

*Serenity
Through Bonsai*



DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI

第一分盆栽會
盆中平穩

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THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



TOM VUONG
GRAFTING TECHNIQUES

WINTER SILHOUETTE 2016

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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On the Cover | Tom Vuong teaching Paul Minerich the finer points of grafting.

Inside Cover | A monster olive clump from Tom Vuong's massive collection.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this issue of the Dai Ichi Gazette.

2016 looks to be a bonsai-filled year; living in Los Angeles, with its long Japanese roots and popularity of bonsai, there's lots going on almost every weekend. A new effort this year is our participation in the display of Bonsai at California State University Fullerton from April 16th through June 18th. Doyle Saito is looking for club members who may wish to show their bonsai for a one to two week period during the exhibit. Please reach out to him soon if you are interested, so he can get an idea of how he should respond to the planning committee. Dai Ichi will provide members to staff the exhibit for two weekends, the April 30th weekend and the May 28th weekend. More to come.



Last month we had a wonderful grafting demonstration by Tom Vuong. He showed yet another technique for how to graft. As shown in the article, pay particular attention to how he holds the grafting knife in his right hand, and then pushes the knife with just his left thumb. I liked the rubber electrical tape he used to seal the graft, of course I just had to run off to Home Depot and buy a roll.

Dai Ichi was represented at this year's Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai Winter Silhouette show styling competition by Mel Ikeda and myself. Mel had a game plan going in and we were prepared to construct a raft-style bonsai from the Lyland Cypress material provided. The winner of the competition was determined by which club received the highest price for the tree at auction. We placed a valiant second after San Diego bonsai, who produced a beautiful windswept bonsai.

I would say that re-potting should be just about in full swing now, so don't miss Fred Miyahara as this month's demonstrator, for he will be talking about his experiences and techniques. Come down and say Hi!

John van de Wouw

John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

TOM VUONG

GRAFTING TECHNIQUES

Tom Vuong has been a bonsai artist for many years. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience, and at our January meeting, he shared some of his knowledge to teach us his grafting techniques.

Grafting is used for a variety of purposes: to add roots to enhance the *Nebari* (root flare or surface roots), to add a “missing” branch to a tree, or to cultivate a new tree. In any case, your tree should be very healthy and strong. Tom explains, “You have to inspect the tree and make sure it’s strong. If the tree is not strong, the graft may not take.

“You can graft any tree so long as they are within the same family. We’re working on a San Jose Juniper and you can graft any kind of Juniper on it... Shim-paku, Kishu, Itoigawa... so long as it’s the same family.

“Before you graft any tree, you have to clean out the foliage from the inside branch, and keep the foliage on the outside. You need to make sure the new grafts get enough sun to allow it to take.

“When grafting a branch, you want to leave a majority of the foliage at the ends of the branch. This allows the energy to travel upwards through the branch, bringing energy and growth to the graft sites lower down.



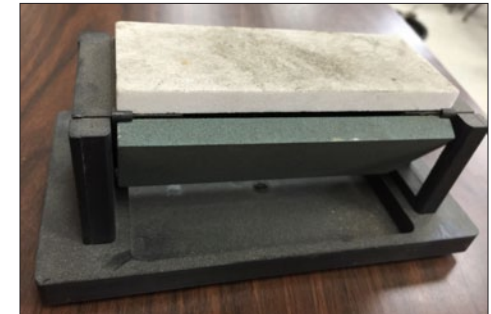


• When you cut the scion, make sure all fingers are behind the blade. With the blade in your right hand, you push down on the blade with your left thumb to the right hand and blade - then gently, but firmly, pull back on the scion towards you. This creates a very straight cut. My right hand never moves, it just holds the blade straight and the left hand does all the work. Then I do the same for the other side.

- When grafting Juniper, I use Scotch brand 130c Linerless Rubber Splicing Tape (see picture). It seals out moisture by stretching, then sealing itself tightly.
- Once the tape is applied, I use zip ties to create a tight lock around the graft, then finish off with black tar tree seal.
- Once grafting is complete, cover the entire tree with a clear plastic bag. White plastic bags do not let enough light in.

