

Volume 157

May 2015



The Bonsai Creation



Peoples' Choice Award: Red Maple—Steve Knapp



Best of Show: Kishu Juniper— Jason Parrish



**Top Novice: Cascading Juniper -
Henry Geiger**

IMA 2015

From the President

Spring is finally here, and with that comes the annual spring bonsai show held at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, in conjunction with the IMA's Perennial Premiere. Although attendance was down, we had a great show that featured 43 bonsai displays from 10 of our IBC members. For this event, awards were given out for the best novice bonsai, the people's choice and the best of show. This is not a regular judged show where trees are individually critiqued. Awards are given based on popular vote. It's kind of fun, because people are asked to put a little bit of thought in the process. I think that people enjoy being able to cast their vote. We often hear things like, "How can I decide? They're all so beautiful." More often than not, the "people's choice tree" tends to be a tree with eye-popping color or something out of the ordinary. Flowers, bright leaves, or root-over-rock styles seem to have the advantage. This year was no exception, with Steve Knapp's beautiful Japanese Maple taking the prize. It's new flush of springtime leaves were an eye-catching red. It's a great tree no matter what season, but the leaves really made it stand out. I was teasing him, telling him that if you stand close enough, you could still smell the fresh paint of the leaves. Truthfully, the color was natural and out of all the trees at the show, this tree earned 27% of the popular vote.

The awards for best novice tree and best of show come from the votes of IBC members. These are always the votes I find most interesting. For this show, a novice is defined as someone with less than five years experience. Many novice bonsai artists aren't comfortable showing the material they've been working on, so there are often very few candidates in this category. Still, every novice deserves a pat on the back for coming out to display a tree. The important thing is to have fun with it. This year's winner of the best novice bonsai display went to Henry Geiger and his cascading juniper display.

Judging for the best of show is always the most interesting process and here's why: Some IBC members have been studying, displaying and creating bonsai for a long times. Some of us have been doing this for decades. Some of us have been to many shows and we've seen many fantastic bonsai. Although many may consider this a small local show, the IMA show was full of wonderful specimen bonsai, including ones

that were awarding winning trees from the state fair and Midwest Bonsai Show. Some trees had been on display at the U.S. National show. How does one pick the best tree? It's easy to understand how difficult it is for a judge to award a tree at the larger shows, like the State Fair or the Midwest Bonsai Show. Even among seasoned veterans with an eye for bonsai, there was no clear-cut winner. The number of IBC member votes is very small. There was a great selection of trees, and the votes for best of show were spread out among 8 different trees. Just a couple of votes was the only difference between these top 8 trees. I think in any judged bonsai competition, the margins are very tight. Personally, I can usually pick out the top 4 or 5 trees in a judged show, but It's always very difficult to guess how a single judge will rank the top trees. For this particular show, Jason Parish edged out the competition and won the award of Best of Show with his Kishu Juniper display. Great job, Jason!

Finally, I want to thank the IBC members who volunteered during the show and to those who were willing to display their trees. If you've never helped setting up or tearing down a show, there's more to it than just dropping off trees. We are moving tables, adding table cloths, putting up signs, typing and making display tags for the trees, sweeping and adding lights along with a whole host of little tasks to prepare for a show. For a tear-down after a show, the whole thing is done in reverse. During this particular show, we were taking things down and running things out to cars while it was raining. Clean-up is never fun....and it is worse in the rain. Still, we had over 10 people to help at the close of the show and we were able to get the whole job done in less than 20 minutes.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting.

Scott Yelich

Tree of the Month — American Hornbeam Jason Parrish

The American hornbeam is a small deciduous tree that grows in most temperate zones of the eastern United States. Its habitat stretches from approximately New York state all the way down into parts of the Louisiana, Georgia and North Carolina. The tree is characterized with alternate leaves, fine twigging and furrowed, muscle like trunk and smooth gray bark with extremely hard wood. This tree in my mind is the most well suited indigenous species for bonsai in our area for many reasons. To find out more about this exciting species listen in at the meeting in May.



**Checkout the updated IBC websites:
www.indybonsai.org / www.maba2015.com**



IMA 2015: A Sampling



**Indianapolis Bonsai Club
April 1, 2015
Meeting Minutes
Amanda Cox**

Date & Time: April 1, 2015 from 7:00-9:00

Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Presiding: Club President Scott Yelich

Attendance: 32 **Visitors:** 1

Membership: 36 paid households

Checking/Savings Balance: \$3119.62

MABA

52 Registrants to date

*Still Need Volunteers. Please speak to Steven Dick to sign up

Perennial Premier April 18th & 19th

Volunteers and Trees Needed

Tree of the Month

Blue Atlas Cedar

Presented By: Steve Knapp

Presentation

Lace Rock Plantings



**Lace Rock
Planting:
April 1, 2015**



What To Do May and June:

By Mark Fields (reprinted from IBC e-news June 2014)

This month all of your trees should be exploding with new growth. You should have moved your trees outdoors and defoliated tropical trees such as shefflera, ficus, bougainvillea, buttonwood, etc. The reason for this is that the foliage they developed during the winter will likely have stretched and the leaves will not be able to tolerate the full sunlight they require. It is important to cut the leaves at the petioles (stems) and to cut the terminals (growing tips). Fertilize them and they will flush with smaller leaves and lots of new branches.

If you had your deciduous trees in a winter hut covered with white poly, your trees likely started leafing out inside that enclosure. That growth is not the best for the overall shape and design of your trees, especially the maples. The inter-nodes (space between the leaves) will be too long and the leaves will burn when you place them out in the sun.

