



Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter

www.iabonsai.org

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

From The Editor

Susan Daufeldt

Happy New Year!

It's 2024 and there is plenty going on in the Bonsai world near and far. 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.



Happy repotting season!

Susan Daufeldt
IBA/EIBA Newsletter Editor
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Photo courtesy of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association.

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 enjoyed the Holidays with family and friends and your New Year is off the a good start. Our first IBA meeting is Saturday Feb 16th and we're planning to mix soil and have it for sale to those needing it for Spring repotting. As a reminder the IBA meets the 3rd Saturday of every month Feb-Nov from 9am - 1pm at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

Tentatively, *Save the Date*: Memorial Day Weekend 2025, the IBA is planning to host the next Mid America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) convention. More on this soon. We are still working with the MABA board and the possible venues and will confirm the date as soon as we can. This is a great opportunity to get involved and promote the art of bonsai. We are planning a great event, with major artists, good material and variety of vendors.



IBA East meetings are discontinued until further notice. We will still hold our 2nd Annual Winter Silhouette and Flowering Tree Show the 4th Saturday of March (March 23, 2024).

We still have some Akadama at \$50 a bag for club members and \$55 a bag for non-club members and Pumice at \$15 a bucket for club members and \$20 for non members.

Hope to see you all soon!

Sincerely,

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

IBA East Satellite Meetings

Susan Daufeldt

IBA East Meetings are discontinued until further notice. If you would like to have regular Saturday bring-your-own-tree work days in the Iowa City area, please contact me for discussion.

Susan Daufeldt
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EIBA Report

Bill Englert

Greetings Bonsai Friends,

2023 has come to an end and it has been a great year for EIBA. We have increased our membership, participated in several community events, and taken part in the Spring Gardening Fair. And something new this year - we participated in the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show in late October.

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Club President Jon Laurence is a member of EIBA and I am a member of EIOS. I was asked if I would like to combine orchids and bonsai for a display table to be judged along with the others. I said yes and together we combined orchids and three bonsai trees in a fantastic display. Our display was judged along with 7 other displays from different orchid clubs, several from out of state. Jon received some awards, as did I. But the best surprise for me was that my Sharps Pigmy Maple was judged best overall plant of the entire show. There were 350 entries for this show and 5 judges, 4 were out of state.

In November we had our annual club Holiday Party at Leonardo's in Cedar Rapids. We had great attendance and the food was very good. During this meeting, we discussed the events of 2023 to include the increased involvement from our new members, especially at NewBo events. We then discussed the plans for 2024. The members were enthusiastic about this upcoming year. The members had filled out a questioner about what their interests were or things they would like to learn about bonsai in the coming year. The board will start working on the 2024 program at our January 11th. board meeting at Leonardo's. The board decided that it was time we go back to in-person meetings and we all agreed. The evening ended on a very upbeat note.

On to 2024!!

Bill Englert

EIBA Vice President (bandrenglert@mchsi.com)



Calendar of Events

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

- Feb 8, 2024, 7:00 pm (Thurs)** *EIBA Board Meeting at Leonardo's. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.*
- Feb 15, 2024, 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.
- Feb 17, 2024,
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 14, 2024, 7:00 pm (Thurs)** *EIBA Board Meeting at Leonardo's. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.*
- March 16, 2024,
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 21, 2024, 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 23, 2024, 10am-3pm (Sat)** **IBA Winter Silhouette & Flowering Tree Show.** The Green House, 505 E. Washington St., Iowa City, IA 52240. **Set up: 9 am**
- April 11, 2024, 7:00 pm (Thurs)** *EIBA Board Meeting at Leonardo's. Contact an EIBA Board Member for more information, if you wish to attend.*
- April 13, 2023 (Saturday)** **EIBA David Kreutz Workshop.** For more information, contact Bill Englert.
- April 18, 2024, 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 20-21, 2023, 10am-2pm (Sat)** **IBA Spring Show and Sale** at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, (Check with the front desk for location within the Garden).
- April 27, 2024** **IBA Julian Tsai Workshop, 400 Pioneer Rd, Des Moines, IA.**

Notice of Upcoming Events

Susan Daufeldt



The EIBA *will Participate in the* **Linn County Winter** **Gardening Fair**

Saturday, February 17, 2024
Kirkwood Linn County
Regional Center
1770 Boyson Road,
Hiawatha, IA



Iowa Bonsai Association **Spring Show & Sale**

April 20-21, 2024

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden



The Green House, 505 E Washington St., Iowa City, IA 52240. The venue for the Winter Silhouette Exhibition.

