

Volume 243

July 2023



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation

IBC

TROPICALS



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From the President

The summer heat is here bringing fireworks, vacations, trips to the pool, and bonsai shows! Thanks to everyone who showed a tree and/or volunteered at the Garfield park show. We could have used more trees, but overall the event went smoothly. Some of the Garfield park trees even made an appearance. Happily, all of them are growing nicely after being repotted in May.

If you missed out on the Garfield show, don't worry, we have the State Fair coming up from July 28 - August 6. This is another great, low-pressure show for newer members to show their trees. Last year we didn't have enough space for a judged show and could only have an un-judged exhibition. But even when we do have judged shows, we have separate categories for different levels of bonsai experience, so no need to worry about being judged against experts.

I'd love to see a large percentage of the club bring a tree to show. It doesn't need to be perfect or "finished" (there's no such thing). So grab your favorite tree, give it a trim, shine up the pot, and bring it to the fair! And if you don't have one yet, see if there's any space left in the July tropical workshop.

We also need all the volunteers we can get to make the show a success. It's very easy and a lot of fun, mostly answering simple questions like "which one is the oldest". But it's a week-long event, so it works better with more volunteers to share the time.

Looking forward to seeing you all in July!

Alys Batula



Since our upcoming meeting is going to focus on tropical bonsai, I decided that now would be a good time to write an article on tropical trees. Most of you who know me, know that I have a preference for the tropical trees. Although I appreciate all types of bonsai, 75% of my personal collection is tropical. This doesn't mean that I don't like other types of bonsai-- I do! I have pines, maples, juniper and elms in my collection. I even have a few indigenous to Indiana trees. I enjoy learning about and working on all sorts of trees. Still, tropical trees are my favorite for several reasons.

First of all, tropical trees were the first thing I had any success with. Like most people, I started out with a juniper. I did everything wrong and I killed it. I'm from a small town and I started doing bonsai pre-internet. I didn't have a good source to learn bonsai outside of an outdated library book from my small local library. Mike Devore was the first person I ran into that actually did bonsai or knew anything about them. Mike had a large greenhouse filled with tropical trees. I learned a lot from Mike and my first successful trees came from him. Once I tasted a little success, I gained confidence in my ability to care for bonsai. I was hooked. To this day, I think there is no better tree than a ficus when it comes to learning bonsai. If more people started out with ficus trees rather than with juniper trees, there would be a lot more people dedicated to the art of bonsai.

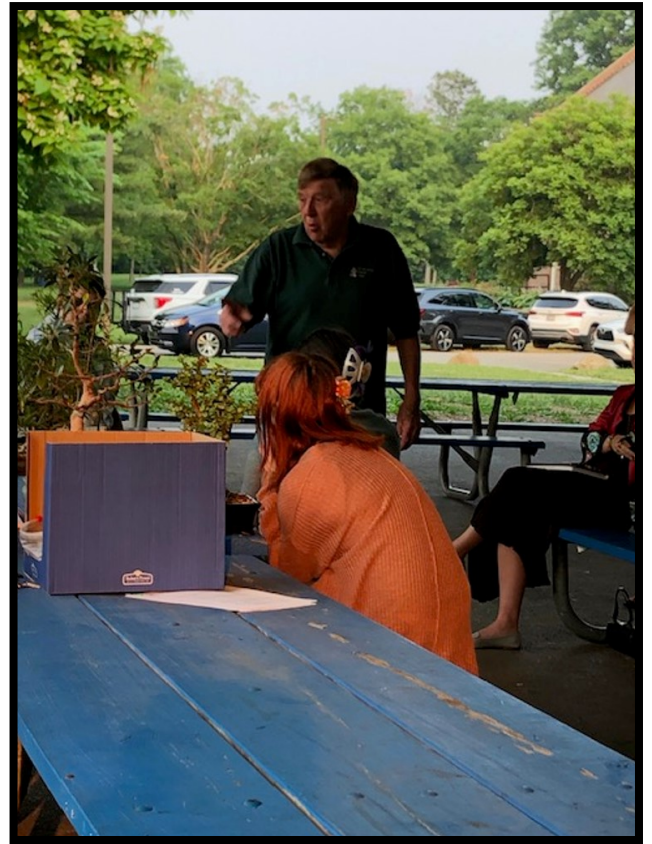
Another reason why I enjoy working with tropical trees can be tied to my general lack of patience. I don't like to wait on things. I started doing bonsai as both a way to relax and a way to teach myself patience. That being said, I prefer fast growing trees over slow growing trees. Tropical trees have a longer growing period than do trees that have to go dormant during the winter. Although tropical bonsai will slow their rate of growth over the winter, they never completely stop. When you put them outside for the summer, they tend to grow faster than most other trees. Therefore, you often get a more developed tree in less time if you choose to use tropical trees.

