

Volume 211

April 2020



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation

IBC

Winter to Spring...



“April is the cruelest month...”

T. S. Elliot
The Wasteland

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From the President

As I am sitting here contemplating what to write for the April IBC Newsletter, I will admit, I am overwhelmed. I don't know where to begin. As you are all aware, everything non-essential has been either canceled and/or closed due to the virus. Bonsai, unfortunately, falls under this non-essential category, at least relative to having any meetings or other events where we must venture beyond our safe individual havens.

In March alone the Indiana Flower and Patio Show, where the IBC had a booth, was cancelled as was our Bonsai 101 class at Garfield. Speaking of Garfield, as I am writing this the Conservatory is closed through April 5 which cancels our April 1st meeting and I would not be surprised if the closure is extended. Scott Yelich and I are presently scheduled to travel to Florida in late April to purchase trees for the upcoming Bald Cypress workshop and it is possible the travel restrictions will still be in place. As things begin to return to normal, we will review the remaining IBC schedule and determine if we need to make some revisions.

On the positive side, my bonsai look great. Since I cannot go anywhere, I have been **FORCED** to work on repotting, pruning and treating the trees with a fungicide. As there are no below freezing temperatures forecast in the next 10 days, I have taken all my non tropical bonsai out of the cold-house. If it happens to get below freezing again, which I am sure it will, I will just have to take them back inside. This may take an hour or so but, so what? I cannot go anywhere, so I might as well enjoy my bonsai.



Due to the Corona Virus, the 2020 Flower and Patio Show was cancelled. Below are pictures from the 2019 event.

Enjoy.



**THE
INDIANA
FLOWER
AND
PATIO
SHOW
2019**



**Anxiously
Awaiting
2021...**

Indianapolis Bonsai Club

March 4, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Alyssa Batula

Date & Time: March 4th, 7pm

Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Presiding: Club President Paul Weishaar

Attendance: 27

Membership: 101

The March meeting featured a presentation and short demonstration on suiseki. Topics included where to find stones, how to pick an interesting stone, how to make a stand for a stone, and selecting a suiseki for a display.

Bonsai artist Pauline Muth also visited our club for the evening, announcing several upcoming events including the Global Bonsai Convention happening this fall in Washington D.C.

Membership: 101

Support our Corporate Sponsors

Bonsai by Fields (Mark Fields)

Circle City Bonsai (Bob Hoy)

Eagle Creek Bonsai (Scott Yelich)

The IBC Corporate Sponsors ALL traveled to Brussel's Bonsai Nursery in Olive Branch, MS for their annual preview sale in early March, and ALL returned to Indy with a big selection of trees in anticipation of the Indiana Flower and Patio Show Sale. Give them a call! They have a BIG selection of new trees for sale!

How to Prepare your Bonsai for Spring

Now that your trees have successfully survived the winter, it's time to prepare them for spring. The most important thing one should remember is to **be patient**. Your outdoor trees have rested over the winter and will be soon ready for new growth. Following are a few general tips to prepare your trees for the spring season.

Outdoor Bonsai Spring Preparation

If you decided to **overwinter** your bonsai in a garage, shed, or cold frame continue to leave it there until there is no more danger of freezing weather. Wait for the weather to fully warm up. Check your bonsai's soil moisture content on warmer days leading up to spring. You should water your bonsai tree if it is dry. If it is overly wet temporarily tilting the pot to the side may aid in drainage.

If the bonsai is in a cold frame you can open the door to it on warm days, but be sure to close it at night. This will aid in keeping the overall temperature more even and prevent leafing that is premature. As noted earlier, remember to be patient. Temperatures may still be fluctuating a good deal from night to day. The tree will suffer if the tree comes out of dormancy early and freezing weather comes through. As a result, it is not a good idea to take the tree out of protected storage during the day and move them back in at night. Wait until all signs of freezing weather have dissipated.

Indoor Bonsai Spring Preparation

It is important to note that if you depend on light coming through open windows to help provide the necessary lighting conditions for your indoor bonsai tree that the strength of this light diminishes in winter. Therefore it is possible that the spot you had it during the summer may not be providing the required light your bonsai needs in the winter. As a result, its health may start to decline towards the end of the winter season leading up to spring. Some warning signs that your indoor bonsai's health may be deteriorating include leaf drop, leaf yellowing, and wetter soil than normal. This can put your bonsai at risk for fungal issues and root rot.

The first thing you should do to prepare your indoor bonsai for spring is cutting back on watering. Your tree will require less water if it is receiving less light. Next, try to supplement additional lighting using grow lights. Keeping the soil on the drier side should help lessen the chances of root rot and fungal infection. Additionally, providing more light will keep the tree healthier making it less susceptible to disease in the first place. Also note incandescent grow lights increase heat which may cause the tree's soil to dry faster. You may need to actually water more frequently than you are used to when using supplementary lighting.

Finally, fertilizing your tree should not be done until spring actually arrives and the sun intensity returns. Start with a very diluted solution and gradually work up to your normal dose.

We Live in Crazy Times

I guess it's pretty impossible to write an April article and not mention Coronavirus. It's the number one topic in the news and it's had an effect on our community and the way we live day to day like nothing I've ever encountered. Our kids are home from school. We can't do much of anything. There are no social gatherings. The Indiana Garden & Patio Show was cancelled. Our April meeting is cancelled. My Grand Canyon hike with my daughter also had to be cancelled. Many of us are bored and it's easy to get depressed at times like this. The only positive things that I can really say about our current situation is that we'll get through it and this gives us lots of extra time to work on bonsai.

