

Volume 207

December 2019



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

# The Bonsai Creation

**Happy Holidays**  
**Merry Christmas**  
**Happy 2020**



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# From the President

Wednesday December 4 we will have our annual Holiday meeting / dinner at the Formosa Seafood Buffet located in the Castleton area at 6304 E 82<sup>nd</sup> St. Although the name specifically says Sea Food the buffet has a full selection of non-sea food items. The reserved area is available from 6:30 PM with plans for dinner at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$15 per person.

We will also have our annual holiday raffle with a special top prize, the Japanese Black Pine that Mark Fields began styling at the last meeting. He has subsequently completed the first round of styling and the tree looks fantastic'

A preliminary 2020 IBC schedule has been prepared by the IBC Executive Board and as soon as we get verification on the availability of workshop materials the schedule will be published. I almost said at the January meeting and I suddenly remembered the first Wednesday in January 2020 is New Years Day. **There will not be a meeting in January.**

See you next Wednesday. (12/4)



This article first appeared in the IBC Newsletter in the November, 1996 issue and is as valid today as it was then. Despite the size of bonsai, they are still the same as their larger counter-parts found in the woods and forests. Because of this Michelle Simmons, the IBC newsletter editor in 1996, thought this would be enlightening to both new and experienced bonsai artists and I agree. If, sometime in the future one of your bonsai happens to die (I know this rarely occurs....but) keep this article in mind and cut through the trunk and find out how old the tree was. You will definitely need a good magnifying glass due to the reduced tree size. Enjoy the article.

*Paul Weishaar*

## **Studying Tree Rings**

**By Sam Carman, Indiana DNR Division of Forestry**

Trees in the central hardwood region put on one growth ring each year. Each ring is composed of two parts. The lighter portion, sometimes called early wood, is produced in the spring of the year when conditions are wet and growth is very rapid. The ring's darker portion, called late wood, is produced during the other seasons, when growth slows and conditions are generally drier.

To understand how tree rings form, it is essential to know how a tree grows. The portion of a tree responsible for producing rings is a very thin layer just inside the bark called cambium. As the cambium produces cells, some of those cells form the tree's next growth ring, some cells are added to the tree's inner bark, and some become new cambium cells. The inner bark, or phloem, transports dissolved sugar from leaves to the rest of the tree. Older phloem cells eventually become part of the outer bark, which serves to protect the tree. As tree rings accumulate, they form the sapwood of the tree, also called xylem. The function of xylem is to carry water and other nutrients from the tree's roots to its leaves. Older sapwood eventually becomes heartwood, which forms the tree's central core and gives the tree strength and support.

Now some tips on reading tree growth rings. Remember when counting rings that each year the tree produces a light and dark band, so each pair of bands should be counted as one year. Should the bark be counted as one year? Well, if you think about how a tree grows, you'll remember that the cambium is making new bark cells at the same time it is making new sapwood where the growth rings appear, so no, the bark does not count as another year. When your count of rings reaches the center of the tree cross section, there comes a point where it becomes impossible to count rings. This is because in their first few years of life, most tree seedlings grow very little, so rings don't become apparent until the tree's root system becomes established and the seedling begins to grow more significantly. So in general, you can add a few years to your ring total to account for the tree's first few years of life.

Notice that ring width varies throughout the life of the tree. Some years the tree may have received more rain than in other years. Perhaps the tree was growing in the shade in early years and a storm or timber harvest allowed the tree to receive more sunlight in later years. Maybe the tree was under stress for a few years due to an infestation of insects or disease. Any number of factors can affect the size of individual growth rings.

A decorative border of green Christmas trees surrounds the central text area.

Annual IBC Gala

December 4, 2019

**Formosa Buffet**  
**6304 E 82nd ST.**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

A decorative border of green Christmas trees surrounds the central text area.

