

*Serenity
Through Bonsai*



**DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI**

第一分盆栽會
盆中平穩

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

JANUARY 2015 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

Celebrating
30 Years
of Serenity through Bonsai

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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On the Cover | Chinese Elm on display at the 2014 Nanpu Kai show.

Inside Cover | Prostrata Juniper by Doyle Saito on display at the 2014 DIBK show.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the New Year, 2015! In this issue we look back at 30 years of learning and sharing our love through Bonsai with Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai. I wasn't around in the beginning, back in 1985, but darn close having joined in the late 1980's. I feel that we have lived up to the intent of the club as put forth by our founders, Leila Kusumi and Jim Tatsukawa, and that over the years, we are still bringing new members into the club. The club is only as good as our members and we have some pretty darn good members. Let's all continue to grow along with our bonsai and learn by sharing our experiences and volunteering to help the club as we move forward.



Last year I wrote many times about California's water situation and the need to conserve water trying to meet a very challenging goal of a 20% reduction in use. Well I'm sitting in my office now, watching the second day of a nice steady rain and remembering our recent storms. I'm sure this is helping, but maybe not as much as we might like, to fill up all of our reservoirs again. I mentioned that I considered reducing my collection by 20%, and sell my trees at the Dai Ichi Show coming up in May; well, with the rain, maybe now I will only reduce my collection by 10%, ha ha ha. Even though we are in the middle of winter, with the rain and what not, I still have provided some fertilizer to my evergreens. So be mindful of what is happening outside to your trees. Are they draining correctly? Are they in too much shade? Have you cleaned up all the dead leaves and litter around your trees to discourage pests and disease? These are all valid questions this time of year. And we are in prime re-potting season right now. You can also think about grafting, air layering, and starting cuttings. This month's demonstrator will be David Nguy. David is definitely a Bonsai Master and I have seen him develop some amazing trees. He studied in Japan as an apprentice under Masahiko Kimura, so you know he takes the art form very seriously. Please come down to our meeting and watch David work, it is always a great experience.

See ya all soon. Stay warm and healthy!

John van de Wouw
John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Celebrating 30 Years of Serenity through Bonsai



*2015 Commemorates the 30th year since the inception of Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai. Let's take a glimpse into the club's history.
For more pictures and club information, please visit Rick Wagner's DIBK archive at www.rjwagner49.com/Bonsai/DaiIchiBonsaiKai/history.html*

In 1985, a small group of bonsai enthusiasts got together to form a new club to serve the South Bay area in Los Angeles County. Their purpose was to start a club in which both experienced bonsaists and novices could come together to learn about, share knowledge of, and promote the art of bonsai. The Ken Nakaoka Community Center in the city of Gardena was chosen as the location for club meetings and other events, such as the annual bonsai show and Christmas dinner party. Gardena is centrally located to serve the South Bay (southern Santa Monica Bay) area.

The DIBK annual spring show, "Serenity through Bonsai," has come to be regarded as one of the best local club bonsai shows.

The club has been an important influence in the promotion of the art of bonsai in the South Bay area and has assisted many members over the years in improving their appreciation and practice of the art of bonsai.

The author, (Rick Wagner) at the time of this writing (September 2002) is the current President of DIBK, and has been a club member for many years.

1985

DIBK schedules its first club meeting. An announcement appeared in the December 25, 1985 Daily Breeze, page B6:

Bonsai Club

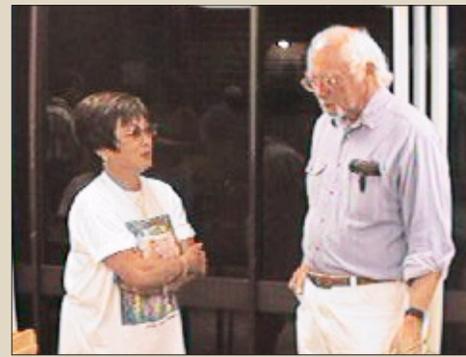
"A group of Bonsai enthusiasts is organizing a new South Bay club and meets at 7 p.m. on the first Friday of each month starting Jan. 3, 1986 at the Ken Nakaoka Memorial Center, 1700 W. 162nd St., Gardena. For further information, call the Gardena Recreation Department at 327-0220 Ext. 340."



