



Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.org

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

From The Editor

Susan Daufeldt

It's almost February and I can feel this tension – the suspension of breath – as the beginning of our active bonsai season approaches. November seems a long time ago, but we were busy setting our trees up for a successful 2023 growing season, making thoughtful pruning and wiring decisions and necessary adjustments to winter storage. In this issue, there's a recap of the Jennifer Price workshop and little bit about the IBA November meeting. See the *IBA President's Report*, the *EIBA Report*, *Calendar of Events* and *Notice of Upcoming Events*, for a preview of what's planned for the spring of 2023. See Cat Nelson's *Timely Tips* for thoughts on what to do (or not to do) with your trees in February. There are also a few things *From the Members*. It's still winter, but there is a lot to look at that can inform our bonsai practice. I hope you enjoy *Winter Inspiration*.

Please consider joining our national bonsai organization: The American Bonsai Society. Membership is not expensive and the benefits are many. Check out the ABS website (see page 2) for details.

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Susan Daufeldt - Editor
Dave Richmond - Art Director

From The Editor

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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.

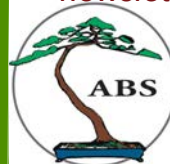
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The American Bonsai Society

Est 1967

The American Bonsai Society is dedicated to promoting interest and participation in the art of bonsai throughout North America.

Join today. Membership benefits include a quarterly printed Journal and monthly national newsletters, February through November.



<https://www.absbonsai.org>

Notice of Upcoming Events

Susan Daufeldt

Iowa Bonsai Association Spring Show & Sale

April 22, 2023

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden



**2023 ABS Learning Seminars At the Denver
Botanic Gardens
June 8-11, 2023**

Registration for the 2023 Learning Seminars opened on December 5. Make sure you register early to reserve your place in the workshops, many featuring collected material. More information and registration is available at <https://www.rmbonsai.org/copy-of-exhibition-gala>.

[Notice of Upcoming Events -Continued on Page 5]

IBA President's Report

Scott Allen

Happy New Year IBA members and friends,

I hope you all had a relaxing Holiday season and your new year is off to a good start. The IBA BOD is working to get the 2023 membership meetings scheduled, so please fill out the questioner (link sent in a separate email) and either bring it to the Feb 18th meeting or email it to us. This helps us to understand what our members are interested in learning.

Winter has definitely set in but make sure you're keeping your trees watered. They say the watering is the hardest thing in bonsai to learn and in my opinion winter watering is the toughest.

We'll be mixing soil at the Feb 18th meeting so, if you're interested in learning about that or you need to buy a gallon or two, make sure to be there. Our next show is the Silhouette show March 25, and then the Spring Show at the Greater Des Moines Botanical (GDMBG) April 22-23, during their Earth Day weekend. These shows aren't as big as our fall show, but we do need tree's so please plan to show one or two.

After much discussion with the GDMBG administration, we will be having a bizarre table at the Spring Show so if you're looking to unload some bonsai related stuff here's another chance. 10% of all sales go back to the IBA.

The IBA BOD is also working to get some workshops on the books for 2023. The only thing we have conformed right now is in August with Julian Tsai. Watch the IBA website and FB page for details.

We still have some of the new T-Shirts as well as some of the old ones so, if you're looking for IBA swag, let me know. See the classified for details.

Hope to see you all soon!

Scott Allen, IBA President



EIBA Report

Bill Englert

The EIBA Board met in January and started to work on the program for this year. Our first activity for this year will be the Linn County Gardening Fair on February 18th, 2023. John Clemens will be giving a class and the club will have display tables in the hallway. On Saturday February 25th, from 10 am until noon, we will be meeting at Pierson's greenhouse to collect dues and distribute soil. We will also be having discussions with members about program ideas for this year.

We are also planning workshops and the club picnic at Ellis Park on July 23rd, 2023, at the Horseshoe pavilion. We have three tentative dates for our NewBo displays this year: They are June 3rd, July 15th and August 19th. All of these events need to be finalized with the locations.

