

Volume 158

June 2015



# The Bonsai Creation

INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB



**Black Pine.  
Red Pine...  
Just how  
do you tell  
them apart?  
Find out at  
the June  
3rd IBC  
meeting...**

# From the President

Boy am I glad that things are finally warming up! The bonsai season is officially in full swing. Last week, I moved the tropical bonsai out of the greenhouse. I've been busy working in my growing beds and transplanting trees. Some trees have been going into new bonsai pots. Others are being pruned and styled. In the case of many tropical trees, I am doing both jobs at once. I tend to be a little more careful with my "outdoor" trees. I never try to do too much on any single tree at the same time. They tend to need a little more recovery time, and there's been a couple of occasions in the past where I've killed trees by doing too much at once. I think it's pretty common for all of us to get hit with Spring fever and we try to do too much at once. Bonsai is a marathon-- not a sprint.

Now's also a good time for a little spring cleaning. Sometimes our benches need some repair. Now's also a good time to give our summer outdoor display areas a little TLC, too. It's nice to get the bonsai out, but it's also time to rake leaves, pull weeds and put down some new mulch. On top of all of that, this is also when it seems like I have to mow my yard twice a week. Here's a helpful hint: The more bonsai displays you have in your yard, the less grass you have to mow! The more yard space you fill with bonsai stands, the more time you get to spend with your trees and the less time you have to spend mowing! I'm just trying to help. I'm sure your spouse will understand.

The month of May is coming to a close. If you haven't registered for the MABA 2015 Convention, you better do so soon. Priority registration ends on May 31. After that the cost for a full registration goes up \$30. You don't want to miss out on the show, the vendors, the demonstrations, seminars and workshops. A bonsai event of this size hasn't been in Indianapolis since 2008. There's no telling when or if we'll host another. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Speaking of bonsai shows, we'll have our annual

Garfield Park Bonsai Show on the weekend of June 6 & 7. Obviously, we hold our monthly meetings at Garfield Park, and I think that the staff and management of Garfield Park take pretty good care of us. Let's return the favor by giving them a great bonsai show. We need volunteers to present trees. We also need volunteers to set up and assist during the show. Volunteers are always needed during the show. We need people who are responsible for watering the trees and to act as security around the displays in both the lobby and greenhouse. It's good to have volunteers around to answer questions, but they also need to be present to insure that things like shohin trees and viewing stones stay where they belong. We'll have one more meeting before the Garfield Park Show. Steve Dick will have sign-up sheets for both volunteers and for displaying trees. Please consider showing a tree or two. Also, please consider working a shift sometime during the bonsai show. We can always use the help.

The June meeting is going to focus on bonsai displays. Since we have a June bonsai show at Garfield Park and the MABA convention in July, this will be the perfect time to think about formal bonsai displays. Although the June show is not a judged event, the show at the MABA 2015 convention *will* be judged. You can work the bugs out of your display at the June meeting and at the Garfield Park show so you'll be ready to bring your best work to the convention. For the meeting, we'll bring a mix of trees, stands, stones and plants. You can even bring along a tree you wish to display and we can give you some guidance if needed. I look forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday, June 3rd.

Scott Yelich

## Tree(s) of the Month — Black and Red Pine

Pinus is a genus of approximately 120 species of monoecious, evergreen, coniferous trees or shrubs, widely distributed throughout the world particularly occurring in mountainous and arid conditions where they are able to thrive.

Pines are a classic bonsai species in Japan and the world over, they are not however, easy trees to care for and style without experience. Pines have their own growth patterns that differ greatly from deciduous and common coniferous species; these growth patterns need to be understood before successful styling and pruning can be carried out.

As can be seen in the accompanying pictures; pines are not only used for bonsai in Japan, they are also very often seen cloud-pruned in Japanese gardens.

Pine foliage is in the form of needles that are most commonly formed in bundles of two's and five's. Some pine species have long and/or curved needles that make them difficult to style effectively as bonsai, however Pinus species that display short needles are nearly always suitable.

There are large numbers of pine species suitable for bonsai though

### Japanese Black Pine

*Pinus thunbergii* is a native of Japan and is arguably the classic bonsai pine species. The Black Pine is a very vigorous tree commonly grown Japan in parks and ornamental gardens where heights of anything up to 25metres are commonly reached. Black Pines are very tolerant of poor conditions, surviving in nature on barren, stony soils. *P. thunbergii* has thick, dark grey-green needles up to 7-15cm long, though quite long, the needle-size can be reduced in length with the use of bonsai pruning techniques. Bark

is purplish-grey and becomes very craggy and fissured with age.

