

# THE DAI ICHI

# GAZETTE



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

This year, we have a fantastic schedule full of world class bonsai artists from across the US, Puerto Rico, Croatia, and Slovenia. As per our club's tradition, we try to offer a well rounded schedule of demonstrators that touch all aspects of bonsai. If there are any topics or styles of bonsai you would like to have us feature at our meetings, give me a call, email, or stop by and let me know.

Bonsai enthusiasts in California are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in club activities, workshops, shows, seminars, and conventions up and down the State of California. Almost every weekend you can find a show or workshop happening somewhere in the state.

One great event is the California Shohin Seminar which was held in Santa Nella, California. The event featured Shohin displays, workshops and critiques, as well as vendors of all things bonsai. Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai was asked to help with the raffle and auction this year and we had a great turnout of both volunteers and happy raffle participants. Jason did a fantastic job of chairing the event, while Fred and Shirley were the masters of sales. Johnny served as our security officer as well as our helping hand everywhere else. We would also like to thank Bill Graham from San Diego, and the folks from northern California who all helped us organize and retrieve the items for the draw. We had large donations from Terry and Sheila Ward of Texas, and our own DIBK founder, Leila Kusumi.

Held every two years, the seminar gets better each time. Bonsai artists from Texas, Maine, New York, Oregon and Pennsylvania, all came together to participate, teach classes, and sell their finest wares.

I'd like to thank the DIBK members who came out to support us, and if you missed it this year, make sure to plan on attending the 2022 show. If this year's event is any indication, it will be a blast!



Doyle Saito  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

# Time to Renew Your Annual Club Membership!

**Individual Membership**  
**\$25.00**

**Family Membership**  
**\$35.00**

Your dues enable the club to offer resources and benefits such as:

- Monthly demonstrations
- Monthly members workshops
- Access to our club library
- Benefit draw raffles
- Annual show and sale
- Subscription to our award winning newsletter *the Dai Ichi Gazette*.

You can pay your dues in person at the next club meeting, or by mailing your check to:

**CJ Levinstein**  
**827 East Marshall Place**  
**Long Beach, CA 90807**

Or pay online via PayPal:

**[daiichibonsaikai.com/membership](http://daiichibonsaikai.com/membership)**



YOUNG CHOE  
kusamono display  
<http://www.kusamonochoe.com/>



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# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### CLUB FOUNDERS

**Leila Kusumi**  
*Co-Founder | Sensei*

**Jim Tatsukawa**  
*Co-Founder | Sensei*

# AL RIVERA

## HAVE KNIFE, WILL GRAFT.

Opening up our new year's schedule was Al Rivera, returning to our club to show us his grafting techniques.

When asked if January is a good time to graft, Al responded, "That's a great question. In this area (South Bay) now is a good time to begin grafts. In my area (San Fernando valley) where its not as humid and a little hotter, I find if I start around March, they take pretty well. If I start any earlier, they tend to be more sluggish in their development.

"When removing branches, you don't want to remove too many at once as it will stunt the tree a bit. You need to balance the tree out as you go."

In order to take advantage of the nursery stock's big fat trunk, Al's vision for it was a short stocky sumo design.





“The health of the tree always comes first... the styling comes second. The gentleman who had this tree fed it well and it shows. The foliage is very strong. You don't want to graft on a weak or distressed tree, nor do you want to replot it too soon before or after grafting. It's a lot of energy we'll be messing with so conditions need to be ideal.

“For these larger branches (approx. 2”), I'll probably do 4-5 grafts, the medium branches (approx 1”) I'll do 3-4, and the smaller branches (under “1”) I'll just do 1 per branch. The good thing about overgrafting is that if you don't need it, you can always cut it

off and plant it and it will become a rooted cutting. Undergrafting kind of sucks as if it doesn't work out, you need to wait another year for any new grafts to take. Always good to give yourself options.

“When making grafts, it's always best to graft low and on the sides of each branch. This position is ideal as when the graft develops, its placement is good for structure and you can then cut the existing branch off and bend the new branch in a way that minimizes the cut. Just like when you wire, with grafting you want to think two steps ahead of your action.”





