

Volume 147

July 2014



INDIANAPOLIS BONSAI CLUB

The Bonsai Creation



Garfield Park Exhibit 2014



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

I'm sure many of you have heard what's known as the Chinese Curse, "May you live in interesting times." In some ways, that applies to Indiana weather over the summer. The weather around here can get pretty interesting over the summer. You may have heard this too: "You know you live in Indiana when you have to turn on your heater and your air conditioner during the same day." When you think about it, there is no such thing as normal weather. "Normal" weather is just the average temperature and rainfall when mixing the statistics of 20 abnormal years together. You really need to pay attention to your collection and where things sit in your yard. For example, my bonsai garden has some shady areas and some sunny areas. Also, some trees are protected from a fence on one side and a house on the other. Some trees are in the middle and fairly unprotected. Yesterday was a fairly rainy day, but depending on the direction of the wind and rain, some trees got soaked and other trees received very little rainfall. As I write this article, it is sunny and almost noon. If I walk out to my garden, some trees are in full sun while others are in full shade. This also means that some trees are fairly damp, while trees 6 feet away are fairly dry. Don't assume that none of your trees need watering because it rained yesterday afternoon. Some trees will need watered. On the other hand, I admit I tend to over-water sometimes. With some trees, I'll have to resist the urge to water. It's wise to check your collection a couple of times a day if possible, and water only what needs it, when it needs it.

I understand that not everyone has the luxury to check their trees several times a day. In this case, you need to know your trees and know your space. Take the time and look to see what areas of your garden get the most rain and the most sun. You should then position your trees accordingly. I have some trees that tend to be thirstier than others. I also have trees that love shady areas, while others thrive in sunnier parts of the garden. Trees like Trident Maples, Fukien Teas, Parrot's Beaks and Hawaiian Umbrella Trees tend to like the shady places, while Chinese Elms, Bougainvillea, established Ponderosa Pines, Dwarf Jades and many ficus trees like the sunny areas. There is no "One size fits all" condition for bonsai. We need to adapt to the weather and position our trees where they are most likely to thrive.

It's time to change gears and talk about upcoming events. Adam Lavigne will be in Indianapolis for an Ilex vomitoria workshop on June 22nd from 2pm – 5pm. The cost of the workshop is \$75, which includes the cost of the tree. There are still spots available. Contact Bob Hoy for more information.

The IBC annual club picnic is also coming up in July. This event will take place on July 12th, from 1pm – 4pm. The IBC will provide hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks. Please bring a desert or a side. The picnic will be at my house. My address is: 6140 Pillory Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46254. During the picnic, I plan on revisiting a ficus demo I started a couple of years ago during an IBC meeting. I've been in the process of creating an epiphytic (or strangler) fig bonsai. I wrapped a number of tall, skinny fig trees around a dead host tree and tied them together at the top so they would fuse. I then covered the host tree in sphagnum moss and covered it with plastic. I can see that the trees have fused at the top, but I haven't been peeking under the plastic. I plan on doing the unveiling at the picnic, and we'll see if my project is a boom or a bust.

Scott Yelich

What To Do What To Do :

Late June/Early July

By Mark Fields

If you haven't done so already, you need to cut the candles from your Japanese black and red pines. Cut the entire candle off leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Within a month or so, you will notice buds emerging from behind the cut and maybe even farther back along the branch. You also need to take all the growth back to just 2 (like a "Y") branches. In the long run your tree will become more balanced tree. I'll explain that in more detail later this year.

This is also the perfect time to repot your tropical bonsai. Though they can be done most any month of the year, they recover more quickly when they are growing their strongest. Note that they will require less water as you have removed some of the roots.

If the leaves on your Japanese and trident maples are too large and the tree is healthy, through the end of June is the perfect time to defoliate them. It can be time consuming. You need to cut each leaf at the petiole (stem). You also need to cut all of the terminals (the growing point). This will promote new buds to open at the base of each petiole just behind where you cut the terminals. All of the new leaves that emerge within 4 – 6 weeks will be smaller and about double in number. This also increases the trees ramification (tertiary and quaternary small branching). Again, when you do this, the tree will not need as much water.

Continue to water and fertilize on a regular basis throughout this period.

If you are growing trees for future bonsai in the ground you need to cut them back by the end of June so that they have time to flush back out be-

fore it gets too hot.

As the temperatures climb higher, into the high 80's and 90's, you need to be aware of water loss in your shohin trees and that the darker ceramic pots will heat to the mid 100's and can result in the scorching of their roots. This can result in the decline or even death of the tree. This can be averted by placing your trees in an area where they can receive some shade during the hottest part of the day. Place your shohin trees on a bed of small grade gravel, sand or Turface which holds onto the water and will provide more humidity around your trees. For your larger trees you can place small white towels, which can be obtained in bulk at some department stores, over the sunny side of the pots and watered when the trees are. This will significantly cool the temperatures of the pots averting the burning and scorching of the roots.

