

Volume 189

May 2018

Spring has sprung! ... or has it?

Snow, wind, rain, sunshine... Indiana weather!



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation

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From the President

Spring is late!!! I have been moving plants in and out too many times. I may be growing traumatized elms and neurotic tridents!

The April meeting went well. There was a good variety of plants for sale, This event could turn into a yearly occurrence for the club. Thank you to the many sellers and the variety of material.

Bob Warfel did a good job with how to prepare for potting. One point that will be repeated is the Mycorrhiza preservation or addition. There is a good deal of symbiosis in growing plants. I also appreciate Neil Dellinger stepping in to demonstrate his potting techniques. We have considerable talent within the club.

There are many opportunities to experience Bonsai this Spring. The ABS convention is April 19-22 in Collinsville Ill. Bjorn Bjorholm and Marc Noelander are heavyweights in the field It appears that the workshops are filling up, but it is still worth a visit. You can get a one day pass for \$10. It is good for the exhibit and the vendors.

There will be a Kusamono (accent plant) workshop at Garfield Park on Saturday, May 26, starting at 9:00 am. Shannon Salyer comes highly recommended by Mark nFields and Neil Dillinger. There will be instructions on how to prepare and show Kusamono and you can choose three plants to create a accent plant. The cost is \$45. There will be additional plants available to make another accent plant if desired. Shannon also promised to bring several of his 'high end' plants for a higher fee. The quality of his material is well known. Accent plants are enjoyable creations by themselves and essential for a quality display. We can handle up to 12 people. The workshop should be over by noon. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting.

The 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday, July 7th at Holiday Park , on the North Side Od Indy. Dan Cain and Scott Yelich are planning the affair.

Paul Weishaar is putting together a history of the club./ More details are upcoming.

It is not too early to be thinking about next years programsMost workshops with plants require long preparation. One idea that has surfaced is a Root Over Rock workshop for Sapring 2019. The Board is open to any suggestions.

Hope to see you at the ABS Convention, if not, then do not miss Mark Fields program on Grafting. This is why we purchased the Can-quarter.



Carl Wooldridge

Indianapolis Bonsai Club

April 4, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Alyssa Batula

Date & Time: April 4th, 2018, 7 pm (6-7 Members Only Sale)

Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Presiding: Club President Carl Wooldridge

Attendance: 41

Membership: 51 paid memberships - 95 total

Checking/Savings Balance:

Checking: \$1,805.04

Savings: \$12,593.66

The April meeting began with a members'-only sale of plants, pots, and other bonsai material between the club members. The tree of the month is the quince, and the meeting featured a short introduction to the care of Chinese and Japanese quince.

The main meeting featured an presentation by Bob Warfel on repotting bonsai plants, including both the how and why of repotting (including improving water retention, drainage, and the importance of pruning the root ball). This was followed by a live demonstration by Neil Dellinger on a shohin-sized tree.

Announcements:

50th Anniversary Meeting/Celebration

July 7th at Holiday Park

Dinner + host a bonsai show, more details to follow

Kusamono Workshop

May 26

State Fair

August 3-11

Will have 2 shifts/shows again

Everyone should submit a tree! You'll learn a lot

Fertilizing Bonsai

Mark Fields

One of the most misunderstood practices in bonsai is when to fertilize. It is a difficult thing to understand if you don't know the basics of the effects of fertilizer on your trees.

When I first got into bonsai some 50 years ago, I learned from a nurseryman. He was growing trees for the landscape trade so he wanted trees to grow as fast as possible so they could be developed into saleable trees and shrubs. Then I began reading bonsai books and learned that all of them varied in the author's opinion as to when to fertilize your trees. As I gained more knowledge and started growing my own nursery stock when I started my own landscape business, I began reading more and more books on what the three main components of a fertilizer are. Those are known as the macro-nutrients; N – Nitrogen, P – Phosphorus and K – Potassium. Of course there are other trace elements that are beneficial in different ways to various plant species, but we will stick with N-P-K for now. They are represented on the labels by the various manufacturers by their concentration in numbers like 10-10-10. The higher the number, the higher the concentration.

