

Volume 164

January 2016



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation



MAY YOU AND YOURS HAVE A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The IBC Board



From the President

For me, December and January are the slowest bonsai months of the year. By that, I mean that all of the outdoor trees are dormant and the topical trees are in a slow-down period, where there is little to be done with them outside of watering every few days. This time of the year, most of us are focused on family and preparations for the holidays. This time last year, I was busy spending a lot of my time shoveling sidewalks, too! This is a great time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the upcoming year.

The IBC had a great 2015. Obviously, our crowning achievement in 2015 was the successful MABA convention. Still, I'd like to look at the MABA as more of a stepping stone, rather than a place to hang our hat. Our past success grants us the opportunity and ability to do even more. Some of the funds raised at the MABA convention will be used to subsidize workshops and programs for 2016 and years to come. We have a lot of workshops planned for the upcoming year, and we'll be able to work on some really good material thanks to our 2015 fund raising efforts. I am really looking forward to this year's schedule of events.

Since January isn't the best time to be working on trees, our January meeting will feature some programs associated to the art of bonsai. As most of you know, the word 'bonsai' means 'tree in a pot' in Japanese. We spend a lot of time thinking about and caring about our trees. Still, the bonsai pot is just as important in the composition as the tree. It must be both functional and pleasing to the eye. The size, color, shape and texture of a pot adds (or detracts) from the overall bonsai composition. It is not uncommon for pots to be specially made to fit outstanding trees. Bonsai club member and ceramic artist Mike Theideman will do a presentation on bonsai pottery during the upcoming meeting. I look forward to seeing Mike's presentation.

This year, we will not be doing the Tree of the Month as we have in years past. We will do a

short program, instead. Now, our new short program format may actually be about a certain species of tree, like the Tree of the Month program during past seasons, but we're going to include other things besides trees. For January, I am going to be conducting the short program, and it is going to be on Suiseki and viewing stones. Suiseki is the Japanese art of stone appreciation. These viewing stones are often seen with bonsai in a formal display, but they are also displayed alone. Sometimes stones act as an accent, and other times they are the feature in the display. This short program will be about stone display and not about daizas or daiza making.

I hope we have a good turn-out for the January meeting. I am looking forward to kicking off another great year with the IBC.

Happy Holidays,

Scott Yelich



What to do...

Mark Fields

Bonsai by Fields

As we head into winter, there are things you should be doing with you bonsai. Depending on where you are keeping your deciduous and conifer trees during the winter, you should pay close attention to their moisture levels. I have a rather sizable collection so I have trees stored in my 2 outdoor white poly huts, one for the deciduous trees and one for the conifer trees. The huts are for keeping the wind and weather from harming the trees. The good thing about the huts is that the temperature inside stays 10 – 20 degrees higher than the out-door temperature. You really need to know your soil mixes and know what they look like when they are wet as well as dry. The difficulty is knowing what it looks like when it is frozen. A couple of weeks ago the outside temperature was 7degrees F. It was a sunny day and I decided to check the thermometer in the conifer hut. I was pleased to see that the temperature in that hut was 22 degrees F. When I looked at the soil surface in the pots they looked bone dry. I know from many years of experience that when the soil is frozen, it looks dry. That fact was verified when, last week, the out-side temperature rose to the lower 60's. When I checked inside the huts, I noted that the soil surface in most all of the pots was uniformly moist. Some of the smaller trees were looking a bit dry so I did water them well. I find that I only need to water in the huts about once a month. That may mean that I have to water with snow if available or carry buckets out and spot water. A few of my trees require special conditions. I realized one of my dreams of finally owning a California Juniper. Now I have 3 of them. At the onset of winter, I contacted a couple of my mentors, Ted Matson and Ryan Neil and asked them where I should store these trees. I had them stored in my conifer hut at the end of fall. Both told me that they should not be allowed to fall below the mid 20's so I moved them to the garage. My garage stays around 40 degrees F with the door shut so it makes a perfect place to store them as well as some of the trees that require more of a temperate environment. Many of my nicer shohin trees are in there as well. The problem with the garage is that they tend to dry out fast. I water at least twice a week. I found that the shohin trees dry out especially fast. Last year I decided to employ the same method of keeping them moist as I do during the summertime.