Of course there are a lot more things you should do this time of year. If you have a specific question, please feel free to contact me and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

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 to see their selection and place your order.

Tree of the Month: American Beech

This massive tree will slowly reach a height and spread of 50 or more feet. Forest grown trees reach up to 120 feet. The tree is naturally low-branched with attractive glossy green leaves providing deep, inviting shade. Little grows in the dense shade of a Beech tree but if low branches are left on the tree no ground cover or grass is needed. In the fall, the leaves turn bronze but weather to a light tan color. Some leaves are held late into the winter if not blown off by the wind and the thin, smooth, silvery-gray bark is quite ornamental. The bark looks like elephant skin on older specimens. The four tiny nuts in each spiny bur of this American native are much prized by birds and various mammals, including man. The wood is almost white and is used most often in toys, cookware, furniture and for barrels which age beer. The tree is very resistant to decay under water so it was used to make water wheels in Colonial times. The wood is also used for tool handles, chairs, cuttings boards, and for making charcoal.

The beech genera is a small one, comprised of about a dozen species. They have smooth, pale gray bark, and ovate leaves which look similar to those of the hornbeam. The most distinctive feature of the beech is its unmistakable cigar-shaped buds. These buds are rather tender, and beech does not produce secondary buds. Nature's way of protecting these buds is for the beech to retain its dead leaves throughout winter. For this reason - and the fact that they make for an interesting winter bonsai - the beech's dried leaves should not be removed from the tree. Many lovely and colorful cultivars of beech are becoming available and should gain in popularity in the bonsai world.

Family: Fagaceae

Lighting: Full sun, but semi-shade in midsummer.

Temperature: Hardy in zones 3 through 8. Varies - the American beech is the most hardy, the Japanese white beech the least. All beeches can benefit from winter protection in their early years.

Watering: Frequently, especially during hot weather, to prevent the edges of the leaves from drying out. Reduce watering in winter. Appreciates misting. If *F. sylvatica* is watered especially well in late June to early August, it may have a second growth sprut.

Feeding: Do not feed for the first month after bud burst. Then feed every two weeks until the end of summer. increasing feeding for *F. sylvatica* in late June-early August encourages the development of a second growth sprut.

Pruning and wiring: Leaf pruning every second year in late spring is important to reduce the size of the large leaves. It is safer not to defoliate the beech completely, or in the same year that it has been repotted. Prune new shoots from 3-5 nodes to 1-2 nodes.

Beech grows slowly, and does not require much pruning. However, because beech does not produce secondary buds, it is important not to allow the internodes to become too long. Beech can be wired, but wiring saps the vigor of the tree, and should not be left on longer than three months. The bark of the beech is delicate and needs protection. It is best to do most shaping through pruning. Because of the apical predominance of the plant, prune the top back drastically, but prune lower branches sparingly. Because of its large leaves, beech is generally reserved for medium to large size bonsai. Because beech grows so slowly, it is a long-term project to grow a specimen beech. This is why young beech are often used in forest plantings.

Propagation: Grafting, seeds sown in autumn (or use cold-treated seeds in spring).

Repotting: Spring, before bud burst, every 2-3 years. *F. sylvatica* may be repotted in autumn, taking advantage of its second growth spurt - Simon and Schuster's states that more drastic pruning of roots can be done in autumn than spring. We recommend Hollow Creek Farms Professional Main Bonsai Soil or Hollow Creek Farms Double Screened Bonsai Soil. Always be sure to add Hollow Creek Farms Micro Plus to the soil when potting your trees.

Pests and diseases: Pests: Beech leaf miners, scale, bark beetles, and aphids. phid colonies on the lower branches can be dislodged with a strong stream of water from the garden hose. Colonies are often disposed of by predatory insects. Borers such as flat-headed apple tree borer or two-lined chestnut borer bore into trees weakened by stress. Prevent the insect infestations by keeping trees healthy with regular fertilization and irrigation in dry weather. Regular inspections of the trunk and branches are suggested for early detection of scales. Beech scale can be devastating to trees in the northeastern United States. Certain caterpillars can be controlled with sprays of *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Insect identification allows proper spray recommendations to be made.

