



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

第一分盆裁會  
盆中平穩

MAY 2016 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 5

# THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



KEN FUENTES ON FICUS  
GSBF KŌEN-NAI NO BONSAI  
KENJI MIYATA GSBF DEMONSTRATION  
GSBF CLARK BONSAI COLLECTION

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI



# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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*On the Cover* | Nippon Bonsai Association certified Master Artist Kenji Miyata, working on a GSBF Demo and Auction tree, at the 2016 Kōen-nai no Bonsai (Bonsai in the Park) fundraiser to benefit the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Woodward Park.

*Inside Cover* | A beautiful grove of Japanese Maple located at the Shinzen Friendship Garden.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**D**ai Ichi Bonsai Kai is hitting our stride and we're well prepared for our show in a couple of weeks. I think we always put on a good show, for the club has many dedicated members and honored invited guests, who volunteer to make it so. Our show is also an opportunity to educate the public about the art of bonsai. When you see new people enjoying our displays, please engage them in a polite manner. DIBK is always looking for new members, and the show is a perfect opportunity for our club to grow.



Initial reports from the California State University Fullerton Federated Bonsai Club's display is, it's going well. DIBK will be staffing the exhibit the last weekend of April and May, and we could always use more help. If you come out, you can bring some material to work on, and we could sit around, talk story, and educate the public at the same time. Doyle is spearheading this effort, and can answer all your questions. He is also the contact person, if you would like to display any of your trees for a week or two.

We will also have a meeting on the third Friday, May 20th. This is a special event, as we normally forego our May meeting due to the show. DIBK is fortunate to have Japanese pot authority, Michael Ryan Bell, join us to discuss what he has learned in his endeavors researching bonsai pots. He is not from this area so be sure to make a special effort to come down and say Hi.

I hope to see you all at Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai's "Serenity Through Bonsai" show!

*John van de Wouw*

John van de Wouw  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai



## KEN FUENTES

### WILLOW LEAF FICUS AND MORE

Ken Fuentes has been a long time bonsai artist, and is one of the founders of the Conejo Valley Bonsai Society. Originally from Florida, it's no wonder that Ken's specialty and passion is the Ficus.

"Ficus are very forgiving trees; they'll take any water, they'll take any fertilizer, and they'll take almost any soil that doesn't stay wet. Being a tropical, they compress a bunch of growing seasons... unlike the once a year seasons of conifers and pines, Ficus' growth will all depend on how much fertilizer, direct sunlight, and humidity it receives, and it will keep growing.

"I repot Ficus every year, whether it needs it or not. I'm currently using EB Stone Cactus mix consistently in each pot. It holds water, yet dries pretty quickly. If you use different soils in your various trees, they will dry at different rates making it hard to recognize over/under watering, so I like to keep my soil mix consistent. You can usually tell when a Ficus is getting too much water, as it will never get a full flush of growth.

"I try to cut out any root that is too thick. Since all of my pots are shallow, I only keep the outer surface roots. Any roots that grow down, or right below the surface, get cut. When I'm developing the tree, I don't plant them high in the container. I'll put about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of soil at the bottom of the pot, place the tree and fan out the roots, then add soil over the top to bury them. The reason is that when surface roots get full sun, they tend not to develop quickly, so for maximum surface root development, I temporarily bury them and then gradually bring them to the surface over time.

"Sacrificial branches are important to grow thick trunks. I used to let them grow large which left a huge round scar that diminished the beauty of the trunk. Now, what I'll do is cut them off earlier, but not before I've already allowed a new sacrificial branch to start developing."





“Often, the sacrificial branch will become stronger than the main tree itself. I watch for this constantly, and when it happens, I’ll defoliate the sacrificial branch. If that doesn’t balance the growth out, then I’ll start removing parts of the branch, an inch off each branch at a time. After a week, if it’s still unbalanced, I’ll do another inch. I do this until the energy growth moves back to the tree.

“Choosing the right sacrificial branch placement is important. If I have a tree that needs root development in a certain spot, I’ll try to create the sacrificial branch on that same side, so as to develop corresponding roots there as well. It’s all energy flow - you’re just picking and choosing where to direct the energy.”

Ken then spent some time at the end of the demo to speak to members who brought in trees. Great advice and direction was given.

In all, Ken spent the entire two hours regaling us with great information and terrific anecdotes. Definitely more information than can be captured in a newsletter article.

*Editor’s note: For the full story, you really should attend our meetings, and experience the demonstrations yourself. You can get questions answered, as well as network and hobnob amongst other enthusiasts, just as passionate about bonsai as you are.*

*You will not regret it.*





# KŌEN-NAI NO BONSAI

(BONSAI IN THE PARK)

GSBF CLARK BONSAI COLLECTION  
AT THE SHINZEN FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

WOODWARD PARK. FRESNO

On April 16th and 17th, The GSBF held its inaugural fundraiser, Kōen-nai no Bonsai (*Bonsai in the Park*) to benefit the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Woodward Park.

