



Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.org

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From The Editor

Susan Daufeldt

It's July. I'm still processing a wealth of information gained by attending the ABS Learning Seminars in Denver - more on that for all of you next month! But this month, we hope you enjoy Dave Richmond's photo essay about his trip the the Chicago Botanic Garden in May and that it will inspire you to make the trip to the Chicago Show in August! There's plenty more to read - all the news from both clubs, thanks to Jared Wall and Bill Englert, Timely Tips and a Journey into Air Layering with an Old Guy. Have a wonderful month of July! Hope to see you around!



I'm still looking for additional 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.

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Newsletter Staff

Susan Daufeldt - Editor
 Dave Richmond - Art Director
 Jared Wall - Reporter

IBA President's Report

Scott Allen

Dear IBA members and friends,

I hope you are all well and ready for summer bonsai.

Our next club meeting is Saturday, July 15, 2023. IBA East meets July 22, 2023. We still have some Akadama 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 Iowa State Fair Show, August 13, 2023.

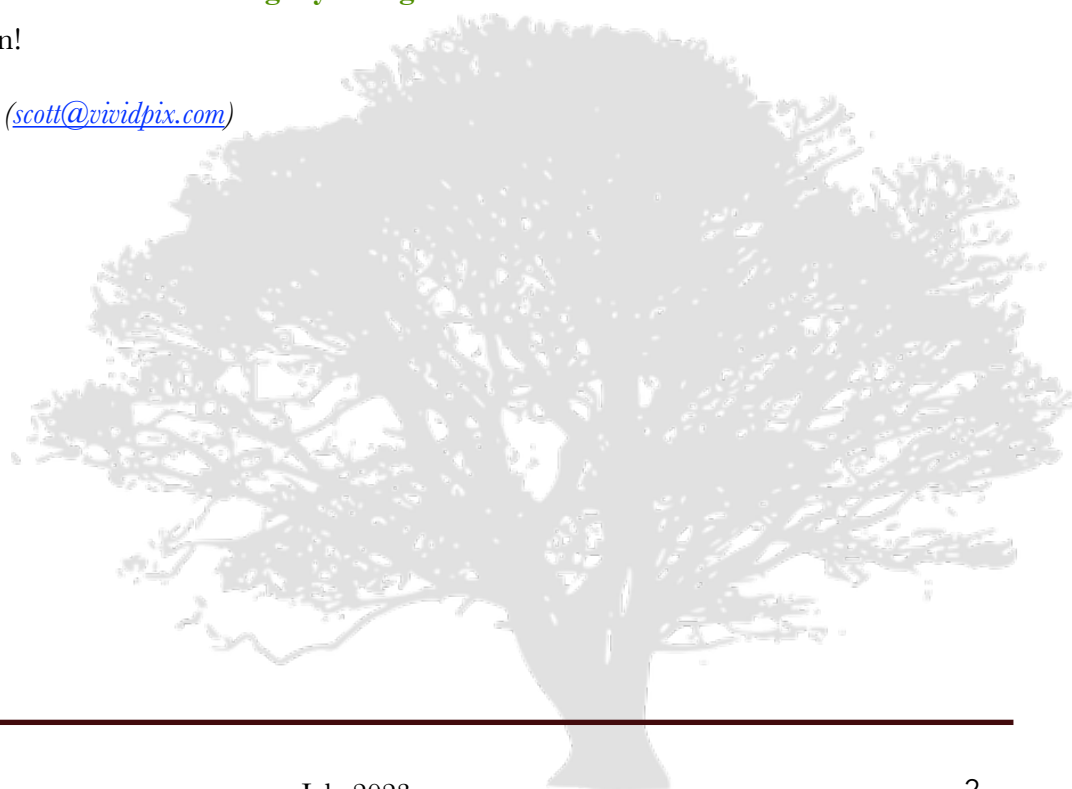
Hopefully a lot of you are planning to show trees. Please contact **ME (not Dave Richmond)** if you're planning to show trees, so I have an idea of what we'll have for the show.