**\$15 per person**

## Indianapolis Bonsai Club

### November Meeting Minutes

Alyssa Batula

**Date & Time:** November 6, 7pm

**Location:** Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

**Presiding:** Club President Paul Weishaar

**Attendance:**

**Membership:** 97 (new club high!)

**Checking/Savings Balance:**

**Checking:** \$2,512.75

**Savings:** \$10,000.49

The October meeting was an evergreen workshop lead by Mark Fields. Members were able to bring their own trees or purchase one of the available Itoigawa Junipers to work on.

The club is now taking dues for 2020, as well as payment for tickets to the December Holiday party.

## Focus On MABA/Milwaukee 2020

[www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba)



June 25 - 28, 2020

Insights into Bonsai

Insights into Artists

François Jeker (France)

Ted Matson (California)

Mark Fields (Indiana)

Byron Myrick (Missouri)

Jennifer Price (Illinois)

Todd Schlafer (Colorado)



# **Top Prize at GALA Raffle**

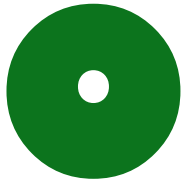
**Japanese Black Pine Styled by Mark Fields at November+ Meeting**



**The more tickets you buy, the better  
your chances to take it home!**

# Bonsai Care in the Winter

## (general thoughts)



Outdoor bonsai must live outside because they need a dormant period in order to survive. These trees have a pigment, called phytochrome, which resides in the leaves and bark of the tree. It works as a timer, sensing the amount of light it receives during the day, to get the tree ready to shut down. As a tree prepares for winter, it absorbs the nutrients from the dying leaves and stockpiles them for spring growth. The trees sit and wait, counting the days until spring arrives.

It is important to note that you **must keep the bottom of your bonsai pot in contact with the ground all winter**. If you keep your bonsai on a display stand all winter, the wind hitting the pot will drop the soil temperature drastically. This can lead to the roots getting too cold and they will die.

Another bonsai winter care note is to **keep the dirt moist at all times**. Most beginners hold back watering during the winter because they are afraid of the dirt freezing. When the dirt is wet, it can freeze, and it takes a lot to get ice below 32 degrees. Ice acts as insulation and helps keep the roots warmer than it is outside if temperatures drop below freezing.

## Burying The Pot

A common practice is to bury your bonsai in the pot in a hole for the winter. Bury the pot all the way into the dirt and place mulch up to the first branch of your tree. Being below the ground will help keep the bonsai warm throughout the winter. The mulch will act as insulation and also help trap moisture.

We do a trench every year and line the pots up side by side down the trench. After placing the pots in the trench, we fill in around the pots with the soil that we removed. We then place an inch of mulch over the top of the soil. Using this method, we have never lost a bonsai to the hard Boston winters.

Once spring arrives, the phytochrome sends the signal that it is time to get growing again. If you have practiced good bonsai winter care, the tree uses the stockpiled nutrients to form and open new buds. Once the buds are open and the tree begins to produce energy on its own, you will see the new growth begin to form.

