

*Serenity
Through Bonsai*



DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI

第一分盆栽會
盆中平穩

盆中平穩

THE DAI ICHI

GAZETTE

MAY 2015 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 5



Serenity through Bonsai

30TH ANNUAL DIBK BONSAI SHOW AND SALE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can honestly say that our show was a success. I would like to thank all the club members who helped put it on, displayed their bonsai, helped with the beginners workshop, and performed a myriad of tasks to make everything run smoothly. This was our 30th show and I look forward to many more.



I was also happy to see that our newest members ponied-up to the challenge and presented outstanding bonsai displays featuring all the classical elements of bonsai, *dai*, and accent plant placement. Knowing this is an important aspect of mastering the art of bonsai.

Our demonstrator for June will be Bob Pressler, owner of Kimura Bonsai Nursery. He is a very talented bonsai artist and having operated a bonsai nursery, will have many informative tips for keeping our trees growing and healthy. Please come support him and our club for this event.

The Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) 38th annual convention will be coming to Riverside October 29th through November 1st, and will be held in the new Riverside Convention Center. GSBF conventions are a great way to increase your knowledge and understanding of bonsai. Participating in the workshops is a great way to acquire good material for your collection. GSBF has just launched a consolidated Facebook page www.facebook.com/gsbforg to spread the word about GSBF programs and benefits of membership. Check it out and keep informed!

John van de Wouw

John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

On the Cover | Al Nelson's Flowering Pear on display in the DIBK Tokonoma.
Inside Cover | Gary Ishii (Chikugo-En Bonsai Nursery) Shimpaku Juniper.

“When you choose pieces for a display, you need to listen to yourself. You could be in a room full of ten teachers, and each one will have their own opinion. You should select pieces that speak to you.”



SHOWING OFF

At our April meeting, club co-founder, Leila Kusumi shared her years of experience, offering tips to best display a show tree. Perfect timing with our Annual DIBK show coming up.

Using material brought in by our club members, Leila went through the various options and gave insight as to what to aim for when creating a harmonious display.

She discussed various aspects of creating displays such as tree and *dai* (table/stand) selection, size and form, color consideration and composition.



“This would be a good pairing by itself, but if you are using this as an accent, the table is too tall. Your accent dai should never be the same height as your main dai.”



“Although this is a very nice dai, the pot is too tall for the stand. It takes too much focus off of the overall display. The color also does not complement the pot.”



“This accent planting is also a nice pairing with this dai, but you need to choose accents that complement the tree, not just because it looks nice.”





"This would be a good combination if the accent dai were larger and not so feminine. The hard edges of the main dai, and pot, do not go well with soft rounded corners of this accent dai."



"For it's size, this is a very heavy dai because it is so tall. While it is very pretty, for a harmonious display, the main tree would have to be a very tall tree if you use this as an accent dai."

FURTHER READING



The Art of Display

A very well written and informative article by Al Kepler. In it, he covers scrolls, trees, *dai* selection as well as accent plants and arrangement.

www.bit.ly/Al-Display



(at left)
"While a beautiful tree, the trunk is too small for the heaviness of this dai and this pot together."

(at right)
"This combination is better — it keeps the focus and scale to an ideal ratio between this tree, this pot, and this dai."



Getting Ready for a Bonsai Show

Here's a great article written by Bill Valavanis about preparing accent displays. He discusses a neat idea using customized, painted cork board to create the perfect accent *dai*.

www.bit.ly/BillV-Display

Serenity through Bonsai

30TH ANNUAL DIBK BONSAI SHOW AND SALE



Saturday morning, the first day of the show brought an early turnout, as people waited patiently for the show and sale to open to the public. Once the sale opened, the early birds swooped in hoping to get the best deals on a variety of bonsai and pre-bonsai stock offered.

The exhibit was carefully orchestrated to showcase a variety of different styles of bonsai, on all artist levels. The reception to the exhibit was very positive, and club members, as well as friends and supporters of the club, lent their very best trees, offering them in harmonious displays of art.

