

*Serenity
Through Bonsai*



DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI

第一分盆栽會
盆中平穩

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2015 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 11



MEMBER WORKSHOP
GSBF CONVENTION 2015

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With this issue of the Dai Ichi Gazette we are once again heading rapidly to the close of another year. All the signs are there; The successful conclusion of the Golden State Bonsai Federation's convention; the upcoming California Bonsai Society's sale at the Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery at the end of the month; and it gets dark before 5 PM. Tree growth is slowing down and I need to spray my trees one last time with some bug spray, followed up with a dousing of fungicide. Fungus took a heavy toll on my Japanese Black Pines earlier in the year, and I want to give what's left a good preventative application so I don't have a repeat next year. Then it's on to re-potting.



We held the members workshop last month and it was well attended. Many members brought trees to work on and I really like to see that. Some just needed cleaning up with a little trimming, some were rough stock that by the end of the night were transformed into works of art but in the end, it was a learning experience for all. Thanks to Mel and Leila for their expert help, we always learn so much from these two.

I am very proud of our Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai. I have always said that I think our strong suit is our focus on welcoming newcomers and developing their talents in bonsai. But that's just one facet of our club, for our members grow beyond beginners and become intermediate, advanced, and even master bonsai artists. They also support the larger bonsai community that exists outside the club. The CBS Yamaguchi sale would be hard pressed to happen without Dai Ichi members who come down and help. Our own Doyle Saito was responsible for the GSBF Convention raffle, no small task especially with Harry Hirao's collection being donated. And our members support the GSBF Bonsai-a-thon at the Huntington Library in February. We are a great club!

John van de Wouw

John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

On the Cover | Judy Unrine, Elissa and Gib Hoxie work their trees at the DIBK Workshop.
Inside Cover | Blossom from Elissa Hoxie's Natal Plum.

Club Workshop '15

Our October event was a workshop meeting, so DIBK members came prepared with their tools, materials, and a lot of passion. Members brought in everything from established material in need of minor refinement, to nursery stock that required full, initial styling. Advice and inspiration was given freely, and members went home with trees that were vastly improved.

Doyle Saito works a Juniper Nana that he started from cutting, as Mel looks on and gives his usual sage advice.





Acquired in 2002, Elissa Hoxie's Natal Plum has been featured in local shows. The fragrant blossoms are a nice feature of this developed tree, which is quite stunning when in full bloom.



Paul Minerich working on his collected Bougie.



Mel Ikeda and Michael Izumoto



Michael's Juniper after styling.



Gib Hoxie and his Pyracomeles, a Pyracantha-Quince hybrid



Kevin Sweeney helping Amati Carillo with the styling of his name Juniper.



Judy Unrine and her clump style Juniper.

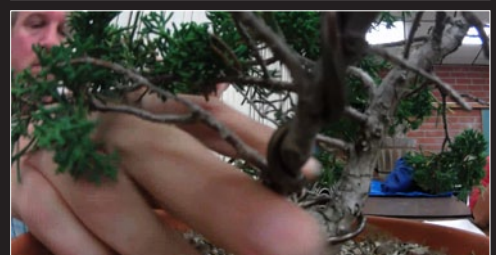


Louis Carillo working on his Bougie.



MONKEYCAM

Kevin Sweeney graciously allowed our MonkeyCam to hang around and give us a tree's eye view of his work.





GSBF CONVENTION 38

OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 1, 2015

RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTER

This year brought the Golden State Bonsai Federation's Convention 38 back to Southern California. Riverside to be exact, in the newly remodeled Riverside Convention Center. Attendees came from all over the country to view the world class trees, and to participate in the many workshops, critiques, and demonstrations.

Although the event got off to a slow start, it eventually picked up over the weekend with many attendees checking out the events and acquiring some amazing material from the many vendors that came out to support the GSBF.

Much of the incredible material that was available throughout the convention's benefit draw raffles and auctions, came from the estate of Harry Hirao. The Hirao family, as well as the GSBF, were grateful that Harry's legacy would live on in the homes of bonsai artisans; those that would truly appreciate the beauty, as well as the history, of the many trees, pots and viewing stones that Harry had lovingly acquired during his esteemed bonsai career.

Many people graciously donated their time and effort to make this convention a success. A lot of behind the scenes work goes into an event as expansive as this, and they should all be applauded.

