

Volume 176
February 2017



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation

Is it Winter?



Or is it Spring?

It's Indiana. It's both... or so it seems. It just depends on the day...



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From the President

It is January and the temperature is a yoyo, which is why we mulch our trees. My biggest problem is wind. The "wind tunnel" next to my house blew the heavy plastic off my make-shift shelters. Our trees may be dormant, but we better not be.

It has been suggested that as we 'hunker down' for winter, we should catch up on our reading. A review of how to do a 'root over rock' bonsai would be a good start. The April program will be a workshop on this topic. The club will provide the materials at minimal cost, but you need to provide shears, pliers, wire cutters, and garden gloves [preferably leather].

I want to again thank the people who helped me as I bumbled through the computer while doing my presentation. I also want to again thank Mark and Neil for their contributions.

The February program is one that I never tire hearing. Mike Thiedeman will be presenting a program on making bonsai pots. He presented this at the 2015 MABA and was very well received. Most of the club missed it do to volunteer responsibilities, and the first attempt to present this was hampered by computer issues. (sounds familiar!) I have been friends with Mike and Mary for over 10 years and have met many of his prior students from Earlham College, where he taught Ceramics for many years. In the highly intellectual atmosphere of Earlham, Mike taught students how to show expression through their hands. He is loved by his students. I would encourage everyone to come and see a Master at his craft.

MABA is progressing well and there will be several updates at the short business meeting prior to the program. Please come and mingle, welcome any new member, learn and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Carl Wooldridge

It works! It works!! Mike has a new digital projector and it works!

At our February meeting, Feb. 1, Mike Thiedeman will present the program originally intended for January, 2016, when a projection difficulty resulted in an improvisational conversation about ceramics in place of the planned video.

The program will be a discussion about bonsai pots and a video presentation about the process of the making of bonsai pots.

Earthenware, stoneware, porcelain – is there a difference and does it matter which your bonsai pot is made of? What temperatures are your bonsai pots baked at? What kind of fuels are used to burn in pottery ovens? Differences?

How do you make an oval pot on a round potter's wheel? What is involved in the process of making a bonsai pot, from start to finish? What are the steps?

We'll have a good time. Be sure to join us and learn some things you may not have known about the pots you use.

Cabin Fever

Scott Yelich

I am pretty sure that most people get a little bit of cabin fever during the winter. By the time mid-January comes, most of us are ready to be finished with winter and we eagerly await the spring. I think that statement is most true for bonsai hobbyists, since many of our trees are sleeping under a bed of mulch this time of the year. We don't see many of our trees, and we really can't partake of the hobby we enjoy until things warm up. That being said, I think that tropical shohin bonsai are a cure for the winter blues.

Although some bonsai enthusiasts may have collections which are primarily outdoor trees, I think almost anyone can find room in their collection for a couple of nice tropical shohin bonsai.

First -- Why tropical? That's an easy answer. Unlike our trees that remain outdoors, most tropical trees adapt fairly well to indoor conditions. You can place these small trees indoors by a window and you can enjoy them while your other trees are dormant. Although they aren't growing as fast as they do in the summer, you still get to do some trimming and wiring if you wish. You also have something that you can water every couple of days. When it gets warm, you can put them back outside with the rest of your bonsai collection. So, even if it is gray and cold when I look out of the window, it's nice to see a green and happy tree sitting next to the window.

Second -- Why shohin? That's also another easy answer. They take up less space. I understand that not everyone owns a greenhouse and some people may have very limited suitable window space. Shohin sized bonsai normally range in size from 8-12 inches tall, depending on who you ask. Either way, they are small enough that you can fit a few of them by a window. Bigger trees are nice too, but sometimes they are not as manageable for an indoor setting. Personally, I've have some tropical shohin bonsai that I've been working on for well over twenty years. Although I *do* own a greenhouse, I still bring in several smaller tropical bonsai for me to enjoy in my living room over the winter.

Here's a few helpful hints if you'd like to keep some tropical trees inside for the winter. Some trees do better indoors than others. The easiest to keep, in my opinion, are Ficus, Dwarf Jade, and Schefflera trees. Also, I highly encourage the use of humidity trays. Your trees will really appreciate the extra humidity since our houses tend to be very dry in the winter. Finally, I'd recommend doing what you can to increase air movement around your trees. Good airflow decreases the chances of insect infestation or disease. Turn on your ceiling fan if you have one.

In conclusion, Bonsai is a hobby which can be enjoyed year round, even here in the Midwest. If you have the right trees in your collection, a few can come inside and enjoy the cooler months in the house. That way, you'll have something to do in the winter time besides scrubbing out dirty pots. Everyone can come up with enough space to squeeze in a couple of nice tropical shohin trees.



What to do...

One suggested method for winter care of your “outdoor” trees...

Let your bonsai become one with the earth

One of the most preferred overwintering techniques is placing the bonsai, pot and all, inside a hole. The surrounding soil insulates the pot and the roots within from temperature extremes.

First, choose a location sheltered from wind. Optimum placement would be a location sheltered from wind and under the cover of a larger tree. Next, dig a hole deep enough so that the pot, when placed inside, will be slightly lower than the soil line.

After, place a humidity tray upside down into the bottom of the hole. Place the bonsai tree on top the ledge created by the tray.