One of Al's many mother trees which he encourages to grow freely giving him an abundance of fresh scions to graft with. This particular Itoigawa strain started out as a small cutting from Chikugo-En Bonsai Nursery.



"I have multiple mother trees that I take my scions off of. It's ideal that they be in oversized pots and fertilized very well to encourage maximum new growth. I don't cut the scion at the base of the trunk or it will ruin my chances for future scion growth. You want to select branches that are big enough to work comfortably, but not too small. The scion should be no longer than a pencil so if it's too long, you can trim it back to an appropriate size. You could even graft the cut part of the scion so nothing is wasted."

Albert proceeded to take the prepared scion and wrap it in Parafilm paraffin grafting tape. "What you do is pull and wrap. It creates a tiny greenhouse effect around the scion. You want a little bit of moisture so mist the scion first. The tape adheres to itself when you pre-stretch the tape." The resulting scion will then resemble a very long doobie/blunt/joint, with a branch sticking out of one end.

"You don't want to wrap the scion with too much parafilm. You want to be able to see the branch quite visibly when you're done. If it looks white you won't have enough sunlight reaching the branch. You don't want direct sunlight hitting it too, so it's a fine line to achieve the proper thickness. You want it to be completely covered and opaque."





“Once the grafts are done, the tree needs to be kept out of direct sunlight. Filtered light or partial shade is ideal.

“If you’ve done it right, you’ll be able to see tiny moisture bubbles form inside. If it looks dry, chances are the graft will not take. Once the buds grow and swell, it will eventually break through the film releasing itself from the tape.”

After making the grafts on the Juniper, he then went on to graft some five-needle pine onto Japanese Black Pine seedlings. Throughout the process, Albert gave a ton of advice and shared his real world grafting experience, and I encourage all of you to check out the video on our Facebook page.

Thanks to AI for making the brutal drive down the 405 to share his skills and passion with us.

Congratulations to the lucky winners, Joan Shiosaki (AI’s donated Prostrata), Allan Sugimura and Dave Hazard (Five Needle Pine grafts) and to Doyle Saito (Demo Prostrata grafted tree). We look forward to seeing these trees in our show in a few years!



Watch Todd’s full demo at  
<https://www.facebook.com/DaiIchiBonsai/videos/>



# YOUNG CHOE

KUSAMONO / SHITAKUSA / KOKEDAMA ARTIST

## WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, FEB 22, 2020

9:00am - 11:00am

Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens

\$100 (MEMBERS)

\$125\* (NON-MEMBERS) \*Includes 2020 DIBK membership

**WORKSHOP SOLD OUT!**

## DEMO

SUNDAY, FEB 23, 2020

11:00am - 1:00pm - PASADENA

@ Bonsai-A-Thon

Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens



Workshop seats are extremely limited and available on a first come, first served basis. It is sure to sell out fast so RSVP today by contacting Jason Saito at (310) 909-4598 or email [jason@zenpalace.com](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com). Unfortunately, due to space limitations, silent observing is not available at the workshop.

Enjoy this unique opportunity to attend a workshop and demonstration with acclaimed Kusamono artist, Young Choe. In her first ever Southern California workshop, Young will show you how to create a Kusamono, as well as a Kokedama accent planting utilizing various plants, grasses and mosses.

All materials will be provided, including two 6" custom accent pots made by renowned Southern California artist, Jim Barrett. If you prefer, you can bring your own pot to utilize in your final creations and take Jim's pots home for future use. We will also have additional accent pots for sale at the workshop. Either way, you'll go home with some incredible accent pieces just in time for the upcoming show season.

On Sunday, join Young as she conducts a live demonstration and presentation at the Bonsai-A-Thon show at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. At the presentation, Ms. Choe will guide you through her philosophies and demonstrate techniques she uses to create and display her fabulous Kusamono plantings. The demonstration is free with your admission to the event.

