



The Bonsai Creation

Looking Back On A Decade

I started my actual physical involvement with bonsai in approximately 1994, After reading several books and making my first attempts at making two dimensional trees that looked like the pictures, I happened to be in Indianapolis one day for a workshop, which I cut out of an hour or so early. As there was no bonsai stores or club in Kokomo, I checked the yellow pages and found a bonsai nursery belonging to former IBC president and long-time bonsai artist Max Mendel, who also mentored several members of the IBC over the years.

I headed out to the far south side of Indy and proceeded to drive past his home at least twice before I noticed the sign overgrown with weeds in front of what looked like, at best, a small deserted house. Pulling into the drive and getting out of the car, I was greeted by a large dog that seemed more than satisfied with eating my leg for an afternoon snack. A small disheveled older woman came around from out back and quieted the dog and showed me to the yard behind the house.

There on bench after bench of old, warped wood slats were some of the most unbelievable trees I had ever seen. Mrs. Mendel introduced me to her husband Max, a slow walking gentleman with a heavy German accent, who proceeded to spend the next hour or more showing me around and explaining the individual histories of may of his prized trees.

Over the next several months I made several trips to visit Max and took some basic training in the development of bonsai, which I quickly learned were actually THREE dimensional, unlike the pictures I used for models! He taught me how to wire, select the branches I should use, how to position branches and trunk for movement, and many other things as I spent time listening to his stories of bonsai

and horticulture, his previous profession, and how he came to be involved in bonsai about 25 years earlier.

Things got hectic in my life and I didn't get back down for awhile, and when I did I found out that his health had worsened and I never saw him again. However, he ignited a passion for bonsai that I still have today. I subsequently bought a nice exposed root zelkova which I treated with great care for the next two years and started experimenting with nursery material applying what I had learned from Max to cerate trees that actually began to look like bonsai in training.

In 1998 a career change took me to Indianapolis. After several months, I happened to notice in the club meetings listing that there was a bonsai club in Indy that met the first Wednesday of each month. As luck would have it, it happened to be that day, so not having a clue as to where Garfield Park was, I pulled up a route on MapQuest and set out after work to attend my first club meeting.

The club was much different in 1999. The membership was mostly "older" people who had been in the club for years and membership was pretty constant. As I had experience with web technology and my

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New Club Members

The Indianapolis Bonsai Club is proud to welcome our new members:

***D. Perry and Susan Christian
John Frost
David and Donna Vignes***

Welcome to IBC!

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From The Office of the President -

It's been a great summer so far. A little wet but not too hot. My trees are looking really good right now. I'm not sure whether it's due to the weather or the switch to Akadama. At any rate, everything looks great.

I want to thank Paul (aka "Wizzy") and Judy for hosting the annual garden tour and pitch-in at their home on July 18th. A great time was had by all. The food was awesome especially the home made special recipe vanilla ice cream made by Roger Chestnut. Thanks for your hospitality. *(At the Garfield Park Conservatory Exhibit in June, a 92 year old woman who was a neighbor near where Paul grew up informed us that they used to call him "Wizzy" when he was a young boy)*

I don't know about you but I'm preparing my trees for the Indiana State Fair. It will be August 7 through the 11th. Not only the trees I am exhibiting but the trees I'm going to sell as well. If you haven't done so, get your application(s) to Paul as soon as possible. Ribbons will be awarded for the winners.

In case you didn't hear at the last meeting, we have the pleasure of hosting Bill Valavanis for the 2nd half of the next meeting as well as having him judge the state fair trees. Bill is internationally known and travels all over the world speaking and demonstrating his expertise on the subject. We were lucky to have him agree to travel here. His presentation will be on, appropriately, exhibiting bonsai. Paul and I will be doing a demonstration on raft style bonsai. Paul has graciously agreed to pick Bill up at the airport and host him at his home the

first night he is here. Bill offered to assist in the set up of the exhibit as well. We will have 3 vendors, Rich, Bob and me, participating in the sale of trees and merchandise as well. Paul will fill us in on more details at the meeting.