Once completed, wet pine bark mulch should be filled in around the sides of the pot inside the hole. After, a top layer of pine bark mulch should be placed on the surface of the bonsai pot's soil to make it even with the surrounding soil line. The pine bark serves a few purposes; it insulates, keeps the tree watered, and makes it easier to take out of the ground later.

Lastly, a plastic sheet can be placed over the bonsai as further protection if freezing precipitation is forecast.

The unheated room

The other option is to place the tree in an unheated room such as a shed, garage, or unheated greenhouse where the temperature won't rise above 50 degrees Fahrenheit. If the temperature rises too much the tree may come out of winter dormancy too early. If this method is used, it helps the roots to keep the soil more dry than wet, but not completely dried out. Additionally, inspect the tree to make sure there are no lingering insects that may try to make a meal of your tree.



Indianapolis Bonsai Club

January 4th, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Robert Hoy

Date & Time: January 4th, 2017 from 7:00—9:00 p.m.

Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Presiding: Club President Carl Wooldridge

Attendance: 28

Membership: 35 paid households in 2017

Checking/Savings Balance: \$1,278.29 checking
 \$8,091.29 Savings

February Meeting: Bonsai Pots—Mike Thiedeman

The **Indianapolis Bonsai Club** met on January 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield Park Conservatory. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Carl Wooldridge, president.

It was reported that the 2016 Gala held on December 7, 2017 was well attended and enjoyed by all. Because the December Meeting was the annual Gala, no minutes were presented.

A financial report was presented by Club Treasurer, Bob Hoy. \$1,278 in checking, and \$8,091 in savings.

It was announced that the club would host a Bonsai 101 class at Garfield Park, from March through June. The class will be led by Carl Wooldridge, and will be held at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, immediately prior to the regular monthly club meeting.

A presentation on the shifting trends of formal bonsai presentation in the USA. was made by Carl Wooldridge, Neil Dellinger, and Mark Fields. The discussion focused on not only the trees, but shifting trends in pots, stands and accents.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Indianapolis Bonsai Club

Financials 2016

Expenses

Print	\$698
Dues	\$45
Trees	\$1,338
Office Supplies	\$50
Sales	\$ 3,223
Insurance	\$288
Artists	\$1,428
Auction Sales	\$1,252
GALA	<u>\$1,306</u>
Total:	\$9,628

Revenue

\$12,957



Mark Your Calendars!

MABA 2017

July 7, 8

July 6*

(*pre-convention workshop)

Clarion Hotel

2930 Waterfront Pky West Dr.

Indianapolis, IN 46214317.299.8400

IBC Board of Directors

2017 & 2018

Carl Wooldridge – President

Dan Cain – Vice President

Bob Hoy – Treasurer

Alyssa Batula – Secretary

Scott Yelich – Past President

Date 2017	Meeting Topic	Detail	
1/4	Trends Shift	The shift in American trends toward trees, stands, and pots used in US national shows	Carl Wooldridge, Neil Dellinger, Mark Fields
2/1	Pottery	AV presentation on making bonsai pots	Mike Thiedeman
3/1	Doug Hawley	Presentation and demonstration by Doug Hawley, nationally recognized on grafting to improve your bonsai	Doug Hawley
4/5	Root over rock work- shop	Modest fee for rocks and either Ficus or Maple trees	All
5/3	Preparing for Shows	Presentation for preparing your bonsai for display at shows	
6/7	Soil and Pot col- ors; Moss ball accent plants workshop	A report on his experiments on the effect of pot colors on soil temperature (Ron Fraley); Moss Ball accent plants workshop	
7/5	MABA site preview	On site preview of MABA Convention Preparations: Clarion Hotel & conference Center (Westside)	
8/2	State Fair Judge Bonsai Styling Demo	Bonsai styling by State Fair Bonsai Judge	
9/6	Members Only Auc- tion	Annual Club Members Bonsai Auction	
10/4	Tropical bonsai Styling Workshop	Tropical Bonsai styling workshop. BYOT or trees available to buy (modest fee)	
11/1	Dueling Demos	Dueling Demos on late fall bonsai styling and care	
12/6	Annual Dinner	Annual Club Holiday Dinner and Raffle, Volunteer Raffle, Dead Tree Contest	

IBC Financial\$ 2/15/17

Checking	\$ 1,132.33
Savings	\$ 8,091.01
Total	\$ 9,584.30

IBC Corporate Sponsors 2017



Fritz Nerding

Conservatory Manager

Phone: (317) 327-7184 or 327-7337

Fax: (317) 327-7268

Email: fnerding@indygov.org

2505 Conservatory Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

www.Indygov.org

Eagle Creek Bonsai, LLC

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Scott Yelich

(317)471-7696

www.eaglecreekbonsai.com



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Mark Fields

Owner
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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 2017-2018

President	Carl Wooldridge
Vice President	Dan Cain
Secretary	Alyssa Batula
Treasurer	Robert Hoy
Past President	Scott Yelich
Membership	Steve Dick
Web Master	Scott Yelich
Volunteers	Steve Dick
Historian	Paul Weishaar
Librarian	Paul Weishaar
MABA//BCI	Paul Weishaar
ABS	Mark Fields
Garfield Curator	Chuck Perry
Publications/Photos	Robert Hoy

Checkout the IBC website:

www.indybonsai.org

www.mababonsai.org

(click on the MABA 2017 link)