

*Serenity  
Through Bonsai*



**DAI ICHI  
BONSAI KAI**

第一分盆栽會  
盆中平穩

# THE DAI ICHI GAZE

OCTOBER 2015 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 10



**BOB PRESSLER**

BUNJIN STYLING FROM NURSERY STOCK

**FIXING A BONSAI TOOL**

WITH ADAM LAVIGNE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI



# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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## Club Founders

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

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



On the Cover | Robert Pressler working a Bunjin Juniper at the DIBK Demo.

Inside Cover | Leila Kusumi showing Michael Izumoto the finer tips of styling a Juniper.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that everybody has been surviving the heat that we have been having lately. Hopefully it will break soon and we can start our repotting. I have already started getting my aggregates ready to mix into this year's potting mix. It usually changes a little in composition every year. This year I'm going to a smaller size, that of say, Akadama out of the bag, for all my piece parts. I think I will get better root growth more quickly this way. We'll see.

Don't forget the GSBF Convention is coming up in a couple of weeks. I'm sure it's not too late to sign up for the entire weekend and I am positive that there are one day tickets still available. These conventions are always a great place to learn new techniques, meet new and see old friends, buy material, and to find that one new tree for your collection, from one of the many vendors who attend.

I want to thank Bob Pressler for an interesting demonstration last month. Bob shared his bonsai knowledge with us, told some great stories, and finished off his demo with a beautiful San Jose juniper. This month's meeting will be our club workshop. Bring any trees that you would like help on or would just like to work on a little bit more. We will also have a couple of group trees available, so there is no reason not to come and participate.

*John van de Wouw*

John van de Wouw  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai





## BOB PRESSLER

### BUNJIN STYLING FROM NURSERY STOCK

Once again, Robert Pressler was kind enough to demonstrate at our club. He brought with him a San Jose juniper from his nursery. Bob went on to say “A lot of people automatically see a skinny piece of material and they want to make a *bunjin* style out of it. You can create a tree with that style and feeling, but it takes a lot more than that to make a really nice *bunjin*. It’s a simple elegance that is really hard to achieve. They generally have a long, thin trunk with an emphasis on movement and minimal foliage. But there’s a difficult to describe feeling that comes when you see a truly great, well crafted *bunjin*.”

“I would give my left arm for a beautiful old red pine *bunjin*, but we live in the wrong place to spend the kind of money that they ask for one. But this tree has some very nice qualities for young nursery stock and is perfect for learning *bunjin* style. You don’t need the big heavy trunk and it won’t take five years to develop a tree that doesn’t look like anything.

“This tree has some nice movement going on. When this tree was young, we stuck a stake down next to it and it cut the tree at the base, but that was fortuitous as it made the base flare out really nicely. It has decent branches and there are a lot of options. The branches are pretty large up top, and we’ll work these into some nice foliage.

“Generally, the lower part of the trunk is bare, so we’re going to cut off most of the lower branches. We’ll make quite a few *jin*, and also get rid of a lot of them. With *bunjin*, you don’t normally have many *jin* as the emphasis needs to be on the trunk and its movement.”







As Bob selected branches, he came across a branch that was perfect for the tree, but was too thick for its placement. "That's a common problem with nursery grown prostrata and San Jose junipers; In order to get them big, you let them grow out; but if you're not careful about occasional pruning, you'll get branches that are too thick for the tree. Usually, the bigger the tree, the worse the problem is."

Bob then finished off the styling and lucky raffle winner, Kevin Sweeney, took home the styled *bunjin* to add to his growing collection.









# BONSAI TOOL REPAIR

WITH ADAM LAVIGNE



Here's a short post that might help you out, but is really just to make myself look more awesome. Because I am, you know. Just ask anyone. Unless your name is Mike. For some reason, all my life anyone named Mike just couldn't appreciate my magnificence. Or they did in the beginning, but something happened that dissuaded them from the true and righteous path that I follow.