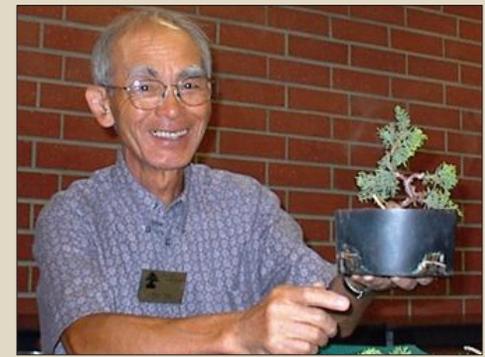
Club president Bill Johnson's California Juniper on display at the 1997 DIBK Show.



Juniper raft on display at the 1997 DIBK Show.



DIBK co-founder, Leila Kusumi, with Lew Buller during the snack break at the September 1997 club demo.



Former President Ted Oka shows off his Shimpaku Juniper at the 2003 round robin demo. Photo by Elaine Pine.



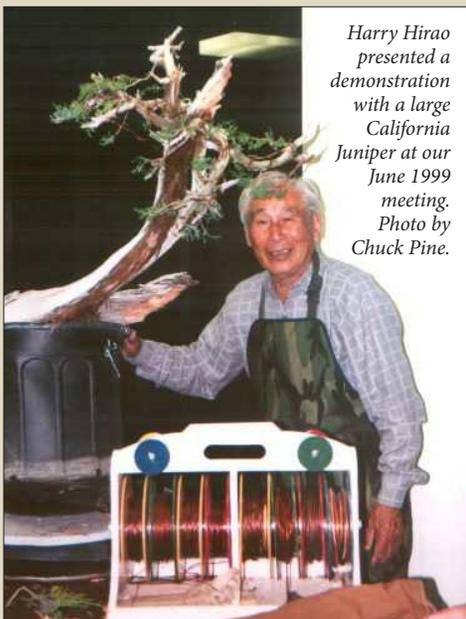
Mel Ikeda performed a demonstration on a San Jose Juniper with the help of his assistant, Alan Sugimura, at the 1998 Club show. On the right, the finished bunjin.



Frank Goya gets ready to create a saikei at the June 2007 Meeting. Photo by Andrea Wagner.



Marco Invernizzi, from Italy, was on the West Coast so Program Chairman Jim Peerson invited him to come to our November 2005 meeting to demonstrate. Jim generously donated a large California Juniper as the demonstration tree. Photo by Andrea Wagner.



Harry Hiraio presented a demonstration with a large California Juniper at our June 1999 meeting. Photo by Chuck Pine.



For the 2002 President's demo, Rick Wagner styled this tree. The finished bonsai was won by DIBK Corresponding Secretary, Patty Peters. Photo by Jim Peerson.



At the April 2003 meeting demo, Paul DeRose demonstrated bonsai techniques with a black pine. Photo by Elaine Pine.



April 2005 club demonstration with Uyen Truong. Photo by Andrea Wagner.



At the 2004 Picnic, club members Eunice and Peggy worked on their trees. Photo by Andrea Wagner.

All photos by Rick Wagner unless otherwise specified.



Harry with club member Ted Oka during the June 2005 meeting. Photo by Andrea Wagner.



At the November 2003 meeting, Denny Roche demonstrated with a *Ficus Salicifolia*, a tropical tree from Florida. Photo by Elaine Pine.



Larry Ragle demonstrated a root on rock technique at the March 2003 demo. Photo by Elaine Pine.



Mas and Gary Ishii demonstrated grafting techniques at our February 2003 meeting. Photo by Elaine Pine.



