

Volume 148

August 2014



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

# The Bonsai Creation



Bald Cypress:  
August Tree of the  
Month.

**Mark Your Calendars:**

**MABA 2015 (July 10, 11, 12)**

**Hosted by the Indianapolis Bonsai Club**

**Clarion Hotel**

<http://www.clarionhotel.com/hotel-indianapolis-indiana-IN117>

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

# From the President

## August 2014 President's Message

August is a great time of the year. Football will be starting soon. The kids are going back to school. On top of all that, It's Indiana State Fair time. The State Fair has become a very important bonsai event for us. For the past five years, we've been putting on a fantastic display. Our bonsai display has become a must-see event for many fair goers. As many of you know, this is not just an Indianapolis Bonsai Club display, but a statewide event. The show is a ten day event, which actually features two separate sessions. During the first session, we feature the conifer and deciduous trees. During the second session we feature tropical and indigenous to Indiana trees.

This year, we've had a slight change with the divisions and how trees will be judged. Although ribbons are nice, this article isn't about ribbons. It's about displaying our hobby and showing off our works of art. Most of us are members of the bonsai club because we enjoy the hobby. We want others to enjoy our hobby, too. In effect, our trees and those who take the time to volunteer at the fair, are like ambassadors. We introduce people to our hobby. Many members of the bonsai club became club members after seeing the State Fair Exhibit. The club normally gets a spike in membership every year thanks to our efforts at the fair. The stronger our club membership, the more opportunity there is for all of us to enjoy and improve on our hobby.

Once again, I am hoping for great participation at the State Fair. Please consider showing a couple of your favorite trees at the fair. Also consider covering a shift or two at the State Fair bonsai display. We are supposed to have someone present at the display during the hours that Ag/Hort. building is opened. The building is opened from 9am - 9pm. We need to be there to watch over the trees, water the trees when needed and to answer questions of people viewing the display. Often, it's many of the common questions, like 'How old is it,' 'How big will it get,' and then we get the guy that walks by and yells, 'Banzai!'

For those of you who wish to participate by showing a tree, please take the time to make sure that your tree is looking it's best. Make sure that the pots are clean. Remove yellow or damaged leaves. Pull the weeds and cover the surface of the soil with moss. Remember to show your tree on some sort of stand or mat. You should also display your tree with an accent plant or accent stone. That may be a lot to think about, but don't be intimidated. Just try to do the best you can with what you have. One of the best parts of showing your tree is the fact that you get your tree critiqued by a bonsai professional. I think that both of our judges are fairly easy going guys. I think you can expect critiques that will be more encouraging than critical. The first session will be judged by Brussell Martin. The second session will be judged by Ed Trout. Furthermore, the upcoming August meeting will feature a tropical bonsai demonstration conducted by Ed Trout. If you were at the last meeting or the club picnic, you had the chance to see the huge Jaboticaba that Ed will be working on. It's an impressive tree now. I can't wait to see how it looks after Ed's presentation.

I hope to see all of you at the upcoming Indiana State Fair and the August IBC meeting.

Take care,

Scott

# What To Do:

By Mark Fields

## Mid-July through Mid-August

**P**runing, pruning, pruning....seems it's a never ending task this time of year. I carry a pair of scissors and a basket whenever I'm in the bonsai garden. In some cases you want to let the tree grow out of its profile, such as when an unhealthy tree is trying to regain its vigor. Or, if you are letting a sacrifice branch grow. In such cases, use your own discretion as to when it needs to be cut off.

Continue a regular fertilization schedule as long as the trees are growing. In August they generally go into a summer dormancy period. At that time, hold off on fertilizing.

When conifers go into summer dormancy, it is safe to repot them. It is also safe to dig evergreens safely. I learned this when I had a nursery and would regularly dig taxus and junipers in August. When this is done, they have a chance to push new roots prior to fall and winter ensuring their survival. It is important to move them into shade for a while after digging and repotting before acclimating them back to the full sun.

Watering is key this time of year too. My rule of thumb is to water 2 to 3 times a day when temps are above 90 and 1 to 2 times a day when temps are in the 80's. However, if it rains sometime during the day, check the soil to ensure there was sufficient enough rain to saturate the soil mass. If not, water!

Keep an eye out for pests and diseases and treat as necessary. Fungus is a problem when we get a lot of rain like we have this year. Some trees are unaffected while others are prone. Powdery mildew is the biggest pest. There are several sprays on the market to treat or prevent this problem.

Of course here in Indy, its time to get your trees ready for exhibition at the Indiana State Fair! Keep them healthy and pest free!

