

Volume 154
February 2015



The Bonsai Creation

This Ficus is 100% Indiana grown.



We have some talented ceramic artists here in Indiana!



This Mugo Pine was collected in Indiana!



This rock was found in Southern Indiana



This stone was found in Indianapolis along the White River.



Indianapolis has a very active bonsai club!



Locally “grown and harvested...”

What to do...

Mark is currently in Japan, so we pulled an article from this time last year as a reminder of "What to do..."

Mark Fields
Bonsai by Fields

These may be the coldest month's of the year and there are things you should be doing with your 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 outdoor 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. Last week the outside temperature one night was -15 F and the daytime temperature the next day only reached -11° F. It hadn't been that cold here in Indy since 1994. I remembered what I did to protect my trees back then and had learned from that experience. Wrapping the trident trunks was one thing I wish I had done back then. I lost several that year due to trunk split.

With the forecasted temperatures I had added a small electric space heater

to the deciduous hut. The morning of that low temperature I went out to check the temperature readings in the huts. I was pleased to see that the temperature in both of the huts was about 18 F. When I looked at the soil surface it the pots they looked bone dry. I know from many year of experience that when the soil is frozen, it looks dry. That fact was verified when, earlier this week, the outside temperature rose to the upper 40'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. I also noted that some of the trees had viable green leaves still remaining on them.

The trees outdoors during that really cold snap were covered with about 15 inches of snow which had fallen the day prior to the temperatures plunging. I had wrapped the taller tridents that were in the ground with burlap to provide a little added insulation. The deep snowfall reinforced the insulation factor.

I found that the shohin trees

dry out especially fast. A couple of years ago 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 drain-age. 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.

You would think that winter is a time to take a break from bonsai. 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.

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 Ziploc baggies. I stored them in my garage until January. Last week-end 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 thousands of new seedlings!

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 green-house you should be noticing a new flush of growth on most trees. This all depends on the temperature you keep and the available sunlight.

From the President

I'm sure most of you have heard the old saying, 'the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.' As bonsai artists, it's always easier to think that some other region is better for bonsai or suiseki than what we have here. To an extent, that may be true. I cannot grow a ficus as fast as they can in Florida. Winter prep is a lot harder here than it is in California. I've never found a chrysanthemum stone in Indiana.

Have you ever considered what they say in Florida? There are Floridians who'd love to have larch trees and white pines, but they can't keep them alive down there. Most of their collected stones are pretty boring down there, too. The truth is, that every region has its plusses and minuses. Yes, I own collected trees from Florida, California, Puerto Rico and South Dakota. I also have stones collected from California, Colorado, Utah and Arizona. Still, we have some great things here in our own back yard. I stopped to think about that after our last meeting, and I think we have it pretty good.

First, Indiana has a great pool of local talent. Besides our own club, I know of four other Indiana clubs or study groups. Last year, we had eight IBC club members who had a total of eleven bonsai displays in the U. S. National Bonsai Exhibition.

Second, Indiana has many good resources for tools and material. Indianapolis has several bonsai vendors, so bonsai enthusiasts have easy access to nearby bonsai material, pots, tools and soil. We've also managed to find some nice collecting sites. Over the past few years, I've managed to find some great yamadori, including a large Mugo pine I dug up along the side of my house! The ability to collect quality suiseki stones has also been proven here in Indiana. I've seen some great stones collected from Southeast Indiana, but I've also managed to collect some fantastic stones right here in Indianapolis along the White River.

Finally, no president's message would be complete without a plug for the upcoming MABA convention. This summer, some of the nation's best bonsai artists and vendors will be in Indianapolis this coming July. You won't have to travel far to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity. The convention is at the Clarion Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center, just off of I-465 and Crawfordsville Road. The convention dates are July 10-12, 2015. A convention this good and this close to home shouldn't be missed.

Perhaps I shouldn't brag, but I think the grass looks pretty green on this side of the fence. We have a lot of great opportunities for bonsai enthusiasts of all skill levels right here in the heart of central Indiana. Although it's always nice to visit other places and appreciate their climate, their trees and their rocks, we have a whole lot of really good stuff right here!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next club meeting,

Scott Yelich

Tree of the Month — Scott Yelich Campeche

The Campeche (*Haematoxylum campechianum*) will sometimes also be called by the common names, Bloodwood Tree or Logwood tree. In nature, the tree can be found in Central America. The tree I personally own was collected in Puerto Rico. The common names come from two particularly interesting features possessed by the tree.

