

Volume 180

July 2017



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation

It's Almost Here!!!

Are you registered?

MABA 2017

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From the President

Welcome to a hot June. The paper presented by Ron Fraley could not have been more timely. When temperatures climb to the 90's, plants shut down, unless protective measures are done. I have noticed that many of my bonsai friends are placing small plants into large tubs filled with wet Turface or some other water holding material. Extremes in temperature, either hot or cold, need to be addressed always! The program by Ron Fraley was outstanding and useful. I did not know that dark blue pots conducted the most heat! I had suggested that he submit the paper to the ABS journal, but he beat me to the punch; congratulations. Mark did a great job pinching in for the short program. He gave a pictorial presentation on the World Bonsai convention in Japan. It was exciting to see a friend of our club, Bjorn Bjorholm, receiving congratulations and praise from the top bonsai artist in the world: Kumora. WOW!

MABA. The convention is less than a month away. Everything is moving well, but the last minute preparation of the halls will require much labor. The next meeting will be held at the new WATERFRONT HOTEL [formally the Clarion Hotel]. The address is 2930 Waterfront Drive. This is off US 136 {Crawfordsville Road}. This is exit 16B off 465 West. This is the same exit as I74.

If you are asking yourself 'what can I do to help?', here are some suggestions:

1. Register for the conference, even if for only one day.
2. Look around to see if there is any thing you can donate to the raffles or auction. Bonsai pots move well.
3. We will be having a hospitality room, so if you make good browniea or cinnamon rolls, bring it to the meeting.
4. Tell your friends about the convention. Better still, bring them along.

We are going to postpone the summer picnic. There are only so many events we can do well at one summer.

The August meeting will feature the curator of the National Arboretum! He will be judging the State Fair show. The collection of bonsai at the Arboretum is the finest in North America! Not to be missed.

Carl Wooldridge

Indianapolis Bonsai Club

June 7, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: June 7, 2017

Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Presiding: Club President Carl Wooldridge

Attendance: 28

Membership: 101 memberships, 66 paid for 2017

Checking/Savings Balance 5/31/2017:

Checking: \$265.05

Savings: \$6,591.80

Total: \$6,856.85

The Garfield Park Exhibit was very well attended. Steve Dick, membership director, reported 66 members paid for 2017. President Carl Wooldridge announced that there will **NOT** be a club picnic this summer, and reminded all present that the State Fair Exhibit was coming soon. All present were reminded that the Clarion Hotel, the site of MABA 2017, has changed its name to Waterfront Hotel.

34 trees were on display In 2016, 30 trees were displayed. 5 members exhibited trees in 2017, compared to 6 in 2017.

250 people visited the exhibit in 2017, compared to 160 in 2016.

Ron Fraley reported on the results of his soil temperature and pot color experiments.

Mark Fields gave a slide presentation and commentary on his recent trip to the world bonsai convention.

Upcoming Events

Bonsai 101 October

Will be having another Bonsai 101 class at the end of October

MABA July 7- 8

Registration open - sign up soon, workshops are filling up

Show a tree! Don't let lack of novice-specific category stop you

Volunteer - you don't need to be an expert, just tell wet from dry and/or talk to people

Looking for donations to raffle/auction (especially pots)

The next meeting of the club will be held at the Waterfront Hotel on Wednesday, July 5, 2017.

Exhibiting Your Bonsai

As you are reading this the Bonsai Exhibit I am going to describe is now in its 3rd week and the response has been just incredible.

Judy and I are members of Second Presbyterian Church located on the West side of the 7700 block of North Meridian, just at the top of the hill. I am sure many of you are familiar with the monumental Gothic style facility. Over the past few months a number of parishioners have ask why I don't exhibit some of my bonsai at church. My thoughts have been what you are probably thinking right now, seriously...exhibit bonsai at church?

Well, about month ago I was sitting in church reading the weekly bulletin instead of listening to the sermon when I came across an article about an upcoming Art Exhibit in the church. A what? Art Exhibit in the church? It said the Fine Arts Department is.....suddenly I was alert, awake, my mind working overtime. (I am sure if Dr. Louis Galloway, the Senior Minister preaching the sermon happened to see me at that moment he would have thought he preached the perfect message and had finally gotten through to that Weishaar guy).

2nd Pres actually has a Fine Arts Department. In fact they have an Art Gallery with a permanent collection. Recent temporary exhibits include works by the Broad Ripple High School art students, a showing of art by Debra Tyte and presently on display are paintings by the Indiana Watercolor Society.

To make a long story short, I contacted the Fine Arts Director and on June 11, 2017 I began providing 4 bonsai each week to be on display from Friday evening through Monday morning. This 76 hour time frame will not have any negative effect on the bonsai and coincides with the peak occupancy periods of the church. Each week thereafter will feature 4 new bonsai. Knowing there would be questions, I was requested to provide information which the parishioners can have on the Indianapolis Bonsai Club as well as local sources for bonsai. This has been done.

I am really excited and looking forward to the opportunity of presenting the art of bonsai to the 4300+ members of Second Presbyterian Church and to all of you, remember, the next time someone mentions exhibiting your bonsai, do not just brush it off. Stop and think about it. It might just work.