The September 2nd meeting will be our 2nd Annual "Members Only" Indianapolis Bonsai Club auction. Bring anything you want to sell, bonsai related of course, and have the minimum bid amount attached. It's a great way to get rid of anything you're tired of, have too many of, etc, and also a way to pick up a few things you might need as well as help the club out monetarily. If I can remember right, 10% of the proceeds go to the club so price the items you want to auction off accordingly. I went to look for last year's newsletter to see if I could find the details but the link won't work.

(*Editor's Note: I talked with the webmaster and apparently when he started the redesign of the website using a new software package, the link for the August 2008 newsletter didn't get corrected to the right file location. He assures me that the link has now been fixed so you can go to the Newsletter page of the IBC website and

If you have a request for articles, comments or photos, please send them through the Feedback page at www.indybonsai.org or send an e-mail to the IBC Newsletter Editor at: webmaster@indybonsai.org

access the information. - *Editor*)

The next big club event coming up will be the Penrod Art Fair on September 12th. This is one of our largest annual fundraisers. All members are welcome to sell their trees at the sale. Remember that the club gets 20% of the proceeds from the items you sell. Again, price your trees accordingly.

Don't forget that the annual Midwest Bonsai Show will be August 14th and 15th at the Chicago Botanical Gardens in Glencoe, Illinois. I will be traveling up on the 25th to make a trade with Andy Smith of some medium Akadama for some collected ponderosa pines.

I also purchased the remaining bagged composted pine bark fines from Greendell Farms. I wanted to make it more convenient for club members to get what they need locally of it since they don't bag it very often. They are in 2 cubic ft bags and costs \$6.00 (+ tax) each. I only have 15 bags of it to sell.

Mark Fields, President

Date	Tree of the Month/Presenter
January 7, 2009	Hinoki Cypress - Carl Wooldridge
February 4, 2009	Japanese White Pine - Rob Pugh
March 4, 2009	Black Pine - Paul Weishaar
April 1, 2009	Trident Maple - Mark Fields
May 6, 2009	Black Olive - Ron Fraley
June 3, 2009	Ginkgo - Roger Chestnut
July 1, 2009	Bougainvillea - Mark Burg
August 5, 2009	Ficus Burt-Davyii - Scott Yelich
September 2, 2009	N/A
October 7, 2009	Boxwood - John Strassburg
November 4, 2009	Juniper - Bob Hoy
December 2, 2009	N/A

**Indianapolis Bonsai Club
2009 Calendar of Events -**

January 7 – Review 2009 Calendar of Events, Preview Bonsai DVD

Presenter: Mark Fields

February 4 – Slab Making Workshop

Presenter: Carl Wooldridge

Earl Ekman, a slab making expert from the Louisville Bonsai Society will be coming up to conduct a demonstration of his techniques for making slabs for group-plantings and forests

March 4 – Black Pine Lecture and Demo

Presenter: Paul Weishaar

The care and styling of Black Pine bonsai will be discussed

April 1 – Seven-tree Maple Grove Workshop

Presenter: Mark Fields

Mark will lead a workshop on the creation of a small grove using seven Trident or Japanese Maple. Cost will be \$50.

April 5 – Erik Wigert Neea Buxifolia Workshop

Erik Wigert, owner of Wigert's Bonsai Nursery in N. Ft. Myers, FL will be here to conduct a tropical tree workshop using Neea Buxifolia from his nursery

May 6 – Root-Over-Rock Trident Maple Demo

Presenter: Ron Fraley

Ron will demonstrate how to do a root-over-rock bonsai

Grafting and Air-Layering

Presenter: Mark Fields

Mark will conduct a demonstration of various forms of grafting and air-layering that can be used to develop branches or roots in bonsai

May 16 & 17 - Indianapolis Museum of Art Exhibit

June 3 – Black Pines and Azaleas

Presenter: Doug Hawley from the Cincinnati Bonsai Club will give a presentation on Black Pines and Azaleas

