

The Gazette

Official Publication of

Dai Ichí Bonsai Kai



“Serenity Through Bonsai”

May 2014
Volume 29, Issue 5

About Our Club

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, and outings to nurseries and private gardens.

Website—<http://www.daiichibonsaikai.wordpress.com>

2014 Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Board

President	John Van de Wouw
1 st Vice President	Doyle Saito
2 nd Vice President/Fundraising	OPEN
Treasurer	Carl Crouse
Recording Secretary/Historian	Judy Unrine
Corresponding Secretary	CJ Harmatz
Program Chair	Doyle Saito
Co-Show Chairs	OPEN
Membership	CJ Harmatz
Librarian	Jim Morris
Website Chair	Scott Pogolian
Benefit Drawing Chair	Scott Pogolian
Newsletter	CJ Harmatz
Hospitality	OPEN
Publicity	Tom Culton
Past President	Doyle Saito

Co-Founder/Sensei

Leila Kusumi

Dai Ichi Gratitude

Benefit Drawing Contributors

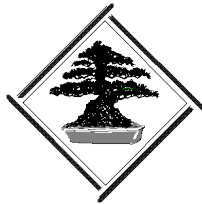
Doyle Saito, David & June Nguy, Nelson Sanabria,
Gib & Elissa Hoxie

Refreshment Contributors

Doyle Saito, Kei Ikari, Keith Waters

Welcome New Members

Gib and Elissa Hoxie



Refreshments

May—Sign up for show & reception refreshments

June—Jason Saito, Nelson Sanabria, Shawn Stanton,
Auor

July—Jason Saito, Allan Sugimura

August —Jason Saito, George and Judy Unrine

September– Barry Miller, Gib and Elissa Hoxie

October—TBD

Please help out by volunteering to bring refreshments!



President's Message

It's show time! Yes, very soon we will be meeting Friday afternoon in the auditorium in order to perform our Dai Ichi magic and transform a blah space into majestic displays of wilderness. But this takes everybody's help starting Friday, hanging around on Saturday and Sunday to answer questions, and tearing everything down Sunday afternoon. Please come and help when you can. Dai Ichi is fortunate for we have many guest master bonsai artists that display alongside of us, if you are there when they come to drop off their tree or to pick it up, please be sure to say Hi and thank you.

One of the things about having a successful club and being a good president is all the people who work behind the scene. To that end I received several suggestions as to what to write about for this newsletter, so here it goes with my opinions and thoughts...

Viewing Bonsai: You all know that I have said that bonsai is both art and horticulture. The display of a bonsai in the show is now focused on the Art of Bonsai and that is what I hope we will all appreciate. We will know immediately if the horticulture of bonsai has not been practiced and followed. Each bonsai is segregated into it's own viewing space, so each display is a standalone example of the art representing nature at it's majestic best and should be appreciated as such. OK, Shohin displays are different in their presentation by having several trees to take in at once, but other than that the enjoyment of the art is the same. The tree is primary and is generally viewed slightly above soil level straight on. Look up the trunk to the apex, take in the branch structure, take a step back and look at the pairing of the tree with the stand, turn your head and look at the accent plant representing this time of year in nature, look at the whole display. You should now be in a majestic natural environment in your mind and be taking in the tranquility of it all. OK, so much for art. Now learn from the horticultural and training aspects that went into the bonsai and display. Was the wiring well done and neat, are the branches bent with movement to the right angles? Is the tree healthy and green which is determined by how the tree has been watered, fertilized, soil mix, and placement in the yard at home where it was grown. We should all appreciate a good tree, but we should also be a critic of each as we think of what we might have done differently. But please remember we are at the show to appreciate the work that each of us has done to our trees, and some thoughts are better to keep to ourselves. Dai Ichi is a club, and I am proud of this, that supports all levels of mastery in the art of bonsai.

(Continued)

President's Message continued

Showing a Bonsai: Well the paragraph pretty much sums it up but there are a few “technical” details. The dai for the tree should not be too big nor too small. Just like Goldilocks it has to be just right. If it is a stand there should be enough space between the edge of the stand and the edge of the pot. If it is a slab the pot should not over power the slab. Sorry I don't have any firm measurement ratio to give so use your best judgment. The accent plant in theory should represent what is occurring in nature at this time of year, be it emerging, flowering, or dying. The accent plant also should have a stand. Traditionally succulents were not used as accent plants, but we are a lot more liberal here in California. Pot's should be clean and oiled, a half of walnut rubbed and cleaned up/buffed out works well. To have a top-notch bonsai to display, the surface of the soil should be covered in moss and hopefully it has had enough time to meld together as not to look hurried and rushed. And of course dead and dying leafs and branches should have been removed.