The club arranged a Juniper dig with Harry Hirao on Saturday, April 5, 2003, near Mojave, California. Members of DIBK gathered at the Denny's restaurant in the desert town of Mojave to meet with Harry Hirao and drive into the Jawbone Canyon area to dig California Junipers. Members who joined the adventure included Bob Lawlor, Milton Louie, Jim Peerson, Doyle Saito, Joel Cervera, and honorary life-time member Frank Goya. A number of Kofu Kai members also joined the hunt. Photos by Jim Peerson.

It's time to renew your ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership is \$25.00 per year
Family Membership is \$35.00 per year

Your dues enable the club to present activities such as our annual show, guest demonstrations, workshops, the *Dai Ichi Gazette*, club library, as well as refreshments and club raffles.

Please support the club by paying your dues, and by encouraging your family and friends, to join the club.



Ben Oki working the trees at the 2011 Bonsaiathon.

In February 2011, Mel Ikeda showed the club how to style from raw nursery stock.

From the February 2011 issue of the Gazette - Herb Eisenberg has been a member of DIBK for 13 years and served on the Board of Directors in a variety of positions including: Librarian, Show Chair, Newsletter Editor and 1st Vice President. Herb is a member of several other clubs in the South Bay and continues to study bonsai in formal classes and workshops.

Beyond working on his bonsai and filling this newsletter with pithy and insightful articles, Herb is a person of many diverse interests. He is also a self-taught dentist and semi professional tap dancer. When not torturing little trees, he may be found wreaking havoc in the ocean on his surf board or taking long rides on his touring bike with his wife, Judy.

All photos by Doyle Saito unless otherwise specified.



David and June Nguy working a Juniper at the May 2011 Meeting.

A lot was learned at Fred Miyahara's grafting techniques demo.



During his February 2011 president's demo, Herb taught the club what's up with muck.



Mark Levinstein, Frank and Margaret Goya at the 2011 DIBK show.



In January 2012, Fred Miyahara showed the club his grafting techniques.



Carol Upston Styling a Boxwood in Aug 2012.



Jason Saito and his "haul" from the 2012 Auction. I have it on good authority that some of them are even still alive today.



Michael Sykes works a Foemina at the November 2013 meeting.



Scott Pogosian and Doyle Saito load up on raffle tickets at the 2013 DIBK show. Photo by Thuan Lam.



CJ Harmatz and Kevin Sweeney won Mel Ikeda's demo trees in April 2013.



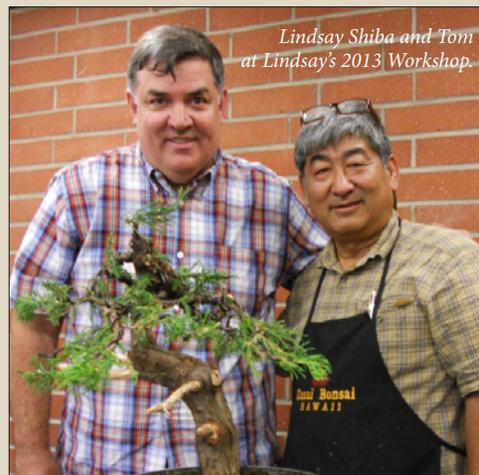
Carol Upston and John Van de Wouw teaching the beginners workshop. Photo by Thuan Lam.



Enjoying the break. Photo by Thuan Lam.



All photos by CJ Harmatz.



Lindsay Shiba and Tom at Lindsay's 2013 Workshop.

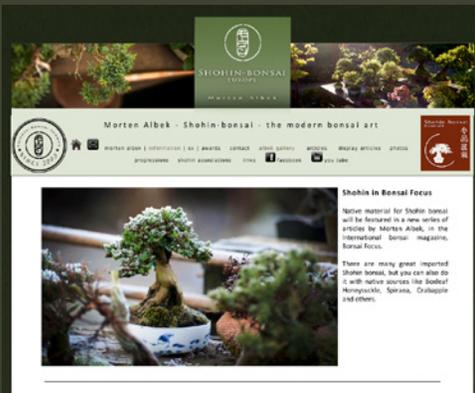


Full house at the 2013 Auction.

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI 2015 MEETING CALENDAR

*Information is subject to change.

