



Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.org

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

From The Editor

Susan Daufeldt

It's almost April, buds are swelling, cherries are in bloom, the ground is thawing. It's time to repot and the collecting season is about to begin.



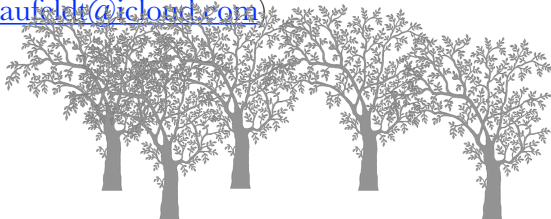
The IBA Spring show is coming up fast. Both clubs have had their first meetings.

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 for details at <https://www.absbonsai.org>.

I'm looking for Newsletter Staff. If you would be interested in joining the staff, please contact me. Help us report on local events and provide interesting content for the membership. There is so much going on in Iowa these days that one person can't get to every event! That's a good thing.

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
IBA/EIBA Newsletter Editor
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Editorial Staff

Susan Daufeldt - Editor
Dave Richmond - Art Director

IBA President's Report

Scott Allen

Dear IBA members and friends,

I hope you are all well and your spring Bonsai work is well under way.

Our next club meeting is Saturday April 15th. We still have a few gallon bags of premixed soil to sell at \$10 a bag. The long-awaited shipment of Akadama has arrived so if you need some of that let me know. It ended up at \$50 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 do have it.

Our next show is the Spring Show at the Greater Des Moines Botanical (GDMBG) April 22-23, 2023, during their Earth Day weekend.

Hopefully a lot of you are planning to show trees. Please contact me if you're planning to show trees, so I have an idea of what we'll have for a show. 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.

Reminder - The IBA BOD has scheduled one workshop for 2023.

Friday August 11, 2023, with Julian Tsai, at my place. 9-5 \$100 – Slots available. The IBA will provide lunch for all participants in the above workshop.

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

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

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 attached pictures. 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@vividpix.com)



EIBA Report

Bill Englert

The EIBA held its March meeting on the 16th, starting at 7:00 pm. We had 19 members in attendance, and we continued to collect yearly dues. The topic for this meeting was bringing trees out of hibernation. It was noted that everyone has a different method that works for them. It also depends on the species of trees that you have. John Clemens said that this is a good time to evaluate the trees, check for branches that need to be trimmed, wiring that might need to be done and to verify whether or not the tree actually will need to be repotted this year. John also stated that he has his trees (pines) on his patio, so they are very dormant yet and as the temperatures rise, the pines will begin growing. At that time he will work with them. Denny Molumby said that the majority of his trees are in an unheated garage so they have not started to break bud. The ones in a warmer area have the buds swelling, so he is working with them. Bill Englert told the group that his pines are outside along the house, so they will start the growing process later. His deciduous trees are in his garage, which did not get as cold this year. Average temp was 30 degrees on the floor. However, the shohin, which are higher up, average 38 degrees so they are breaking bud. Some of his shohin have been repotted already.



A six-year old Shohin Japanese Maple, recently repotted. EIBA members will have the opportunity to Purchase seedlings at the next meeting.

One thing we all agreed on is that no matter how each person overwinters their trees, this is a great time of year to work on them. With no leaves on the trees it's very clear what needs to be done. Once the work has been completed, we will ease them into the outside world and the sun. In other words we will start the "Bonsai Shuffle," taking the trees out when temps are good and bringing them back in when it gets cold. However, be careful to acclimate your trees to the sun. Start with a couple hours of sun then gradually increase the time, that way you will not sunburn the leaves. The members had many questions and we had great discussion.

The next board meeting will be on April 13th, starting at 7:00pm, and it will be virtual. If anyone would like to attend, please contact us.

The next club meeting will be on April 20th, starting at 7:00pm, at Pierson's Green house on Ellis Blvd. in Cedar Rapids. The topic for the meeting will be repotting starting with a demo and then a hands on workshop. Also at this meeting, there will be Juniper kits along with several species of seedling trees for the members to purchase if they desire.