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May 9-11, 2024
ABS Learning Seminars
In Coordination with
Meijer Gardens Michigan All-State Bonsai Show
Guest Artists -
Hugo Zamora, Jack Sustic, Suthin Sukosolvisit



Demonstrations, New Talent Contest, Cash Awards, Vendors, Banquet, Welcome Reception. Additional Guests: Steve Jetzer, Mark Fields, Kurtis Smith, Matt Spinniken, Tim Priest.



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>.

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Timely Tips - February

Susan Daufeldt

Repotting season is approaching with a rush. Be sure you have all of your soil ingredients, pots and repotting tools ready to go. Generally, deciduous trees get repotted first. For most species, the best time to do this is when the tree is just beginning to push - the buds will show green, but not have opened yet. If you have early breaking species like cherry and crab apple in indoor winter storage, you may be repotting sometime in the second part of February. The time to do that is when the buds begin to show green **BEFORE** the tree flowers. Fuji Cherries will generally not survive a repotting after flowering in this climate. (Note that some species, in some climates, are repotted after flowering. Iowa practitioners have **NOT** been successful in so doing.)

Timely repotting is extremely important. Fresh soil and proper root pruning can rejuvenate the tree and set it up for good development over the next 2-5 years. Use the best soil that is available and that you can afford. Generally, with deciduous species of all kinds we remove about one-third of the roots. **DO NOT ROOT-PRUNE COLLECTED CONIFERS - YOU COULD LOSE THE TREE.** If you are new to bonsai and working with collected conifers, you should plan to repot with the assistance of an experienced practitioner. If you are working with an older, established tree (deciduous or conifer), current repotting practice is not to disturb the central rootball. For deciduous trees, tease out and remove only the roots closest to the outside of the pot. For conifers, remove only roots teased out and closest to the outside of the pot **OR** remove soil from only one-half to one-third of the rootball during any given repotting season. This can be a good time to review credible sources on the internet for species-specific information. Please be aware, however, that climate matters: You cannot employ the same technique in Iowa that is recommended by practitioners in Oregon and expect the same results. Please consult with experienced Iowa practitioners.

Tying-in (the practice of securing a bonsai tree in its pot during repotting) is one of the most important and potentially difficult set of techniques in bonsai practice. If the tree is not secure in the pot, movement caused by wind or other elements may cause damage and/or kill your tree. Be sure your tree is secure.

Once the tree is secure and all soil is carefully chopsticked in to place, water the tree very well. Some soil ingredients (eg. turface; bark) will initially repel water, so it is important that you water the tree thoroughly enough to saturate those elements. Other ingredients (eg. akadama) may contain fine dust particles that can clog drainage holes if those particles are not thoroughly flushed through in the initial watering-in. Water the tree until the water runs clear from the bottom of the pot. This can take ten minutes or more. Let the tree sit and water it again.

Some practitioners like to use shredded sphagnum moss on the surface of the pot to preserve moisture and protect surface roots. This is particularly appropriate for deciduous trees, especially if you are in a location that gets a great deal of wind or are not able to water trees during the day in midsummer. We shred it so that the birds do not remove it for nesting material. Application techniques differ depending on your goals. Some practitioners “fluff” their sphagnum moss, creating an airy layer on the surface of the pot. They add live shredded moss to that layer. This makes for a good growing environment for the live moss, which then begins to populate the surface of the pot. If you are going to do this, however, you need to keep the tree out of the wind, as the wind will remove the fluff. Other practitioners are less concerned with growing moss and more concerned with the preservation of moisture in windy conditions. In these circumstances, moss is applied with a firmer hand. I soak my moss before I apply it to the surface of the pot. And, in most cases, I don’t fluff.

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Another REALLY important part of repotting: Keep repotted trees out of the wind. Deciduous trees can stay indoors until they break, but will need to have as much light as possible to preserve short internodes once they break. But trees lose moisture through their leaves and exposure to wind after repotting can severely damage or kill a tree.

Do Not allow repotted or recently worked trees to suffer a frost. Do Not allow deciduous trees that have overwintered indoors to suffer a frost once they have broken (pushed out leaves). They must come back inside on cold nights/days.

