personal favorite at the Show was also a Portulacaria. I don't do tropicals and have no personal experience with these trees. I learned that the Common Name for Portulacaria is 'Elephant Bush.' I found this exhibit charming, entertaining, educational and well done. It's my personal best in show!



Close Up: The Accent



An Impressive Shohin Display.



The Map of the Shohin Display.

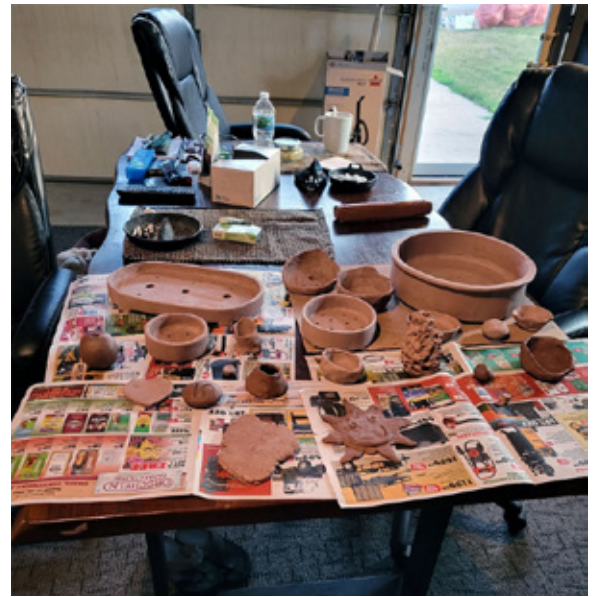
A visit to the Chicago Show is Highly recommended – it's relatively close and is a great opportunity to see a lot of great trees, obtain supplies and learn more about our Art.



## Club Events & Members Activities

New IBA Member Tim Quinn (Wellman, IA) has been busy. Tim was involved in Bonsai in the past, but had to give it up because of the exigencies of working and raising young people. He's recently retired and isn't letting the grass grow under his feet. He has purchased a number of trees and has been making pots to put them in! Welcome back, Tim!

New EIBA Member Mason McCort has also been busy. Mason is a young fellow and boy do we like to see that in the Art! Mason has been picking up trees and working to provide a suitable situation for them at his home. He recently built this bench equipped with shade cloth. Welcome to the wonderful Art of Bonsai, Mason!



### Julian Tsai Demos – August 13, 2022

On Saturday, August 13, 2022, Julian Tsai did three demonstrations at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Members brought trees and Julian chose three of them to work on that day. The members whose trees were chosen paid a \$100 styling fee to the club and provided the wire for the styling. Julian chose Ron Heinen's Shimpaku Juniper (which

became a semi-cascade), Dan Morton's Yew and Brian Thacker's Kishu Juniper (which became a raft style). Julian did a wonderful job explaining his choices and his thought process while he worked. Many IBA Members were present, including Allen and Helene Magruder. It was great to see them. Many members of the public attended as well.



### EIBA Newbo Exhibition – August 20, 2022

*Photos by Bill Englert*



*Susan Daufeldt*

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

*Send me a picture or two - even if you have already contributed. Or just a few lines about what's going on with your trees!*



## Timely Tips

*Cat Nelson*

### *What to do in September*

September is the harbinger of fall, where summer can linger but thoughts are turning towards the change of season. Fertilizer for September should be heavy on the K, the last number of the three number XX-XX-XX equation. There is a myth that circulated for a while that you wanted to avoid feeding nitrogen in the fall: This is not true. While you do not want to go heavy on the N, it is needed by plants throughout the year for more than just foliage growth.

Trees should have mature leaves and be setting buds at this time of year. They are also forming their second growth ring in their trunks and branches, so keep an eye on any wire as there is still a chance that it could scar.

It's needle pruning time for two needle pines and needle plucking time for 5 needle pines. Once this is done I will often do some wiring. If you're gentle with the roots and take off less than you would in a spring repot, you can repot conifers at this time of year.

I would advise against serious pruning on most deciduous and tropicals, as they have less time to work on sealing the wounds before winter and the callous growth is much slower. Maples that have bled heavily for you in the past can be hard pruned, though make sure to seal the wound edges or serious dying back will occur. I would save any other trimming for when trees are dormant and aren't going to respond with new growth.