The IBA BOD has scheduled one workshop for 2023.

Friday August 11, 2023, with Julian Tsai, at my place. 9-5 \$100 – 1 slot 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.

Hope to see you all soon!

Scott Allen, IBA President, (scott@vividpix.com)



EIBA Report

Bill Englert

Greetings Bonsai Friends,

The month of June started for us with a Bonsai Display at the NewBo City Market on June 3rd. The display featured 26 different bonsai trees, all shapes, sizes and varieties. During the day we had working demos on various trees. The public really enjoyed seeing a tree, or trees, being worked on and then the finished tree. **Our next NewBo display will be on July 15th, 2023, from 9:00AM until 3:00PM.** Same location, under the canopy.

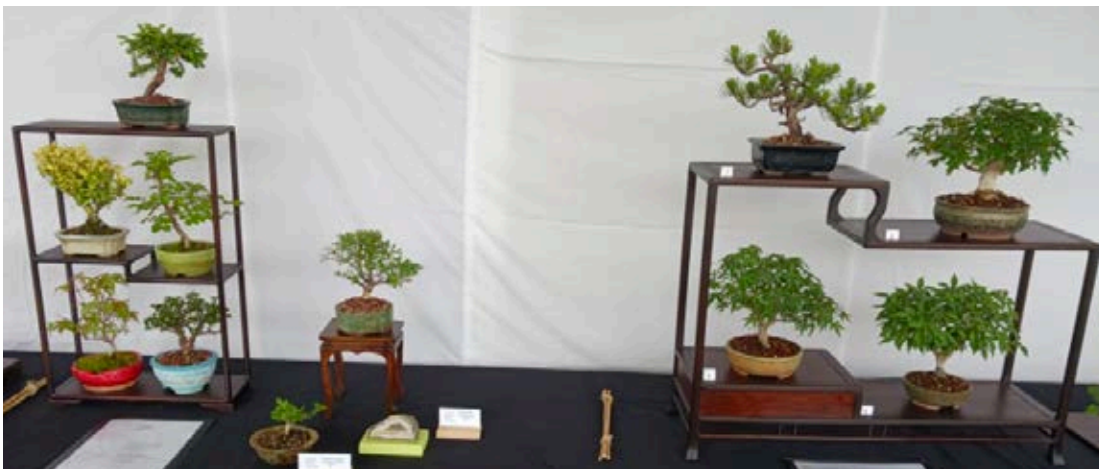
The monthly club meeting was held at Pierson's Greenhouse on June 15. There were 14 people in attendance. The topic for the month was pruning and shaping. Several brought trees for advice on pruning and shaping. John Clemens started the meeting talking about pruning pines. He had his two-needle (black) pine there that he worked on last year to show the group how it was progressing. He also brought his Shimpaku juniper and discussed how to shape this species, using Bill Englert's Shimpaku, which he had worked on at NewBo earlier this month, as the after product. While John was discussing pruning and shaping deciduous trees, Dennis Molumby was demonstrating pruning techniques on his Chinese elm. Tony Rose brought in a juniper and a second tree. Beth Hieronymus brought in a juniper and another member brought in a bougainvillea for pruning and shaping advice. John talked a little more on pruning branches with alternating leaves and opposing leaves. We finished with a brief round table discussion on fertilization: When to fertilize, what products to use and how often to do it. We told the group that we hadn't been able to put together the Azalea workshop as the leader is apparently having some medical issues. We talked about the NewBo show on June 3rd and the upcoming July 15th show. Members enjoyed the demos and also appreciated the help with their trees.

The next Board meeting will be on July 6, 2023, at 7:00PM and will be virtual. If you would like to attend please let us know and we will add you to the list.

The July meeting is our club picnic and tree workshop at Guthridge Park in Hiawatha on Sunday, July 16, 2023. We will be in the green pavilion. This will be a potluck lunch and our work day will start at 9:00AM until 3:00PM. More information will be forthcoming after our next board meeting.

