

Volume 166

March 2016



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation



**Thinking
(ready for)
Spring!**

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From the President

Thinking Spring!

Springtime in Indiana is always a weird thing. Last weekend it was twelve degrees Fahrenheit. This weekend, it is supposed to be sixty. I know we're all excited for spring. Our outdoor plants have been in their winter protection since November and we can't wait to get them out and put them back on the benches. This is also the time of the year when Mother Nature likes to play her evil games. Most of you Indiana natives have seen the pattern. Experiencing swings between cold and warmth in late winter and early spring is nothing new. Those temperature swings can be rough on our trees, though. Although we'd all love to dig our trees out of winter protection, it is best to wait for about another month. Personally, I protect my "outdoor" trees from the cold by placing them between a privacy fence and a temporary wind break. I then mulch them up to their lowest branch. Although many use a cold frame for protection, I actually leave mine uncovered. I like to let the snow fall on my trees, thereby giving them some added insulation and moisture. The mulch and snow also provide protection against the temperature swings that are so common during this time of the year. I'd rather allow my trees to thaw out gradually, rather than them going through a series of thawing and refreezing several times.

Although I am trying hard to curb my enthusiasm about digging out my trees for the season, I am still doing things to prepare for spring. This is the time of year when many "Big Box" and hardware stores are stocking their shelves with the spring inventory of fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides. Now is a good time to check out my inventory of that kind of stuff. Sometimes, you can even get some good early season deals on gardening supplies. Retailers know that you are ready for spring, too! Now's also a good time to look at my inventory of bonsai pots. It's too

early to pot. It's not too early to prepare. Do I have the types and sizes of pots I'll need later on in the spring? If not-- I better start looking! If I do have the pots I need-- are they clean? We commonly reuse bonsai pots, but I don't want to put a plant in a dirty pot. Now's a good time to clean off that old soil and Lyme. That way, my pots will be clean and ready when the trees are ready for repotting. Now is a great time to do a little spring cleaning on you bonsai tools and supplies.

I admit, while I'm making my spring preparations, I am also thinking about the upcoming show season. Our first bonsai show of the season happens in late April. By that time, many of you will have a new bonsai stand and an awesome accent plant. You'll just need to get a tree ready by then! I think our recent pinched pot program was a great success. I expect our upcoming bonsai stands workshop will be fun, too. Paul Weishaar and I selected some nice walnut boards for this project. We then took them back to Paul's house for sawing. Between a table saw and a garage heater, we managed to pop the breaker circuit in his garage five or six times! With that job complete, I now get to spend the next couple of weeks routing the edges and cutting the feet for about thirty bonsai stands. I'm really looking forward to it. (Insert smirk and eye roll here.) When the process is complete, IBC members participating in this project will need to sand them, put them together, and finish them. Still, that will be a fairly easy task, so the stands should be ready for use for that first bonsai exhibit.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our March 3rd meeting.

Scott Yelich

The Kennett Collection

Carl Wooldridge

Through out America, there are many bonsai collections with various degrees of quality. I have visited over 20 such collections and would like to highlight four outstanding ones to the club over the next several months. They are the Kennett collection, Chicago Botanical gardens, Pacific Rim collection, and the National Arboretum.

THE KENNETT COLLECTION. In a quiet, peaceful area of southwestern Pennsylvania is the town of Kennett Square. It is famous for the Longwood Gardens that has over 1600 volunteers but a modest bonsai exhibit. The other collection is ten minutes away and is the largest private collection in the US and possibly the world. The owner, Doug Paul, is a quiet unassuming gentleman with a love of bonsai plants; especially large and high quality ones. Several members may recall seeing these plants in the past at Brussels nursery in the quarantine area. Visits are by invitation only.

If invited, the first challenge is to find the property. There is no such thing as a straight back road in Pennsylvania. The property is very well maintained, but not ostentatious. The bonsai collection is surrounded by a high white stucco wall with solid wooden doors (Paul Weishaar was impressed by the doors!). Upon entering, you will be overwhelmed by the number of outstanding junipers on benches and the wall. There are Japanese white pines with over 14" trunks, huge cork bark Japanese black pines, and many many other specimen trees. What is just as impressive is the stands, pots and layout of the grounds.

Marty Schmalenberg described the Kennett collection as " the Disney World of bonsai", and this is correct. I do not think this is an insult, but rather a description of what one feels when first seeing the collection; overwhelming! The number of high quality trees numbs you, and it becomes hard to focus. To get a better experience, I would suggest focusing on one area or species of tree.

Doug Paul has been very kind to the bonsai community in America. He has bought and brought many specimen trees to the US and has allowed several trees to be exhibited in shows such as the Nationals and Artisans cup. He also had one sale in 2014 that released over 300 trees to the public. Several members of the club were beneficiaries of the same. Thank you, Doug Paul.