Still another reason why I prefer tropical trees is their durability. For many of the trees that go dormant, like pines and juniper, you can normally only perform one major task per season. If you tried repotting, pruning and wiring a tree all in one afternoon, there's a good chance you'd kill it. With many tropical trees, I can safely perform all tasks at once. Since I can do more at once, the tree can develop and improve much faster than bonsai that need to go dormant in the winter.

Finally, having some tropical trees in your collection makes bonsai a hobby for all four seasons. Around mid November, my outdoor trees go into their winter protection. I place them by a windbreak and mulch them in. Since I let the snow fall on my trees, they are often frozen to the ground in the mulch, and I don't do anything with them until they thaw out in mid to late March. Mulching my trees in is always kind of a sad time for me. For some people, their bonsai season is over, and they don't have an opportunity to tinker with their trees until the weather starts to warm up. Not me! I'm still watering the trees every day in the greenhouse and about every other day for the trees I have inside the house. Although I don't generally do any repotting or defoliating during the winter months, I still do some trimming and wiring.

If you prefer deciduous or conifer trees over tropical trees, that's fine! I think we all appreciate the many types of trees that can be used for bonsai. Our preferences may depend on our personal likes, who's influenced us as bonsai enthusiasts and our growing conditions. I'm not going to argue with someone about what they choose as a personal preference. That being said, I think it's still good for all people who are into bonsai to take on a couple of tropical trees. They have some nice advantages and they'll give you something to look at and work on during the months when many trees are dormant.

Scott Yelich



Garfield Meeting Garfield Exhibit

Minutes June 7, 2023

Location - Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Time— 7:00 p.m.

Checking- \$719.69

Saving- \$4215.09

Total- \$4,934.69

Time: 19:000 Hrs

President - Alyssa Batula

VP- Robert Scarborough

Secretary - Randy Suhre

Treasurer—Robert Hoy

Membership - 99

Paid members - 60

The Garfield Park bonsai conservatory show we had 333 people in attendance; five club members showing a total of 20 trees. We also showed four of the Garfield Park, Bonsai's. We also had three other volunteers at the show. The Indiana state fair is July 27 through August 7. We need a list of people who are willing to show their Bonsai's at the state fair, and help during the state fair.

Scott Yelich went over the tropical workshop for next month and the plants that would be available. There will be a club get together at Paul's house on Saturday, June 24 at 1 o'clock. Please bring a side dish and some drinks.

Paul and Scott gave critiquing to other Bonsai's from club members. There were a total of eight trees that were discussed.

Randy Suhre, Secretary

Remember: We are interested in showing members trees/collections. Send a photo(s) & a description(s) of your tree(s)/collection to: indybonsaiclub@gmail.com

IBC Checking: 6-3-2023 \$869.3 Petty Cash \$200.00

IBC Savings: \$5,204.15 Total \$7,708.81

2023 IBC Meeting Calendar

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 4 | ■ | Preview of Year Events/Suiseki |
| February 1 | ■ | Pottery Workshop |
| March 1 | ■ | Phoenix Graft Workshop w/Mark Fields |
| April 5 | ■ | Deciduous Workshop |
| May 3 | ■ | Repot Your Tree/Repot Garfield Park Trees/Members Swap Meet |
| June 7 | ■ | Tree Critique (Friendly) |
| July 5 | ■ | Tropical Workshop |
| August 2 | ■ | Winter Tree Care Preparation |
| September 6 | ■ | Members Only Auction |
| October 4 | ■ | Conifer Workshop |
| November 1 | ■ | Winter Tree Care/Show and Tell |
| December 6 | ■ | Annual GALA |

(meeting topics/presenters subject to change)

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| March 11-19 | Indiana Flower & Patio Show |
| March 25 | Bonsai 101 |
| June 3-4 | Garfield Park Bonsai Exhibit/Sale |
| July 28-August 6 | Indiana State Fair Bonsai Exhibit/Sale |
| September 9 | Penrod Arts Bonsai Sale |



**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+ 2023-2024

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| President | Alyssa Batula |
| Vice President | Neil Scarborough |
| Secretary | Randy Suhre |
| Treasurer | Robert Hoy |
| Past President | Scott Yelich |
| Membership | Steven Dick |
| Web Master | Scott Yelich |
| Volunteers | Steven Dick |
| Historian | Paul Weishaar |
| Librarian | Paul Weishaar |
| MABA/BCI | Paul Weishaar |
| ABS | Mark Fields |
| Publications/Photos | Robert Hoy |

Support our Corporate Sponsors

Bonsai by Fields (Mark Fields)

Circle City Bonsai (Bob Hoy)

Eagle Creek Bonsai (Scott Yelich)

If you are interested in/willing to write an article, share photos or announcements for the e-news, please do! Send to r.hoy@outlook.com. THANK YOU!

Checkout the IBC website:

www.indybonsai.org