Bill Englert, EIBA Vice President (bandrenglert@mchsi.com)

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](https://www.rmbonsai.org/copy-of-exhibition-gala).

Calendar of Events

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

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).
- May 11, 2023, 7:00 pm (Thurs)** *EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.*
- May 18, 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.**
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- May 20, 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**
- May 27, 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)**
- June 8- 11, 2023** **ABS Learning Seminars, Denver, CO.**
- June 8, 2023, 7:00 pm (Thurs)** *EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.*
- June 15, 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.**
- June 17, 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**
- June 24, 2023
10am-2pm (Saturday)** **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)**
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The IBA Winter Silhouette Exhibit



College Street, Iowa City, Iowa, March 25, 2023, 9:45 am.

And Winter it was! On March 25, 2023, Noah Butler, Zoe Nady and Susan Daufeldt exhibited trees and kusamono at The Green House, 505 E Washington St., Iowa City, IA 52240. The Green House was a lovely place to spend the day and there was a steady trickle of visitors throughout the day. Artists spent a great deal of one-on-one time with interested viewers. A truly enjoyable day! Please keep this show in mind for next year. We hope to make it an annual event, the fourth Saturday of March. Everyone welcome!



Left, Harvey Ireland and Noah Butler talk during a lull; the exhibit in the background.

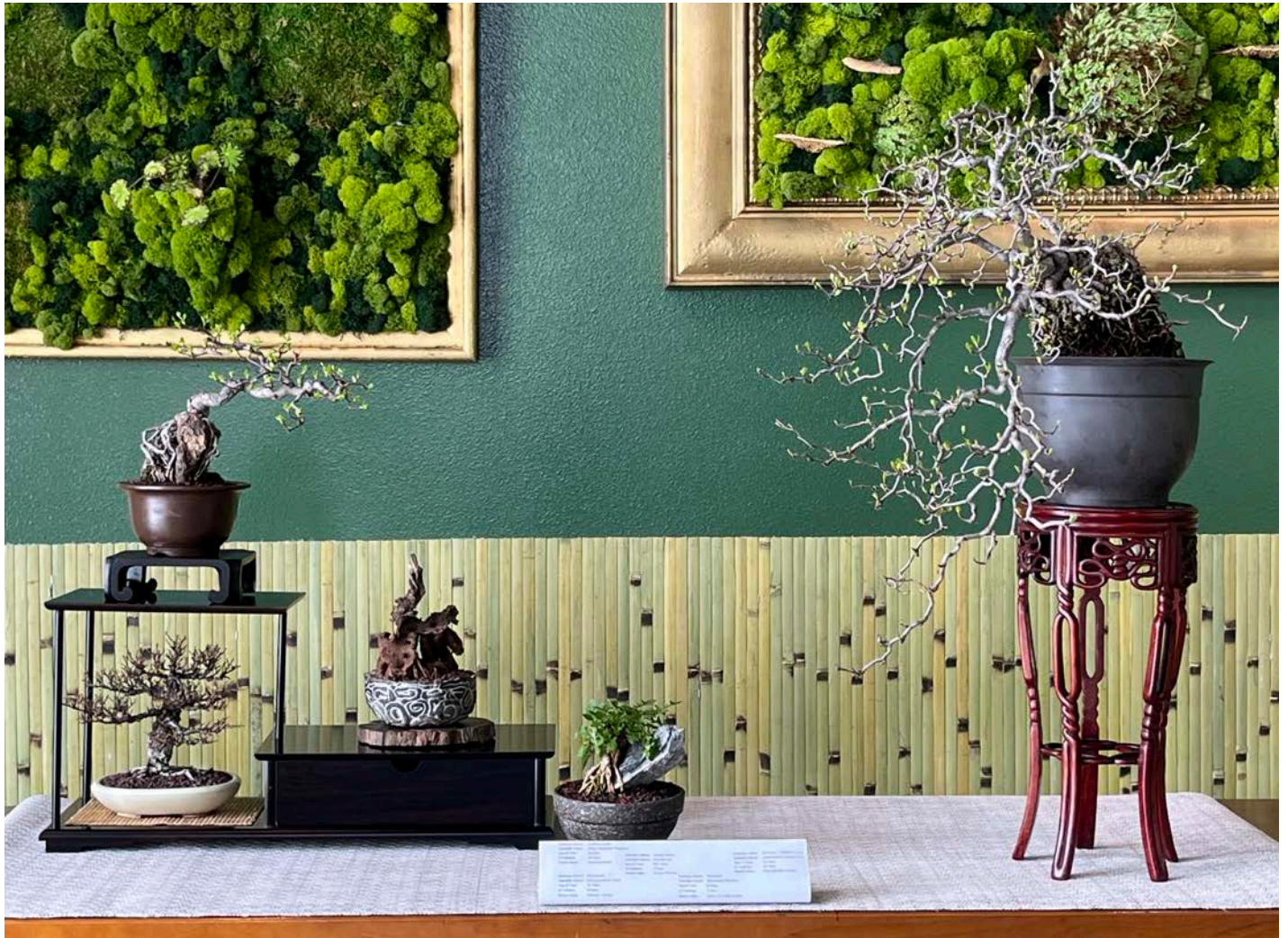
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Above, Noah Butler's Cedar Elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*). Pot - Horst Heinzlreiter. Stand - April Grigsby. Shitakusa (multi-floral rose and other woodland plants) - Susan Daufeldt. Below, Zoe Nady talks with visitors about the Art of Bonsai.