A tool. No, I don't mean the Mikes of the world, but a bonsai tool.

Broken.

Being the hoarder I am, I won't throw it away. I shall attempt to repair it. And with what shall I fix it, dear Liza, dear Liza? Why, with my mini angle grinder, that's what I'll use.



*I have two wheels I'm using: a regular grinding wheel...*



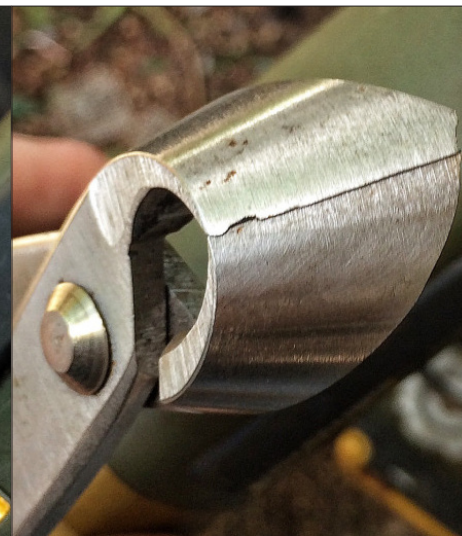
*and a flap disc, which is comprised of overlapping layers of sand paper.*



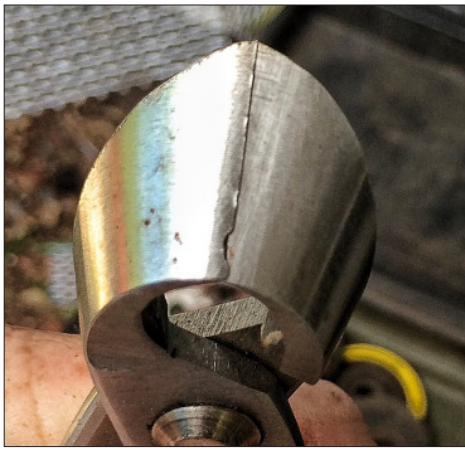
*This might be 150 grit. I'm not sure.*



*Then, after all the grinding and smoothing, I will turn to a diamond card to sharpen it. This one is a medium grit, I believe.*







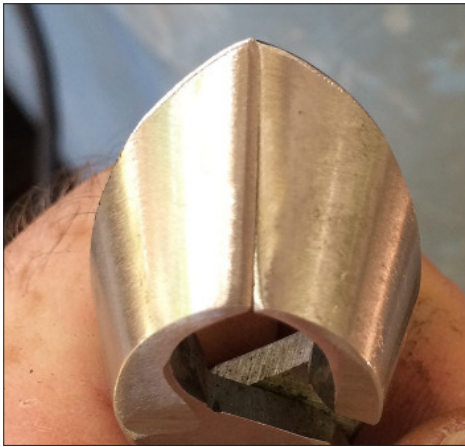
*Next, to address the chipped cutting edge.*



*For this I switch to the flap disc.*



*That was the easy part. Now I have to fix the geometry. Firstly, the cutting edges should be parallel. Secondly, one cutting edge should overlap the other. No, really, they shouldn't meet but one slides over the other. If they didn't, the first time you used it, and the edges met, they'd blunt themselves. The edges look good but the angles they were originally ground at no longer meet because I've removed material.*



*This pic shows the gap better.*



*Now it's a matter of grinding down the edges to match, a little on both sides.*



*But, since I'm doing that, I'll need to grind down the detante as well. That little knobby thing is to keep the tool from deflecting too much when the cutting edges do meet.*



*A little sharpening and I'm done.*

*It's not perfect but it'll do. Please don't take the brand the tool is as an example of a tool that may break like this. In fact, any tool with a hard enough cutting edge that is also sharpenable is also inherently brittle.*