The public was excited to participate in the beginner's bonsai workshop led by experienced and talented bonsai students and artists. Participants got the chance to learn bonsai basics and create their own Juniper Nana bonsai. People either experience these workshops as a fun way to spend the morning, or a first step into a lifelong passion for bonsai. The latter is why the club continues to carry on this show tradition.



We were then treated to a round robin demonstration with Mel Ikeda, Robert King, Alan Sugimura and Kevin Sweeney. The group all worked effortlessly through the demonstration, creating beautiful bonsai out of raw nursery stock. After the demo, all trees were placed into the Saturday raffle, and many lucky people went home with great material.



Later in the day, the attendees were further encouraged to network and enjoy a great meal at the show reception and dinner. The selection of food was varied and all incredibly delicious thanks to everyone that contributed a dish to the feast. Seconds were a must!

After dinner service, the attendees were treated to the magical stylings of Magician William Yamane, who graciously

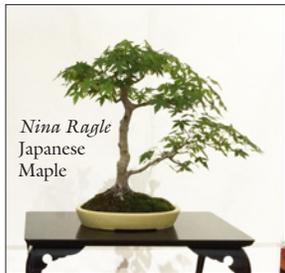
donated his entertainment services to the club. William is member of the Magic Castle in Hollywood, as well as a Vice President for the Society of American Magicians. While he didn't saw any people (or trees) in half, William did dazzle the audience with some impressive card tricks and other sleight of hand magic.

Sunday brought us another great demonstration with Frank Goya.

Assisted by Jaime Chavarria, Frank showed the attendees what it takes to create a three-tree Juniper *saikei*. In addition to the Junipers, the beautiful tray landscape consisted of Tufa rock (hardscape), Irodium and dwarf mondo grass (accent), and moss cultivated by Frank himself. Also assisting Frank with microphone duty was John van de Wouw and Kei Ikari.

Frank then donated the finished *saikei*, and another smaller *saikei*, to the Sunday raffle. Lucky winners were Jason Saito and Judy Unrine.

In all, it was a great weekend that gave the general public, as well as club members, a chance to interact and learn about the art of bonsai as well as the opportunity to own some great material.



Nina Ragle
Japanese
Maple



Elissa Hoxie
Olive



Joe Morris
Olive



Alan Sugimura
Black Pine



Gary Ishii
Sargent Juniper
(Shimpaku)



Robert King
Ginkgo Group

Barry Miller
Bouganvillea



Doyle Saito
Prostrata



Gib Hoxie
Monterey
Cypress



SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING THIS YEAR'S SHOW A SUCCESS!



GRATITUDE

Friday Setup

Scott Pogolian, Barry Miller, Keith Waters, Kei Ikari, Doyle Saito, Leila Kusumi, Allan Sugimura, Jim Morris, John Van de Wouw, Kevin Sweeney, Tom Culton.

Sunday Breakdown

Barry Miller, Mark Levinstein, CJ Harmatz, Leila Kusumi, Louis Carrillo, Doyle Saito, Tom Culton, Allan Sugimura, John Van de Wouw, Jason Saito, Kei Ikari, Robert King, Scott Pogolian, Brent and Anthony.

Plant Sale

CJ Harmatz, Jason Saito, Alyssa Saito.

Vendors

David & June, Mel Ikeda.

Food Reception/Dinner

Judy & George Unrine, CJ Harmatz, Mark Levinstein, Jim & Lynn Morris, Leila Kusumi.

*Center Pieces created and donated
by Judy & George Unrine.*

Beginners Workshop Instructors

Kei Ikari, Dr Chin, Barry Miller, Robert King, Kevin Sweeney, Scott Pogolian, Leila Kusumi, Fred Miyahara, Michael Sykes, Jason Saito, Michael Izumoto, Mark Levinstein, John Van de wouw.

Round Robin Demonstrators

Allan Sugimura, Kevin Sweeney, Robert King, Mel Ikeda.

