

Volume 153

Januaryb2015



The Bonsai Creation



HolidaysWishes.net

MAY YOU & YOURS
ENJOY THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON!

What to do...

Mark Fields
Bonsai by Fields

As we head into winter, there are things you should be doing with you bonsai. Depending on where you are keeping your deciduous and conifer trees during the winter, you should pay close attention to their moisture levels.

I have a rather sizable collection so I have trees stored in my 2 outdoor white poly huts, one for the deciduous trees and one for the conifer trees. The huts are for keeping the wind and weather from harming the trees. The good thing about the huts is that the temperature inside stays 10 – 20 degrees higher than the out-door temperature. You really need to know your soil mixes and know what they look like when they are wet as well as dry. The difficulty is knowing what it looks like when it is frozen. A couple of weeks ago the outside temperature was 7degrees F. It was a sunny day and I decided to check the thermometer in the conifer hut. I was pleased to see that the temperature in that hut was 22 degrees F. When I looked at the soil surface in the pots they looked bone dry. I know from many years of experience that when the soil is frozen, it looks dry. That fact was verified when, last week, the outside temperature rose to the lower 60's. When I checked inside the huts, I noted that the soil surface in most all of the pots was uniformly moist. Some of the smaller trees were looking a bit dry so I did water them well. I find that I only need to water in the huts about once a month. That may mean that I have to water with snow if available or carry buckets out and spot water.

A few of my trees require special conditions. I realized one of my dreams of finally owning a California Juniper. Now I have 3 of them. At the onset of winter, I contacted a couple of my mentors, Ted Matson and Ryan Neil and asked them where I should store these trees. I had them stored in my conifer hut at the end of fall. Both told me that they should not be allowed to fall below the mid 20's so I moved them to the garage. My garage stays around 40 degrees F with the door shut so it makes a perfect place to store them as well as some of the trees that require more of a temperate environment. Many of my nicer shohin trees are in there as well. The problem with the garage is that they tend to dry out fast. I water at least twice a week. I found that the shohin trees dry out especially fast. Last year I decided to employ the same method of keeping them moist as I do during the summertime. Storage tubs were purchased and small holes were punctured in the bottom for drainage. Then they were filled half way with Turface and were drenched with water. The shohin trees were placed in the Turface and their pots were sunk about half way. This is an excellent method to keep them from drying out too fast.

Even though I wire trees all year long, winter is a perfect time to do that. They are dormant and can be easily wired and shaped. It is important that you pay close attention to new buds that form during the winter. They are all potential new branches. It is also a perfect time to perform needle plucking of your pines.

(continued on page 3)

January and February is also the perfect time for sowing seeds. I start this task in the late summer and fall by collecting seeds from trees that I want to grow. Last year I found several Trident Maples and a Japanese Hornbeam in my neighborhood. After obtaining permission from their owners, I proceeded to collect the seed and placed them in zip lock baggies. I stored them in my garage until January. Last weekend I placed the seed on plastic bowls and ran tap water in my kitchen sink until it was as hot as possible. I then added water for the bowls and stirred them well. It is important to ensure that all of the seeds are saturated. Make sure you label them as well. After about 24 hours the viable seeds will sink to the bottom, in most cases. I drain the water from the seed and sow the seeds in flats of Turface and cover them with a layer too. Make sure they are watered well and place outdoors in the cold. I use clear plastic tubs with lids so that light can get in but the critters stay out. When the spring thaw begins, the seeds start germinating. By May I have thou-sands of new seed-lings!

As for tropical's, if you keep your trees indoors, water as needed. Keep a close eye on them for pests and diseases and treat them appropriately. Cut back fertilizing to once a month. If you have a heated greenhouse you should be noticing a new flush



Checkout the updated IBC websites:

www.indybonsai.org / www.maba2015.com

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.



Suthin Sukosolvisit — Headlining Artist

Featured Artists



Pauline Muth



Jim Doyle



Mark Fields



Owen Reich



Brian Ciskowski



Scott Yelich

List subject to change

From the President

Like most of us, ringing in a new year calls to mind a bunch of resolutions and goals to set for the next year. Besides personal goals, I always have a list of professional goals, too. For example, one of the goals was to get a tree into the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition. Naturally, I want to do a little better every year with my business. In more general terms, I usually try to do things at least a little better than the year before. I also think about things the same way when the board is planning the next season of events for the bonsai club.

Every year, I want to do something to make the club a little bit better. That doesn't always mean more headline artists or workshops with expensive material. I think of it more in terms of helping every bonsai enthusiast with all levels of ability the opportunity to up it a notch. With a club environment we can't make someone improve their skills, but we can give everyone the opportunity to grow. In my opinion, the best way of doing this is by offering a "hands on" opportunity.