The show featured demonstrations by acclaimed bonsai masters Kenji Miyata, and David Nguy. Each artist personally chose trees from the GSBF collection that best fit their vision and talent. The show also allowed the opportunity to purchase, at auction, over 60 amazing trees including select pieces from Ray Theime's Bonsai Collection, as well as Kenji and David's demo trees.

The central location of Fresno also brought the best of vendors and artists from both Northern and Southern California, as the quantity and selection of material was second to none.

The Toko-Kazaru Bonsai Display Competition was also held during the event, with prize money awarded.

In all, it was a great show at a great new venue, and you should definitely check it out if you're ever in the Fresno area.





# THE VENDORS

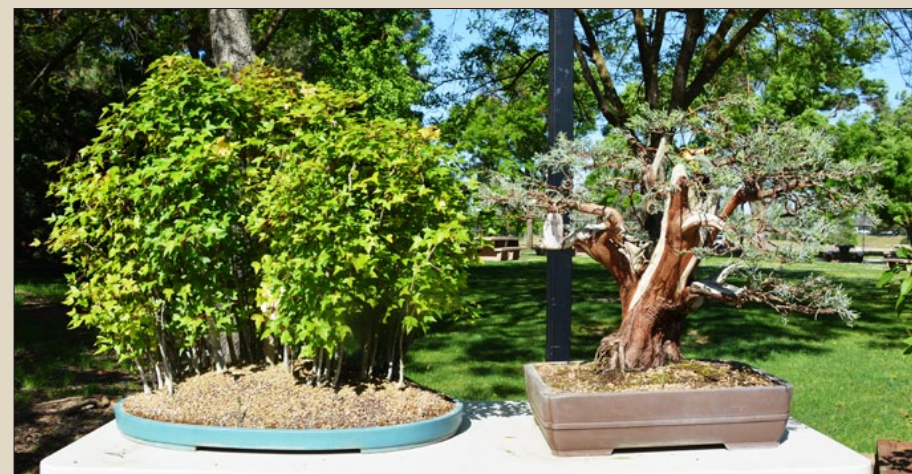
The event featured a large vendor area where you could purchase material, pots, and anything else you would ever want or need for bonsai.



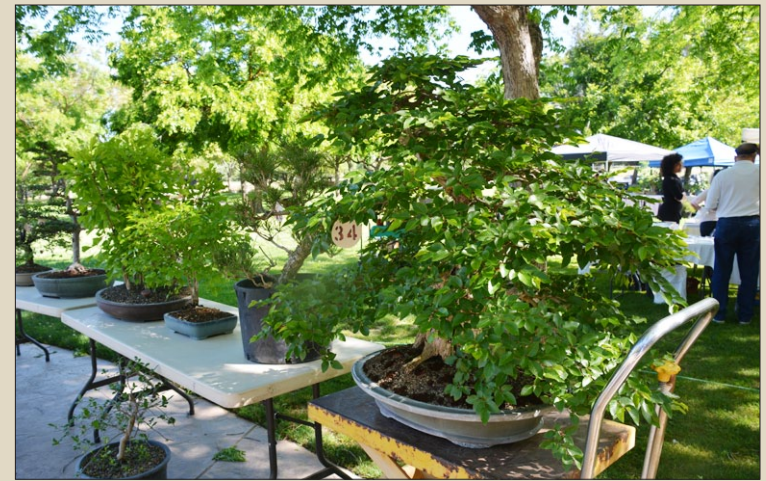


# THE AUCTION

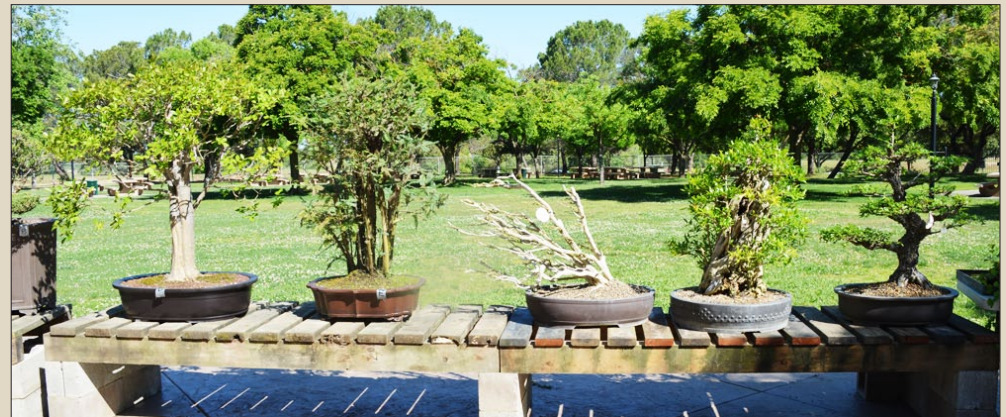
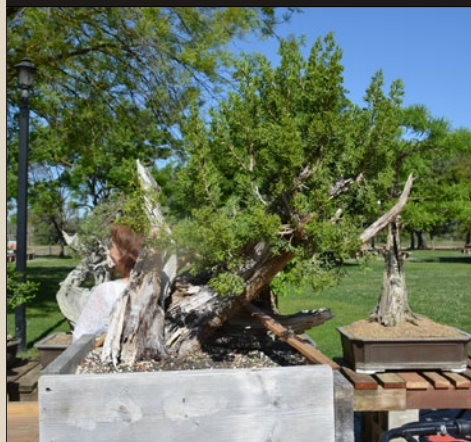
*The quantity and quality of trees available at the benefit live auction was amazing. Each specimen was upper tier, and many enthusiasts arrived early to examine, and add their favorites to their bid lists. Many of the trees were from Ray Thieme's extensive collection, and the winners went home with great, show worthy trees.*