Storage tubs were purchased and small holes were punctured in the bottom for drainage. Then they were filled half way with Turface and were drenched with water. The shohin trees were placed in the Turface and their pots were sunk about half way. This is an excellent method to keep them from drying out too fast. Even though I wire trees all year long, winter is a perfect time to do that. They are dormant and can be easily wired and shaped. It is important that you pay close attention to new buds that form during the winter. They are all potential new branches. It is also a perfect time to perform needle plucking of your pines. (continued on page 3)

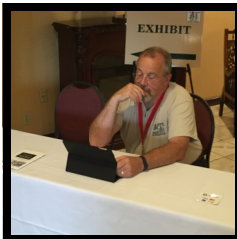
January and February is also the perfect time for sowing seeds. I start this task in the late summer and fall by collecting seeds from trees that I want to grow. Last year I found several Trident Maples and a Japanese Hornbeam in my neighborhood. After obtaining permission from their owners, I proceeded to collect the seed and placed them in zip lock baggies. I stored them in my garage until January. Last weekend I placed the seed on plastic bowls and ran tap water in my kitchen sink until it was as hot as possible. I then added water for the bowls and stirred them well. It is important to ensure that all of the seeds are saturated. Make sure you label them as well. After about 24 hours the viable seeds will sink to the bottom, in most cases. I drain the water from the seed and sow the seeds in flats of Turface and cover them with a layer too. Make sure they are watered well and place outdoors in the cold. I use clear plastic tubs with lids so that light can get in but the critters stay out. When the spring thaw begins, the seeds start germinating. By May I have thousands of new seedlings! As for tropical's, if you keep your trees indoors, water as needed. Keep a close eye on them for pests and diseases and treat them appropriately. Cut back fertilizing to once a month. If you have a heated greenhouse you should be noticing a new flush.

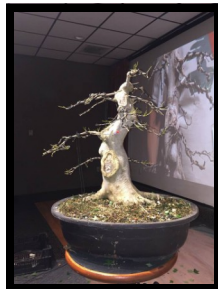
(reprinted from January 2015)

2015: It was a GREAT Year!

This Ficus is 100% Indiana grown.







Date 2016	Meeting Topic	Detail	Presenter - Coordinator	
1/6	pots	Pottery Presentation Short program on viewing stones	Mike Thiedeman Scott Yelich	
2/3	Pinch Pots	Pinch Pots workshop with Paul Weishaar Short program on making pinch pots & small slab pots	Paul Weishaar	
3/2	Making Stands	Bonsai Stands workshop Short program on assembling and finishing a bonsai stand	Scott Yelich & Paul Weishaar	
4/6	Kusumono	Kusumono workshop Short program on Kusumono	Amanda Cox	
5/4	Larch workshop	American Larch Workshop Short Program on American Larch care	Paul Weishaar Mark Fields	
6/1	Display Setting	Setting a bonsai display Short program - How to set a bonsai for formal display	Mark fields	
7/6	Tropicals	Tropical Workshop/ Short Program: Tropical Care	Scott Yelich	
8/3	State Fair Judge -Demo	Bonsai Demonstration	Jim Doyle	
9/7	Annual "Members Only" Auction	Sell/Buy any Bonsai related item	Scott Yelich	
10/5	BYOT Workshop	BYOT Nominations for 2017-2018 club officers	Scott Yelich All	
11/2	Elections	Club election of executive officers	All	
12/7	Annual Dinner	The Annual Gala Celebration	All	

IBC Financial\$ 12/15/15

Checking	\$556.06
Savings	\$10,089.27

IBC Corporate Sponsors 2016



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IBC LOGO ITEMS

Scribbles Embroidery of Arkansas has the Indianapolis Bonsai Club logo on file and they can produce dress shirts, polos, t-shirts, caps, bags, sweatshirts, fleece pullovers, etc in a wide selection of colors, both product and logo. This allows IBC members to purchase any item any time they wish. You can visit their website at www.scribblesemb.com to see their selection and place your order.

Mark Fields

Owner
317-439-0678

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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(s)	Chuck Perry Carl Woodridge Robert Hoy

Checkout the IBC website:

www.indybonsai.org