*All demonstration trees were donated to
the Saturday night raffle.*

Sunday Demonstration

Frank Goya

*Frank graciously donated his demo
Saikei, and an additional saikei
to the raffle.*

Saturday Benefit Drawing Donations

Chuck & Elaine Pine, Gary Ishii – Chikugo-En, Doyle Saito, Cerritos Nursery, Leila Kusumi, John Van de wouw, Milton Louie, Kazu Ogino, Mollie Nanimoto, Akie Uyemura, Mel Ikeda, David & June Nguy – West America Trading Company.

Sunday Benefit Drawing Donations

Mel Ikeda, Kevin Sweeney, Doyle Saito, Cerritos Nursery, Leila Kusumi, David & June Nguy – West America Trading Company, Neil Nguyen, Jim Morris, Frank Goya.

Special Thanks to

City of Gardena, Community Center – Pauline Moses

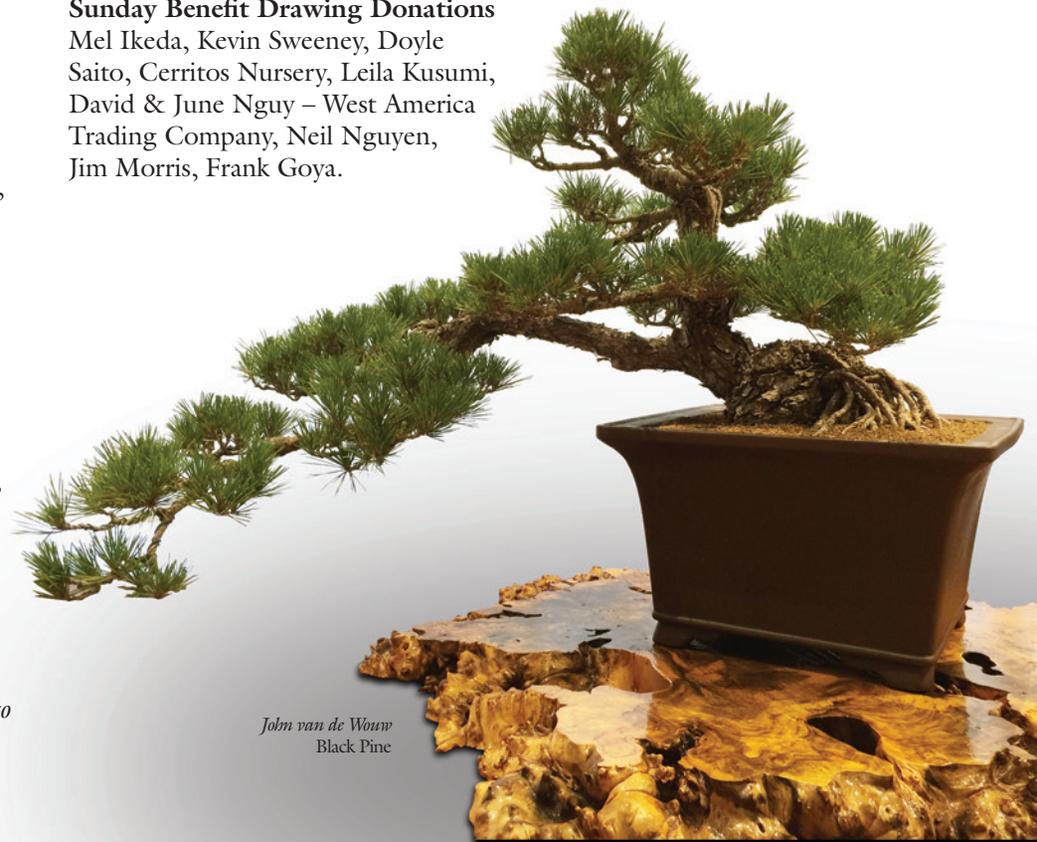
For their ongoing support of the DIBK show, use of the Ken Nakaoka facility, as well as assisting with show setup and cleanup.

Entertainment

Donated by magician William Yamane.