• Aftercare is most important so the bagged tree needs to be kept in the shade or under 75% shade cloth. You water the tree once a month. Don't overwater as the bag will keep moisture inside. Also keep the pot on the ground so it benefits from the cool moist earth.

"I grafted Shimpaku on this Prostrata two years ago, and it is growing very strong now. Since Prostrata is much harder than Shimpaku, now that the grafts have taken, any scion taken from this tree will be a lot stronger than the original Shimpaku scion since it has a mixture of both now. These new scions will also take much easier than the original."





BAIKOEN BONSAI KENKYUKAI
WINTER SILHOUETTE SHOW

LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM

*All photos courtesy of Tom Lau
Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai*

BY TOM LAU
BAIKOEN BONSAI KENKYUKAI

I always say it's nice to be part of something that has history behind it. This club has history and seeing it evolve for the past four and a half years has been awesome. This is been my fourth show and it seems to get better or at least I understand enough to see all the moving parts needed to make this show so great.

For the last 52 years, The Winter Silhouette Show that Baikoen Bonsai Club presents, has celebrated the leafless beauty of deciduous trees. In this format of a show there is no hiding of crossed or faulty branching. It's appreciating bonsai at the simplest form: the trunk line and branching.

This year with the renovation of Ayres Hall completed at the Los Angeles Arboretum, the hall provides a more sophisticated, dramatic look, with the new black ceilings and the matching black drapery. However, there were drawbacks with the new layout. The LED lighting did not give the bonsai subject the best possible lighting and there were dead spots where lighting was totally absent and just cast shadows on the subjects.

Finally, the rearranged layout this year allowed a more interesting, continuous view of the entire hall, as well as the individual displays.



Oak by Bob Pressler



Tokonoma Display
Chinese Elm by Marge Blasingame



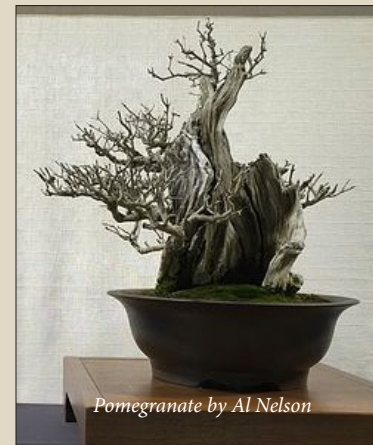
Up close view of Shohin Hornbeam



Up close view of Chinese Elm



Up close picture of Cork Elm



Pomegranate by Al Nelson



Japanese Quince by Cheryl Manning



Team Dai Ichi went for the raft style. It's true that Dai Ichi goes big or goes home! Dai Ichi had planned to do a raft without seeing the rough stock beforehand. Such a gamble!

We had a ton of visitors coming from around the area to the reception this year. But the masses came from San Diego Bonsai Club on their annual bus trip North. It was gracious of them to support this activity. I'm jealous because they were able to visit House of Bonsai and San Gabriel Nursery before coming to the show/reception!

This year we did not have the taiko drummers as entertainment but had the best styling competition ever! We had Lyland Cypress ready for our three clubs to attack! Each team played to their strongest suit while adapting to their chosen material of the night. Team Dai Ichi went for the raft style, team San Diego went with a windswept style, while team Santa Anita saw a nice *sokkan* style. They were also the first to finish in the competition.



Mel also threw some of his magic dust at me during his styling.... or was it just dirt?



DIBK would like to thank Tom Lau and Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai for graciously allowing us to reprint their event coverage. To see more photos, and to keep up to date with Baikoen's latest news, please visit www.baikoenbonsai.com.



Have You Renewed Your Club Membership Yet?

Individual Membership

\$25.00 per year

Family Membership

\$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.