MONTH	DATE	DAY	SCHEDULED EVENT*
January	16th	Friday	David Nguy
February	20th	Friday	Fred Miyahara - <i>Repotting seminar</i>
March	20th	Friday	Ryan Nichols - <i>Horticulture for bonsai</i>
April	17th	Friday	Member's Workshop - <i>Show display with Leila Kusumi</i>
May	2nd & 3rd	Saturday/Sunday	DIBK Show and Sale
June	19th	Friday	TBD
July	17th	Friday	TBD
August	21st	Friday	TBD
September	18th	Friday	TBD
October	16th	Friday	Member's Workshop
November	20th	Friday	TBD
December			No Meeting - Happy Holidays!



SHOHIN BONSAI-EUROPE

In 2003, the *Shohin*-bonsai Europe website was published by Morten Albek, and is probably the most visited website when searching for information about *Shohin*-bonsai. Morten Albek is a worldwide recognized bonsai artist and has won many prizes. Travels to Japan, and numerous talks with Japanese experts have been part of the journey. Today Morten Albek has a great number of articles published in Denmark, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Australia, US, South America, and even in Japan, to mention some. Demonstrations and workshops have been done as far away as Brazil, and of course around Europe.

To see more of Morten's work, please visit **Shohin Bonsai Europe**.

<http://www.shohin-europe.com/>

Photos courtesy of Morten Albek



JANUARY DEMONSTRATOR DAVID NGUY



David Nguy will be the featured demonstrator at our next meeting on Friday, January 16, 2015.

David is well known for his work with California Junipers and Black Pines. Formally trained in Japan by renowned bonsai master, Masahiko Kimura, David employs the styles made popular in Japan, along with his own developed techniques in his teaching. He emphasizes group collaboration and hands on application through his courses at his school, Bonsai Jidai located in Chino.

EVENTS

January 17 -18, 2015
Arcadia
Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai
Winter Silhouettes Show 2015

Los Angeles Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue
The Winter Silhouettes bonsai show at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum exhibits the best work of California's own bonsai masters.
For more information, please contact Lindsay Shiba (ljshiba@earthlink.net) or Ken Teh (hanyuls@yahoo.com).

February 28 – March 1, 2015
San Marino
Bonsai-A-Thon XIX

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens,
1151 Oxford Road
Admission to the event is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "early bird" registration between 8 AM – 9:30 AM.
Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Pancake breakfast, tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle, and auction.
Sunday only: "Bring-Your-Own-Tree" Bonsai Consulting Clinic.
For more information, contact Marge Blasingame, (626) 579-0420 or email margeblasingame@att.net.

March 7, 2015
Palos Verdes
Cherry Blossom Festival
South Coast Bonsai Association Show
South Coast Botanic Gardens
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard
Members of the South Coast Bonsai Association will be displaying their trees at this event. Check out!
Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
See website for details and admission.
www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

GRATITUDE

*Thank you to all of the members who contributed.
The club truly appreciates your generosity and giving spirit.*

Refreshment Signup for January
George & Judy Unrine, Jason Saito, Doyle Saito

Please remember to sign the contribution sheet so that we may acknowledge your generosity.

Special thanks to

Rick and Andrea Wagner, Jim Peerson, Elaine Pine, Herb Eisenberg, Doyle Saito, CJ Harmatz, Thuan Lam, and Morten Albek.

For their contributions to this issue of the DIBK Gazette.

ABOUT DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai ("Number One" Bonsai Club) was established in January, 1986 and takes great pride in its family-oriented character. Our club is dedicated to promoting the art of bonsai.

The club meets on the third Friday of each month at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena, at 7:00 P.M. Each meeting features a bonsai demonstration, benefit drawing and is open to the public.

Our annual bonsai show is held on the first weekend in May at the Nakaoka Community Center. Other club activities include: bonsai digs, annual auction, potting parties, outings to nurseries and private gardens.

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DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Please feel free to forward this publication to friends, family
or anyone with an appreciation for bonsai.*
Do you have any comments, questions, or submissions? If so, please contact:
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