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Above, a wonderful display by Artist Zoe Nady. The top tree on the left is a Braeburn Apple that Zoe grew from seed. It is nearly 20 years old. Beneath it is a Seiju elm, with incredible ramification. To the right, a PEONY root, with buds! This was incredibly sculptural and wonderful to look at for a long time. To the right of the Shohin stand, Zoe's famous root-over-rock Dandelion. Far right: An incredible exposed root quince - unfortunately not yet in flower. Zoe said she tried both threats and bribery, but it didn't work. Right, Zoe and Reny taking a rest.



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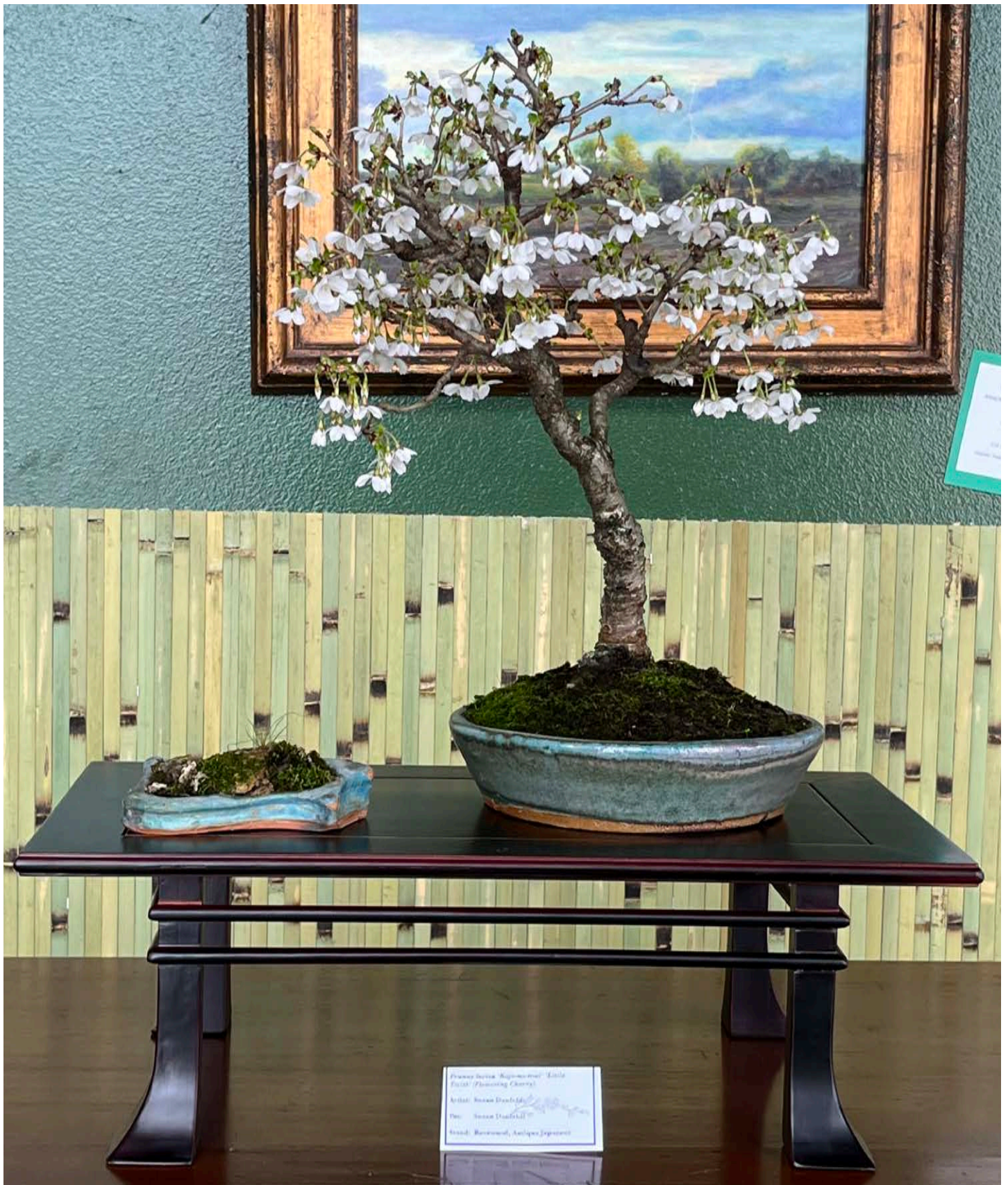
Double-flowering Pomegranate, still holding last year's fruit - Artist: Zoe Nady.

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Woodland Kusamono - Hepatica in bloom, Spring Beauty, Maidenhair fern, with various kinds of moss, on old wood. Artist - Susan Daufeldt.

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Kojo-no-mai (Fuji cherry 'Little Twist') - Artist: Susan Daufeldt; Pot - Susan Daufeldt; Stand - Antique Japanese rosewood; Shitakusa - Susan Daufeldt.

Timely Tips - April

Susan Daufeldt

Spring is here. Conifers that have been wintering inside should be outside now soaking up the sun. But Note: If they were overwintered in a heated space, they may be far enough along that they should come back in if temperatures drop below freezing. It is always a good thing if deciduous trees can break out of doors and in the location where they will be spending the growing season. However, as for conifers, once deciduous trees have begun to come out of dormancy (watch for green buds), you should get them back inside if temperatures drop into the low 30s. In my garden, deciduous that are not fenced must come back in at night because of the rabbits. At this time of the year, the rabbits will chew on any twig that has life in it. In my experience, conifers are rarely affected by the rabbit scourge. In determining when trees can be left out, regardless of weather, I watch the trees that are in the ground. If my bonsai are farther along than those trees, I bring them in if low temperatures are expected.

As outdoor temperatures rise, bonsai and pre-bonsai trees wintering outside and in unheated garages will begin to come out of dormancy. If your trees are protected and packed in a shaded area, pay attention and be prepared to get them out into the sunlight as soon as the mulch around them thaws.