Teaching Beginners: This is one of the things our club is good at. We will need your help Saturday morning if you can help. I think 2 – 3 students per teacher is the optimal operating mode. We need to explain the art of bonsai, a majestic tree in nature, and through the course of the lesson the horticulture of bonsai. Remove the tree from the pot. Clean out weeds and dead stuff, remove some soil to expose the roots and explain the importance of good rootage to the overall bonsai. Pick a front and explain what makes a good front (widest base of the root, apex leaning forward, overall branch structure). Explain branch structure, aspect ratios, and the all-important principles of triangles throughout the development of the tree. Demonstrate how to wire the trunk and at least the first set of branches. When all that gets accomplished the tree is ready for planting in the pot so walk them through that process as well. Cleanup and reposition any branches as required. Please make sure you complete the tree with each student. Explain how to keep alive the tree one more time: by keeping it in the shade for several weeks, keeping it moist but not too dry or too wet, and that the wire can stay on for many months until they notice the trunk/branch swelling up against the wire. **Tell them Good Luck, and if they want to learn more about bonsai that they should join Dai Ichi, we meet the third Friday of each month!**

-john

April 18, 2014 Club Meeting

Dennis Makashima

I started bonsai 30 years ago. I was going fast, eager to attain great skill, to be renowned and to possess a masterpiece collection. Boy was I an idiot. For the first 15 years I over styled, manipulated, and forced my will and vision on plant material. My bonsai were clichés reflective of conformity. My foliage was in thick pads, trunks oversized, symmetrical branches wired to be perfectly perfect. How ironic that I've always fought for individuality yet denied trees their own.

I realize new material needs to be pruned, potted and wired to abide by bonsai basic rules. After which I now let plants rest for many years. Hopefully they callous their wounds, recover from trauma, and grow as they wish. I call this phase "benign neglect".

Bonsai master John Naka once said "You don't talk to your trees, you listen to them". I watch how plants grow, express themselves and reveal personality to me. The emerging asymmetrical form looks natural, realistic and perhaps imperfectly perfect. I've never seen a symmetrical tree in nature, only in a bonsai pot.

I prefer branches to move up and down, in and out, back and forth, to suggest the influences of sun, wind, snow and gravity. There should be more branches on one side of the tree showing bias of the afternoon sun.

Trees should be healthy yet sparse because branches atrophy as trees age. Less is best and likewise less is more. Less branches means more negative space. I love to enter these voids, to daydream, to awaken the subjective.

I don't want my bonsai to look too green, too healthy. I'm careful to balance the science of horticulture with the life-force of nature, the will to live under less than ideal conditions. I must never let craft dictate art. I've finally learned to slow down, be patient and enjoy the journey. I am not a bonsai master. For me, bonsai is fun, to share, to work with trees, to admire and respect nature.

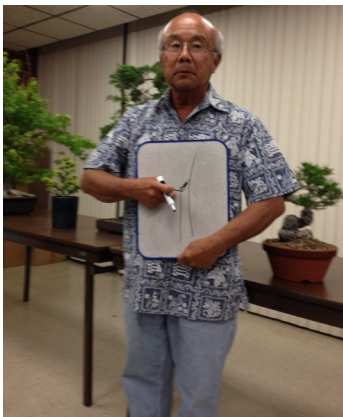
As I travel, I realize my approach to bonsai isn't popular anymore. However, I have a strong sense of who I am, where I'm going and what I like. I thank you for accepting me for the individual I am. I love you all..

Your Friend,
Dennis Makishima

(Excerpts taken from a letter Dennis wrote for the Minnesota Bonsai Society's 40th anniversary)

This letter reflects the wonderful man we all had the opportunity to meet at the April meeting. Dennis is someone who finds joy in the hobby of Bonsai and encourages others to just have fun with the art. Other pearls of wisdom from the evening included:

- Here are 5 styles of Bonsai
 - Formal Upright—Chokkaan
 - Informal Upright—Moyagi
 - Slant—Shakan
 - Cascade—Kengai
 - Semi-Cascade—Han Kengai
- Bonsai trees are no higher than 3 ft; 8 inches for shohin
- Look at the body type—short/stocky vs long/lanky
- Branches go up & down, in & out
- One operation at a time—cut top or bottom, not both
- In Japan, trees are 500 years old with new roots and new tops
- Course produces course; fine produces fine
- You can shrink leaf size but not fruit or flower size so plan your design accordingly
- No even number of trunks
- Each tree tells a story; make it believable
- Reflect nature; Use commonsense
- Negative spaces; Let light come through, decide what branches are blocking the light
- Need to have a vision of perfection to know where you are going
- Create a plan for your trees over a period of years
- Go from ordinary to extraordinary



Dennis provided suggestions and education on a table full of club member's trees.

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai
28th Annual
Bonsai Exhibit
Serenity Through Bonsai

May 3 and 4, 2014

**Ken Nakaoka Community Center 1670
W. 162nd St., Gardena**

Show Schedule

Saturday, May 3

- 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Show & Sales Area Open
10:30 A.M. Beginner's Hands-on Workshop
(free tree to first 15 newcomers to sign up Saturday morning)
1:00 P.M. Round Robin Bonsai Demonstration
6:00 P.M. Reception & Entertainment

Sunday, May 4

- 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Show & Sales Area Open
1:00 P.M. Mr. Frank Goya, Saikei Demonstration

Novice to master exhibitors, daily demonstrations and drawings, bonsai plants, tools, and accessories on sale throughout the show. Free admission and parking.