101 Class. The Indianapolis Bonsai Club's 101 class will start on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The class book is PRINCIPLES OF BONSAI DESIGN, by David De Groot.

16 copies have been ordered, with 12 already spoken for. The cost is \$32, which is over 20% less than retail. There will be some paper work to register for the class as it is being sponsored by the Indy Parks Department. The cost is \$20 per person, which covers some of the rental of the rooms. The course will last six months, on the first Wednesday of the month, just preceding the club meeting. I am working with members of the club for potting workshops and nursery visits, but that has not yet been finalized.

The first lecture will cover 'how to look at a bonsai tree' and 'how to evaluate a potential tree for possible pre-bonsai'. April will cover plant maintenance. The future classes will depend on the make up of the class.

Carl Wooldridge



**The Kennett Collection: A peek ... but
oh, there is so much more to see...**

<http://www.thekennettcollection.com/>



**Indianapolis Bonsai Club
February 3rd, 2016
Meeting Minutes
Amanda Cox**

Date & Time: February 3rd, 2016 from 7:00-9:00
Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room
Presiding: Club President Scott Yelich
Attendance: 38
Membership: 45 paid members 2016
Checking/Savings Balance: \$10,353.48

Bonsai 101 and Bonsai One on One

Begins March 2nd before the regular club meeting
Starts at 6:00 Garfield Park

March Meeting

Stand Building \$10.00 with paid membership
9 x12 Walnut Stands

Brussels Spring Preview Sale March 5th & 6th

<http://brusselsbonsai.com/events-and-promotions.cfm>

Come with or order online. Great deals!

February

Short Program: How to make small bonsai pots. Presented by: Paul Weishaar

Regular Program: Make your own bonsai pots

What to do...

March and April

(reprinted/edited from 2015)

Mark Fields
Bonsai by Fields

Well, there's no doubt that it's still winter here in central Indiana. It seems like the temperatures are on a roller coaster ride. The winter does seem to be a normal one this year. Let's hope that the spring and summer are normal this year, as well.

Towards the end of March, when night time temperatures are in the mid-20's and days are in the 40's and 50's, I usually start moving my conifers back out of my huts onto the outdoor benches. Their foliage will appreciate the sun-shine and spring moisture. I know many people start fertilizing when the weather starts getting better thinking that when our plants wake up, they need to be fed. Truth is, if they were fed correctly in late summer and fall, they have stored all the nutrients they need to flush out and harden off and be healthy for the spring. If you are one of those who must fertilize, try to use a low nitrogen fertilizer so that you don't promote unhealthy, leggy, grotesquely long and leggy new growth.

Here is an exception I learned from Ryan Neil that double flush pines such as Japanese black and red pines should be fed every 4 to 6 weeks starting at the beginning of March.

Another exception would be that you should have been fertilizing your tropical trees that continue growing indoors or in a greenhouse throughout the winter. I usually do that every 6 weeks instead of every 2 – 4 weeks like I do in the summer.

If you haven't done so already, you should also be plucking your pines, removing the needle clusters on the bottom of last years growth and taking the foliage back to 8 – 12 needle sets taking care to leave some old, 2 year old, as well as some of last years needle clusters. For pines such as Scots and Ponderosa, it is better for the tree that you cut the needles from the bottom of the branches rather than pulling them. Pulling needles from these two varieties can damage the fragile bark and cambium resulting in the death of the growth.

By mid-April you can expect to see trident maples and hornbeams that have been over-wintered outdoors to start flushing. When that happens, it's a perfect time to repot them. If you are digging tridents that were growing in the ground, you can cut the roots back hard. The roots will sprout from along the cut edge of the roots.

Continue repotting other trees as well into late April. Just remember not to let them freeze afterward. Also remember that when the new growth begins to flush, the trees will require more water.

Mark Fields

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	Kusamono	Kusamono workshop Short program on Kusamono	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 (must be a current, paid member to participate)	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\$ 2/15/16

Checking **\$ 418.59**
Savings **\$ 9,589.65**

Editors note: Thank you to Jason Parrish for his service to the club as Membership Director this past year. We appreciate all you have done to further the mission of the club.

IBC Corporate Sponsors 2016



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Conservatory Manager

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www.Indygov.org

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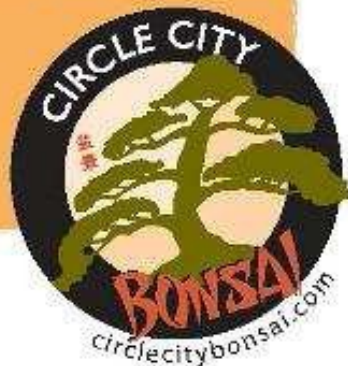
Westfield, Indiana

317.565.3582

Call for an appointment

Trees
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Robert L. Hoy
(317) 627-6084



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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More than 40 years of bonsai experience

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- By appointment only

Email: maf71459@gmail.com

Web site: www.bonsaibyfields.com

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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	Steve Dick
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