

Volume 213

June 2020



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation

IBC



Grafting

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By Mark Fields

Stay Safe! See you in July, hopefully!

From the President

I hate to be the bearer of bad news but here it is: There will be no IBC June 3rd meeting. The Indianapolis Parks Department Facilities are closed until June 13. You can walk or drive through the various parks but no gatherings are allowed either inside or outside. This also affects our bonsai exhibit scheduled for June 6 – 7, cancelled.

At the present time we are still scheduled to have our July meeting which is a tropical material workshop. We have some fantastic trees, 4 varieties, some with trunk diameters close to 2 inches which we will be styling and potting. I sure hope this COVID-19 thing has diminished by July so we can have this workshop. We will also have the IBC members bonsai (and related items) sale prior to the workshop. Garfield has offered to reserve the picnic pavilion adjacent to the conservatory if we want to use it. This would allow us to have a greater number of attendees while maintaining the recommended 6 ft spacing. I have requested the pavilion to be reserved and hopefully the weather cooperates.

The Garfield Park Conservatory has offered an option to the cancelled June exhibit. They are willing to have a virtual bonsai exhibit. They recently had a similar exhibit with the Orchid Society when their show was also cancelled. I think it is a unique opportunity and Garfield has requested IBC members submit bonsai photos with info, i.e. exhibitors name, both common and botanical names, and any other relevant data. There is no limit on number of submittals. I would recommend doing this by July 1. The submittals should be sent to Elizabeth at gpcons@indy.gov

To date we have heard of no cancellations for the Indiana State Fair or the Penrod Arts Fair. There has been no new information available on the Chicago Bonsai Show or the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibit.

We have heard the Wellfield Botanic Gardens Bonsai Show in Elkhart, In. has been rescheduled for August 1.

Paul Weishaar

2020 Midwest and Eastern USA Bonsai Events

***Cancelled due to COVID-19**

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 13-15 Atlanta Bonsai Society Spring Show. Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Atlanta, GA.

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

***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. Florida Hotel and Convention Center. 1500 Sand Lake Road. Orlando, FL

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. Ashville, NC.

***June 25-28** MABA Bonsai Convention. Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee North Shore. 8900 N. Kildeer Court. Milwaukee, WI

June 27-28 Cleveland Bonsai Club Summer Show. Rockefeller Park Greenhouse. Cleveland, OH

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 Bonsai Exhibit. Agriculture/Horticulture Building. Indianapolis, IN

August 8-10 Four Seasons 50th Annual Bonsai Show. Bordines Nursery. Rochester Hills, MI

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

August 29-30 Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show. Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Ann Arbor, MI

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.

***October 8-11** ABS – BCI – NBF – PBA Convention 2020. U.S. National Arboretum. Washington, DC.

Adding Branches to a Tree

By Mark Fields

Did you ever look at a tree and say, “It’s good, but it needs a branch right there.” Well, I’ve done that hundreds of times. Over the years, through trial and error, I use a simple grafting technique to add a branch or two, or several, if needed. It’s called approach or channel grafting. In this article I use that technique to add 3 new branches to one of my favorite trees in my collection. The tree is a fused trunk trident maple. The first one ever created by bonsai artist, Doug Phillips. It was created in the spring of 1994 using about 200 – 3 ft trident maple seedlings. They were attached to a hand carved redwood “trunk” in the shape Doug envisioned the trunk he wanted.

I bought that original tree from him in 2013. It was, and still is, a work in progress. It had primary branches that were cut to blunt stubs and the leader at the apex was over 4 ft long. Since then, I have been able to tame the tree and develop some pretty nice ramification. As of a few years ago, the overall profile of the tree is set. The leaf size is perfect for a tree its size and its really healthy. It was exhibited at the Midwest Bonsai Show, at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, in August, 2016, and was awarded second place professional.



The tree in Chicago in 2016

In the spring of 2018, after I took it out of the winter storage hut, I noticed that 2 key branches, just below the apex on the right side, didn’t wake up. I removed them and made sure that the areas around the stubs was alive. Then I allowed 2 branches on the left side of the tree grow long. While they were green, I routed them towards the right side of the tree to the area where the branches were removed. They were allowed to harden off over the winter. This spring, the foliage was super dense and the long

branches that I had planned on using for the grafts were being shaded out. I made the decision to defoliate the entire tree so that the grafting would be unobstructed. That took 5 hours to do.



The tree before and after defoliation



The 3 branches that I routed towards the right side

I locate the area where I will place the first branch. Using a fine tooth saw, I cut a small channel taking care not to cut too deeply or jagged. Place the branch in the channel to ensure that it is wide enough to hold the branch you are grafting. I then use a sharp grafting knife to smooth the edges of the cut.



After the cut before using the grafting knife to smooth the edges

Cut a 1-inch square of bicycle inner tube and a length of # 18 copper wire to wrap around the trunk to secure over the graft union. Lay the branch to be grafted into the channel. Place the rubber square over the area, then route the wire so that one end comes from the top corner of the rubber square and the other from the lower opposite corner. It is important to hold everything in place while doing this. Using pliers, twist the wire directly over the graft union until it is secured tightly. Do not over twist the wire as it will break and you'll have to start over.



After the graft union has been secured

At this point, I completed the other 2 grafts. Then I used #16 copper wire to carefully bend the branches towards the outside of the tree. Then let the new branch grow for the rest of the growing season without trimming. Also, keep any growth cut off the branch behind the graft in order to allow all of the strength to go into the branch you are adding. I usually leave the rubber square and the wire in place for a year. After a year the graft should be complete, but I do not cut the receiving end of the grafted branch for yet another year. It's a slow, but rewarding process.

Good luck.

Mark Fields

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After a year, the graft should look like this, if it is successful.

Good luck.

Mark Fields

Indianapolis Bonsai Club

Date & Time: April & May Meetings canceled due to the Corona Virus

Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Presiding: Club President Paul Weishaar

Checking/Savings Balance: May 30, 2020

Checking: \$706.70

Savings: \$7,201.466

Total: \$7,908.16

Dues for the 2020 year are now being accepted, and a new directory and brochure are available.
Contact Steve Dick

****No meetings in April, May due to the Corona virus**

June 3 Meeting: Cancelled

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

Support our Corporate Sponsors

Bonsai by Fields (Mark Fields)

Circle City Bonsai (Bob Hoy)

Eagle Creek Bonsai (Scott Yelich)

Checkout the IBC website:

www.indybonsai.org