Calendar of Events

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

- February 7, 2023, 6 pm (Tues)** **IBA Board Meeting for the purpose of preparing the programs for 2023. Scott Allen's Home.**
- February 9, 2022, 7:00 pm (Thurs)** **EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.**
- February 18, 2023,
9 am to 1pm (Sat)** **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: Mixing Soil.**
- February 18, 2023, (Sat)** **Winter Gardening Fair, Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center, 1770 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, Iowa. EIBA John Clemens will present on Bonsai in Session 4. See page XXX for additional details.**
- February 25, 2023, (Sat)** **EIBA Club Meeting: Dues Collection & Soil Distribution Event. Pierson's Flower Shop & Greenhouse, 1800 Ellis Blvd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. For more information, contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594.**
- February 25, 2023,
10am-2pm (Sat)** **IBA Satellite Meeting and Open Study Group. Monarch Nursery & Garden Center, Hills, IA (Address for navigation purposes: Monarch Nursery & Garden Center, 5276 Oakcrest Hill Road Southeast, Riverside, IA 52327)**
- March 9, 2022, 7:00 pm (Thurs)** **EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.**
- March 16, 2023, 7pm (Thurs)** **EIBA Club Meeting: Program TBD. Pierson's Flower Shop & Greenhouse, 1800 Ellis Blvd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. For more information, contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594.**
- March 18, 2023,
9 am to 1pm (Sat)** **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: TBD**
- March 25, 2023, 10am-3pm (Sat)** **IBA Satellite Location Winter Silhouette & Flowering Tree Show. The Green House, 505 E. Washington St., Iowa City, IA 52240. See page 7 for details about this terrific venue! Set up: 9 am**

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Calendar of Events

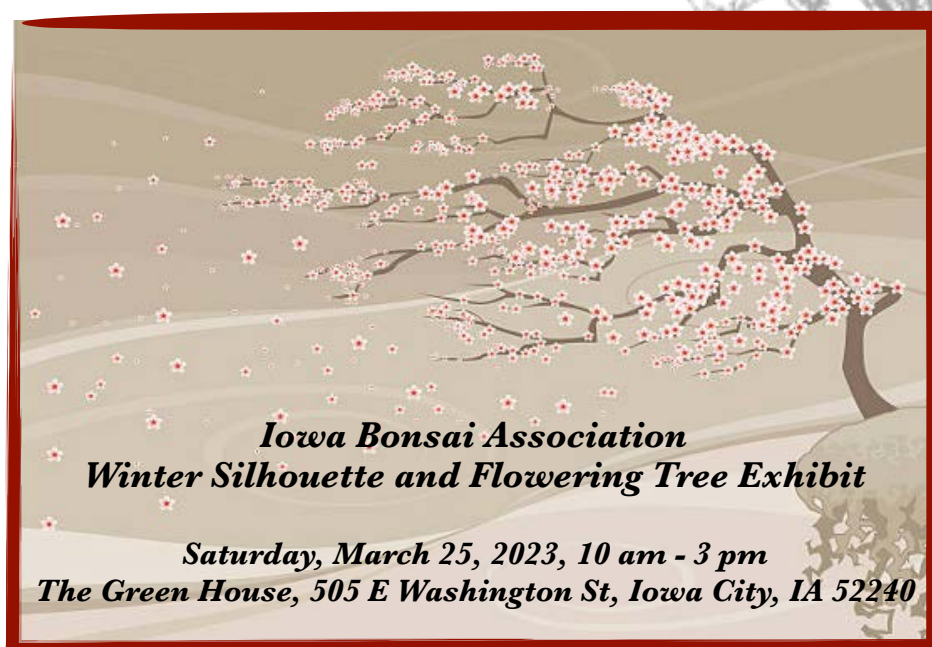
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- April 4, 2023, 6 pm (Tuesday)** **IBA Board Meeting for the purpose of preparing for the Spring Show. Scott Allen's Home.**
- April 13, 2022, 7:00 pm (Thurs)** **EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.**
- April 15, 2023 (Saturday)** **Jennifer Price Work-study Group at Susan Daufeldt's home.**
- April 15, 2023,
9 am to 1pm (Sat)** **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: TBD**
- April 20, 2023, 7pm (Thurs)** **EIBA Club Meeting: Program TBD. Pierson's Flower Shop & Greenhouse, 1800 Ellis Blvd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. For more information, contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594.**
- April 22, 2023, 10am-2pm (Sat)** **IBA Spring Show and Sale (NO IBA Satellite Meeting) at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, (Check with the front desk for location within the Garden).**