Although I can learn many things by watching, I think I learn better by doing. I used to be lousy at wiring. I did a lot more "clip and grow" style with my trees because I didn't like to wire, and consequently, any wiring that I did was sloppy. At the time, I was perfectly content hacking away at my tropical trees. I think my skill level pretty much leveled. That was fine for a while, but then I decided that I needed to branch out and do new things. I started getting into pines because they were so far from the trees within my comfort zone. Besides being outdoor trees, pines are trees that need a lot of wire. I started forcing myself to wire trees. Not just pines -- pretty much everything. Eventually, wiring became a much more enjoyable task. My skills improved and my wiring became a lot less messy. Improving this skill didn't help just my pines. It helped all of my trees. This year, we really want to stress the hands on approach for club activities. We are going to work on things like wiring and grafting. We are also inviting peo-

ple to bring in their trees more often so they can participate. We can't force people to bring in a tree that needs wiring or a branch grafting, but bringing in material that needs a little help will improve both the tree and the artist. Don't be afraid to grow. I'm also hoping to schedule some events in the field this coming Spring. One of the best ways to get quality material for bonsai is simply going out to the woods and collecting it. Please let a board member know if you have access to some woods for some tree collecting. Also, I intend to schedule a suiseki collecting trip. Stones make great accents for tree displays, and I've been able to find some great stones right here in central Indiana.

Finally, I will end my monthly letter with another plug for upcoming MABA 2015 Convention. This will be the best hands on opportunity of the year. You'll have access to outstanding vendors and world famous bonsai artists. There will be great trees and material available for purchase, lectures, demonstrations and workshops. We are going to need a lot of help, but I'm also hoping that our members take time to participate in the events. Check out the MABA 2015 website for the latest news on the convention. The web address is: www.maba2015.com.

Happy New Year!

Scott Yelich

Winged Elm/Ulmus Alatus

Tree of the Month — Neil Dellinger

Native or adaptable to most parts of the US. Range is concentrated in the South and Southern Midwest. Its prominent features are quickly developing rugged bark and pronounced ridges on twigs. There is great variability in the prominence of the “wings”, or raised ridges often observed on branches. Vigorous young branches typically display this feature more so than finer tertiary growth on more developed specimen. A great deal of variability exists within Ulmus in the US due to interpollinating between varieties (American, Siberian, Cedar, Winged, Slippery etc...).

Position, watering & placement Full sun is best. Winged elm can tolerate dry soil handily but do best in evenly moist soil which is allowed to dry before watering. Fall color is more prevalent and short internodes are more obtainable when grown in as much full sun as possible. Winter protection is necessary below 20-25F.

Sources: Winged elm can be collected in the spring as buds swell or even are opening up to 2 -3 sets of new leaves. It is important however to collect at a time that the tree can be placed in sunlight for part of the day. Allow new growth to run unchecked to develop root mass. Light & warming of the soil for a collected winged elm is critical to its rapid recovery. The two elms pictured were essentially cuttings with almost no roots when they began life as pre-bonsai. Begin developing branches by wiring/pruning as soon as leaves turn in the fall the same year as collection.

I have observed fresh seed from winged elm germinate in June in as few as 5 days with no cold stratification or soaking treatment. Seedlings develop bark quickly but take time to thicken trunks.

Soil: Appreciates loose, well-drained soil that is moisture retentive of a slightly acidic chemistry.

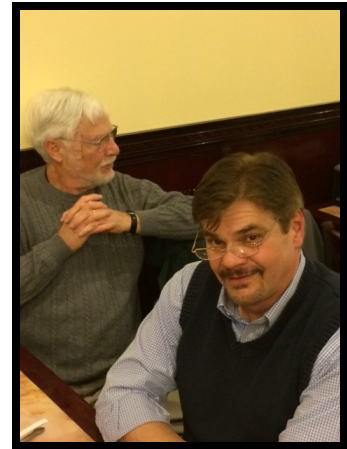
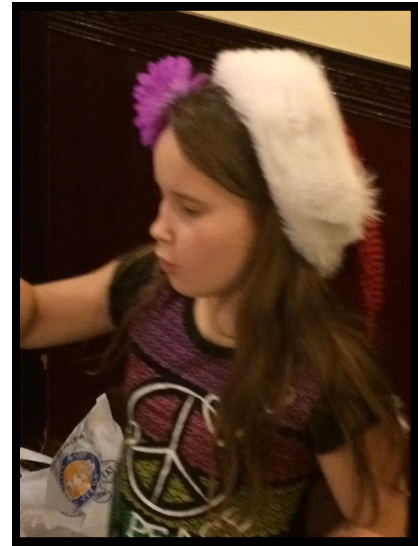
Repotting: Repotting technique is consistent with other deciduous species. Wash all old soil, trim roots appropriately. Dormant buds are tight, pointy and dark black, resting against the stem. When you observe the bud turning slightly tan, the tree is emerging from dormancy. At this point light is important. Most varieties of Ulmus have the unfortunate reputation of being short lived or of dropping branches unexpectedly. This can be avoided by paying attention to fertilization and proper repotting frequency. Winged elm appreciates an organic slower releasing fertilizer cake and will benefit from repotting every second year. Any longer than this and the tree will be more likely to begin dropping branches resultant from pockets of matted/compacted fibrous roots that form.