Feature demonstrators David Nguy and Kenji Miyata.  
Below is the before picture of the California Juniper that David styled at the Sunday demo.





# KENJI MIYATA

BONSAI MASTER



The first day of the show enjoyed near perfect Central California weather. The energy of the crowd was high, and so was the anticipation of the show's first demonstration by Kenji Miyata.

Kenji is a revered and respected mentor, teacher, and artist in the bonsai community, and has been for many years. Trained in Japan by Masamitsu Kubota, Toshinori Suzuki, and Yasuo Mitsuya, Mr. Miyata has become affectionately known as the sensei's sensei, and his loyal students often travel from great distances to train under him.

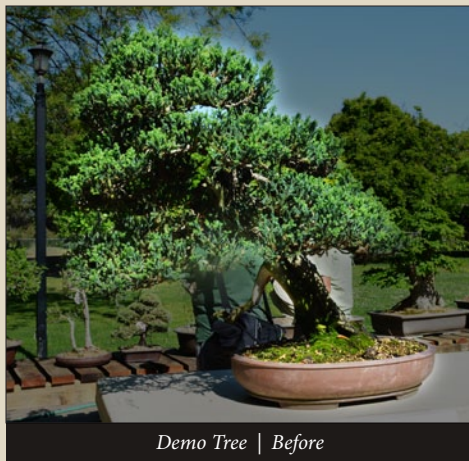
Mr. Miyata is one of the very few true Nippon Bonsai Association certified Bonsai Masters now living in the U.S. The Nippon Bonsai Association was founded in Japan, by bonsai hobbyists and professional bonsai artists with the purpose of promoting and disseminating the art of bonsai.

On February 2nd, Kenji began working diligently with the Clark Bonsai Collection curatorial team, led by Curator, Bob Hilvers, to transplant and restyle several trees in the collection. This was the first of four work sessions with the curatorial team scheduled with Miyata Sensei, over the coming year.

During the demo, Kenji made quick work of restyling this classic *Moyogi* style Juniper. The bones of the tree were already set, so Kenji concentrated on the detail work. Bob Hilvers took charge in narrating Kenji's work, and also entertained the crowd with his wit, wisdom, knowledge, and anecdotes.

The tree was sold to a local bidder at the Saturday benefit auction, so hopefully, this won't be the last time we see this show worthy tree.





*Demo Tree | Before*

The tree Kenji used for his demonstration is a San Jose Juniper, approximately sixty years old. It was originally donated to the Clark Bonsai Collection by Kathy Boomsma in 2003.

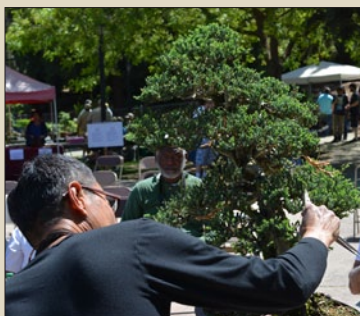
It was displayed in the Exhibit of the 2007 GSBF Convention, and was one of the trees critiqued. After the 2007 Convention, the tree was used in several exhibit rotations of the Bonsai Garden at the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture.

During the intervening years of transferring the Clark Bonsai Collection to GSBF, and the construction of the new bonsai facility at the Shinzen Gardens to house the Collection, it was allowed to “grow-out” to maintain health and vigor, while the Collection was in stasis.

It was among a group of Clark Bonsai Collection Junipers undergoing restoration with the help of bonsai Master Kenji Miyata, when he asked to be allowed to use it as his demo material for the first Kōen-nai No Bonsai.

Happily, a member of the local bonsai community was the winning bidder during the auction, keeping the tree in Central California.