Paul Weishaar

Why Go to a Bonsai Convention, Anyway?

A message from Steve Moore, Past MABA Vice-President

Late last year, I started talking up the MABA2010 convention, trying to persuade as many as possible of our local members to attend. A question from one lady stopped me in my tracks for a moment. The gist was: I don't have much bonsai experience; wouldn't things at a convention be over my head? So what point would there be to my going?

That rocked me a bit! As I considered her question, I realized that I had not mentioned the great difference my own first convention made to me. My first bonsai convention resulted in a "quantum leap" in my bonsai knowledge, enjoyment, and confidence. (I really don't like clichés, but occasionally a cliché does actually say it best.)

The first convention I attended was the 1992 American Bonsai Society Symposium, hosted by the Susquehanna Bonsai Society and held in Hershey, PA. Even though I had acquired my first tree (a serissa) 2-1/2 years before, I was still very much a beginner, learning as best I could from books and journals. My work schedule at the time kept me from involvement in any bonsai club.

How did the symposium result in a "quantum leap?" Let me give you some specifics.

First, learning, learning, learning! Opportunities to learn were all around me:

Demonstrations. I saw Bruce Baker, of Ann Arbor, MI, start out with an unkempt-looking collected yew that I, frankly, thought was quite boring, and transform it into a masterpiece. The work took two days, most of it off in a side room; but when Bruce was finished I was very much impressed by the result! I learned how a potter creates an oval pot on a round potter's wheel by watching Max Braverman do it. (He threw a round pot, then cut a leaf-shaped section out of the center and carefully squeezed the sides in to close the gap.) And I grasped some techniques that I had not yet understood from reading, by seeing them done.

Workshops are of course an excellent chance to learn, as many of you already know. I didn't take any in Hershey, but I was a silent observer in one or two, and even observing I learned quite a bit.

Exhibit Critiques. I took one critique at ABS '92, and have been convinced of their value ever

since! Vaughn Banting, of New Orleans, led a dozen of us through the convention exhibit, explaining what he found good and not-so-good about each tree. I know I learned more in that one hour than in any other four hours that weekend! Vaughn, by the way, had an encouraging way of referring to a bonsai's "dilemmas" rather than its "problems."

Private conversations. Within half an hour of checking in I found myself welcomed to listen in as a serissa's owner discussed design options with a teacher. Several times during the weekend I stopped one teacher or another in the hall, to ask (politely) if he would mind answering a question. My questions then were kindergarten level, but only one man blew me off.

Vaughn Banting was the most helpful of all. After courteously listening to a design dilemma that had me stumped, Vaughn sat down with me on a nearby bench. Taking the pad on which I'd sketched out my problem, he in turn sketched a simple, fairly elegant solution, which was well within my abilities at the time. When I protested that his suggestion broke a basic design rule, he explained that this was a valid exception. ("A major branch may cross the trunk, if the tree is a windswept.") It has always seemed to me that the best way to show my appreciation for the helpfulness of Vaughn, and others, is by passing it on. Vaughn died in October 2008, and since then it has also seemed the best way to honor his memory. Second, inspiration! Pictures can be very useful, but nothing compares with being able to see a bonsai directly: you can look at it from different angles, from closer or farther away; you can see more detail, more nuance. I went through the bonsai exhibit in Hershey at least three times by myself, studying the trees, finding new details, new insights. Several times I bent down to put my eyes about at the level of the nebari, and looked up into the branch structure.

Sometime during ABS '92, I'm sure, is when I started saying to myself, "I didn't know you could do that," in mingled surprise and delight. After 18 years, I still say it from time to time.

What sorts of insights can you gain from studying good bonsai?

Species. Would you expect English ivy, or giant sequoia, to

make a good bonsai? A convention display is a good place to expand your horizons about species you may not have considered before.

Style and color matches. Sometimes we don't realize that a certain style will work well for a given species, until we see an example. The same is true for pot colors and the foliage, fruit, or bark of different trees.

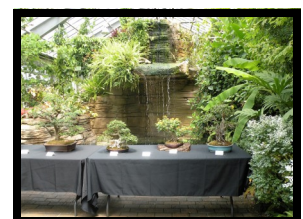
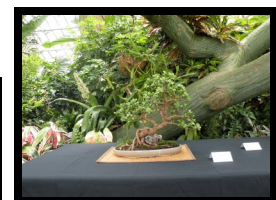
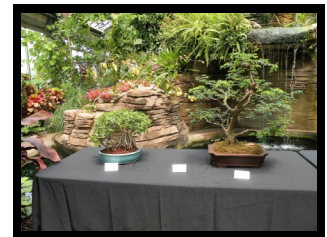
Ways to handle dilemmas. One of the trees in the Hershey exhibit had a major trunk-chop wound that was far from being completely closed. The artist put the wound to the rear, and grew a new leader directly in front of it, to conceal it. It was the first time I had seen that. Seeing how others have handled design dilemmas can give us ideas for dealing with the challenges our own trees present.