July 1 – Tropical Care and Repotting

Presenter: Scott Yelich

July 18 – Backyard Tour and Club Picnic

August 5 – Raft-Style Bonsai Demo

Presenters: Paul Weishaar and Mark Fields

Mark and Paul will demonstrate how to create a raft-style bonsai

Displaying Bonsai

Presenter: Bill Valavanis

August 7 - 9 – Indiana State Fair Bonsai Exhibit and Sale

Judge: Bill Valavanis

September 2 – Annual Club Auction - Members Only

Auctioneer: Mark Fields

September 12 -- Penrod Art Fair Bonsai Sale, Indianapolis Museum of Art

September - 20 – Craig Coussins Workshop

Craig Coussins - internationally known bonsai artist from the UK will be here to conduct a "Bring Your Own Tree" style workshop

September 26 & 27 - White River Gardens Bonsai Exhibit & Sale

October 7 – Winterizing Your Bonsai

Presenter: Paul Weishaar

November 4 – Conifer Wiring Demo

Presenter: Mark Fields

December 2 – Holiday Party, Raffle, and Dead Tree Contest

Location to be determined

2009 USA Bonsai Events

This list will be updated as we become aware of additional events. Most of the shows include workshops, demos, and vendors. Search the websites for full information

March 7 Brussels Bonsai Spring Open House, Olive Branch, Mississippi - www.brusselsbonsai.com

March 20 - 22 BSF 2009 Convention, Orlando, Florida - www.bsf-bonsai.com

April 17 - 19 Mid Atlantic Bonsai Show, Kerhonkson, New York - www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com/

April 24 - 26 Shohin Show, St Louis, Missouri - www.stlbonsai.org

May 1 - 3 Potomac Bonsai Society Show, US Arboretum, Washington, DC - www.usna.usda.gov

May 16 - 17 All Michigan Bonsai Show, Grand Rapids, Michigan - www.wmbonsai.org/show.htm

May 16 - 17 Chicago Midwest Spring Show, Glencoe, Illinois - www.midwestbonsai.org

May 16 Ft. Wayne Bonsai Show, Ft. Wayne, Indiana - www.home.earthlink.net/~centura/bindex.html

May 22 - 24 Brussels Rendezvous, Olive Branch, Mississippi - www.brusselsbonsai.com

June 11 - 14 ABS Learning Seminar, Boise, Idaho - www.absbonsai.org

June 19 - 21 BCI Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana - www.bonsai-bci.com

June 20 - 21 Detroit Bonsai Show-Detroit, Michigan - www.fourseasonsbonsai.com

August 14 - 15 Chicago Midwest Bonsai Show, Glencoe, Illinois - www.midwestbonsai.org

September 10 - 13 International Bonsai Symposium Shohin, Rochester, New York - www.internationalbonsai.com

October 10 - 11 North Carolina Arboretum Show, Asheville, North Carolina - www.ncarboretum.org

October 24 - 26 Ohio Bonsai Exhibition, Columbus, Ohio - www.columbusbonsai.org/

November 5 - 8 Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention, Riverside, California - www.gsbfcconvention.com



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own domain, I offered to piggy-back a website for the club off of my domain and make information about the club available on the internet, which would target a whole new generation of possible bonsai enthusiasts.

Over the next several months, new people would show up at meetings having found out about the club on the web and after a couple years a decision was made to register the club's own domain, www.indybonsai.org, and revamp the website to target more potential members as well as to provide a source of information for current club members.

Over the last several years, the club has experienced phenomenal growth as new members joined the club and brought in new ideas and skills. We have experienced some truly exciting events as well that have not only provide memorable moments for club members but for the public as well. We had our first extended exhibit at White River Gardens - a two month long showcase of some of the club's finest trees. Record crowds showed up to see the display and participate in the first weekend sale, which brought in new people to see our club. Shows or sales at Penrod, Garfield Park, and the Museum of Art also contributed to the club's growth.