Hope everyone has a great growing season, and keep those trees watered!

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



Left, Shohin displays at the EIBA Newbo Exhibition, June 3, 2023. Photo by Bill Englert.



Above, a portion of the EIBA Newbo Exhibition; Left, John Denny talks with Otto (Jim) Rajtora at the Newbo Exhibit on June 3, 2023, while Dan Molumby (background left) works on a tree.

Notice of Upcoming Events

Susan Daufeldt

THE IOWA STATE FAIR BONSAI SHOW AUGUST 13, 2023

Judge - Julian Tsai



IOWA BONSAI ASSOCIATION FALL EXHIBITION SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1, 2023 REIMAN GARDENS, AMES, IA



Calendar of Events

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

July 6, 2023, 7:00 pm (Thurs)

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

July 13, 2023, 7:00 pm (Thurs)

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

**July 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: Preparation and presentation of Show trees (We will use some of the trees at the Botanical Garden and stands and accent plants provided by members).

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**July 15, 2023, 10am - 3pm
(Saturday)**

EIBA Club Meeting: Newbo City Market Exhibition. For more information, contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594.

July 16, 2023, 7pm (Thurs)

EIBA Club Picnic and tree workshop at Guthridge Park in Hiawatha on Sunday, July 16, 2023. We will be in the green pavilion. This will be a potluck lunch and our work day will be 9:00AM until 3:00PM. For more information, contact Bill Englert (319) 471-1594.

**July 22, 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)

August 2023

ALL Members strongly encouraged to participate in and/or attend the State Fair Show, take the opportunity to work with Julian Tsai, and to Attend the Midwest (Chicago) Bonsai Society's August Exhibition.

August 11, 2023 (Friday)

Julian Tsai Workshop at Scott Allen's home. Slots available. See IBA President's Report for details.

August 10, 2023, 7:00 pm (Thurs)

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

August 13, 2023 (Sunday)

Iowa State Fair Bonsai Show.

August 17, 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.

**August 19, 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: Pest control and disease identification and treatment.

August 18-20, 2023

Midwest Bonsai Society August Exhibition, Chicago Botanic Garden, Regenstein Center, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022 Guest Artist: Bjorn Bjorholm.

September 9-10, 2023

8th US National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY

[Continued on Page 7]

- Sept 14, 2023, 7:00 pm (Thurs) *EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.*
- Sept 16, 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: **Tool Care - Cleaning and Sharpening.**
- Sept 21, 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.
- Sept 23, 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
- Sept 29, 2023, (Friday) **Set up for Reiman Gardens Show.** For more information contact Ron Heinen (ronheinen47@gmail.com) or Jared Wall (wallsrunner1@yahoo.com).
- Sept 30 - Oct 1 (Sat/Sun) **Reiman Gardens Show.** For more information contact Ron Heinen (ronheinen47@gmail.com) or Jared Wall (wallsrunner1@yahoo.com).
- Oct 12, 2023, 7:00 pm (Thurs) *EIBA Board Meeting via Zoom. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.*
- Oct 19, 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.
- Oct 21, 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: **Watering/Winter Watering. Round table discussion.**
- Oct 28, 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

Timely Tips - July

Susan Daufeldt

It is summer. Boy is it summer. The Japanese beetles have arrived, along with heat, humidity and disease. From drought to rain forest. A challenging year in the Bonsai Garden.

Disease. The fungal diseases black spot, powdery mildew and rust thrive as the heat and humidity increase. And two weeks of the rain we've desperately needed has made this feature of summer much, much worse than usual. If you have members of the rose family or Chinese elm, you will be struggling right now

unless you have been spraying I always start with Bayer's Bio Advanced and then go to Liquid Copper.

Insects. With respect to the Japanese Beetles I've been having good luck with Japanese Beetle Killer spray. This is a very strong pyrethrum. I use this on all members of the elm family (elm, zelkova, hornbeam) that I want to show, members of the rose family (crab apple, rose, cherries) and porcelain vine. Some bonsai practitioners cover

their susceptible trees with fabric netting used for wedding veils called tulle.