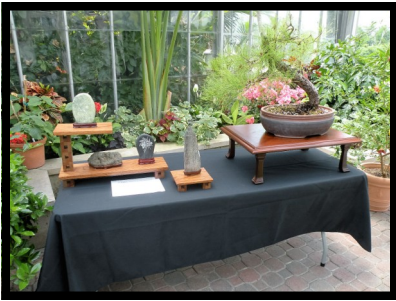
Third, community. This benefit is intangible, but it is very real. Paul Weishaar, President of MABA, approaches this concept from an angle that hadn't occurred to me, in his current "President's Message." Rather than appear to compete with him, I'll just ask you to read his second paragraph, beginning with, "As I write this I cannot help but think of our bonsai community ..." (President's Message shown below.)

Finally, let me leave you with a 9-year-old's perspective. I asked my daughter what she would say on this point, as I was getting ready to write. I'll quote her answer as closely as I can: When you go to a convention, you learn a lot about bonsai, and then you find you have a hobby that you will enjoy for the rest of your life!

Steve Moore, MABA Vice-President; Warsaw, IN
Fort Wayne Bonsai Club

This article is adapted from the February 2010 Stuff from Steve, a column in the Fort Wayne Bonsai Club monthly newsletter.









MABA 2017 Bonsai Convention News

The Pre-conference workshop w/Matt Reel scheduled for Thursday, July 6 is CANCELLED

Registration is open 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 4,000 square foot 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 WEIDNER

kylew10@hotmail.com

Soil, pots, and more...

The summer heat is upon us, during the week of Jun 11th the air temperatures at my house in north east Indianapolis reached 98°F. At temperatures above 86°F the enzymes and proteins in the leaves begin to deform. This causes the stomata of the leaves to become distorted and nonfunctional. If you recall stomata are the small openings the underside of the leaves that absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen and small amounts of water vapor. If these fail to function properly then photosynthesis ceases to occur. Without photosynthesis, the tree will begin to go into dormancy/survival mode. The summer dormancy reduces the days of active growth for our trees. We only have a 160-day growing season here in Indianapolis.

With the bright sunny days the internal temperature of the bonsai pots increases which in turn affects the root system. The temperatures in which roots begin to retract the fine hair roots is species dependent. The loss of these fine roots diminishes the trees ability to absorb water, and water is one of the critical components for photosynthesis and tree survival. Most of the articles I have read on this topic state that the optimal root temperature is between 60-80°F, this is species dependent with conifers and tropical trees are more tolerant to high root temperatures, but they do have limits. Root damage can occur in a little as 6 hours of high temperatures (soil temperature greater than 86°F), and the longer the duration of high temperatures the more the roots are affected. Some studies have shown that roots exposed to prolonged period of high temperatures can decrease the root ball by almost 70% in a little as 6 days. No species of tree can tolerate prolonged root temperatures of 120°F.

Recently I completed a small study on the internal and external temperatures of bonsai pots. During this study, I measured the internal soil temperatures and external pot temperatures several times each day for 10 days in July of 2016. My initial goal was to determine if wet T-shirts made the internal temperatures of the pots lower than the external temperatures. There were 6 pair of different colored pots used, unglazed, glazed white, glazed green, glazed light blue, glazed dark blue, and glazed black. The pots were filled with medium Akadama, and one pot of each color had a wet T-shirt over it, and one of each color had no covering. Each pair of similar colored pots were placed in humidity trays. The T-shirts were long enough to drape into the water in the moisture trays.

The T-shirt covered pots did have lower internal temperatures than the exposed pots but the internal temperature difference was only 2-5°F. All pots including the T-shirt covered pots had internal temperatures greater than 90°F, the uncovered pots reached temperatures greater than 110°F. Surprisingly the blue colored pots reached the highest internal and external temperatures over 70% of the time, and the black and unglazed pots consistently registered the cooler soil temperatures.

Don't throw your blue pots away, look at the type of trees you have in that colored pot. Remember some species of trees (conifer and tropical) can tolerate higher root temperatures, so reserve the blue pots for those types of trees. Place your deciduous trees in the cooler pots, black, unglazed pots or even white glazed pots.

Frequent watering will help reduce the internal soil temperatures. Placing trees in shaded areas so they get full morning sun or late evening sun, and are shaded during the hottest parts of the day (noon- 5:00pm). Speaking of watering I found that once I watered the pots, the internal temperature dropped but within 4 hours were back above 86°F. If you have an automatic watering system, set the interval between daylight watering's to about 4 hours.

Ron Fraley

Mark Your Calendars!
MABA 2017
July 7, 8

Waterfront 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	Neil Dellinger
6/7	Soil and Pot col- ors; The World Bonsai conven- tion	A report on his experiments on the effect of pot colors on soil temperature (Ron Fraley); A report on the World bonsai convention by Mark Fields	Ron Fraley Mark Fields
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\$ 6/15/17

Checking	\$ 716.10
Savings	\$ <u>6,091.80</u>
Total	\$ 6,807.90

IBC Corporate Sponsors 2017



Fritz Nerding

Conservatory Manager

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

Fax: (317) 327-7268

Email: fnerding@indygov.org

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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)