Nitrogen is responsible for the vegetative growth of the plant.

Phosphorus is responsible for root growth and also flowers and fruit.

Potassium is responsible for making sure all functions of the plant are performing correctly.

Fertilizers are commercially available in chemical, natural or a mixture of the 2. Some of the chemical fertilizers come in liquid form or in granular form which can be dissolved in water. Some chemical fertilizers are available encapsulated in a slow release shell. Those should only be used on nursery stock, not bonsai.

For bonsai culture, it is recommended that only natural fertilizers be used. These are available in a wide range of forms and formulas. Some are powdered or granules, some are pelletized, while others are in a dried cake form. Most bonsai growers use a variety of different brands and forms on their trees. They are applied monthly during the active growing season, pausing during the summer dormancy months, then continued until late fall just before storing them for the winter. Summer dormancy occurs when daytime temperatures are in the mid 80's and above. Most trees will cease growing during that time. Exceptions are some tropical trees such as neea buxifolia, ficus, escambron, etc. If those types of trees are actively growing, continue to feed them monthly.

When you fertilize your bonsai, it makes a huge difference in the way your trees look and grow. Being in the nursery trade, I was made to believe that you start feeding your trees when they begin pushing or growing in the spring. That theory is perfectly fine if you are trying to pump up the trees and shrubs to make them grow strong and healthy so that they can be planted and thrive in landscaping, this is when you want to start feeding them. Generally, here in central Indiana, that is in mid-April.

When you are grow your trees in nursery containers as potential bonsai, then it makes perfect sense to begin feeding them when they start to grow in the spring. In this case you want to either have them in a growing bed or oversized container in order to allow semi controlled growth, such as sacrifice branches or extended apex, to allow the trunk to gain girth and to develop appropriate length and girth of branches.

What I have learned from so many bonsai hobbyists across this country is that they fertilize their trees as if they are growing them as nursery stock or potential bonsai. I receive dozens of calls from hobbyists in the late winter asking me for recommendations on fertilizers for their trees and when you should begin. In almost every case they believe, either from being taught by someone who doesn't know bonsai culture, or they just knew they should start feeding them when they saw signs of growth. If you think about it logically, and know the way plants utilize nutrients, you would realize that fertilizing a developed bonsai early in their growth cycle is actually working against what you are trying to do with a bonsai in the first place. Keeping the tree under control and small, with nice short internodes, believable ramification and small leaves.

I learned many years ago that you have to remember in bonsai culture that you must NOT feed your deciduous and conifer bonsai at the first signs of growth. Of course there are a few exceptions such as Japanese black and red pines, and tropical trees. I won't go into the details on the Japanese black and red pines here. The reason being that deciduous and conifer trees store the required nutrients in order to flush out after winter dormancy and successfully harden off. That means, in most years, you would not need to begin fertilizing those bonsai until late May or early June in central Indiana.

If you have been in the mindset that, *"I have to start fertilizing when I see them start to grow"*, and you act on that, you will undoubtedly see unnatural, hard to control, extended growth. The internodes, the space between the leaves, will be extended and exaggerated along with abnormally large leaves on deciduous bonsai. You must remember that the trees that you are trying to control in a small pot as bonsai cannot be grown like nursery plants. If you start feeding them in April as they start pushing you are doing just that. Your trees will never grow as needed in order to be bonsai.

The other misconception is that you should go out and buy 0-10-10 fertilizer in the fall. Although it is true that your trees will only utilize the phosphorous and potassium in the fall, you do not have to buy a special fertilizer in order to feed those nutrients to your trees. Just because a fertilizer that you already have contains nitrogen does not mean that the trees will suddenly start producing vegetative growth. The trees are programmed to utilize only the nutrients they need.

Please keep this information in mind in developing and maintaining your trees. If you follow what I am recommending, your trees will undoubtedly be better. Good luck!