Watering. Watch your trees' water needs. Some of my trees get watered once a day. Some get watered twice and others three times. Trees in boxes and nursery pots that are planted in collection soil often do not need to be watered daily. Small trees will need less sun and may need water more often. Accent plants are often thirsty little fellows, too,



but this can vary depending on what you have. Your trees will dry out a lot faster on windy days. Junipers are being sprayed with water two to three times a day in my yard. They like this A LOT and it helps to prevent spider mite infestations. I also use a strong spray of water on trees that are susceptible to insect infestation that are NOT prone to fungal infections.

Fertilizing. A few words about summer fertilizing. Developing trees need more fertilizer than developed trees. Too much fertilizer on developed trees will cause them to put on undesirable growth and will interfere with ramification. Do not fertilize double flush pine bonsai until after their second flush of needles open. Begin heavy fertilization about

August 15 and continuing through late fall. Wait to fertilize single flush pines like Ponderosa until their needle growth is finished. This will also occur about the middle of August.

Repotting Tropicals. This is the time to repot Tropical Trees, if you haven't already done so. They are growing hard. Waiting to repot until too late in the year can weaken your tree, as they may not have enough growing days left to fully recover.

Managing Summer Growth. At this time of year, we need to be managing growth on deciduous trees. Trees in refinement can lose important ramification if summer growth is not controlled. Be sure that you keep foliage thinned so that light and air can move over and through the tree. This is also a necessary part of controlling insects and disease in deciduous trees.

Show Preparation. If you are showing at the fair and/or in Chicago this August, you are already preparing. If you want to show a tree at Reiman this fall, this is also the time to prepare. If you are new to showing, someone in the club can help you get ready and give you important tips on the preparation process.

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

Information in this month's Timely Tips specifically relating to conifers and tropicals was gleaned from prior Timely Tips written by John Denny.



Above, Todd Schlafer's Thursday evening demonstration at the ABS Learning Seminars last month; below, an incredible gallery-style exhibit of former RMBS Artists of the Year graced the entrance to the Convention.



The Chicago Botanic Garden

Dave Richmond

In the middle of May, Carol and I visited Chicago. I was to give a lecture about my current artwork to a graphic design class on May 11th at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. This current work is derived from geometric analysis line drawings of traditional Islamic mosaic patterns. I believe this will be my last academic lecture and I'm honored that it was given at such a prestigious school. It was well received. On May 10th, we visited the Chicago Botanic Garden. This is a wonderful place. We are members of the Des Moines Botanical Garden and one of the perks of this membership is free admission and parking at several botanic gardens. Chicago is one of them. This is an amazing garden that has a wonderful collection of Bonsai and a luxurious Japanese Garden on three separate islands. Here is a photographic essay of my experience at this amazing garden complex.





















Julian Tsai
August 11, 2023

Julian is back this year to judge the Fair Show and will be doing a workshop on August 11, 2023, at Scott Allen's home. Don't miss this great opportunity to get professional assistance with your trees. This is a terrific learning opportunity for bonsai practitioners of all levels!



IBA June Meeting - June 17, 2023

Jared Wall

The Iowa Bonsai Association held its June meeting and open study group Saturday, June 17th, 2023, at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, where we welcomed new members Larry Lykins and Kathy Hanlon. Twenty-five attendees discussed Bonsai, repotted Ficus, selectively defoliated Parrot's Beak, and the club sold mixed soil and Akadoma. Scott Allen started the round table discussion of fertilization. As with many aspects of Bonsai care, there are many different approaches. We discussed timing for application, different types of fertilizer, including organics, fish emulsion, foliar feeding, and what fertilizers will burn if over used. We also discussed the meaning and relationships of the primary nutrients in fertilizer: Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Potassium and the balance to look for with different types of trees - even Tomato plants needs were mentioned! The next monthly meeting and study group will be held July 15th at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden 9am in the Kemin Plant Sciences Lab, Scott Allen, and Ron Heinen will be discussing preparation for upcoming Bonsai shows and pot selection. Looking forward to seeing all of you there!



