

Volume 178

April 2017



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation



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From the President

March is a busy month for most bonsai people. It's a time for repotting and wiring trees. I just finished my 25th repotting. It is also a time to keep a close eye on your dormant trees as there might be a little green bud popping out! My favorite is the Larch, which has a tiny "paint brush" bud. It is Mother Nature's symbol that she is going to splash Spring colors all over the fields and woods. Do not miss this tiny joy!

The March program by Doug Phillips was very impressive. "How to make a large Trident that you can carry". It was good to see members getting involved. The style is unique and it was good to hear it from someone who has been doing it for many years. Perhaps the most rueful comment by Doug was the idea of putting the composition back into the ground to speed up the maturity. This is not mentioned enough. Potting a tree will almost always slow the growth. Thank you, Mark, for arranging the program.

The April program will be a workshop on 'root over rock' styling. There will be trident maple "whips" and ficus for trees. Mark Fields will give a demonstration on the fusion technique for Tridents. You can then purchase which type of tree that you want, and the rock (if you did not bring your own). Scott Yelich will lead the ficus workshop and Mark the trident. Root over rock is a two person project, so team up with someone. The rock can be rough so consider gloves. I would like to close the workshop by 8:30p.m. and have people present their tree to the group; then we can clean the room!!

Paul Weishaar has agreed to keep us informed on MABA. He will have updates in the newsletter and at the meetings.

See you on April 5th at Garfield.

Carl Wooldridge

**Indianapolis Bonsai Club
Minutes
March 1, 2017
Alyssa Batula**

Date & Time: March 1st, 2017

Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Presiding: Club President Carl Wooldridge

Attendance: 37

Membership: 100 memberships, 61 paid for 2017

Checking/Savings Balance:

Checking: \$ 365.00

Savings: \$8,091.42

The March meeting featured a demonstration by Doug Phillips on making magnificent maple trees by fusing seedlings together. The trees are made by attaching 100-300 one-year-old maple whips to a wire frame, which fuse together into a single, hollow tree in about 10 years. The demo featured maple trees, but any tree that takes well to grafting is a candidate for this technique. The featured demo tree will be raffled off at the April meeting.

Several club members also brought in trees and supplies for purchase before the presentation.

Upcoming Events

MABA July 7- 8, 2017

- We still need more volunteers!
- All volunteers receive a special volunteer shirt and \$25 off registration
- No experience needed to help
- You aren't expected to work the entire time, have fun too!
- Attending MABA is a great learning opportunity
- No admission charge for Saturday exhibit and vendor room
- Registration is required to attend or observe workshops and seminars
- Registration and more information available on the website
- www.MABAbonsai.org

April Club Meeting

- Root over rock workshop
- Bring your own rock, or buy one at the workshop
- Trees: trident maple whips or ficus (narrow leaf or green island)

Natural Inspiration

Scott Yelich

Have you ever seen a ficus blown by the wind and contorted by the snow pack from near the tundra line? How about a beautiful white pine growing in the rainforest, with it's beautiful banyan roots spreading all over the place? No? I haven't seen these things either. Seeing either one of those trees would be unnatural. If those things seem funny to you, then why would you design a bonsai tree shaped in a way unnatural to it's species? Bonsai is an art, so I agree that there aren't any steadfast rules, but there are guidelines that are good to follow.



One pretty good general guideline in bonsai is that you are trying to make every little tree look like a mature old tree. When it comes to shaping, a mature evergreen tree often looks different than a mature tropical or deciduous tree. Attempting to shape a tree in a form unnatural to it's species can cause visual distractions that take away from the aesthetic. Let me put it in real simple terms: Make your tree look natural-- not goofy.

So, what does a 'real' tree look like? That's pretty simple-- just look around. It's good to get inspiration by looking at bonsai on the internet or by watching videos made by well-known bonsai artists, but don't forget about the things that Mother Nature wants to show you. How about going for a walk in the woods or around the park? Look at the trees in your back yard. Maybe you even have a favorite tree growing nearby. Personally, I like taking pictures of interesting trees when I travel. In early spring, the leaves aren't blocking the view of the branches. Go out and look at an old deciduous tree. Go out and look at an old pine tree. Look at the roots around the base of the trunk. Look at the movement in the branches. Now's a good time to take pictures. What angles to the branches come off the trunk near the base of the tree? What angles do the branches come off of the trunk near the top of the tree? Make a mental note of this kind of stuff.

Here's a project you can consider: Go and take a picture of one of your favorite trees or small group of trees. You can also use a picture you've already taken. Maybe this is photo of a tree seen while on a vacation or perhaps it is a tree growing behind your grandparents' house. Use that picture and try to make a bonsai representation of that subject tree. So, if you are looking at a big elm or maple tree, start with a small maple or elm tree. Try your best to set the branches as close as you can to your original subject. Over time, that small tree should develop into both a mature bonsai and a warm memory of one of your favorite trees.

I've included with this article some pictures of trees I've taken. I have pictures of pines, deciduous, and even a couple of ficus trees growing in the wild. Mother Nature provides some pretty good examples. If you find something that catches your eye in nature, don't be afraid to take those ideas and apply them to your bonsai art. More than likely, you'll end up with a few eye catching bonsai over time.



MABA 2017 Bonsai Convention News

Registration has opened for the 2017 Mid-America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) Convention being hosted by the Indianapolis Bonsai Club on July 7-8, 2017. A complete schedule of 32 events is scheduled for Friday and Saturday and there is a one-time full day pre-convention workshop with Matt Reel on Thursday, July 6. In addition there is a 4000 sq ft vendors room and a bonsai exhibit consisting of 100+ bonsai. There are 13 noted bonsai artists hosting Seminars, Workshops, Demos and Exhibit Critiques. Workshop and Critique spaces are limited so early registration is suggested. There is also an early registration discount cost.

The Clarion Hotel Waterfront Plaza & Conference Center is offering an unbelievably low cost of \$89 per night. Be sure to mention the MABA Convention to get this price.

For full information and registration forms, visit www.MABAbonsai.org

YOU'RE TAKING A BIG CHANCE!
... IF YOU HAVEN'T YET REGISTERED FOR MABA2017!!!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE WORKSHOPS

YOU

WANT!

REGISTER TODAY!

CONTACT KYLE WEIDENER

kylew10@hotmail.com

Mark Your Calendars!

MABA 2017

July 7, 8

July 6*

(*pre-convention workshop)

Clarion Hotel

2930 Waterfront Pky West Dr.

Indianapolis, IN 46214

317.299.8400

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	Maples	Doug Phillips: Trident Maples	Doug Phillips
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 colors; 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 Auction	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\$ 3/15/17

Checking	\$ 597.16
Savings	\$ 7,091.01
Total	\$ 7,688.17

IBC Corporate Sponsors 2017



Fritz Nerding

Conservatory Manager

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Email: fnerding@indygov.org

2505 Conservatory Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

www.Indygov.org

Eagle Creek Bonsai, LLC

Bonsai Trees & Pots
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Scott Yelich

(317)471-7696

www.eaglecreekbonsai.com



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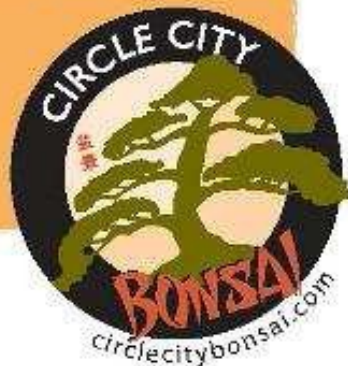
Westfield, Indiana

317.565.3582

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Mark Fields

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Founded 2011



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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)