Mark



CRABAPPLE BONSAI



Crab Apples along with Azaleas are one of the best flowering trees for use as bonsai. The Crab Apple genus *Malus* consists of around 35 species of deciduous trees and shrubs from woodland and thickets in Europe, Asia, and North America.

Crab Apples are highly valued for their Spring blossom and colorful Autumn fruit. Fragrant flowers, mostly 2-5cm across, are borne singly or in corymbs and vary in color according to variety. These are followed in Autumn by small fruit of differing colors. Leaves are alternate, oval to elliptic and most are toothed.

Though there are not many different species of *Malus*, there are many, many varieties, most of which can be used for bonsai. Varieties should be chosen for use as bonsai according to flower and fruit colour, also according to flowering ability; different varieties will produce different quantities of flowers.

Varieties commonly seen as Bonsai include; *Malus sylvestris*/ Common Crab Apple has leaves to 5cm long, pink-flushed white flowers in late Spring followed by greenish-yellow, red-flushed fruit to 2cm across. Native to Europe where it can reach heights of 9metres.

Malus halliana/ Halls Crab Apple has pink flowers, glossy green foliage but purple fruits can be sparse. Native to China where heights of 6 metres can be attained.

Malus cerasifera/ Nagasaki Crab Apple is the variety most often seen as bonsai due to its prolific white flowers that are pink in bud. These in turn lead to an abundant display of red fruit in the Autumn.

Malus toringoides/ Toringo Crab Apple is a *Malus* species that has 3-7 lobed leaves to 9cm long with creamy-white flowers followed by yellow fruit.

BONSAI CULTIVATION NOTES

POSITION Full sun. Provide good air circulation to discourage mildew problems. Crab Apples are very hardy though trees in shallow pots may

need some frost protection.

WATERING Give plenty of water when fruiting. **FEEDING** Feed fortnightly until flowering. Feeding after flowering may cause leaf growth at the expense of fruiting. If trees are in training and vigorous growth is required at the expense of fruit, continue to feed fortnightly, otherwise cease feeding until fruit are well developed. To protect the vigor of the tree, it is better not to allow the tree to fruit every two or three years as fruiting weakens the tree.

REPOTTING Annually in early Spring before bud burst using a basic soil mix.

PRUNING In Spring prune back new shoots to one or two leaves. Trees should then be left unpruned until late Summer. Pruning must be undertaken by late August, otherwise vegetative growth is more likely to occur than flower buds for next year. Trees in training that require maximum growth can be left unpruned until leaf-fall. If fruit are not required, dead-head flowers as they go over.

PROPAGATION Sow seed outdoors in Autumn. Cuttings of all wood-types in Autumn. Layering in Autumn if protected from frosts or in late-Spring. **PESTS AND DISEASES** As with other native species such as Hawthorn and Oak, Crab Apples attract a wide range of insects and diseases, particularly Aphids, Red spider mites, caterpillars, apple scab and mildew.

STYLING Informal forms with single or multiple trunks in all sizes. Only small fruited varieties should be used for very small bonsai.

Upcoming Bonsai Events

(For IBC Monthly Meetings/events+ visit **www.indybonsai.org**)