Call Doyle Saito (310) 539-9265 for more information.

Dai Ichi Show May 3 & 4, 2014 Planning

(Please sign up to help—Doyle cannot to everything)

Setup and Breakdown

Friday 3:30 Setup

Scott Pogolian, Barry Miller,
Ed Walters, Keith Waters,
Kei Ikari, Doyle Saito; Leila Kusumi

Sunday Breakdown

Barry Miller, Mark Levinstein,
Nelson Sanabria, Ed Walters, Louis
Carrillo, Doyle Saito, Kevin Sweeney

Plant Sale

Saturday-Sunday:

Tags/Forms are available.
Doyle Saito, CJ Harmatz, Jason Saito,
Carl Crouse, Leila Kusumi

Vendors:

David & June Nguy, Mel Ikeda,
Travis Goldstein, Dai Ichi Sale

Food Reception

Friday Setup:

Doyle Saito; Keith Waters

Saturday Morning Setup:

Doyle Saito, Shawn Stanton

Saturday Dinner Setup:

Doyle Saito, Judy Unrine,
CJ Harmatz

Sunday Morning/Lunch Setup:

Doyle Saito, CJ Harmatz

Beginners Workshop Saturday 10:30am

Scott Pogolian

Kevin Sweeney

Carol Upston

Kei Ikari,

Barry Miller

Leila Kusumi,

Doyle Saito

Robert King

John Van de Wouw

*2-3 more teachers are needed

Remember to donate a

Saturday Night Reception raffle prize!

More prizes make it more fun.

Dai Ichi Show Reception

2014 Dai Ichi Potluck Dinner Sign-Up

Salads: 1. Elissa Hoxie
2. Jim Morris
3. Carl Crouse
4.
5.

Bread & Rolls: 1.
2.

Main Dish: 1. George Unrine
2. Kei Ikari
3. Leila Kusumi
4. Mel Ikeda
5. Doyle Saito
6. Mark Levinstein
7. Milton Louie
8.
9.
10.

Side Dishes: 1. Thuam Tum
2. Kevin Sweeney
3.
4.
5.

Dessert: 1. Barry Miller
2. Scott Pogolian
3. Doyle Saito
4.
5.

Drinks 1. Jim Morris
2. Shawn Stanton
3.
4.
5.

Table Clothes, Plates, Utensils:
1. Judy Unrine
2. Shawn Stanton
3. CJ Harmatz

Please sign up for an empty slot to ensure we have enough food for all our guests.

**Mark Your
Calendars
Now!**



Coming Events



May 10 – 11, Carlsbad, California

San Pu Kai: Bonsai Show & Sale at the Carlsbad Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo Del Norte. Exhibit hours are 9 AM to 4 PM both days with demonstration at 1 PM each day by local experts. Beautiful bonsai displayed along with plants sales

May 24 – 26, 2014, Arcadia, California

Santa Anita Bonsai Society: Annual Show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum – Ayres Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM each day, with a demonstration at 1 PM. Bonsai tools, trees, and pots available for purchase during show. For more information visit our website: www.sabonsai.org.

June 14 – 15, 2014 La Cañada Flintridge, California

Descanso Bonsai Society: Annual Show at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive. Hours are 9 AM – 5 PM, with Demonstrations 11 AM and 1 PM each day. Sales area is open to the public. Admission to the exhibition is free with admission to Descanso Gardens. A Saturday night reception 6 PM – 9 PM includes light refreshments, auction and raffle. For more information go to www.descanso-bonsai.com

June 14 – 15, 2014 Encino, California

Sansui Kai of Southern California: Annual show in conjunction with the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society at Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Hours are 9 AM – 5 PM Saturday and 9 AM – 4 PM Sunday. Family friendly venue with club bonsai sales, amazing vendors from the succulent, iris and native plant community. Admission is free. Contact Dan at 818-512-7661 or Kaptankaiser@gmail.com for timing of lectures as well as entertainment and day end feast

June 21-22, 2014 Anaheim, California

Orange County Bonsai Society: 51st Annual Bonsai Exhibit at the Orange County Buddhist Church, 909 S. Dale Ave. Exhibit hours are 10:30 AM – 4 PM both days. Demonstration at 1 PM each day followed by a benefit raffle that includes demonstration trees. Bonsai pots, tools and accessories along with books, trees and plants will be on sale. **There is a possibility of a schedule conflict with the venue. Please email or call to confirm exhibit dates/times prior to attending.** For more information contact ocbonsai@gmail.com or Ken Schlothman at 714-553-7516



Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai
22720 Eastwood St
Torrance, CA 90505

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Gazette

Time to Renew your Club Membership! Your Dues are Overdue!

Individual membership \$25.00 per year
Family membership \$35.00 per year

Your dues enable the club to present such activities as our annual show, guest demonstrations, workshops, monthly newsletter, club library, and benefit drawings.

Club Meeting Friday May 16, 2014 - No Club Meeting for Annual Club Show May 3 & 4

Club Meeting Friday June 20, 2014— TBD

Club Meeting Friday July 18, 2014— TBD