The following pictorial paints a picture of the many faces and events that made up GSBF Convention 38.



INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION

The Invitational exhibit, curated by Kathy Benson and Ann Erb, brought together some really exceptional trees that showcased the best of the Southern California bonsai scene.







JUDGED EXHIBITION

SoCal bonsai artists really brought the big guns out for the GSBF judged exhibition. Many fine show trees were presented for competition. Cary and Steve Valentine did a great job pulling this exhibition together.



HEADLINER DEMOS

Convention headliners, Bjorn Bjorholm and John Wang, educated and entertained the crowds with their wit, knowledge and techniques. They held demonstrations, critiques, judged the exhibition, and also participated in a panel discussion/Q&A session.

Photo by Chris Malcolm

Photo by E.K. Waller



BJORHOLM WANG



Bjorn Bjorholm images are courtesy of Tom Lau, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai



MEL IKEDA'S TOMODACHI (FRIENDS)

A convention tradition, Mel Ikeda once again put a call out to his friends to participate in the ultimate round robin demonstration. All participants donated their own trees, and styled them in front of the crowds. The trees were then sold at the Saturday night dinner auction. Many people went home with some amazing material courtesy of Mel's tomodachi.



VENDORS

Probably one of the greatest benefits of attending the GSBF Conventions is the chance to acquire new material, and what better way than to gather some of the best bonsai vendors in Southern California, all in one place!

This year's vendor section was chock full of bonsai nurseries and individuals selling their best material at really good prices. The sales were a little slow compared to other conventions, but even paced throughout the event. Kudos to Cary and Steve Valentine for pulling this all together.





BENEFIT DRAW AUCTIONS & RAFFLES

With such a wide variety of material to choose from, the raffle ticket sales and the auction bidding was brisk and fast paced. Many rare pots, show trees, as well as pre-bonsai were available. Cocktails and dinner preceded the benefit draw, so bidders were full and happy, and that definitely helped. Many of the items came from the Hirao estate, and the show of support from the community to support the Hirao family was evident in their fast paced bidding.

DIBK members and Benefit Draw co-chairs, Doyle Saito and Jason Saito (no relation), literally gave blood, sweat and tears to the event. You can read more about that in this issue.





BENEFIT DRAW BEHIND THE SCENES

When Doyle and I agreed to co-chair the Convention 38 Benefit Draw, we had no idea the amount of planning, research, and coordination that it would require. I mean, we had an idea of what it would take, but until you actually see the amount of material that needs to be processed, you really don't know.

A huge reason it went as well as it did was thanks to the efforts of many volunteers who pitched in to help, just when we needed it most. Our special thanks go out to DIBK members Mark Levinstein and CJ Harmatz, Paul Minerich, Barry Miller, "Doc" C.F. Chin, Allan Sugimura, Leila Kusumi, Alyssa Factor Saito, Nelson Sanabria, and to everyone else that contributed to the success of the benefit draw.

Much gratitude to all.



*Photographic catalog
of the Hirao Estate
auction items.*

REMINDER
NO DECEMBER MEETING

NOVEMBER DEMO
JOHN VAN DE WOUW



Friday November 20th

This month our very own John van de Wouw will be demonstrating. John will be working on a Prostrata Juniper and transforming some rough stock into a young bonsai.

John trained under Leila Kusumi and Mel Ikeda when he first joined Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai in the late '80's, studied with Harry Hirao after being awarded GSBF's Plant-a-Seed scholarship, and continues his education at the Marina Bonsai Club with Senseis Shig Miya, Frank Goya, and Ben Oki.

Come on down to the meeting and maybe you can win John's tree in our DIBK raffle!

EVENTS

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.

Jan 16-17, 2016
Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai
Winter Silhouette Show

Los Angeles Arboretum
301 N Baldwin Ave

Hours: 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai will be conducting its annual Winter Silhouette show where trees will be displayed in their leafless form. Benefit dinner and auction on Saturday January 16, 2016.

For more information, contact
Lindsay Shiba at (626) 806-0937

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.

For more event information, please visit
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

Refreshment Contributors
Jason Saito, Doyle Saito,
Kevin Sweeney, Leila Kusumi

Refreshment Signup for November

Please feel free to bring your favorite treats to the next meeting!

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

Special thanks to

Golden State Bonsai Federation, Tom Lau, E.K. Waller, Chris Malcolm, Doyle Saito
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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*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:

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