If you have trees in indoor winter storage, your repotting season is well underway. Keep those recently repotted trees out of the wind. Even if your trees have not been repotted, spring is a windy season and trees that did not require water for weeks indoors may dry out in a matter of hours once they get outside. Watch your trees water needs. If you can't check on them during the day, you may want to water in the morning before you leave home.

When to repot or collect a tree: Generally, when the tree begins to show signs of coming out of dormancy. Watch for green buds on deciduous trees, growing tips on junipers. If deciduous trees

have leafed, it is probably too late, though there are some species that can tolerate a late repotting or transplanting.

A few thoughts on fertilizing:

- It is traditional and recommended that we do NOT fertilize trees that have been repotted or collected for the first month after repotting or collecting.
- It is generally recommended that initial fertilizing in the Spring should be mild. Most people begin with a fish emulsion fertilizer.
- Consider your purpose when determining when to start fertilizing. If you are growing or developing a younger tree, you may want to get right at it once the tree begins to break. But if the tree is an older and more refined, then you will want to wait until it is just hardening off its spring growth (Hagedorn). Fertilizing older, refined bonsai too early and/or too much will result in long internodes on deciduous trees and undesirable juvenile growth on aged conifers.



The Ongoing Soil Debate - Some Thoughts...

Susan Daufeldt

I frequently hear from newer bonsai practitioners who want to know my thoughts on soil ingredients and mixes. Trees will grow in many different mediums and there is no ONE soil mixture that will work for every species in every environment. **First Thought:** The soil mix I choose to use *will* effect my watering practice. **Second Thought:** The way in which my soil mix functions will change depending on environments, pot size, pot drainage, and species.

As bonsai enthusiasts struggle with the rising cost and difficulty in obtaining Akadama, they are looking for other, less expensive and more available options. **Third Thought:** If it's not available, that's one thing and I do whatever I can to make up for it. If it's a matter of the expense, however, I have to consider how much time, money and effort goes into these beautiful works of art. I need to give the tree the best I can get. The added cost is small compared to everything else I'm putting into it.

Todd Schlafer recommends a 1:1:1 mixture (akadama/pumice/lava) for pine; 2:1:1 for juniper; and 3:1:1 for spruce. Michael Hagedorn and Andrew Robson now strongly recommend forgoing the use of lava in bonsai soil mixtures. Some recommend straight Akadama for deciduous trees. Some recommend planting trees in straight pumice. The more Akadama I have in the pot, the LESS often I will have to water. The more Pumice to Akadama, the drier my trees will stay and I may have to water more often or monitor trees more carefully.

I am working almost exclusively with spruce and hardy deciduous trees. **Fourth Thought:** When I consider my soil mixture, I have to take into account **(1)** the species(how much water will the tree need to do well); **(2)** the size, depth, drainage and material of the pot or planting surface; **(3)** my watering practice and how often I am able to monitor my trees' water needs; and **(4)** where it will sit in the garden (how much sun, how much wind). With those considerations in mind, I can adjust the amount of Akadama relative to the amount of pumice in the mix to suit the individual needs of the specific tree in the specific situation.

With these thoughts in mind, for my purposes, I am mixing Akadama and Pumice 2:1 or 3:1 for deciduous trees and spruce. That is two or three parts Akadama to one part pumice. Straight Akadama is a little too scary for me, as I think many of them stay too wet. **HOWEVER** - if the pot is shallow, the tree is planted on wood (which has a drying effect) or the tree is a very heavy drinker (e.g. Mulberries), straight Akadama may work well. On the other hand, some deciduous (e.g. Oaks) prefer to be drier. If the oak is **NOT** planted on wood, I use a 1:1 mixture. Happy tree. Pumice is cheap and easy to get. It is a good choice for pines, because they like to stay drier, but I've found that most deciduous trees struggle in straight pumice.



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 5 gallon bucket \$15 - bring your own buckets. Small and medium Double Red Line Akadama. The last pallet went fast, so let me or Tim know if you need any. 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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