First of all, the heartwood of the tree is orange or purple in color. When you make deep cuts or remove large branches, the tree will bleed a purple sap that resembles grape juice. Secondly, the trees are used for their very dense and heavy wood. It is said that a freshly cut campeche log will not float in water. One great advantage of this heavy and hard wood is that unlike many tropical trees, this tree is an excellent candidate for jin and shari. It carves well and resists rot.

When I look and work with this tree, it reminds me of a cross between a buttonwood and a Brazilian Raintree. Like the Raintree, the Campeche has compound leaves, short spines and yellow flowers. However, the leaflets of the compound leaves are larger than those on a Brazilian Raintree. Also, the trunks seem to flatten and twist similarly to the trunks of Brazilian Raintrees.

The tree's other characteristics remind me of a buttonwood. As stated before, the campeche's wood is very dense and resistant to decay. They respond very well to carving. The trees also bud back on old wood. Initially, the wood looks orange or purple in color, but that will fade as the exposed wood dries. Also, you can bleach the wood by treating it with lime sulfur.

Like most tropical trees, the campeche likes to remain above 60 degrees and they like plenty of sunlight. They should be outside during the summer and inside the house or a greenhouse in the winter. I fertilize my campeche on the same schedule as my other tropical trees, that being every other week in the spring, summer and fall, and once a month during the winter. I water my tree every day when it's outside, and about every other day when I bring it in. Like most other tropical bonsai, campeche trees will need to be repotted about every 2-3 years.

Although Campeche trees are fairly new to bonsai culture, I'd expect to see them more often in the coming years. They can be propagated by cuttings and they grow fairly quick. In my opinion they'll increase in popularity because they have many characteristics that are appealing to bonsai enthusiasts. As I said before, they have great looking compound leaves and they flower. They grow fairly fast and their trunks lend themselves well to carving. What's not to love?



Checkout the updated IBC websites:

www.indybonsai.org / www.maba2015.com

Indianapolis Bonsai Club
January 7th, 2015
Meeting Minutes
Amanda Cox

Date & Time: January 7th, 2015 from 7:00-9:00

Location: Garfield Park Conservatory Meeting Room

Presiding: Club President Scott Yelich

Attendance: 25 **Visitors:** 3

Membership: 28

Checking/Savings Balance: \$4700.00

Announcements

Mark your calendar for MABA July 10th-12th

- Volunteers Needed

- Raffle Items Needed

IBC Library: We are looking to grow the IBC Library

- Donations Wanted

- Books can be checked out by any paid IBC member

Tree Demos

Kyle: Dwarf Scots Pine

Hank: Scots Pine

Greg: Ficus Nerifolia

Jason: Japanese Black Pine

Presentation/Discussion

How to choose pre-bonsai material

Presented by: Kyle Weidner & Neil Dellinger

February Meeting

Tree Demos

Make your own pinch pot (Small fee to make your own)

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	Accent Pots	Members will be able to make their own accent pot from clay for a small fee. TBD	Paul Weishaar, Mike Thiedeman	
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	

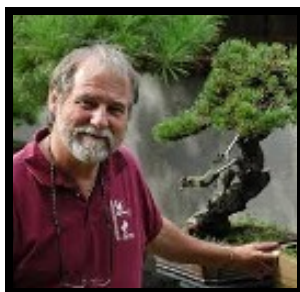


Suthin Sukosolvisit — Headlining Artist

Featured Artists



Pauline Muth



Jim Doyle



Mark Fields



Owen Reich



Brian Ciskowski



Scott Yelich

List subject to change



IBC January 7, 2015

Photo's by Amanda Cox

IBC Corporate Sponsors 2015



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Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

www.Indygov.org

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Scott Yelich

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Call for an appointment

Mark Fields

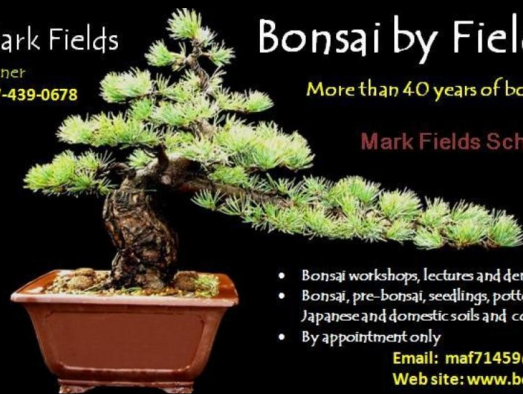
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Bonsai by Fields, LLC

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!

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.

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