Diseases: Usually none are serious provided soil is not compacted and is well-drained. Several fungi cause leaf spots but are generally not serious to warrant chemical control. Powdery mildew causes a white coating on the leaves. The disease is most common late in the season. Bleeding canker forms cankers from which a brownish liquid oozes. Crown symptoms include leaves of smaller size and lighter green color than normal. In severe cases the leaves wilt and the branches die. Avoid feeding with high nitrogen fertilizers as it seems to worsen the condition of infected trees. Beech bark disease occurs when the feeding site of woolly Beech scale is invaded by a fungus. The fungus kills the bark and in the process, the insects. There are no satisfactory controls for the fungus. Control the disease by controlling the scale with a horticultural oil. Cankers infect, girdle, and occasionally kill branches. Prune out the infected branches. During periods of high temperatures and low rainfall Beech may scorch. Make sure trees are adequately watered and mulched.

Fagus grandifolia: American beech - With its pale, silvery bark and rich green leaves, the American beech is considered a more desirable landscape plant than the European. It is not that common in bonsai, however, perhaps because it grows to over 100 feet, with leaves of 3-6 inches! If proper leaf reduction and dwarfing techniques are used, however, it makes an impressive large sized bonsai. Zones 4-8.



Adam Lavigne Workshop



Bonsai artist Adam Lavigne conducted a workshop for members of the Indianapolis bonsai Club on June 22. Participants received an Ilex tree and significant one on one time and assistance in the styling of the tree by Adam.



Indianapolis Bonsai Club
June 4th, 2014
Meeting Minutes
Amanda Cox

Date & Time: June 4th, 2014 from 7:00-9:00
Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room
Presiding: Club President Scott Yelich
Attendance: 27 3 visitor
Membership: 28 Paid Members
Checking/Savings Balance: \$3683.65

Garfield Park Show

June 7th 10:00-5:00

June 8th 1:00-5:00

Adam Lavigne Workshop

June 22nd 2:00-5:00

Tree: Ilex Vomitoria

Cost: \$75.00

Location: Cardinal Ritter

MABA July 2015

Need volunteers. Please contact Scott for a list of volunteer opportunities

June Meeting

Topic: Choosing the Correct Bonsai Pot for your Tree

Presented By: Paul Weishaar

June Tree of the Month

Jaboticaba

Presented By: Scott Yelich

Next Month

July Meeting July 2nd

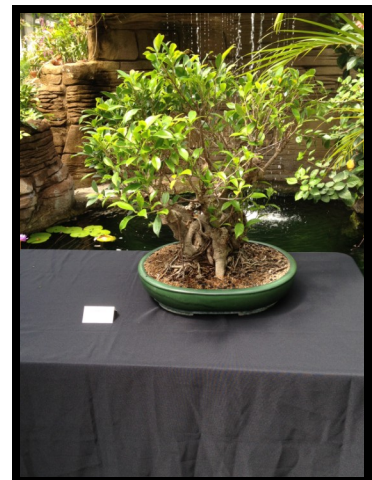
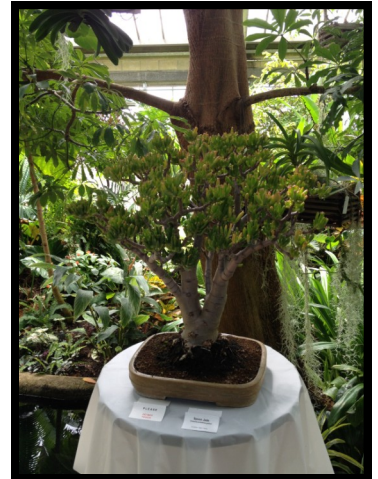
Topic: Exhibiting Tree Tips: Putting it all together

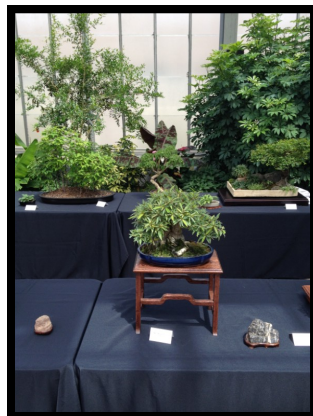
Presented By: Group

IBC Annual Picnic

Saturday July 12th 1:00

Scott's House





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
Events				
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

2505 Conservatory Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

www.Indygov.org

Eagle Creek Bonsai, LLC

Bonsai Trees & Pots
Demonstrations
Workshops

Scott Yelich

(317)471-7696

www.eaglecreekbonsai.com



Trees
Tools
Pots
Accessories

Robert L. Hoy
(317) 627-6084



Mark Fields

Owner
317-439-0678

Bonsai by Fields, LLC

More than 40 years of bonsai experience

Mark Fields School of Bonsai

Founded 2011



- Bonsai workshops, lectures and demos
- Bonsai, pre-bonsai, seedlings, pottery, fertilizers, tools, Japanese and domestic soils and components
- By appointment only

Email: maf71459@gmail.com
Web site: www.bonsaibyfields.com



SUPPORT OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

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