Notice of Upcoming Events

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Susan Daufeldt



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Notice of Upcoming Events

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Susan Daufeldt



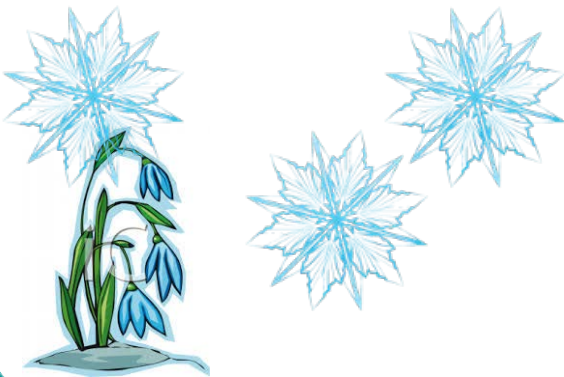
Linn County Winter Gardening Fair

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center

1770 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, IA

The Eastern Iowa Bonsai Association will be participating again this year in the Linn County Winter Gardening Fair. The Gardening Fair will have approximately 65 different gardening classes throughout the day. Sessions start at 8:30am and normally end around 4:00pm. Those interested should go online to the "Winter Gardening Fair in Linn County" there you can browse the classes and register if you are interested. John Clemens of the EIBA will be giving a class on bonsai titled "Bonsai - I Want One - Now What?" John's class is in the fourth session of classes. The EIBA will also have tables in the hallway and will have a few trees, bonsai information, handouts and the club program for this year. We hope to see many of our members attend and anyone interested in Bonsai.



Timely Tips - February

Cat Nelson

February can be either a busy month or a slow month, depending on what you grow and where you grow it. Structural work can be done on most trees during this time, though take extra precautions in sealing wounds, avoid making major bends and make sure that trees are going back into protected storage situations. If your dormant storage is outdoors, then avoid heavy work that can stress branches - tiny fractures can dry out internal tissues and cause major damage when the tree is least able to recover.

Work on tropicals will depend on your circumstances. If you support the trees with extra light & humidity, then wiring and some hard pruning can be done. If the tree is simply in a window, don't do much, as the stress can cause branch die-back. Lightly fertilize every couple of weeks, but don't push too much food. Also allow some drying between waterings. This helps align the tree with what would be the 'dry season' dormancy period it would experience in nature. The goal is to keep trees stable over the winter and not encourage rampant growth which will be leggy and weak.

Monitoring moisture levels is going to be the challenge this time of year; it's going to depend on how protected your storage is and how much organic material is in your soil mix. It's very easy to over-water new stock that still in nursery soil. Other trees are going to vary by the ambient temperature.

Otherwise, it's a good time to clean and sharpen tools, check out the upcoming shows, catch up on books or other learning opportunities. For those who have extra time plans can be made for repotting season - choosing pots for trees, making sure soil components are on hand, etc.

The Greenhouse- Winter Silhouette Exhibit

Susan Daufeldt

We have been very fortunate to land an incredible venue for our first Winter Silhouette and Flowering Tree Show. This is a one day exhibition on Saturday March 25, 2023. Set up is at 9 am and the Exhibit will end between 3:30 and 4:00 pm. The Greenhouse is a plant-themed drinks bar and gathering place just south and east of downtown Iowa City and, if you are familiar with the area, across the street from New Pioneer Co-op. This is a large, comfortable L-shaped establishment, filled with plants. The outside walls are entirely glass. This is an order-in or bring your own food establishment. We will have the short end of the L for the Exhibit. If the weather is suitable, there are also outdoor patios where we can set up displays. All IBA and EIBA Members are welcome to exhibit trees. As this is a winter silhouette and flowering tree exhibit, I would like to keep the displays to deciduous and flowering trees. However, if you have a conifer that you would like to bring and think would be appropriate to the occasion, I'm open to that. Table coverings will be supplied, but members should bring labels providing information about their trees and other display accessories, if desired. There will be no pipe and drape. This is an art gallery setting. For more information or to discuss particulars of your display, please contact me.