When you take them outdoors, it may be necessary cut the stretched growth back to the first set of leaves or. Like I mentioned above, cut the leaves at the petioles and cut the terminals. Fertilize and in a couple of weeks you will notice new buds emerging from the base of the petioles just below the cut. With maples, it is also important to leave about a half inch of stem above the buds you leave. Maples can die back after cutting so if you cut too close to the buds, you may lose those buds.

When you see the second set of leaves start to open, pinch or cut the stem just below where they are opening. This will activate the buds at the base of each of the remaining leaves and will increase the ramification (fine tertiary and quaternary branches). Repeat as necessary throughout the growing season and you will notice a marked difference in the fullness of your trees.

Those of you with Japanese black and red pines, you will see the candles on them stretching to several inches in length. At this time you should completely remove all but 2 of the candles at each terminal; leave the 2 that are growing more horizontally. This will begin to balance the tree and will even out the growth if this technique is done every year. When the needles on the remaining candles begin to harden off, in June, cut them back to about 5mm at the base of the candle. A secondary flush will appear at those areas which were cut in a few weeks. As they begin to stretch, they will not be as long and vigorous as the spring growth. Again cut back to 2 lateral candles. Those candles will have shorter needles and will be much shorter. Repeat this annually and you will see more back budding and your tree will be much more compact and well ramified.

There is likely some confusion concerning fertilizing methods. I like using organic fertilizers and others like chemical fertilizers. Ultimately, it is up to you. Do what works best for you.

Mark Fields

Date 2015	Meeting Topic	Detail	Presenter - Coordinator	2015
1/7	How to choose quality pre-bonsai stock	A presentation of how and where to buy quality pre-bonsai.	TBD	
2/4	Accent Pots	Members will be able to make their own accent pot from clay for a small fee. TBD	Paul Weishaar, Mike Thiedeman	
3/4	Wiring Demo—BYOT and wire	How to wire a tree	Mark Fields	
4/1	Lace Rock Planting	Creating a bonsai on lace rock; trees and rock available for purchase	Scott Yelich	
5/6	Grafting and air layering	Members bring trees that need grafting/air layering and work on trees during the meeting.	Mark Fields	
6/3	Candle pruning - tree display	Mark Fields will discuss candle pruning techniques/Members will get in groups and design a tree display	Mark Fields	
7/1	MABA	Finalizing details/tasks/volunteer assignments for MABA 2015 in Indianapolis	All	
8/5	State Fair Judge - Demo	TBD	All	
9/2	Annual "Members Only" Auction	Members bring in "anything bonsai" to auction. The club receives 20% of sale.	All	
10/7	BYOT Workshop	Members bring in trees they want help/advice with...	All	
11/4	Benches, winter Prep, 2016 Ideas	Presentatiion on bonsai displays, winter prep, spring tasks	All	
12/2	Annual Dinner	The Annual Gala Celebration	All	
Events				
April 18, 19	Perennial Premier	Bonsai Sale and Exhibit at the IMA	All	
June 6,7	Garfield Park Exhibit/Sale	Bonsai Sale and Exhibit at Garfield park conservatory	All	
July 10, 11, 12	MABA 2015	Major Bonsai convention hosted by the IBC	All	
July 26	Annual Picnic	Annual Club Picnic hosted by Paul and Judy Weishaar	All	

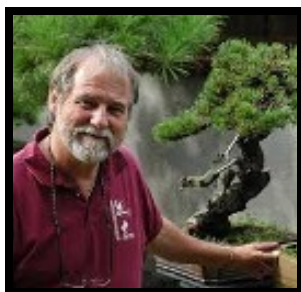


Suthin Sukosolvisit — Headlining Artist

Featured Artists



Pauline Muth



Jim Doyle



Mark Fields



Owen Reich



Brian Ciskowski



Mike Thiedeman



Scott Yelich

List subject to change

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Mark Fields

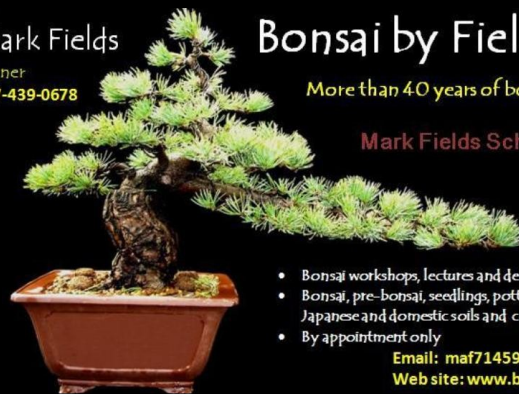
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Web site: www.bonsaibyfields.com

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IBC Annual Picnic

For some unknown reason we failed to include the IBC Annual Picnic in the Schedule of Events Calendar. The pitch-in picnic this year will be hosted by Paul and Judy Weishaar on Sunday July 26. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Additional details will be included in the June newsletter.

Club Information

Visitors are always WELCOME!!!

Where: Garfield Park Conservatory
2450 Shelby Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

When: First Wednesday of each
month

Time: 7:00 pm

Club Dues: Dues are \$25 per calendar
year. Cost includes up to
two members of the same
household.

Club Officers 2015-2017

President	Scott Yelich
Vice President	Carl Wooldridge
Asst. Vice Presidents	Robert Hoy Kyle Weidner
Secretary	Amanda Cox
Treasurer/Newsletter	Robert Hoy
Past President	Mark Fields
Membership	Jason Parrish
Web Master	Scott Yelich
Volunteers	Steve Dick
Historian	John Strassburg
Librarian	Tom Barnes
MABA/ABS/BCI	Paul Weishaar
Garfield Curator	Chuck Perry