

*Serenity
Through Bonsai*



**DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI**

第一分盆栽會
盆中平穩

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2015 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 12



JOHN VAN DE WOUW
JUNIPER STYLING

AROUND THE WEB
BONSAI DILETTANTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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*On the Cover | Club President, John van de Wouw, demonstrating styling techniques.
Inside Cover | John wiring and styling the demo Juniper Nana.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! Wasn't that a great presentation by our demonstrator last month.

Just kidding. When I gave last month's demonstration I was faced with all the decisions one needs to make for an informative experience. First you have to settle on the tree. Luckily I have a number of pre-bonsai stock to choose from. But that doesn't mean any of them are going to be a good bonsai. After taking a few trees out of their nursery pots to look at their trunks, I pretty much rejected all of them and only on my third pass through the yard did I find the tree I worked on. I was happy the way the bonsai came out and I know it went to a good home.

Just the other day, Doyle Saito and I attended a bonsai community meeting at Cal State Fullerton's botanical garden. Paul Minerich is a member of several bonsai clubs, including Dai Ichi. He is spearheading an effort, in collaboration with the school, to put on a bonsai exhibit for the public. The exhibit would be staged over a two month period, with participating clubs and individuals cycling their trees through the exhibit for one or two weeks. The school wants to gauge the public's interest in bonsai which could lead to a permanent display of bonsai within the garden. The display area is nice, covered with shade cloth, and new bonsai benches are to be constructed by several Boy Scouts working on their required community service project towards their Eagle award.

I committed Dai Ichi to this effort and Doyle has agreed to be part of the Executive Committee planning the event. I want to encourage club members to consider displaying at the event. I also will be asking for volunteers to staff the event sometime next year. Maybe a couple of Dai Ichi days.

Next month we have elections for club officers and Tom Vuong will be giving a demonstration on grafting. I recently visited Tom's yard, and he had many grafted trees, so I can confidently tell you that it will be a good demonstration featuring advanced bonsai concepts. Come on down and say Hi!

John van de Wouw

John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai



CREATING BONSAI ART FROM NURSERY STOCK


Longtime DIBK member and current club president John van de Wouw was our featured presenter for November. John brought along a healthy Juniper Nana from his yard to demonstrate on.

John began by clearing out the unnecessary foliage and branches. Along the way, he talked about his experience in bonsai. “I saw an ad in the paper for the DIBK club so I started attending club meetings, as well as taking lessons from Leila Kusumi. I was also fortunate to win the GSBF *Plant a Seed Scholarship grant*, where I was able to study under Ben Oki.” John is also the Chief Operating Officer at Marina Bonsai with Ben, Shig Miya and Frank Goya, as well as a member of California Bonsai Society, and Nanpu Kai.

“When I cut a branch, I’m thinking proportions. Outside branches long, inside branches shorter. Internodes get shorter as they go down the branch, and each cut allows the tree to follow this thinking. I also like to cut the tree back pretty heavily, then let the tree grow out proportionally.

“One of the things I like about Nanas, is that their foliage grows very full and bushy. This leaves you with a lot of options to make a potentially well styled tree. Lots of directions to choose from.”

When discussing fertilizer, John states, “I’ve tried all different types of fertilizer and I’m always changing my mind based on the results. Sometimes I use Miracle-Gro, but I like fertilizer cakes the best — Green Kings in brown containers. I also use fish emulsion and mix that with seaweed extract. Seaweed extract has a lot of iron in it so that helps with any iron deficiencies. I try to do that during the week. As some of you may know, fish emulsion can be quite smelly, so I try to give my neighbors a break. I’ll fertilize in the summer sometimes. If I see that the tree wants to grow, I’ll help it along.”



“It can’t be understated how important wiring is to raising bonsai... You can go a long way without wiring, but wiring at the right time to get the right effect... there really is no substitute.”