Out of Town Guests

Fred Miyahara, Michael Sykes.

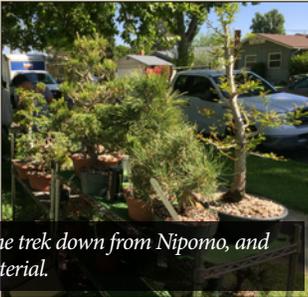


*John van de Wouw
Black Pine*

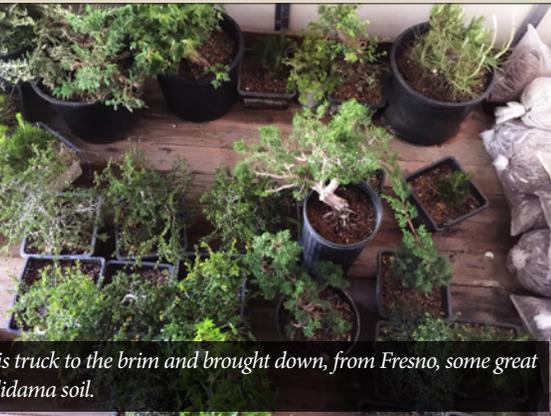
LOS ANGELES BONSAI SWAP MEET | APRIL 12, 2015



George Muranaka made the trek down from Nipomo, and brought some amazing material.



Glenn VanWinkle filled his truck to the brim and brought down, from Fresno, some great material as well as his Calidama soil.



JUNE DEMO ROBERT PRESSLER



There is no club meeting in May.

In June, Robert Pressler will once again teach and entertain us with his wit and knowledge of bonsai techniques. Robert owns Kimura Bonsai Nursery in the valley, and is a member of Nanpukai as well as the California Bonsai Society. Robert has studied under Kenji Miyata and currently teaches classes through his nursery. He is also a mainstay on the bonsai club demo circuit. Be sure to attend the June meeting to see what Robert has in store for us.

EVENTS

May 30 – 31, 2015

Sansui Kai: 2015 Annual Exhibit

Japanese Gardens

6100 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Admission is \$5 which includes entrance to the gardens. This year the exhibit is being held in the main building overlooking the Gardens. Come visit the gardens and stroll through our Bonsai Exhibit. There will also be a Bonsai material sales area.

For more details please visit www.sansui-kai.org.

June 13 – 14, 2015

**Orange County Bonsai Society
51st Annual Bonsai Exhibit**

Orange County Buddhist Church
909 S. Dale Ave., Anaheim CA

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Demos Saturday, Uyen Truong, and Sunday, Peter Macasieb. Demo trees will be auctioned or included in raffle each day. Bonsai pots, tools and accessories along with books, trees and plants will be on sale. Free admission/parking. Contact ocbonsai@gmail.com or Ken Schlothman 714/553-7516.

June 13 – 14, 2015

**Descanso Bonsai Society
46th Annual Bonsai Show**

1418 Descanso Drive

La Cañada Flintridge

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Demonstrations at 11 AM and 1:30 PM. The indoor show will be held in Van De Kamp Hall. Large selection of trees, pots, bonsai stock and accessories will be for sale. All events are free with garden admission. For more information visit www.descanso-bonsai.com.

For more event information, please visit www.bit.ly/GSBF-Events

GRATITUDE

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

Benefit Drawing Contributors

Kevin Sweeney, Louis Carrillo,
Robert King, Doyle Saito

Refreshment Contributors

Kei Ikari, Doyle Saito, Carl Crouse
Teresa Krewski, Louis Carrillo,
Jason Saito, Leila Kusumi

Refreshment Signup for June

There is no meeting in May. Please feel free to bring refreshments to the June Meeting.

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

Special thanks to

Leila Kusumi, and LA Bonsai Swap Meet (Michael Jonas and Keith Martin)
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.

PLEASE VISIT AND “LIKE” US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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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:

Jason Saito ph 310.909.4598 | email jason@zenpalace.com

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