Conifers that have not been repotted or worked on can stay outside so long as the weather does not go much below freezing.

Standard practice is not to fertilize repotted trees for the first month after repotting.

Don't forget that sunburn can severely damage or kill your trees. This can happen very quickly and there is no remedy. Trees should be transitioned gradually.

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!

From the Members



Ron Heinen's Banyan decorated for the holidays. Ron says the grandchildren LOVE it! Photo by Ron Heinen.



A Colorado Spruce, originally owned by John Denny, collected and developed by Todd Schlafer, and currently in the collection of John and Susan Daufeldt, decorated for the holidays. Photo by Susan Daufeldt.

Gnarly Branches, Ancient Trees by Will Hiltz



This 700 year old yamadori California juniper (with Shimpaku juniper foliage grafted by Roy Nagatoshi) belongs to Dan Robinson, who collected and continues to grow and develop it. You can find a lot more about this and dozens of other bonsai masterpieces in *Gnarly Branches, Ancient Trees*, Will Hiltz excellent book about Dan (the Picasso of bonsai) and his ongoing love affair with bonsai and nature. *Courtesy of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association.*

IBA Meeting - November 18, 2023

Jared Wall

Our November 2023 (seems so long ago) meeting was not only our monthly open study, but the Iowa Bonsai Association's annual fund raising auction. Seventeen members in attendance help to raise \$1,111.00 dollars for the club! A huge THANK YOU to all who donated auction items (including the Greater DesMoines Botanical Garden) and made purchases at the auction. It was a fitting end to a great year of club activities.

Last year at our spring show, I was discussing beginner Bonsai with a young lady. Speaking of her journey with Bonsai, she said to me, "My green thumb is blue." I completely understood that feeling. As I plan this year's Bonsai work, I have to say, from a January point of view, my green thumb is blue. Let's get this season started.

February 17, 2024, 9am, we welcome all members and friends back to our monthly meeting and open study group at the Greater DesMoines Botanical Gardens. Looking forward to seeing all our Bonsai friends and their trees. If you haven't had a chance to do so, like and follow us on Facebook - help us grow the Bonsai community.



Scott Allen auctions a bonsai-related item at the November 18, 2023 meeting. Photo by Jared Wall.

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IBA President Scott Allen Brought this stunning Korean Hornbeam (pot by Horst Heinzlreiter) and Kotohime Japanese Maple to the November meeting. Photos by Jared Wall.





EIBA Members were invited to exhibit bonsai trees at the show held by the Eastern Iowa Orchid Club in October of 2023. Bill Englert's Sharp's Pygmy Japanese Maple won the award for "Best Overall Plant." There were 350 entries and 5 judges (4 from out of state), so this is no small accomplishment! Congratulations, Bill!
Photos by Bill Englert.

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EIBA Holiday Party - November 16, 2023



EIBA Members gathered at Leonardo's in Cedar Rapids on November 16, 2023, for the club's annual holiday party. Photo by Bill Englert.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMqMNXmNIks>

