

*Serenity
Through Bonsai*



DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI

第一分盆栽會
盆中平穩

APRIL 2016 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



ALLAN SUGIMURA
CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW
BONSAI SWAP MEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I shifted focus on the President's Message and waxed eloquently about how promoting bonsai through education is Dai Ichi's primary goal. We achieve this through events that make up our annual bonsai show, which is free to the public and features bonsai displays, workshops, and demonstrations. Not to mention, the demonstrations and workshops presented at our monthly meetings, our award winning newsletter and social media campaign. I left the bigger question of the state of our club to this month's message.



We are a solid club and have been operating for over 30 years. We continue to attract new members, and I learn new things every time I come to a meeting or a show. We have a core set of dedicated volunteers who ensure that we make forward progress. So how do I envision the future and what worries me the most? Bonsai on the American mainland was first strongly supported on the West Coast, and more importantly for us, on the West Side of Los Angeles. This area has given us internationally renowned sensei, including John Naka, Ben Oki, Frank Goya, and Shig Miya, amongst others. Bonsai took root here and spread to the rest of the nation.

Like all living things, the bonsai community grows and ebbs, and with proper care, will grow strong again in the future. I have been involved with bonsai long enough to have seen the passing of beloved Masters and the demise of established clubs. Soon, I believe Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai will be the only shining light for bonsai education on the West Side/South Bay. That is why I want Dai Ichi to be successful, and to take even greater responsibility in promoting bonsai in the community and to the public.

As a club, It should be our highest priority to identify and groom new club officers. Our current officers are getting long in the tooth, and we continue to have vacancies on the board, with people doing double duty. I need all of your help in fulfilling our destiny. We will remain strong.

See ya'll at the show!

John van de Wouw

John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

On the Cover | Allan Sugimura schooling us on Pine and Juniper techniques.
Inside Cover | A beautiful accent planting by Carol Upston.

ALLAN SUGIMURA



PINE & JUNIPER

Allan Sugimura was our featured presenter and he went over growing and styling techniques for Juniper and Black Pine.

“If I touch the tree too much, it could cause adverse effects; some of the trees I grow, I have not touched them in years. With JBP, if you candle cut them too much, they stop growing. Once you get little tiny buds, don’t touch them - let them grow. You’re good for a year. Another thing with Pine is you should cut the roots every three years. Some people are afraid to cut the roots, but we whack them back. By doing this, within six years, you’ll get a nice pancake root-ball that will stand up by itself.

“I always tie roots down to the pot, but remove them after one year. As the tree grows, the root-ball grows higher, and the tiedown wire hinders that process, puts a load on the root system and it chokes itself. If you do it right, you only have to replot every three years.

“One of the faults of American trees from what I hear, from artists from Japan, is that branches are too big in relation to the size of the trunk. By cutting the roots short and keeping them tapered, you don’t have to work so hard pruning the tree. When the rootball is large, you end up with lots and lots of pruning discards, but when the rootball is manageable, you end up with very little. Work smart, not hard.”



Allan then began the task of wiring the JBP. "This is the first time I'm doing an initial wiring on the primary branches. When we started these trees, we only wired the trunk, then let it grow wild. Once you wire the trunk, you start forcing it back down to size. Many years later, you'll start to have material to work with. You also have to be careful not to knock off the undeveloped buds, when you wire, as that will really set you back in developing the structure.



"Don't take too many branches off at one time, as you may kill part of the waterline. Each root has a branch and as Mel Ikeda says, 'any good bonsai is alive all the way around.' That's going to make a difference long-term, in the health and styling of any tree. You have to be careful when you start reducing the number of branches. You may even have to keep an unwanted branch in order to keep the tree alive all the way around. I'll be quite frank with you; sometimes, you have to sacrifice the looks for today, for the tree, after you're gone. This tree isn't going to be anything good until after I'm dead. If you look



at the really impressive trees from Japan, those trees are 200 - 300 years old or more. Who knows who originally started them. That's my function, to create the long-term foundation for a good future tree.