- April 13 -15, 2018** Mid Atlantic Bonsai Society Convention at the Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, CT
- April 19-22, 2018** ABS / Bonsai Society of St Louis Convention in Collinsville, IL
- April 28, 2018** Schefflera Workshop at Eagle Creek Bonsai, Indianapolis, IN
- May 10-13** Natures Way Bonsai Spring Bonsai Festival, Harrisburg, PA
- May 12, 2018 WORLD BONSAI DAY** The World Bonsai Friendship Federation(WBFF) recognizes Bonsai the 2nd Saturday in May. Special Events are held at many Conservatories and Botanical Gardens
- May 12-13, 2018** Michigan All-State Bonsai Show at Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, MI
- May 12-13, 2018** Midwest Bonsai Society Spring Bonsai Show at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL,
- May 19, 2018** Penjing Workshop at Eagle Creek Bonsai, Indianapolis, IN
- May 19-20, 2018** Alabama Bonsai Society Exhibit, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL.
- May 25-27, 2018** Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous, Olive Branch, MS
- May 25-27, 2018** Bonsai Societies of Florida Convention, Florida Hotel, Orlando, FL
- May 26, 2018** Ft Wayne Bonsai Exhibit, Ft Wayne Botanical Gardens, Ft Wayne, IN
- June 2-3, 2018** IBC Garfield Park Bonsai Exhibit, Indianapolis, IN
- June 9, 2018** Eagle Creek Bonsai Workshop at Peace Through Yoga, Franklin, IN
- June 16, 2018** Dwarf Jade Workshop at Eagle Creek Bonsai, Indianapolis, IN
- June 16 -17, 2018** Bonsai by Fields workshops with Tyler Sherrod. BYOT
- July 7, 2018 IBC 50th Anniversary Celebration at Holiday Park, Indianapolis, IN**
- July 14, 2018** Bougainvillea Workshop at Eagle Creek Bonsai, Indianapolis, IN
- August 3-11, 2018** Indiana State Fair Bonsai Exhibit, Indianapolis, IN
- August 17-19, 2018** Midwest Bonsai Society Bonsai Show at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL
- August 25, 2018** Ficus Nerifolia Workshop at Eagle Creek Bonsai, Indianapolis, IN
- September 8, 2018** IBC Bonsai Sale at Penrod Art Fair, Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art), Indianapolis, IN
- September 8-9, 2018** U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, East Rochester, NY
- September 14-16, 2018** Northwest Bonsai Rendezvous, Portland, OR
- September 15, 2018** Ft Wayne Bonsai Exhibit, Ft Wayne Botanical Gardens, Ft Wayne, IN
- September 17-19, 2018** Bonsai by Fields workshops with Mauro Stemberger. BYOT
- October 24-28, 2018** Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention, Sacramento, CA
- October 26 - 27, 2018** Bonsai by Fields workshop with Todd Schlafer. BYOT
- November 4, 2018** Bonsai Society of South Florida Annual Show and Sale, Berne Davis Botanical Garden, Ft Myers, FL
- December 1-2, 2018** Winter Silhouette Bonsai Show, North Carolina Research Center, Kannapolis, NC

Date 2018	Short Program	Long Program	
1/3	Barberry Bonsai	Severe wiring of a Juniper	
2/7	Mugo Pine	Finding the bonsai in the tree	
3/7	Flowering Apricot Bonsai	Everything about bonsai pots	
4/4	Chinese Quince	Potting a Bonsai / Club Members exchange/selling of trees	
5/2	Crab Apple Bonsai	Shohin Bonsai	
6/6	Japanese Maple Bonsai	Kusamono	
7/11*	Juniper Bonsai	How to finish a bonsai display	
8/1	Tropical Bonsai	Presentation of show only State Fair trees	
9/4	Members Only Auction	Annual Club Members Bonsai Auction	
10/3	Evergreen Workshop		
11/2	Preparing for Winter	How to draw a bonsai	
12/5	Christmas GALA		

**For the most up to date calendar, visit our website:
www.indybonsai.org**

IBC Board of Directors 2017 & 2018

Carl Wooldridge – President

Dan Cain – Vice President

Bob Hoy – Treasurer

Alyssa Batula – Secretary

Scott Yelich – Past President

IBC Corporate Sponsors 2018



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Club Officers+ 2017-2018

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.

President	Carl Wooldridge
Vice President	Dan Cain
Secretary	Alyssa Batula
Treasurer	Robert Hoy
Past President	Scott Yelich
Membership	Steven Dick
Web Master	Scott Yelich
Volunteers	Steven Dick
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Publications	
Photos	Bob Hoy

**Checkout the IBC website:
www.indybonsai.org**