UNITY IN DIVERSITY



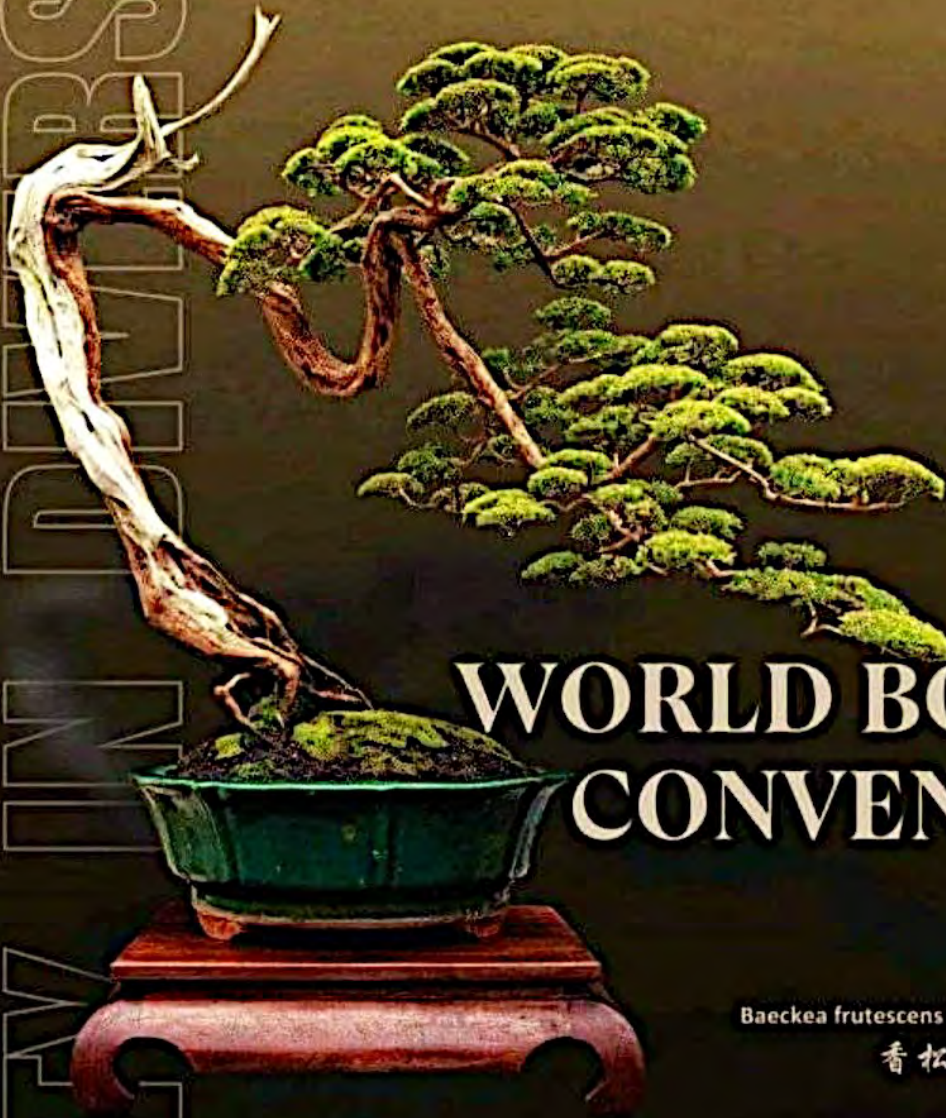
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Baeckea frutescens (Cukur Atap)

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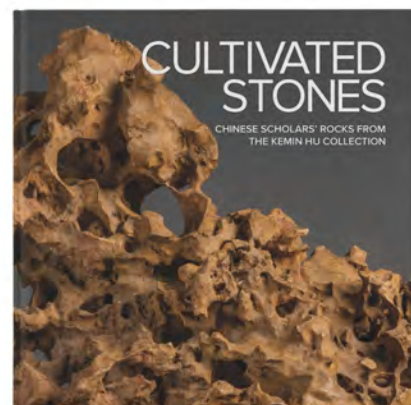


*News from the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum
Cultivated Stones - Chinese Scholar Rocks Collection*



As you may know, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum has seen a remarkable expansion in its [Chinese Scholar Rocks collection](#), thanks to a generous gift from long-time patron and internationally recognized scholars' rock expert, Kemin Hu. The collection features more than 100 mesmerizing viewing stones.

To celebrate this monumental gift, The National Bonsai Foundation has released a beautiful collectors item: A 152-page, one-of-a-kind volume detailing Hu's gift to the Museum, titled [Cultivated Stones: Chinese Scholars' Rocks from the Kemin Hu Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum](#). Thomas S. Elias, Chairman of the Viewing Stone Association of North America has called the book "a *tour de*



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force in the global world of stone appreciation,” and “a must-have volume for all students of Chinese stone appreciation.”

The [book is available from Artbook Publishing](#), making it a perfect gift for fellow stone enthusiasts or art lovers this holiday season, or simply an impressive addition to your bookshelf or coffee table. Your purchase will support the National Bonsai Foundation and the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. We are also thrilled to invite you to a [special exhibition](#) of these incredible stones. Beginning this [Wednesday, November 4](#) and running until March 17, 2024, the entire gifted collection will take center stage on display throughout the Museum, marking a historic moment in the world of Chinese Scholar Rocks.

We appreciate your ongoing support for this ancient and magnificent artform. We look forward to [welcoming you to the expanded viewing stones exhibit](#) at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum soon!