For more information about Young Choe, please visit: <http://www.kusamonochoe.com/>

\* Price includes \$25 DIBK membership for the year

# SERGIO CUAN

DECIDUOUS STYLING TECHNIQUES

## WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, FEB 21, 2020

8am - TORRANCE

\$100 (MEMBERS)

\$125\* (NON-MEMBERS) \*Includes 2020 DIBK membership

## DEMO

FRIDAY, FEB 21, 2020

DIBK NOVEMBER MEETING

7pm - GARDENA

NAKAOKA COMMUNITY CENTER



Workshop seats are limited and available on a first come, first served basis so RSVP today by contacting Doyle Saito at (310) 940-0482 or email [doylesaito@yahoo.com](mailto:doylesaito@yahoo.com).

Silent observer slots are available.

Sergio Cuan (AKA MACH5 in the bonsai community) is a largely self taught bonsai artist. He has taken workshops with prominent bonsai masters Bill Valavanis, Mauro Stemberger and Bjorn Bjorholm which he continues to take from time to time to further his bonsai studies and skills. Although Sergio works on a variety of species such as Engelmann spruce, Rocky Mountain juniper and Eastern white cedar, he has developed a particular interest and passion for a wide range of deciduous species which include maples, elm and beech among many others.

Sergio's work has appeared in International Bonsai magazine, Bonsai Focus magazine and Bonsai Bark blog. His work has been shown at numerous exhibitions and have received several awards including "Finest Deciduous Award" at the 2014 US National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY and "Best in Show" at the 2016 Winter Silhouette Expo in Kannapolis, NC.

For more information about Sergio Cuan, please visit: <https://www.m5bonsaiworks.com/>

# WILL BADDELEY

ADVANCED CARVING TECHNIQUES

## WORKSHOP BRING YOUR OWN TREE

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

8am - TORRANCE

\$125 (MEMBERS)

\$150\* (NON-MEMBERS) \*Includes 2020 DIBK membership

## DEMO

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

DIBK NOVEMBER MEETING

7pm - GARDENA

NAKAOKA COMMUNITY CENTER



Workshop seats are limited and available on a first come, first served basis so RSVP today by contacting Doyle Saito at (310) 940-0482 or email [doylesaito@yahoo.com](mailto:doylesaito@yahoo.com).

Returning to DIBK is UK based bonsai artist Will Baddeley. In this workshop, Mr. Baddeley will guide you through utilizing the tools and teaching the proper techniques to create natural, and realistic looking deadwood on your bonsai material.

After the workshop, feel free to attend the Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai meeting at 7pm, where Will is going to present an in-depth demonstration of the carving techniques covered in the workshop.

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS (tentative and subject to change)

APRIL 17, 2020   <b>CLUB WORKSHOP</b> <i>Bring Your Trees!</i>	AUGUST 21, 2020   <b>LUCY SAKAISHI JUDD (NorCal)</b> <i>Kusamono Techniques</i>
MAY 2-3, 2020   <b>DIBK SHOW &amp; SALE</b> <i>Exhibition, Demos, Sales, Vendors, Dinner Reception</i>	SEPTEMBER 18, 2020   <b>JULIAN TSAI</b> <i>Advanced Styling Techniques</i>
MAY 15, 2020   <b>MARJIA HADIC (Croatia)</b> <i>Yamadori in Croatia</i>	OCTOBER 16, 2020   <b>JONAS DUPUICH (NorCal)</b> <i>Advanced Styling Techniques</i>
JUNE 19, 2020   <b>TAK SHIMAZU</b> <i>Shimpaku Basics</i>	NOVEMBER 20, 2020   <b>NIK ROZMAN (Slovenia)</b> <i>Conifer Techniques</i>
JULY 17, 2020   <b>CHRIS SAMBOLIN (Puerto Rico)</b> <i>Tropical Styling Techniques</i>	DECEMBER   <b>NO MEETING</b> <b>HAPPY HOLIDAYS!</b>



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

# SILHOUETTES

**BAIKOEN BONSAI KENKYUKAI**

Last month, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai held their 56th annual Winter Silhouettes show at the LA Arboretum in Arcadia.