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The Green House, 505 E Washington St., Iowa City, IA 52240. The primary indoor exhibit space.

IBA November Meeting

Susan Daufeldt



It wasn't a huge crowd, but IBA Members enjoyed the November meeting, auction (and lunch afterwards). The club received \$560.00 in proceeds from the auction of donated items. Some items were held back for sale in the spring.

Jennifer Price Workshop

Susan Daufeldt

Noah Butler, Susan Daufeldt, Harvey Ireland and Jared Wall were privileged to work with Jennifer Price in November of 2022. Cat Nelson dropped in for a while and a good time was had by all. Members of the study group discussed design issues, pruned, wired and carved trees. Susan was

especially grateful for help with wiring techniques. She feels she still has a long way to go, but definitely has more clarity on how to approach the problems of wiring. Jennifer explained the difference between the wiring technique practiced by Mauro Stemberger and the techniques



Noah and Jennifer discuss design options.



Above, Noah carves a hollow into a developing tree. Below, Harvey and Jennifer discuss design.





Above Left, Harvey and Jennifer begin to discuss Harvey's collected elm forest planting. Above Right, Jennifer assists Jared with one of his Ponderosa Pines.

practiced by Ryan Neil. Jennifer has learned both techniques from Mauro and Ryan, respectively. Subsequently, Susan has found it easier to make decisions in the course of wiring out some challenging trees.

Harvey came away with a better understanding of the annual fall work and the decision making that has to be done as we reduce foliage going into dormancy and establish design. Harvey brought a number of collected elms to the work-study group. The forest clump pictured on this page was collected exactly as it was growing in nature. The task then was to determine what should stay and what should go. But first, The Front.... A spirited and interesting discussion ensued!

Noah Butler wrote, "My biggest take-away from our fall workshop with Jennifer centered on my new appreciation for the importance of studying deciduous structure after leaf drop. Specifically, focusing on using the opportunity to see and deeply examine the trees without leaves each

fall, and taking full advantage of this opportunity to guide approaches to fall pruning and planning future development. After our conversations and study of my trees, Jennifer made it much easier for me to see where I should consider restraining/reducing specific areas, while planning to let other areas continue to elongate and grow vigorously, with overall balance of energy in mind."

Looking back, Jared Wall said that, first, he learned that his wiring skills weren't quite what he'd believed they were, especially when it came to working with heavier gage wire. He felt that Jennifer offered some tips and techniques that will really help him in the future. He says, "I came to our workshop wanting to style a tree in a wind swept style and Jennifer and I took that tree to a level beyond my expectations...."

We're all looking forward to this year's work and the opportunity to continue to develop our eye and our skills.

From the Members

Susan Daufeldt

IBA Member Dan Morton had one of those unpleasant experiences that we all encounter sooner or later - It's not the season to repot this tree, but there's a root problem. If I repot it, it may die. If I don't repot it, it's going to die for sure. Dan repotted this big ficus. Hopefully, it will recover and come back strongly.



Dan's big Ficus had some root rot going. Rather than lose the tree for certain, Dan risked a midwinter repot in an effort to save the tree. Photos by Dan Morton.





EIBA Member Denny Molumby is locally known for his large, varied and ever-growing Shohin and Mame collection. Denny says he follows Morten Albek's Youtube channel. Here's a link he sent me to one of Morten Albek's very informative videos on Mame bonsai. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqJMsgHsJ8U&t=2s> Hopefully, Denny will do an article for us one of these days about his journey with Shohin and Mame bonsai.