Developing branches: Winged elm develop quickly as bonsai with proper work. When terminal shoots reach 6-10 leaves and before the base becomes overly thick trim terminal shoots back to 1 bud/leaf. Allowing interior secondary shoots to strengthen will speed the development. Wiring can be carried out at any time. I find it best to wire as soon as fall leaves drop. Then I remove the fall wire in May when the first trimming is carried out. I rewired again in June/July when another trim is necessary. This means the elm can be trimmed aggressively and wired twice per growing season. Allowing wire to cut into the bark slightly will speed the aging of the bark.



The following before and after photos are of winged elms that I collected in Oklahoma with the help of my friend Mike Flannagan. The time between photos is only 4 years, giving you an idea for the responsiveness of the species to proper training.





GALA 2014

Date 2015	Meeting Topic	Detail	Presenter - Coordinator	2015
1/7	How to choose quality pre-bonsai stock	A presentation of how and where to buy quality pre-bonsai.	TBD	
2/4	How to choose quality pre-bonsai stock	Members will be able to make their own accent pot from clay for a	TBD	
3/4	Wiring Demo—BYOt and wire	How to wire a tree	Mark Fields	
4/1	Lace Rock Planting	Creating a bonsai on lace rock; trees and rock available for purchase	Scott Yelich	
5/6	Grafting and air layering	Members bring trees that need grafting/air layering and work on trees during the meeting.	Mark Fields	
6/3	Candle pruning - tree display	Mark Fields will discuss candle pruning techniques/Members will get in groups and design a tree display	Mark Fields	
7/1	MABA	Finalizing details/tasks/volunteer assignments for MABA 2015 in Indianapolis	All	
8/5	State Fair Judge - Demo	TBD	All	
9/2	Annual “Members Only” Auction	Members bring in “anything bonsai” to auction. The club receives 20% of sale.	All	
10/7	BYOT Workshop	Members bring in trees they want help/advice with...	All	
11/4	Benches, winter Prep, 2016 Ideas	Presentation on bonsai displays, winter prep, spring tasks	All	
12/2	Annual Dinner	The Annual Gala Celebration	All	
Events				
April 18, 19	Perennial Premier	Bonsai Sale and Exhibit at the IMA	All	
June 6,7	Garfield Park Exhibit/Sale	Bonsai Sale and Exhibit at Garfield park conservatory	All	
July 10, 11, 12	MABA 2015	Major Bonsai convention hosted by the IBC	All	
August 7-15	State Fair	Exhibit and Sale	All	
September 12	Penrod Art Fair	Bonsai Sale on the grounds of the IMA	All	
September (TBD)	Bjorn Bjorholm	At Bonsai By Fields: contact Mark Fields for details	All	

IBC Corporate Sponsors 2015



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



Broken Arrow Bonsai

Westfield, Indiana

317.565.3582

Call for an appointment

Mark Fields

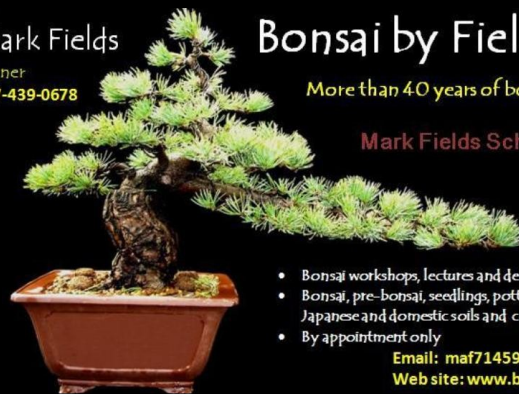
Owner
317-439-0678

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 2015-2017

President	Scott Yelich
Vice President	Carl Wooldridge
Asst. Vice Presidents	Robert Hoy Kyle Weidner
Secretary	Amanda Cox
Treasurer/Newsletter	Robert Hoy
Past President	Mark Fields
Membership	Jason Parrish
Web Master	Scott Yelich
Volunteers	Steve Dick
Historian	John Strassburg
Librarian	Tom Barnes
MABA/ABS/BCI	Paul Weishaar
Garfield Curator	Chuck Perry