This much anticipated show features deciduous trees in their winter forms, where the structure of the tree can be fully viewed and appreciated. The show also featured vendors, demos, club sales and a Saturday night reception, auction and raffle.

As in previous years, the Baikoen Silhouettes show was a fantastic way to kick off the club show season.

CONTORTED QUINCE  
TOM LAU



ORIENTAL LIQUIDAMBER  
LINDSAY SHIBA



BALD CYPRESS  
SHIG MIYA





CHINESE ELM  
CAROL UPSTON





DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

# SHOW YOUR DIBK COLORS



**T-SHIRTS**  
**\$15.00**



**APRONS**  
**\$25.00**

T-shirts are Glidden Ultra Cotton T-Shirts 2000 and available in men's size S, M, L, XL, XXL.  
Aprons are one size fits all with adjustable neck strap and three pockets.

*Pictures shown are for illustration purposes only. Actual products may vary.*

**AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT OUR CLUB MEETINGS.**  
**ONLINE ORDERING COMING SOON!**



## SERGIO CUAN DECIDUOUS STYLING

**FEBRUARY 21st, 2019**

Sergio Cuan (AKA MACH5 in the bonsai community) is a largely self taught bonsai artist. He has taken workshops with prominent bonsai masters Bill Valavanis, Mauro Stemberger and Bjorn Bjorholm which he continues to take from time to time to further his bonsai studies and skills. Although Sergio works on a variety of species such as Engelmann spruce, Rocky Mountain juniper and Eastern white cedar, he has developed a particular interest and passion for a wide range of deciduous species which include maples, elm and beech among many others.

Sergio's work has appeared in International Bonsai magazine, Bonsai Focus magazine and Bonsai Bark blog. His work has been shown at numerous exhibitions and have received several awards including "Finest Deciduous Award" at the 2014 US National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY and "Best in Show" at the 2016 Winter Silhouette Expo in Kannapolis, NC.

Sergio will be discussing and showing us his tips and techniques for developing deciduous trees. You won't want to miss this great demo!

## EVENTS

**February 22 - 23 2020**

### **Bonsai-A-Thon XXIII**

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road

Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

For more information visit:  
[www.gsbfhuntington.com](http://www.gsbfhuntington.com)

**March 22, 2020**

### **7th LA Community Bonsai Swap Meet**

Jesse Owens Park  
7100 White Oak Ave., Reseda

Hours: 10:00 AM – Whenever...

For more information visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/983584171671710/>

**March 21 - 22, 2020**

### **California Bonsai Society Show**

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Three demonstrations each day at 1:00 pm  
Reception on Saturday March 21 at 6:00 PM  
Admission fee to enter Huntington Library and Gardens. For more information visit:  
[www.californiabonsaisociety.com](http://www.californiabonsaisociety.com)

**April 4 - 5, 2020**

### **Bonsai Exhibit at The Green Scene**

Fullerton Arboretum  
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**May 2 - 3, 2020**

### **Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Serenity Through Bonsai Show & Sale**

Ken Nakaoka Community Center  
1670 W. 162nd St.

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Admission is free. For more details about our club and show please visit:  
[www.bit.ly/DIBK-Web](http://www.bit.ly/DIBK-Web) or  
[www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB](http://www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB)

For more event information, please visit

**[bit.ly/GSBF-MoreEvents](http://bit.ly/GSBF-MoreEvents)**

## GRATITUDE

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

### **Benefit Drawing Contributors**

Doyle Saito, Richard Offord, Shirley Floresca,  
David Hazard

### **Refreshment Contributors**

Jason Saito, Doyle Saito, Allan Sugimura,  
Fred Floresca, Dan Sawada

### **Refreshment Signup for February**

Please feel free to bring any yummy treats you desire. See you there!

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

### **Special thanks to**

Al Rivera, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai,  
*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.

Our club is dedicated to promoting the art of bonsai, and takes great pride in its family-oriented character.

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 the public is welcome.

**[www.daiichibonsaikai.com](http://www.daiichibonsaikai.com)**

***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](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)