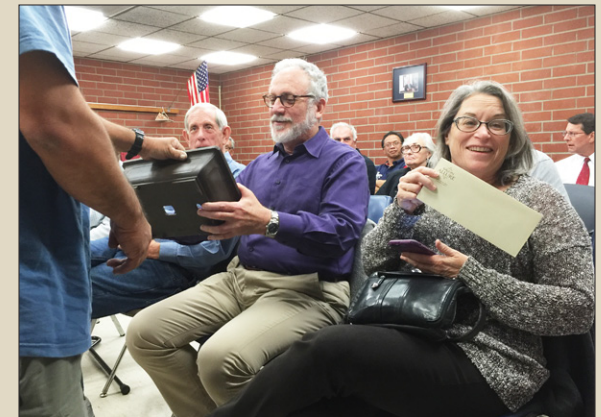


“Unlike some of my teachers, I’ll sometimes leave more growth, but the way I generally train my trees is I’ll cut them back, then let them grow out for a couple of years. Let them grow out and refine as the tree develops.”

John basically took this overgrown tree, and using his skill and knowledge, gave it a new direction. A new lease on life. That’s really the main purpose of a bonsai artist afterall... to visualize and facilitate direction into a living thing that otherwise would have none. Time will tell if this tree grows into the vision that John has for it. Chances are, it will.

Doyle Saito was the lucky winner of John’s tree.





Doyle Saito was the lucky winner of John's Juniper.



TIPS & TECHNIQUES

WITH ALLAN SUGIMURA | CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



Now is the time to do the Fall cleaning on Pines and deciduous trees. Now that the days are shorter and the temperature is getting cooler, it is time to cut back on watering. Spray trees with a dormant spray to protect the trees from the winter elements. Both Pines and deciduous trees can be styled now if they are mature enough.



Before



After

Pines are cleaned out by plucking out last year's needles. This allows sunlight and air to flow through the trees. It also creates space inside the tree to allow back budding. You should be able to see through the tree when done plucking last year's needles. Don't worry if the tree appears out of proportion. The future back buds will allow the branches to be cut back to shape. It takes about 2 years to successfully complete a reduction cycle.

Growth cycle of Pines —

A needle becomes a bud. A bud becomes a candle. A candle becomes a branch.

Deciduous trees are cleaned by removing all of the dead leaves, and pruning any unnecessary branches. Again you should be able to see through the tree when done. New buds should begin to appear within the next 2 months (Southern California).

Be careful how much water that you apply to your trees. Check each tree daily to see if watering is necessary. It may not be necessary to water for a number of days. In my case, I gradually decrease the amount of water as the days get shorter and the tempera-

ture decreases. Too much water can result in fungus, root rot or premature soil breakdown.

Oils, fungicides and pesticides can be used as dormant spray. It is important to identify the issues that your trees may have and the proper treatment. Many products are available on the market. I will leave it up to you to identify any problems that

your tree may have, and find a cure as each case is different. It is important to correct any problem that you may have now in order to protect the new buds. Failure to do so will result in a 2 year setback in the reduction process of your bonsai trees.



It's time to renew your ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP

**Individual Membership is only
\$25.00 per year**

**Family Membership is just
\$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.***

THE BONSAI DILETTANTE

OBSERVATIONS FROM AN ASPIRING AMATEUR BONSAI ARTIST



The Southern California bonsai scene is rich with knowledge, events, and resources that many other communities lack. With so much going on, it is oftentimes difficult to find a resource that pulls all of this information together, in one place.

One such resource is a great blog by Michael Walsh called *the Bonsai Dilettante: Observations from an aspiring Amateur Bonsai Artist*. Michael is an active member of several clubs and is involved with many events throughout the bonsai scene.

His blog entries are well written, and include great photography that covers a variety of bonsai related topics such as: show coverage, club demos, seasonal task lists, advanced bonsai techniques, video reviews and much, much more.

Keep up the great work Michael!

Check out the Bonsai Dilettante at www.bonsaidilettante.com

12/06/2014
December Bonsai Tasks 2014
"Winter is coming." — George R.R. Martin, A Game of Thrones



Brace yourself. Winter arrives this month. Even here in Zone 10, almost everything is dormant - even the evergreens are nearly dormant. We don't get snow or any of the joys of winter here in the flatlands of Southern California. It's just colder, darker much earlier and sometimes rainier. My bonsai care is mostly limited to weekends, since I come home from work in the dark. Most clubs don't have regular meetings this month, although a couple of them have winter banquets with pretty good raffish.