Warm Regards,



Bobbie Alexander, Executive Director

The National Bonsai Foundation

P.S. You can [read Thomas S. Elias' full book review](#) on VSANA's English Book Reviews. And check out this [article about the gift from Kemin Hu](#) on VSANA's blog. Don't forget to [get a copy the book](#) for yourself and a loved one!



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www.pacificbonsaimuseum.org

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<https://www.usnationalbonsai.com/register/commemorative-items/>



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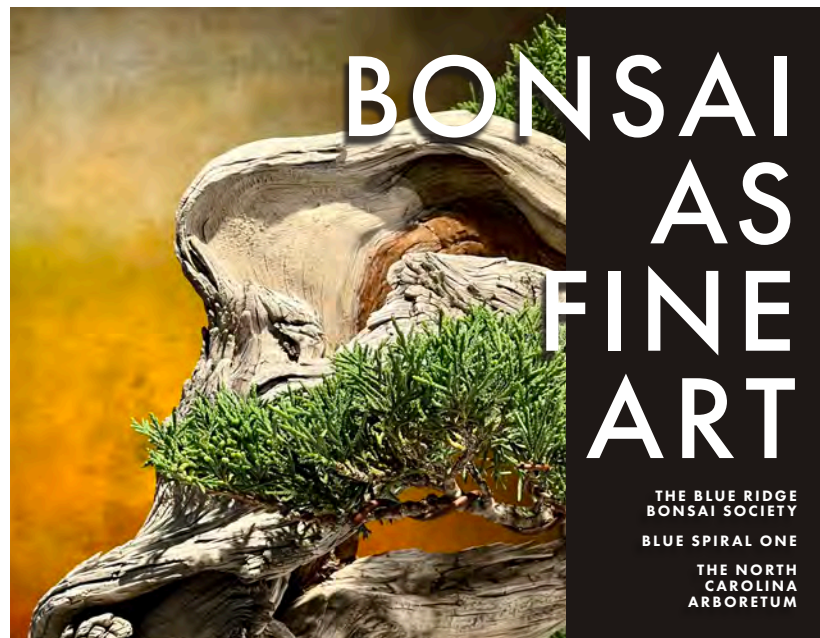
Retail Price \$69

Pre-publication price only \$55 + U.S. Postage

\$7, Postage CANADA \$28

Will be released in the summer 2024

Bonsai as Fine Arts Commemorative Album



The commemorative album of the Bonsai as Fine Art Exhibition, June 2-11, 2023, is in production and may be pre-ordered at <https://www.blueridgebonsaisociety.com/copy-of-work-space>. Photo by Oby Morgan.

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

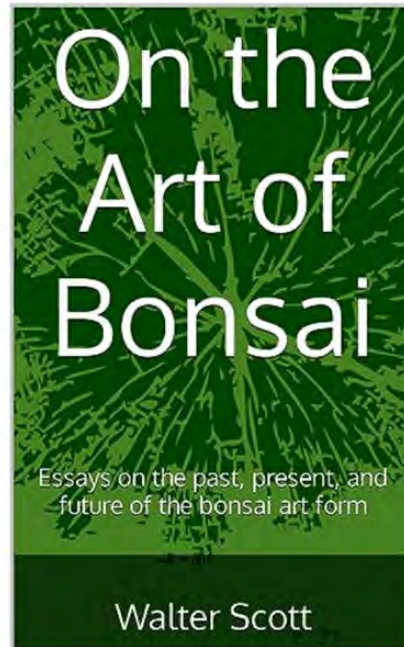


FOR SALE: Pumice 5 gallon bucket \$15 - bring your own buckets. Small and medium Double Red Line Akadama. The last pallet went fast, so let me or Tim know if you need any. Cost is \$50 for IBA Club Members and \$55 for nonmembers. Contact Scott Allen or Tim Peterson. Lava - Contact DaSu.

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

For Sale: Bruce Pendland has Pre-Bonsai Trees, Pots (Chinese, Walsall and Tokoname), Metal and large Wooden Benches for sale. Email Bruce at (brucependland@gmail.com).

New Book!
Available Now on Amazon !



Walter Scott, MD is a member of the PA bonsai society. He is a regional editor for the ABS and contributes articles to the Newsletter and ABS Journal. He writes the popular Artistreebonsai blog.

"An Exploration of Bonsai Art and Practice"

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