*Mark Fields*

### IBC LOGO ITEMS

Scribbles Embroidery of Arkansas has the Indianapolis Bonsai Club logo on file and they can produce dress shirts, polos, t-shirts, caps, bags, sweatshirts, fleece pullovers, etc in a wide selection of colors, both product and logo. This allows IBC members to purchase any item any time they wish. You can visit their website at [www.scribblesemb.com](http://www.scribblesemb.com) to see their selection and place your order.



# Tree of the Month: Bald Cypress

In the wild, the Bald Cypress tree grows in wet, swampy soils along riverbanks and flood plains. Specimens of this plant have reached ages as old as 1000 years. Although the tree generally likes wetter climates, it has been grown as far north as Minnesota, New York and Southern Canada.

The circular strands the tree grows in are far different than how a Bald Cypress bonsai plant will grow. When looked at from afar, the strands of tree take on an almost dome-like shape. Needles on the tree grow in rows of two along the slender twigs. This deciduous plant loses its needles in winter, but may dried leaves will often remain on the Bald Cypress until springtime.

## Relatives

One of the closest relatives to the Bald Cypress is the Pond Cypress. Much like the Bald Cypress is appearance; the Pond Cypress has a smaller stature and grows around the edges of swamps. Seeds from this close relative are often eaten by neighboring squirrels and birds. As parts of the Taxodiaceae family, these two trees have much in common.

## Growing A Bald Cypress Bonsai

Bald Cypress bonsai trees should be grown in full sun in zones 5B through 9. Although it can be grown outside of these ranges, the bonsai will need protection during the harsh months of winter. Growers should plan on watering the plant every day if the live in the south. During the summer, the pots of this plant should be submerged in water for 20 or 30 minutes for it to receive an adequate amount of water.

Many growers have had a great deal of success using a 10-10-10 ratio of Phosphorous, Nitrogen and Potassium. Place the fertilizer on it ever 2 weeks in late summer and autumn and weekly during early summer and spring. No fertilizer should be put on the bonsai during the winter.

## Pruning & Wiring

When pruning the tree, try to keep in mind the styles that the Bald Cypress looks best

in. Growers have noted some success growing it as a formal upright, group, twin-trunk, informal upright, literati and slanting. Normally, the plant will grow in the open in the wild and have a group of horizontal and drooping limbs. The formal upright is the best way to grow it into a bonsai tree, but others will work well also.

In Florida, many of the trees found will actually be an Everglades Cypress or a Pond Cypress. Since these trees are more scraggly, they grow better in the literati style. These more diminutive cypresses have branches that start almost at the ground and grow along the trunk.

The Bald Cypress is a very fast growing tree and has to be watched very closely. If growers do not keep an eye on their bonsai, the wires can potentially damage the bark. To prevent this, the branches could just be tied down using twine instead of wire. Some growers have noted success with making a slight incision on larger branches. This enables them to pull the branch down and the Bald Cypress will soon heal its wound.

## Shaping The Foliage & Making Cypress Knees

To shape the foliage, just pinch back new growth. If the branch needs to be thickened, growers can let it grow on its own for a season and then prune it in the early spring. Wherever the tree is pruned, a new sprout will shoot out of the area. Leaves can be plucked off from desirably places and the tree can be pruned throughout the entire summer.

If the grower wants to develop cypress knees, they just need to go longer without repotting the plant. Normally, three years will suffice. Roots can be brought to the surface and allowed to thicken up to form the knee. Over the course of a few years, the bonsai's root will thicken and look like the knees do in the wild.

## Propagating & Repotting The Bald Cypress

Users can use cuttings or air layering to propagate their bonsai. Any potting or root pruning should be performed in spring.

These plants have been known to grow three feet in just a single year, so root pruning needs to be done at a minimum of every other year.

Unlike other bonsai plants, the Bald Cypress does not need loose, gravelly soil. In the wild, it is normally surrounded in swampy, wet earth and this effect should be recreated in real life. Heavy soils like mushroom compost work very well. If the soil is not heavy enough, the bonsai will not receive enough moisture. It is almost impossible to get the Bald Cypress's roots to rot, so always select a soil that retains as much water as possible.

Pots for the Bald Cypress should be flat and shallow. To make it more aesthetically pleasing, the Bald Cypress normally matches earth tones and dull glazes very well. Since the pot will often be submerged in water, a smother finish can aid in cleaning off the dirt afterward.

## Diseases & Pest Problems

Although the Bald Cypress is not susceptible to most pests, it does have a problem with Twig Blight. This weak pathogen is normally found on tissue that is dead or injured. If the tree is stressed from being over pruned, the fungus will attack and kill the tips of the branches. Any dead or diseased branches should be instantly pruned and not left on the tree. By pruning correctly and regularly fertilizing the soil, this issue can be avoided.