Outstanding leadership from club Presidents like Paul Weishaar, Donna Shirley, and Mark Fields brought in bonsai artists, not only from the US but from outside the country as well. Workshops with Suthin Sukosolvisit, the "Buttonwood Queen" Mary Madison, Marco Invernizzi, Matt Ouwinga, Erik Wigert, and future workshops with Craig Coussins and others have brought this club to a new level unthought-of even a few years ago.

The culmination of all the hard work and effort put in by not just our officers but by all our members over the previous couple years brought the MABA convention to Indianapolis in 2008. In spite of skyrocketing gas prices and a down turning economy, MABA 2008 was a great success enjoyed by all. Outstanding workshops and demos by US bonsai artists Dana Quattlebaum, Matt Ouwinga, David Kreutz, Steve Pilacik, and Andy Smith laid the groundwork for the once in a lifetime experience of seeing world class Belgian bonsai artist Danny Use in not only two demonstrations but in a "Bring Your Own Tree" workshop where participants had the opportunity to get styling assistance from one of bonsai's truly great artists. Who would have ever thought this club would have ever produced such an event like this ten years ago.

However, as they say, all good things must come to an end at some point. That being said, this is my last newsletter as editor. The last three years have been eventful in my life as well, and not always in a good way. The loss of my mother, my brother-in-law, and my mother-in-law in successive Aprils over the last three and a half years has taken an emotional toll as has 11 months of

unemployment in a crashing economy and a non-existent job market. It has become harder and harder to invest in the non-essentials under my current conditions.

As a result, I have had to make the difficult decision to put my involvement in the club on hold, at least for awhile. Being here in Kokomo and not being able to be at meetings and participate in activities, see what is happening, take pictures, etc. makes it impossible for me to contribute to the club in any kind of a competent manner and provide the information that club members need to have.

My ten years with the club has been a remarkable experience. I have met so many great people who have come and gone as well as those that were here when I came to the club and continue to contribute great things. I am proud of the contribution I have made as a club member, as webmaster of the IBC and the MABA 2008 websites and, most recently, as newsletter editor. As webmaster, I agreed to take on the newsletter job "temporarily" when previous editor Phil Hieser left in August 2006 and three years later . . . Well, "Be careful what you volunteer for" is all I can say!

I hope at some point down the road the situation is such that I can resume my involvement with the club. I am happy to assist whoever volunteers for this assignment with the transition. I am also going to make a concerted effort to finish the much neglected website updates over the next couple weeks. At least for the time being I can continue doing the website as long as additions are sent to me for inclusion as it would be easier for me to do what is involved with the site than work with someone to transition the webmaster responsibilities to someone else. However, if there is someone who is wanting to "temporarily" take over the website as well, I am happy to do what I can to make the change as "painless" as possible.

Again, this decision wasn't an easy one for me but it is what I need to do at this point in time. We never know what tomorrow brings so this could be a short-term hiatus of a few months, but more than likely it will be some time before I can make it back. I'll just have to see what the future brings.

Thanks to IBC and its members for the great times I have had over the last ten years and the friends I've made. And good luck to Mark and the rest of the officers in their continued attempts to make the IBC one of the premier clubs, not only in the Midwest, but in the country as well. While I would have liked to say "Good-bye" in person, that isn't possible so this column is the next best thing. I guess this is a real test as to whether or not people actually READ this column - if people are still wondering where I'm at a couple months from now, I guess no one really DOES read this! Oh, well! The best to you all!

Michael

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 to receive the newsletter by email, or \$30 to receive it by US Mail. Cost includes up to two members of the same household. After July 1st, dues are \$15 for the remainder of the year.

Club Officers

President	Mark Fields
Vice President	Carl Wooldridge
Asst. Vice Presidents	Bob Hoy, Scott Yelich
Secretary	Ron Fraley
Treasurer	Bob Hoy
Past President	Donna Shirley
Newsletter Editor	---
Web Master	Michael Turley
Membership	Bob Hoy
Historian	John Strassburg
Librarian	Tom Barnes
MABA/ABS/BCI	Paul Weishaar
Garfield Curator	Chuck Perry
Speaker's Bureau	---

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