*Pinus densiflora*

### Japanese Red Pine

Closely related the Scots pine with its reddish brown bark it has become a popular ornamental and has several cultivars. The height of this tree is between 20 and 35 meters. The Japanese red pine prefers full sun on well-drained, slightly acidic soil. Widely cultivated in Japan, as an ornamental and timber tree it also has strong ties in formal Japanese Gardens. It is not surprising that it is also very popular as a Bonsai too.

Styles: Formal upright, Informal Upright, Slanting, Cascade, Semi-cascade, Literate, Rock-over-root, Clapsed-to-rock, Twin-trunk, Clump, Group planting, Saikei

Location: Outdoor

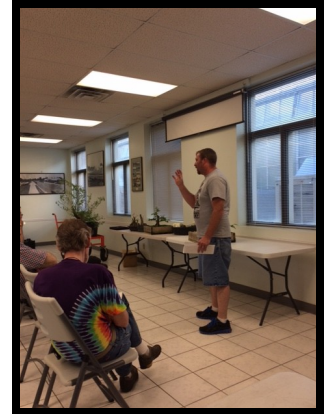
Position: Full Sun to Partial Shade, protect from Frost in Cooler months.

Watering: Water regularly but do not water log soil, only water when the surface of the soil has dried out a bit. Reduce watering in winter, but never allow the soil to dry out completely. Misting is appreciated between spring and autumn

**Checkout the updated IBC websites:**

**[www.indybonsai.org](http://www.indybonsai.org) / [www.maba2015.com](http://www.maba2015.com)**





Black or red pine? Or one of each? You'll know if you attend the June 3 IBC meeting...

**Indianapolis Bonsai Club**  
**Indianapolis Bonsai Club**  
**May 6th, 2015**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Amanda Cox**

**Date & Time:** May 6th, 2015 from 7:00-9:00

**Location:** Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

**Presiding:** Club President Scott Yelich

**Attendance:** 34 **Visitors:** 0

**Membership:** 49 paid households

**Checking/Savings Balance:** \$4097.51

**\*MABA\***

July 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

-Early Registration Ends May 31<sup>st</sup> Sign Up Now to Save \$30

-Volunteers Needed: Please contact Steve Dick to sign up

-Raffle Items Needed

**Next IBC Bonsai Show**

-Garfield Park June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

-Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> Set Up

-Sign Up to bring trees and volunteer at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

**Tree of the Month:** American Hornbeam

Presented By: Jason Parrish

**Presentation:** Grafting/Air Layering

Mark Fields & Paul Weishaar

## What To Do What To Do: Late June/Early July (reprinted from 2014)

By Mark Fields

If you haven't done so already, you need to cut the candles from your Japanese black and red pines. Cut the entire candle off leaving about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. Within a month or so, you will notice buds emerging from behind the cut and maybe even farther back along the branch. You also need to take all the growth back to just 2 (like a "Y") branches. In the long run your tree will become more balanced tree. I'll explain that in more detail later this year.

This is also the perfect time to repot your tropical bonsai. Though they can be done most any month of the year, they recover more quickly when they are growing their strongest. Note that they will require less water as you have removed some of the roots.

If the leaves on your Japanese and trident maples are too large and the tree is healthy, through the end of June is the perfect time to de-foliate them. It can be time consuming. You need to cut each leaf at the petiole (stem). You also need to cut all of the terminals (the growing point). This will promote new buds to open at the base of each petiole just behind where you cut the terminals. All of the new leaves that emerge within 4 – 6 weeks will be smaller and about double in number. This also increases the trees ramification (tertiary and quaternary small branching). Again, when you do this, the tree will not need as much water.

Continue to water and fertilize on a regular basis throughout this period.

If you are growing trees for future bonsai in the ground you need to cut them back by the end of June so that they have time to flush back out before it gets too hot.

As the temperatures climb higher, into the high 80's and 90's, you need to be aware of water loss in your shohin trees and that the darker ceramic pots will heat to the mid 100's and can result in the scorching of their roots. This can result in the decline or even death of the tree. This can be averted by placing your trees in an area where they can receive some shade during the hottest part of the day. Place your shohin trees on a bed of small grade gravel, sand or Turface which holds onto the water and will provide more humidity around your trees. For your larger trees you can place small white towels, which can be obtained in bulk at some department stores, over the sunny side of the pots and watered when the trees are. This will significantly cool the temperatures of the pots averting the burning and scorching of the roots.

Of course there are a lot more things you should do this time of year. If you have a specific question, please feel free to contact me and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

*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	
<b>Events</b>				
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**



**Bill Valavanis**



**Brian Ciskowski**



**Mike Thiedeman**



**Scott Yelich**

List subject to change



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Web site: [www.bonsaibyfields.com](http://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