Mandy (foreground, right) and friend (foreground, left) work on Mandy's Parrot Beak, while Dan Morton (center) assists a new member with his tropical trees.



Above and Below, IBA Members discuss the fertilization of bonsai trees. Photos by Jared Wall.





Ron Heinen (right, foreground) helps new members repot ficus while others observe. Photo by Jared Wall.

***A Special Exhibition
at the Pacific Bonsai Museum***

Living art evolves.
See sculpture paired to its form
to achieve radical designs.

Avant Garden PACIFIC
bonsai
MUSEUM

May 13 - Sept 10, 2023

A Journey into Air-layering

An Old Guy

Throughout my years of enjoying Bonsai, I have experienced a great many changes, which, as I have grown older, is not easy to accept. Many of these, however, have occurred because of my own circumstances - i.e. my tree sizes. I remember back: Collected material would be relatively small in diameter and tall. Later, this turned into shorter and fatter trunks. I have always enjoyed tropical trees, as they are more forgiving in many cases. My trees that I had bought from Hawkins greenhouse in the 80s were at one time over 3 feet tall and taller. In the late 90s, running out of window space during the winter, I decided to shorten these trees and learned how to air layer. My mentor informed me, "You just gotta try it!" And I still say that to myself today. So I did what I was afraid to do and removed two feet (in most cases) and rooted some really big willow leaf trunks, just dipped 'em in rooting hormone, stuck 'em in soil and waited to see what happened. Many survived and were passed on to friends. And then I got into native material. Oh boy, it started and the big bug got me! A relative was going to burn down a tree and I convinced him to let me dig it up.

It was about 30 inches in diameter and 25 feet tall. Heck, I didn't even know what it was. So I cut it down to size and started under cutting. Six hours later I could pry it up, but was unable to move it. Yep, had to call a buddy with a piece of heavy equip to lift it out. After 10 hours, it was set into the bed of my truck, which flattened my tires. So he had to transport it home for me. After a few beers and some friendly advice from him, the tree was planted in the back yard (it was rolled into place by primitive methods some 150 feet out back). I was working at ISU at the time and they identified the tree as a honeysuckle Gabalara, which was over 300 years old. The tree never got into a pot and perished some 5 years later with termites, discovered later. Biggest I'd ever tried. At that time I was in my 30s, full of energy and muster. Shortly after, I seemed to lose a bit of interest and gave away some 100 trees to friends and family but kept a few tropicals as houseplants. Here, not long ago, my mentor told me how much the club had grown and gotten so much better. He in fact renewed my club membership for my birthday and I was bitten again. After a couple meetings and meeting many new