## **Bonsai Events**

**For IBC Monthly Meetings/events+ visit [www.indybonsai.org](http://www.indybonsai.org)**

### **Local and National Bonsai events in 2019**

**January 6, 2019 Plant City Bonsai Open House, 1pm - 5pm, Clermont, GA**

**February 23 – 24, 2019 GSBF Bonsai – A – Thon XXIII, The Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA**

**March 9, 2019 Brussel's Bonsai Annual Spring Bonsai Sale, Olive Branch, MS**

**March 9 – 17, 2019 Indiana Flower and Patio Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds**

**March 16 – 17, 2019 Atlanta Bonsai Society Spring Show, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA**

**March 23, 2019 IBC Bonsai 101 Class, Garfield Park Conservatory, Indianapolis, IN**

**March 30, 2019 Deciduous Workshop at Eagle Creek Bonsai, Indianapolis, IN**

**April 6 – 7, 2019 Phoenix Bonsai Society Annual Bonsai Show, Valley Garden Center, Phoenix, AR**

**April 11 – 14, 2019 ABS 2019 National Convention, Houston Marriott, Houston, TX**

**April 12 – 14, 2019 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, PA**

**April 13 – 14, 2019 Northern Virginia Bonsai Society Spring Show, Merrifield Garden Center, Fairfax, VA**

**April 20, 2019 IBC Nursery Tour, Eagle Creek Nursery, Indianapolis, IN**

**April 27 – 28, 2019 Mid- Appalachian Bonsai Kai, Spring Show, Kingsport Civic Auditorium, Kingsport, TN**

**May 11 – 12, 2019 Midwest Bonsai Society Spring Bonsai Exhibit, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL**

**May 11 – 12, 2019 Michigan All-State Bonsai Show, Mijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, MI**

**May 18-19, 2019 Alabama Bonsai Society Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL**

**May 24 – 26, 2019 Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous, Olive Branch, MS**

**May 24 – 26, 2019 Bonsai Societies of Florida Convention, Florida Hotel, Orlando, FL**

**May 31 – June 2, 2019 Potomac Bonsai Association Convention, National Arboretum, Washington, DC**

**June 1 – 2, 2019 Garfield Park Bonsai Exhibit, Indianapolis, IN**

**June 29 – 30, 2019 US National Shohin Bonsai Exhibit, Southeast Kannapolis, NC**

**August 2 – 10, 2019 Indiana State Fair Bonsai Exhibit, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN**

**August 16 – 18, 2019 Midwest Bonsai Society Bonsai Show, Chicago Botanical Gardens, Glencoe, IL**

**September 7, 2019 Penrod Arts Fair, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN**

**September 15, 2019 7<sup>th</sup> Annual The Art of Bonsai, Hidden Lakes Garden, Tipton, MI**

**For other Indiana Bonsai Organizations schedules visit their websites:**

**[michianabonsaistudy.club](http://michianabonsaistudy.club)**

**[Fortwaynebonsai.com](http://Fortwaynebonsai.com)**



Date 2019 Meetings	Program
January 2	Finding the Bonsai
February 6	Soils Program
March 6	Repotting Demo/Bring Your Own Tree to Repot
April 3	Deciduous Workshop
May 1	Repot/Restyle Garfield Park Bonsai Collection
June 5	Members Sale / Fertilizing and Disease Prevention
July 3	Tropical Workshop
August 7	Bring Your Own Tree / Positive Bonsai Critique
September 4	Annual Members Only Auction
October 2	Evergreen Workshop
November 6	Bonsai Slab Construction Demo
December 4	Christmas GALA

## IBC Board of Directors

### 2019-2020 Officers

**Paul Weishaar – President**

**Scott Yelich – Vice President**

**Bob Hoy – Treasurer**

**Alyssa Batula – Secretary**

**Carl Wooldridge - Past President**

**For the most up to date calendar, visit our website:  
[www.indybonsai.org](http://www.indybonsai.org)**

# IBC Corporate Sponsors

## 2019



**EAGLE CREEK BONSAI**  
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BONSAI TREES  
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**SCOTT YELICH**  
scott@eaglecreekbonsai.com



### 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

Trees  
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# Support our Corporate Sponsors



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Website: [bonsaibyfields.com](http://bonsaibyfields.com)  
email: [maf71459@gmail.com](mailto:maf71459@gmail.com)

# 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+ 2019-2020

President	Paul Weishaar
Vice President	Scott Yelich
Secretary	Alyssa Batula
Treasurer	Robert Hoy
Past President	Carl Wooldridge
Membership	Steven Dick
Web Master	Scott Yelich
Volunteers	Steven Dick
Historian	Ron Fraley
Librarian	Paul Weishaar
MABA/BCI	Paul Weishaar
ABS	Mark Fields
Garfield Curator	Paul Weishaar+
Publications/Photos	Bob Hoy

**Checkout the IBC website:  
[www.indybonsai.org](http://www.indybonsai.org)**