"I improved my soil mixture, fertilizer and insecticide regimen recently, and now my trees backbud all the way down the trunk. Ideally, you want branches to form all the way down the trunk, then along the way, you can remove branches two at a time and develop the structure that way. This again, is a part of the long-term development of the tree.

"When you wire branches, you want it tight, but not too tight; you kind of learn that with experience. With tiny branches, it's easier to wire because they're pliable. Certain times of the year the branches are harder so you learn not to wire trees around that time of year. You soon learn to recognize that sweet spot."





CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW 2016

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDEN

The California Bonsai Society is one of the oldest bonsai clubs in Southern California and their annual show is always a highly anticipated event. This year's exhibit showcased many examples of the best of Southern California bonsai.



Procumbens Juniper Nana | Mel Ikeda



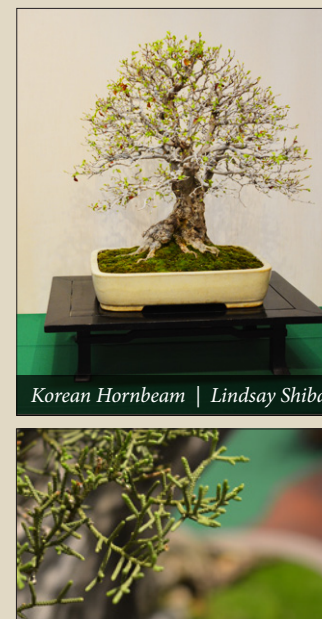
Montezuma Cypress | Richard Ota



California Juniper | Harry Hirao



Shohin Display | Larry Ragel



Korean Hornbeam | Lindsay Shiba



Shimpaku Juniper | Tak Shimazu





Japanese Black Pine | Leila Kusumi



California Juniper | Hiro Maehara



Japanese Maple | Ray Blasingame



Silverberry | Cesareo Perez



Chinese Elm | Carol Upston



Japanese Black Pine | Tom Vuong



Pomegranate | Doyle Saito



BONSAI SWAPMEET

Once again, Keith Martin and Michael Jonas put on a great sale in the sunny San Fernando Valley. The buyers and sellers came early to grab the best selection. The offerings were varied and sales were brisk.

People traveled from as far as Arizona to take advantage of the great deals that were available.

If you've never attended this sale before, be sure to check out the next event.



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Presents

AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL RYAN BELL

Michael Ryan Bell has been collecting Japanese bonsai pots since 2009, and has an extensive collection. His goal is to encourage appreciation of the art of bonsai pottery through accurate information, images and history. Michael's blog is the best place to start for information about bonsai pots. He is currently working on three books on bonsai pots.

May 20, 2016

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

Michael will discuss the history, classification and identification of Japanese bonsai containers. He will introduce general clues on how to identify quality construction, clay and glazes of bonsai containers from the different Japanese production regions.

**Attendees are encouraged
to bring their pots to the
meeting for identification
and discussion.**

*Michael will also be available
for private consultation.*

*To check his availability, and
for more information, email
Gastrognome@aol.com
or visit his website at
www.japanesebonsaipots.net.*

Bonsai Exhibit

at the Fullerton Arboretum



The Fullerton Arboretum is pleased to announce the opening of the Bonsai Exhibit on Green Scene Weekend. It will continue through June 19.

Exhibit will be in the outdoor display area adjacent to the OC Agricultural & Nikkei Heritage Museum.

For more information, please visit
www.fullertonarboretum.org.

Open to the Public
Donations are appreciated

Participating in the exhibit:

- Orange Empire Bonsai Society
- Orange County Bonsai Society
- Kofu Bonsai Kai
- Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai



Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road
Fullerton, CA 92831
657-278-3407
www.fullertonarboretum.org

April 16 ~ June 19, 2016
Saturdays & Sundays: 10am - 4pm

We are still looking for participants to show trees, and to volunteer for on-site help during our club participation dates (April 30-May1 and May 28-29) at the Fullerton Arboretum show. Please see Doyle Saito or Paul Minerich for more information and a submission form.



DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

31st ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT & SALE



May 14 and 15, 2016
Ken Nakaoka Community Center
1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena

SATURDAY • MAY 14

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

SUNDAY • MAY 15

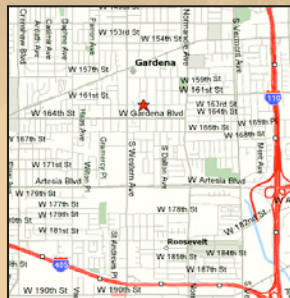
10:00am - 3:00pm Show & Sales Area Open
1:00pm Mr. Frank Goya, Saikci Demonstration

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

For more info, call Doyle Saito at
(310) 539-9265
or visit
bit.ly/DIBK-FB

Directions:

405 Freeway or Artesia Boulevard (91 Freeway) to Western Avenue. Western Avenue north to 162nd Street. Turn east (right) on 162nd Street to the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, located on the south side of 162nd Street at 1670 W. 162nd Street.



GET YOUR SHOW TREES READY!

All club members are encouraged to participate, and to show their best trees!

With the 31st Annual DIBK Show and Sale, *Serenity through Bonsai*, just around the corner, now is the time to get your trees ready. The annual show is our yearly opportunity to introduce the public to the art and beauty of bonsai. The sale is a great way for club members to reduce their collection, and to support the club by selling their finished and pre-bonsai stock that they have outgrown. The after-show reception is also a great networking event that cannot be missed.

We are still in need of volunteers to assist in the show setup, and to contribute food for the reception. There will be a signup sheet at the next club meeting.

If you have any questions please contact
Doyle Saito at (310) 539-9265.



John van de Wouw
Black Pine

APRIL KEN FUENTES



Friday, April 15th

For our April meeting we welcome our demonstrator, Ken Fuentes, a Founding member of the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society. He has been active in bonsai for close to 40 years. Originating in Miami, he was a member of the Bonsai Club of Miami where he worked with many Bonsai experts including some past and present California Masters like John Naka, Ben Oki and in California, Warren Hill.

Ken will be demonstrating the many techniques that can be used to grow and style the Ficus “Salacaria,” or better known as “Willow Leaf” Ficus. His recommendations can be used with all Ficus, with slight variations.

Feel free to bring in any problem Ficus trees of any variety.

UPCOMING

May 20, 2016
Michael Ryan Bell

June 17, 2016
Ted Matson

July 15, 2016
Bob Hilvers

EVENTS

April 16 – June 19, 2016

Bonsai Exhibit at

The Fullerton Arboretum

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Weekends Only

The exhibit will be staged with participating clubs and individuals cycling their trees throughout the two month event. For more information, please visit www.fullertonarboretum.org

May 14 – 15, 2016

**Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai: Annual Exhibit
“Serenity Through Bonsai”**

Ken Nakaoka Community Center,

1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena

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.

June 11 – 12, 2016

Descanso Bonsai Society

46th Annual Show

Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

The club will host a reception on Saturday night from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a raffle at 8:00 p.m. A large selection of trees, pots, plants and bonsai related items will be for sale.

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

Gib & Elissa Hoxie, Jim Harlow,
Gary Ishii, Doyle Saito,
Mark Levinstein & CJ Harmatz

Refreshment Contributors

Doyle Saito, Ed Walters

Refreshment Signup for March

Nelson Sanabria, Doyle Saito

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

Special thanks to

Allan Sigimura, California Bonsai Society, Keith Martin & Michael Jonas.

For their contributions to this issue of the DIBK Gazette.

Welcome New Members

Tina Hsu & Tucker McClure

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.

*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