*It's just the way metal works.*

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*Visit Adam's Art and Bonsai Blog  
[www.adamaskwhy.com](http://www.adamaskwhy.com)*



# TIPS & TECHNIQUES

WITH ALLAN SUGIMURA | CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



- October is the last month of the year that you should work on junipers. Finish cleaning out the inside of your junipers.
- Be very careful of the amount of water that you are giving your plants since the days are getting shorter and the temperature is generally starting to get cooler. October is the most difficult month to water since it is hard to tell if the weather is getting hotter or colder. Too little water can cause plants to dry out. Too much can cause fungus infections.
- Continue to check for insect infestations. This time of year they are very actively reproducing. Perhaps some preventative treatments such as spraying insecticidal soap or other organic treatment might be a good idea since it is hard to see many varieties of insects. Sometimes by the time that damage to the plant becomes visible it's too late.
- The yearly schedule for working on junipers is: Repotting and trimming the outer edge is March through May.
- Cleaning out the inside of the branches is September through October.
- Keep fertilizing the trees as this is the last month that they will be growing. The trees will not be actively growing until early spring next year.



# WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED.

Got something to say?

Want to be published in an award winning newsletter?

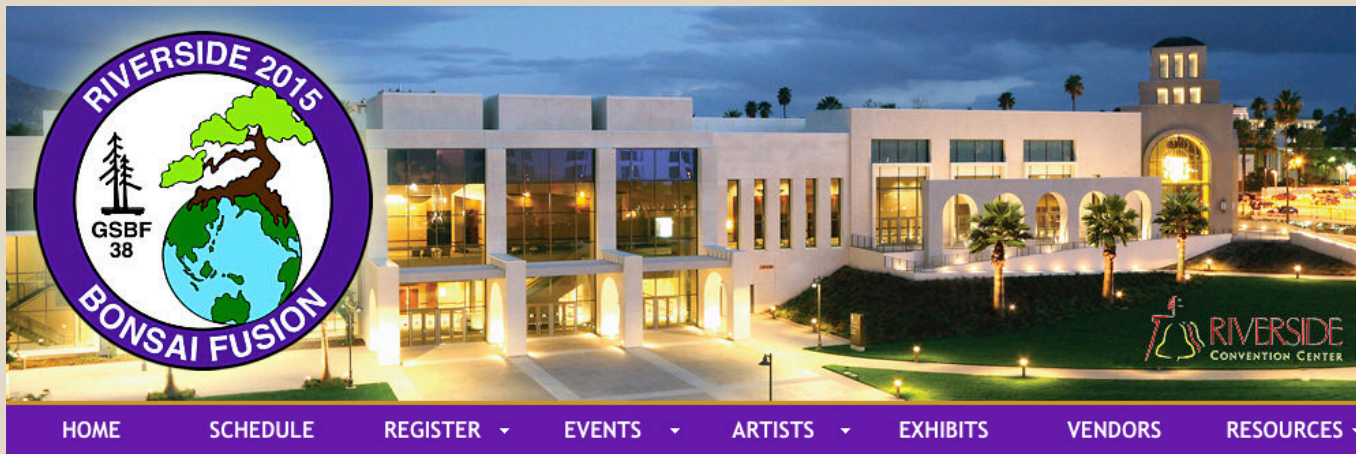
The DIBK Gazette is looking for creative, fun people, who would like to contribute, on an ongoing basis, feature stories and photos for our monthly newsletter. Training, tutelage and editing (if necessary) is available, and any bonsai related content is welcome.

Interested?