Here are some of the things I can or will do this month as we move into winter:

- Maintenance - By mid December, there will be less clearing of leaves to do. At the end of the month I apply a monthly winter dormant oil or lime sulfur to guard against infestations of insect eggs and fungal diseases. My dormant spray for deciduous, fruit and flowering trees is vodka and water. For conifers and other evergreens, it's lime-sulfur (which I'm trying to find locally) and water. I'll use about 3 tablespoons per gallon.
- Placement - I'm mostly just making sure none of the more susceptible trees are exposed to heavy rain. We rarely get a frost here. If we expect one, I might move some tropical trees into the house or the garage for a day or two. I'm putting the pines into the sunniest spots in the yard.

09/29/2014
Kofu Kai 2014 Bowers Museum Show

"When we want mood experiences, we go to concerts or museums." — Robert McKee, Screenwriter
There was a serene mood at the Bowers Museum this week as Kofu Bonsai Kai put on its annual display of bonsai trees in the John M. Lee Court. Kofu Kai was the first club I joined when I got back into bonsai two years ago. Like last year, I do not have a tree in this exhibit. Like last year, I'm hoping that by this time next year, I'll have something worth displaying. For now, all I can do is share photos of the work of others. Here's my Flickr album of the 28 tree show.

Here are a few of my more unorthodox shots.



This striking California juniper looks a bit distorted from this angle.

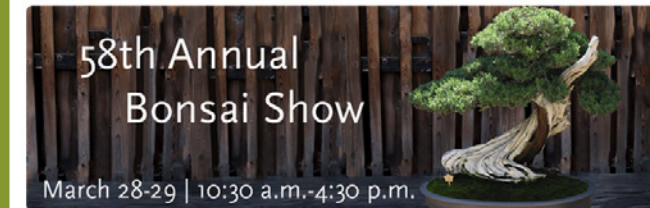


The Bonsai Dilettante
Observations From an Aspiring Amateur Bonsai Artist

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03/27/2015
California Bonsai Society 58th Annual Bonsai Show, March 28-29

"I was in the show for 21 days once - the 21 greatest days of my life." — Crash Davis



You can only be in this show for 2 days, but it's one of the best in California. Every year, the California Bonsai Society hosts a bonsai show at the The Brody Botanical Center located at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. This year's 58th annual show is this weekend, March 28-March 29, 2015, Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Discover the timeless appeal of an ancient horticultural art form as the California Bonsai Society presents its 58th annual show, featuring more than 100 beautiful specimens created by bonsai masters. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108 (626) 405-2100.

Here's a gallery of last year's trees.

If you go, don't approach the geese. Take their word for it.

Posted at 09:00 PM in Clubs, Exhibits | Permalink | Comments (0)

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2014 Orange Empire



2014 Descanso



Photos courtesy of Michael Walsh.



REMINDER

NO DECEMBER MEETING

JANUARY DEMO TOM VUONG



Photo via OC Register



Friday January 15th

Our feature presenter for our January meeting will be bonsai teacher and president of the Vietnamese Bonsai Society, Tuan "Tom" Vuong.

Tom will be covering grafting basics and members are encouraged to bring any trees and scions they wish to graft.

Tom has been active as a bonsai artist for over twenty years and his favorite plant material for bonsai is Black Pine, but he also enjoys working with Junipers, including the grafting of Shim-paku onto other Juniper stock.

EVENTS

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 5 – 7, 2016

California Shohin Seminar

Hotel Mission de Oro
13070 CA-33, Santa Nella Village

Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM

Demonstrations, vendor sales, workshops, raffle & benefit drawings.

Registration forms available on the website. Attendees who only want access to vendor and exhibit may purchase a day pass. For more information see our website: www.calshohin.org, email: calshohin@yahoo.com, or phone: Randi Keppeler (650) 598-0127.

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.

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

Jim Harlow, Fred Floresca

Refreshment Contributors

Leila Kusumi, Joe Ortega,
Doyle Saito

Refreshment Signup for January

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

Michael Walsh and Allan Sugimura
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

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