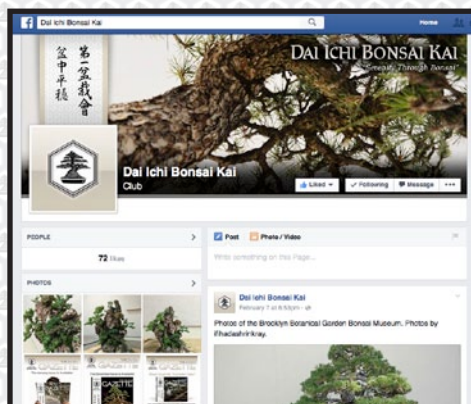
Please support the club by paying your dues, as well as encouraging your family and friends to join our DIBK family.

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

CJ Harmatz
2828 Allred Street
Lakewood, CA 90712



www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome, our newest members to DIBK
Tom Vuong, Tony Nguyen, Dee Li Fann, John Monos.

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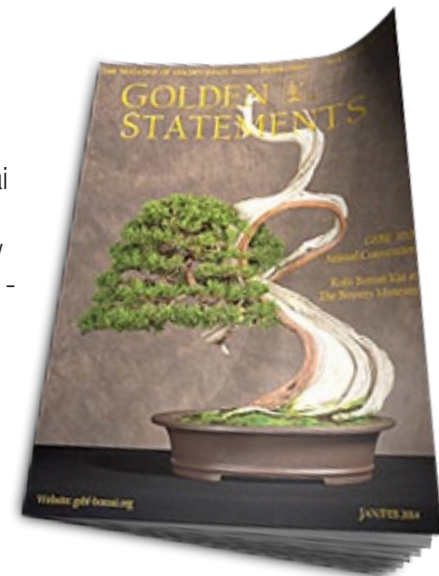
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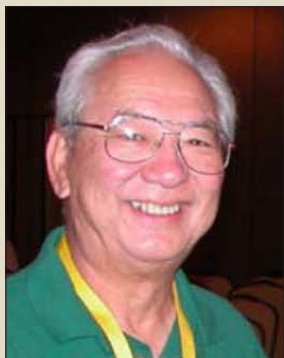
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FEBRUARY FRED MIYAHARA REPOTTING FOLLOWUP



Friday February 19th

Fred Miyahara has become a master of many aspects of bonsai, especially in the area of grafting and the Japanese Black Pine. He has done thousands of grafts using Shimpaku scions onto San Jose Junipers, and Nishiki (cork bark), Mikawa and Awaji scions onto Black Pine stock.

Some of Fred's teachers and mentors have been Mas Ishii, Ernie Kuo, Dennis Makishima, Bill Castellon, Kathy Shaner, Boon Manakitivipart, and Kenji Miyata. He has also learned a large amount by studying books and articles, and most importantly, from experimenting on his own, the various methods and techniques. Mr. Miyahara is regarded as one of the best Black Pine experts in Southern California.

Fred will be doing a follow-up to his demo last year, on potting techniques.

EVENTS

February 20 – 21, 2016
Southern Breeze
Spring Festival Show 2016
The Huntington
1151 Oxford Road
Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Admission to Huntington required.
Penjing and stone show at the Chinese Garden in the Huntington Library.

February 27-28, 2016
Bonsai-A-Thon XX
The Huntington
1151 Oxford Road
Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Admission to the event is free with Bonsai-A-Thon "early bird" registration between 8 AM – 9 AM.
For more information, contact Bill Wawrychuk at (818)790-9415 or b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com.

May 14 – 15, 2016
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai: Annual Exhibit
"Serenity Through Bonsai"
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 or www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB.

May 21 – 22, 2016
Sansui Kai: 2016 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. For more details please visit www.sansui-kai.org.

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
Nelson Sanabria, Doyle Saito
Gary Ishii - Chikugo-En,
James Harlow and Family

Refreshment Contributors
CJ Harmatz and Mark Levinstein,
Michael Izumoto,
Doyle Saito

Refreshment Signup for February
Judy & George Unrine, Doyle Saito

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

Special thanks to

Tom Vuong, Tom Lau, 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 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:
Jason Saito ph 310.909.4598 | email jason@zenpalace.com