Right now, it's looking like tropicals will be out for a while yet. Conventional wisdom says to bring them in when the low gets to 50F at night. I will actually keep my tropicals out into the nighttime 40's. It slows them down but that's not necessarily a bad thing if you don't have greenhouse conditions to grow them in over the winter. The biggest threat is frost and freezing temps.

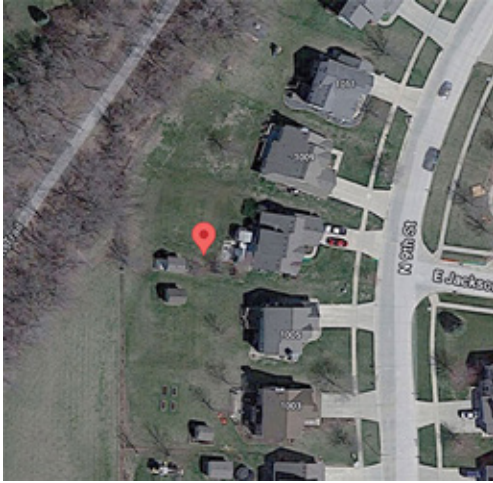
It's also the time of year to think about and prep winter storage. For me that means I have to re-do the plastic on the windows of each of my winter quarters, clean them out and make sure I have enough water trays for my tropicals. If I'm feeling really organized, I will even do some early pot selection. My pots get buried behind the trees in my winter storage, so come spring I can never reach the pots that I want to use for particular trees. My goal this year is to pair the trees and pots together in the fall so they're reachable when I want to repot.



## Bonsai Inspiration

David Richmond

This photographic image was captured on the morning of August 13th at 7:30 AM. 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).

August 13th is the first day of the Obon celebration. Obon is a traditional Japanese Buddhist festival in which people honor their departed ancestors and loved ones. During the Obon celebration, the spirits of deceased ancestors are said to visit their living relatives for a few days. This festival is a happy three day celebration of families taking the time to get together. Obon is one of the main annual occasions when Japanese extended families are reunited, so the highways, airports, and railway stations of Japan are especially busy at this time of year. People that celebrate this yearly occasion light fires and lanterns to help deceased family members find the way home.

In Awa Province, large gatherings of people participate in a traditional dance. After having consumed a great amount of sake, the crowd begins to drunkenly weave and stumble back and forth. Others pick up musical instruments and begin to play a simple, rhythmic song as the participants of the dance sing. See a translation of one of the traditional Obon songs:

... "Obon festivals under summer skies  
I will meet you there around five  
We'll dance even though we're not very good  
Because you have the chance to dance you always should"...

I will participate in the Odon celebration in my own way today. I will get together with my Bonsai trees living and dead. I will drink, dance and sing with them, but I will change the lyrics of the song:

..."Because you have the chance to work on your trees you always should"...

You can learn more about Obon at this URL (See URL Below)

<https://workinjapan.today/culture/obon-japans-summer-festival-of-the-dead/>

## 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. Contact Scott Allen



**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.

**FOR SALE:** DaSu Studio, [lowman@netins.net](mailto:lowman@netins.net)

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

**FOR SALE:**

Susan Daufeldt, [sdaufeldt@icloud.com](mailto:sdaufeldt@icloud.com), [sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com](mailto:sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com), (319) 430-3822.



*Japanese Snowbell \$275.00*



*Nanking Cherry \$50.00  
(Photo Spring 2022)*



**FOR SALE:**

Susan Daufeldt, [scdaufeldt@icloud.com](mailto:scdaufeldt@icloud.com), [sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com](mailto:sdaufeldt@daufeldtlawfirm.com), (319) 430-3822.



*Dawn Redwood \$500.00*



*Dawn Redwood, Nebari*



*Utah Juniper*



*Utah base of trunk, showing old bark.*

Collected by Andy Smith in spring of 2019 and repotted into this Sara Rayner pot in the Spring of 2021. This is a very old and lovely collected tree. It measures approximately 2' 4" tall from the bottom of the pot to the apex of the tree – a very manageable size for any practitioner. Currently, new growth along the trunk obscures good movement in the trunk and fabulous old bark. New growth has been left to allow choices for a new owner. The tree is for sale only because I am unable to work on Junipers anymore. It is for sale for the combined original cost of the pot and the tree - **correction \$350.00**.

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