Please contact [jason@zenpalace.com](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)







The Golden State Bonsai Federation presents its 38th convention:

## Bonsai Fusion · *“Where Tradition Meets Innovation”*

Riverside, California · October 29 → November 1, 2015

Registration is **NOW OPEN!**

### HEADLINERS



**Bjorn Bjorholm**



**John Wang**

### GUEST ARTISTS



**David Nguy**



**Tak Shimazu**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT:

**[www.gsbfconvention.org](http://www.gsbfconvention.org)**

# PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE GSBF WITH YOUR DONATIONS

With the 2015 convention right around the corner, the GSBF is asking for your help. We are asking for your “tax-deductible” contributions of bonsai related items (plant material, tools, gardening supplies, Asian arts etc.), cash or gift certificates. Your donation will be included in our Auction or our popular benefit drawing. This drawing is the major fundraising activity for the convention and for the GSBF, a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation.

In return for your support, we will acknowledge your generous contribution by listing your name among our Benefit Drawing contributors, as well as announcing your contribution and your place of business (if applicable), during the drawing activities. In addition, we will provide you with documentation of your contribution for tax purposes.

If you are interested in donating physical goods, or for more information, please contact:

**Doyle Saito**  
Benefit Drawing Chair  
Home 310.539.9265  
email: [doylesaito@yahoo.com](mailto:doylesaito@yahoo.com)

**Jason Saito**  
Benefit Drawing Co-chair  
Cell 310.909.4598  
email: [jason@zenpalace.com](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)

For monetary contributions, please contact:

**GSBF c/o Fred Seeley**  
27124 Crystal Springs Road  
Canyon Country, CA 91387  
email: [fred@fredseeley.com](mailto:fred@fredseeley.com)

**Donation forms will also be available at our meetings.**

*We want to thank all that have donated in the past and also, thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Your tax-deductible donation(s) will help to ensure the success of our convention.*



## OCTOBER EVENT MEMBER WORKSHOP



### Friday October 16th

Bring your tools, wire, and bonsai material to our next member workshop! With the help of other members, you can create your next masterpiece. The club will also provide various trees for the members to style, which will be placed in the meeting's raffle.

Alternatively, you can watch and offer suggestions as experienced Dai Ichi members work on a variety of trees.

## EVENTS

October 29-November 1, 2015  
GSBF Convention 38  
See Page 9 for more information.

November 29, 2015  
West Los Angeles  
California Bonsai Society Sale  
Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery  
1905 Sawtelle Boulevard

Hours: 9 AM – 3 PM  
Setup will be Saturday, November 28  
from 3PM - 5PM.

Interested DIBK members are encouraged to arrive early to assist sales staff, and to get the best selection.

Dec 26, 2015-Jan 3, 2016  
California Aiseki Kai  
26th Annual Viewing Stones Exhibit

The Huntington  
1151 Oxford Road  
Hours: 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM

For more information, visit:  
[www.aisekikai.com](http://www.aisekikai.com) or contact  
[sashaichris@gmail.com](mailto:sashaichris@gmail.com)

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. Pancake breakfast, a tour hosted by Jim Folsom (Director of the Garden), demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle and auction. Sunday only: a behind the scenes tour of The Huntington Bonsai Nursery with Ted Matson. For more information, contact Bill Wawrychuk at (818)790-9415 or [b\\_wawrychuk@yahoo.com](mailto:b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com).

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

## GRATITUDE

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

**Benefit Drawing Contributors**  
Doyle Saito, Elaine Pine

**Refreshment Contributors**  
Kevin Sweeney, Jason Saito,  
Doyle Saito

**Refreshment Signup for October**  
Doyle Saito, Jason Saito

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

### *Special thanks to*

*Mary Hileman for her generous donation to the club, of the beautiful  
framed Uyen Truong original sketch from last month's meeting*

*and to*

Bob Pressler, Allan Sugimura, Adam Lavigne  
*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.

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.

### PLEASE VISIT AND "LIKE" US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 **WEB**  
[www.bit.ly/DIBK-Web](http://www.bit.ly/DIBK-Web)

 **FACEBOOK**  
[www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB](http://www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB)

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 **GOOGLE+**  
[www.bit.ly/DIBK-GPlus](http://www.bit.ly/DIBK-GPlus)



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](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)

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