Above and Left, some of Denny's charming small trees at EIBA exhibitions. Photos courtesy of Denny Molumby.



My big winter project was this large elm (before, above, and nearly finished, below). I actually did have to stand on a step ladder in order to get into the top at the right angle to avoid breaking small branches. Left, my dawn redwood, wired out (new front), will be repotted into a great Ron Heinen pot this spring. Photos by Susan Daufeldt.



Winter Inspiration

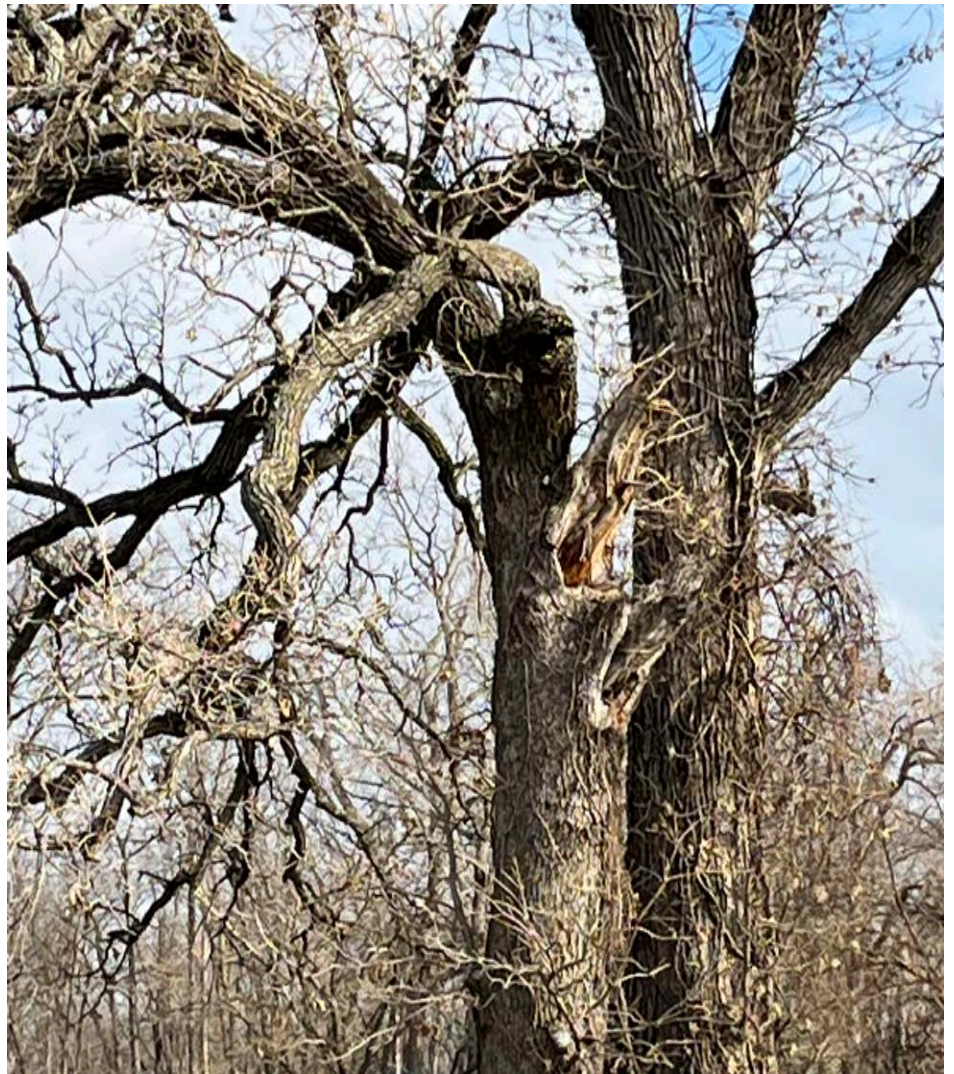
Susan Daufeldt

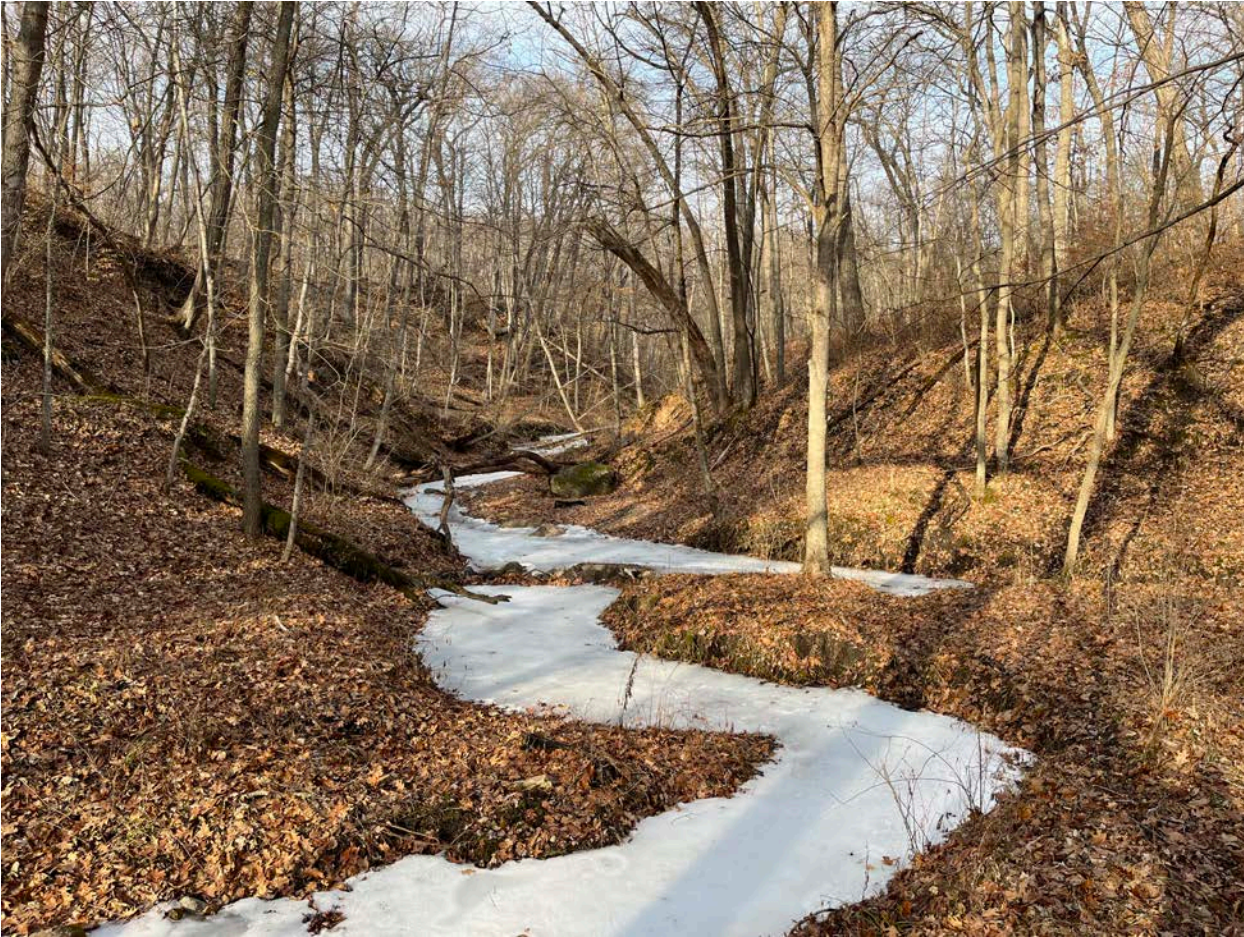


*"This is not a piece of wood. This is a cathedral." Kurt Schwitters, Artist 1887-1948.
The Amana Nature Trail, January 19, 2023, Iowa County, Iowa.*

Absolutely whenever the weather and circumstances permit, it is time to go out and look at the bones of the trees. Whether you do it from your car or on foot, don't miss the beauty of dormant trees.