*~ Bob Hilvers*



*Demo Tree | After*





# GSBF CLARK BONSAI COLLECTION AT THE SHINZEN FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

WOODWARD PARK. FRESNO

Located in Woodward Park, Fresno California, the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Friendship Garden has established itself as the central presence of all the GSBF Collections. Located between Northern California's Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, and Southern California's GSBF Collection at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, this beautiful exhibition sits at home within the lush and sprawling vistas of the Shinzen Friendship Garden.

The Clark Bonsai Collection officially opened its doors with a grand opening celebration on October 17 & 18, 2015, and is a partnership dedicated to the preservation and advancement of bonsai in the Central Valley.

The collection is a living art display with over 100 museum quality bonsai, offering stunning rotating seasonal displays, with docent tours available.

Each tree has been designed by bonsai artists throughout California, over the past 75 years.







The bonsai display was designed by local landscape architect Bob Boro, and developed by Clark Collection curator Bob Hilvers. It features a "hide and reveal" design concept which allows visitors a leisurely stroll following pathways that slowly reveal the trees and their settings. The project's commitment to water conservation is evidenced by the irrigation system designed by Ray Thieme and Gene Nelson, which utilizes the latest technologies. Drought resistant plants were selected and installed with water retaining polymer-coated sand.







The Toko-Kazaru Bonsai Display entries were on proud display in the Garden's beautiful outdoor Tokonomas.



The collection began with the commitment and dedication of Bill Clark, founder of the Clark Center for Japanese Art & Culture, and Bob Hilvers, a local bonsai artist. This resulted in the establishment of one of the finest public bonsai collections in North America. With the 2015 closure of the Clark Center in Hanford, the bonsai collection was gifted to the GSBF to establish this exhibit.

The Clark Bonsai Collection includes a Legacy Collection created by many of the early pioneers of bonsai in California. It is unique in that it strives to preserve these bonsai as they were created by the original artists. This provides a unique opportunity for generations of bonsai enthusiasts to understand their cultural and historical contributions to the art of bonsai in California.

For more information, please visit  
[www.shinzenjapanesegarden.org](http://www.shinzenjapanesegarden.org)  
 or call 559.840.1264 (Ext 1)





# 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](http://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](http://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-May 1 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

## 31<sup>st</sup> 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

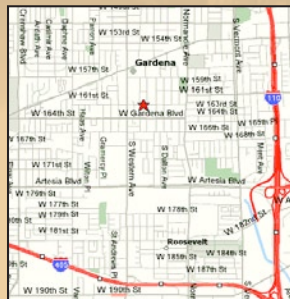
10:00am - 3:00pm Show & Sales Area Open  
1:00pm Mr. Frank Goya, Saikci Demonstration

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.



## TIME IS RUNNING SHORT

*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.  
If you would like to contribute, please contact  
Doyle Saito at (310) 539-9265.*



John van de Wouw  
Black Pine



# JUNE TED MATSON



## Friday, June 17th

Ted began studying bonsai in 1979 in San Francisco, where he learned the basics under John Boyce. He moved to Los Angeles in 1980, where he became involved in a number of clubs and began a serious pursuit of the art, taking classes from leading masters in Southern California, including Ben Suzuki, Shig and Roy Nagatoshi, Melba Tucker, Warren Hill and John Naka.

Ted was urged to get into teaching by Melba Tucker, and he started offering classes at his home in Pasadena in 1988. In addition to his own classes, he maintains a busy teaching schedule, traveling to nurseries, clubs and study groups throughout California and across the U.S.

With Ted's bonsai knowledge, experience, and storytelling skills, this will surely be a popular demonstration, so mark your calendar, and we'll see you there!

## 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](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/DIBK-Web) or  
[www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB](http://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](http://www.sansui-kai.org).

**May 28 – 29, 2016**

**Santa Anita Bonsai Society  
52nd Annual Show**

Los Angeles County Arboretum

301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Demos begin each day at 1:00PM.

There will also be bonsai trees, pots, tools, and related items for sale.

For more information, please contact Marge Blasingame at 626-579-0420, or email, [margeblasingame@att.net](mailto:margeblasingame@att.net)

For more event information, please visit  
[www.bit.ly/GSBF-Events](http://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

Tony Nguyen, Jim Harlow,  
Gary Ishii-Chikugo-En, Doyle Saito,  
Fred Floresca, Gib & Elissa Hoxie,  
Tom Vuong, Tony Nguyen

### Refreshment Contributors

Doyle Saito  
Nelson Sanabria

### Refreshment Signup for May

Doyle Saito, Jason Saito

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

### Special thanks to

Ken Fuentes, Kenji Miyata, Robert J. Baran, Bob Hilvers, Linda Jacobsen,  
GSBF | Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Friendship Garden

*for their contributions to this issue of the DIBK Gazette.*

## ABOUT DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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