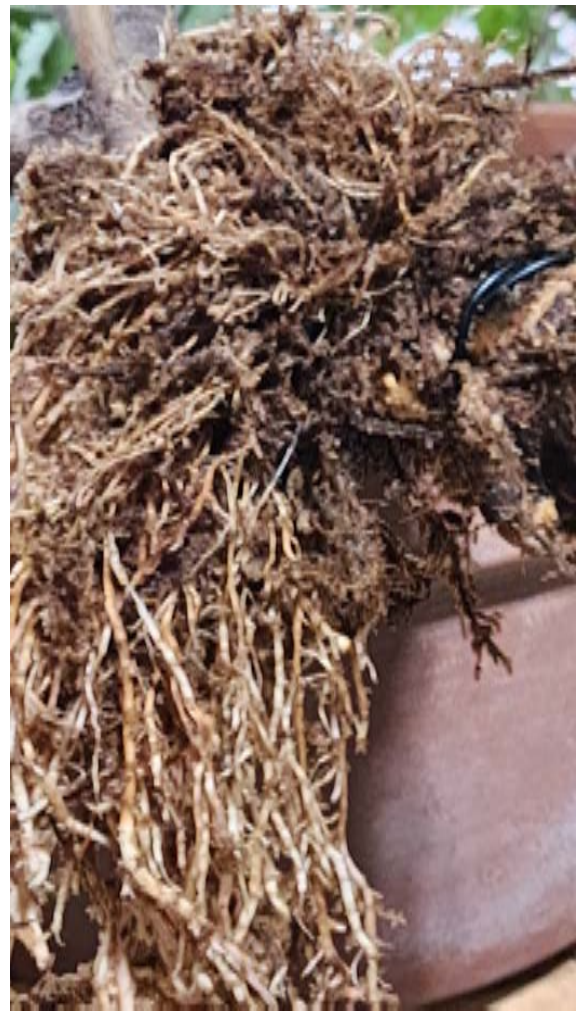
members, the inspiration was back - this time it was native stuff (thanks, Susan) So let the collecting begin (20yrs later). I was nearing retirement age these days and had noticed that these trees I was collecting were a whole lot heavier than years past - getting back to the truck, carrying an 80 lb tree a half mile, was now a challenge. Yep I'm still a primitive kinda guy. This went on for a couple years. So the trees got a little smaller now. This year, in looking out my back window at many mature overgrown trees, I decided to air layer a few. I figured that since I have been pretty successful in layering my bonsai to shorten them I'd give that a try. So this year, I have done a few air-layers on Wild Cherry , Maple and Crab Apple. All were done on at least three 3 inch diameter branches in late March or early April. I even did one at the golf course after talking with the grounds keeper. Just last week, I checked on them for moisture in the moss , and I could see roots in two of three trees, So now, in thinking about collecting trees for larger stuff, I have a thought: Doing air layers took me no longer than 20 minutes to complete the initial process (not counting the where to do it time), but I found that I was able to get a good diameter trunk, with good structure to begin the tree's journey. I didn't have to dig and carry, repot and care for the collected trees.

I did miss the collecting experience with friends, however, and not all trees can be layered, maybe? I have a Yew that I'm trying because I tripped over it trimming, and am now trying a ground layer. There are few different ways to air layer and I would suggest giving it a try. Try a few different ways. I have air layered 3 different ways: with moss, a pot with soil, and cutting 80% of the trunk, and have been successful with all three. However the pot and soil had to be redone, as it callused over. Friends tell me to work smarter not harder (my mentor). For me the layers have been much easier and time will tell with respect to quality. I will go back and evaluate in a couple of weeks (mid June), and may remove the branches and get it into a pot. The branches can be removed almost anytime they have roots showing and before frost sets in. So if there is a tree in your yard that you keep trimming up, give an air layer a chance. Use your imagination as to where to begin the base (even if it fails the branch will survive) and test your luck with the cutting .

This is an Amur Maple that was air-layered on 3-23-23 and separated on 6-23-23. After separating the branch and removing the plastic, I had a good root mass on 3/4 of the trunk, there were roots all the way around the cut. The best grow seem to be on the bottom of the horizontal limb. Then the painstaking task of removing the moss without damaging the roots. I was able to remove most of the moss in the roots but it took awhile. They were really quite long. I removed the trunk to just below the root base, Drilled a hole in a piece of 6 inch tile and screwed it to the base of the tree to make the roots grow flat and to use as a trimming guide for the next repot. The roots were flexible enough to lay flat on the tile. Probably should have arranged them a bit better before putting the tree in the container. Last but not least, it's in the pot, placed in a shady spot to see what happens. Watered well with superthrive. As I write this I see some better photos could have been taken. Will do better next time!



On June 20, 2023, this Old Guy separated the air-layer on this Amur Maple. The air-layer was started in April. In 6 weeks, just look at the roots produced in response! Photo by the Old Guy.





Left, tile screwed to the bottom of the tree to keep the roots growing out away from the trunk rather than down; right, the new tree in its growing pot after separation. Photos by the Old Guy.



AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY

EST. 1967

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>.

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



Left, Seedlings available to EIBA Members for purchase. Contact Bill Englert for more information. Photo by Bill Englert.

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