On Thanksgiving Day, 2022, my travels took me through three counties. Only three counties. But I was hours late arriving at my destination because I was driving back roads and photographing trees. In Tiffin, Iowa (Johnson County) there is this grouping of four very old oak trees. They are an incredible bonsai study. Two of them are pictured here. In the far shot, below, you can see the relationship of these two trees - the larger stretching, reaching, and the smaller tree literally stooping below it. The smaller tree also has an incredible deadwood feature (See detail, right) and is clearly at least partially hollow.





Hiking in Iowa County on January 11, 2023. I can never resist a frozen stream in a winter woods. Left, a large tussock of star moss on the bank of this same creek on the same day. In the picture above, the woods looks brown and entirely dormant, but there was green everywhere at our feet and tiny early buds on seedling trees preparing to meet the spring.



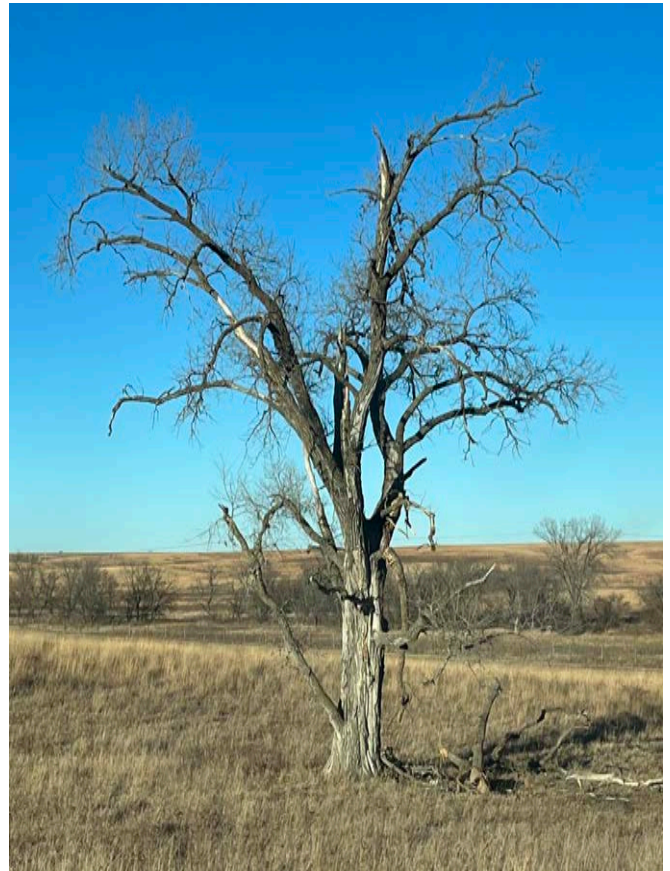


An old Sycamore on the Sutliff Road, Linn County, Iowa.

Right, a star moss on Thanksgiving Day, Johnson County, Iowa. Star moss Does grow in Iowa, but it requires a bit of looking and it is very hard to keep this one alive here in container culture.

Below Right, bare branches on a mature oak, Johnson County, Iowa. Note the small branches that grow out all along the heavy branches. This is interesting, as these are branches that ought to be shaded out by overhead exterior foliage, but are not.

Below Left, an incredible old tree in the middle of Buffaloville (Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Jasper County, Iowa). I think this HAS to be an elm, but couldn't get anywhere near it (Because of the Buffalo....There's this BIG fence....).





Right, incredible nebari and crenelated bark on an old Red Oak, Boone County, Iowa (November 3, 2023). Below, a community of moss and lichen thrive together on a rotting log in Johnson County, Iowa (November 24, 2023).



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. Small and medium Double Red Line Akadama. The last pallet went fast so let me or Tim know if you need any. It's sure to go fast. Cost is \$50 for IBA Club Members and \$55 for nonmembers. Contact Scott Allen or Tim Peterson. Lava - Contact DaSu.



FOR SALE: DaSu Studio,
lowman@netins.net
Has LOTS of Tropicals, new dwarf conifers and 128 new companion plants - many



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