I dug my outdoors trees out of the mulch last week and the buds are swelling. The weather is finally getting warmer and the days longer. This is a great time to pot many of our "outside" trees. Later today, I'll be mixing up a bunch of fresh soil and I'm going to start potting trees. Sure, we're not supposed to gather in groups, but we can still work outside on our trees, go for walks and do those home projects we've been putting off. So, rather than going to the Grand Canyon next week, I'll be installing new tile to the kitchen floor. With any luck, I may take my daughter hiking in the Grand Canyon during the October fall break.

When I decide to take a break from the trees and the kitchen tile, I've decided that I'll attempt to teach my daughter the official card game of Indiana --Euchre. After all, you can't have a kid grow up in Indiana and not understand the basic principles of Euchre.

Sure, this Coronavirus thing is by no means how I wanted to spend my Spring. It could be worse. A good friend of mine has a daughter who just celebrated her 21st birthday. Rather than going out to the bars with her friends, she stayed at home and had a shot with grandma and grandpa. Someone was kind enough to buy her a 6 pack of Corona, though! Although the situation was less than ideal, she made the best of it.

Living by her example, I'm going to try to make the best of it as well. Perhaps I will crack open a beer and have a drink while I'm potting trees. I hope to see you at the May meeting. We'll keep you posted if there are any additional schedule changes to our monthly meetings.

Scott Yelich

Vice President



“I dug my outdoors trees out of the mulch last week and the buds are swelling. The weather is finally getting warmer and the days longer. This is a great time to pot many of our "outside" trees...”

2020 USA Bonsai Events

February 15-16 Knoxville Bonsai Society Annual Show. Knoxville Botanical Garden/Arboretum. Knoxville, TN.

March 7 Brussels Spring Sale. Brussels Bonsai Nursery. Olive Branch, MS.

March 14-22 Indiana Flower and Patio Show IBC Bonsai Sale. Indiana State Fairgrounds. Indianapolis, IN.

March 20-22 Atlanta Bonsai Society Spring Show. Atlanta Botanical Garden. Atlanta, GA.

March 28 IBC Bonsai Class 101. Garfield Park Conservatory. Indianapolis, IN.

April 11-12 Northern Virginia Bonsai Society Show. Merrifield Garden Center, Fairfax, VA.

April 17-19 Mid Atlantic Spring Festival. Holiday Inn I-81 Exit 80. Granville, PA.

May 1-3 Potomac Bonsai Association Festival. U.S. National Arboretum. Washington, DC.

May 9 WORLD BONSAI DAY

May 9 Nature's Way Nursery's 47th Anniversary Festival. Nature's Way Nursery. Harrisburg, PA.

May 9-10 Michigan All State Show. Meijer Gardens. Grand Rapids, MI.

May 9-10 Mid-Appalachian Bonsai Kai Annual Show. Kingsport Civic Auditorium. Kingsport, TN.

May 14-17 Bonsai Vision 2020, Drury Plaza Hotel. San Antonio, TX

May 22-24 Brussel's Rendezvous. Brussel's Nursery. Olive Branch, MS.

May 22-24 47th Annual Bonsai Societies of Florida Convention. Location to be announced.

June 6 Wellfield Botanic Gardens Bonsai Show. Wellfield Botanic Gardens. Elkhart, IN.

June 6-7 Garfield Park Bonsai Exhibit. Garfield Park Conservatory. Indianapolis, IN.

June 6-7 Satsuki Workshops. Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Ann Arbor, MI.

June 13-14 25th Annual Carolina Bonsai Expo. North Carolina Arboretum. Asheville, NC.

June 25-28 MABA Bonsai Convention. Milwaukee, WI

July 11-12 Triangle Bonsai Society Annual Show. Duke Gardens. Durham, NC.

July 18-19 Nashville Annual Bonsai Show. Cheekwood Gardens Nashville, TN.

August 7-16 Indiana State Fair Exhibit. Agriculture/Horticulture Building. Indianapolis, IN

August 14-16 Chicago Bonsai Show. Chicago Botanical Gardens. Glencoe, IL.

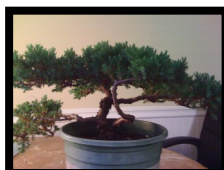
September 12 Penrod Arts Fair Bonsai Sale. Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art) Indianapolis, IN

September 12-13 U.S. National Bonsai Exhibit. East Rochester, NY.

September 12-13 Bonsai Society of Greater Cincinnati Fall Annual Show. Krohn Conservatory. Cincinnati, OH.

September 12-13 NVBS Fall Show. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. Vienna, VA.

September 20 Hidden Lake Gardens Art of Bonsai Exhibit. Hidden Lake Gardens, MI.



Date 2020 Meetings	Program
January	No Meeting
February 5	Grafting Demo
March 4	Suiseki Presentation
April 1	How to Display Your Bonsai
May 6	Bald Cypress Workshop
June 3	IBC Members Sale/Root Over Rock Workshop
July 1	Tropical Workshop
August 5	Bring Your Own Tree Bonsai Critique
September 2	Annual Members Only Auction
October 7	Evergreen Workshop
November 4	Pinch Pot Workshop
December 2	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

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**