Overall, this plant does very well when grown as a bonsai. The elegant shape and feathery foliage look beautiful when paired with an earthen pot. Popular among bonsai aficionados of all types, this bonsai tree is especially well-suited for beginners. It is simple to grow and not susceptible to a broad ranges of diseases and pests. For anyone looking to pick up bonsai as a hobby, the Bald Cypress is a great first choice. The iconic shape is well-suited to bonsai trees and easy to make for any new hobbyist.



**Indianapolis Bonsai Club**  
**July 2nd, 2014**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Amanda Cox**

**Date & Time:** July 2nd, 2014 from 7:00-9:00

**Location:** Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

**Presiding:** Club President Scott Yelich

**Attendance:** 18

**Membership:** 39 Paid Members

**Checking/Savings Balance:** \$3567.00

**State Fair August 1<sup>st</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Volunteers Needed\***

Set Up July 31<sup>st</sup>

Conifers /Deciduous August 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Judge: Brussel Martin

Tropical/Indigenous August 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Judge: Ed Trout

**Next Meeting: August 6<sup>th</sup>**

Ed Trout: Tropical Demo on Jaboticaba

**Tree of the Month:** American Beech

Presented By: Jack

**July Presentation:** Putting it all together for show

Presented By: Mark Fields





**Exhibiting Bonsai:  
A visual sampling  
of “How to” by  
Mark Fields**

Date 2014	Meeting Topic	Detail	Presenter - Coordinator	Tree of the Month
1/15	My Trip to Japan	A presentation on Mark and Neil's recent trips to Japan	Mark Fields Neil Dellinger	Green Island Ficus (Amanda Cox)
2/5	Suiseki: Viewing Stones and daizes	A presentation on the use of stones in bonsai	Scott Yelich	Brazilian Raintree (Paul Weishaar)
3/5	Tree of the Year Presentations	2014 Tree of the Year Introduction; Kingsville Boxwood	All	Ponderosa Pine (Carl Wooldridge)
4/2	Styling of collected trees	A presentation by members of their 2013 tree of the year; Styling of trees collected on IBC club trips	All	Larch (Carl Wooldridge)
5/7	State Fair Exhibit Tree Evaluation	An initial evaluation of trees planned to be exhibited by members at the State Fair	All	Crabapple (Paul Weishaar, Mark Fields)
6/4	Choosing Pots	How to select the right pot for your tree	Paul Weishaar	Jaboticaba (Scott Yelich)
7/2	Exhibiting tree tips	Putting it all together for the State Fair	All	American Beech (Roger Chestnut)
8/6	Tropical's	Ed Trout Revisit the tree of the year progress	All	Bald Cypress (Paul Weishaar)
9/3	Annual "Members Only" Auction	Members bring in "anything bonsai" to auction. The club receives 20% of sale.	Paul Weishaar, Mark Fields, Scott Yelich	none
10/1	Pines	A presentation of Pines as bonsai	Mark Fields, Paul Weishaar, Carl Wooldridge	Zelkova (Mark Fields)
11/5	More Pines & Tropicals— Winterizing Trees	Pines & Tropicals+ and Winterizing Trees	Mark Fields, Paul Weishaar	Shefflera (Bob Hoy)
12/312/3	Annual Dinner	The Annual Gala Celebration	All	none
<b>Events</b>				
April 26,27	Perennial Premier	Bonsai Sale and Exhibit at the IMA	All	
May 2, 3, 4	Orchard in Bloom	Bonsai Sale/Information booth at Holliday Park	All	
June 7, 8	Garfield Park Exhibit and Sale	Annual exhibit and sale	All	
June 22	Bonsai Workshop	Guest Artist: Adam Lavigne	All	
July 12	Club Picnic	Hosted by Scott Yelich	All	
August 1-9	State Fair	Annual exhibit and sale	All	
September 6	Penrod Art Fair	Bonsai Sale	All	
September	Bjorn Bjorholm	Workshop at Bonsai by Fields Details to follow	All	



# IBC Corporate Sponsors 2014



## Fritz Nerding

Conservatory Manager

Phone: (317) 327-7184 or 327-7337

Fax: (317) 327-7268

Email: [fnerding@indygov.org](mailto:fnerding@indygov.org)

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## Broken Arrow Bonsai

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# 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

President	Scott Yelich
Vice President	Carl Wooldridge
Asst. Vice Presidents	Robert Hoy Kyle Widener
Secretary	Amanda Cox
Treasurer/Membership	Robert Hoy
Past President	Mark Fields
Newsletter Editor	Robert Hoy
Web Master	Charles Willis
Volunteers	Ron Fraley
Historian	John Strassburg
Librarian	Tom Barnes
MABA/ABS/BCI	Paul Weishaar
Garfield Curator	Chuck Perry