

The Gazette

Official Publication of

Dai Ichí Bonsai Kai



“Serenity Through Bonsai”

March 2011
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About Our Club

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, and outings to nurseries and private gardens.

2011 Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Board

President	Herb Eisenberg (310) 545-5954 heisenbergmb@verizon.net
1 st Vice President	Open
2 nd Vice President/Fundraising	Doyle Saito (310) 539-9265
Treasurer	Carl Crouse crlbrdly@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary/Historian	Dorthy Ray/Judy Unrine
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Browne
Program Chair	John Van de Wouw
Co-Show Chairs	Gary Lai/Herb Eissenberg
Membership	Carl Crouse crlbrdly@yahoo.com
Librarian	Judy Unrine judyyou@verizon.net
Website Chairs	Peter Macasieb
Benefit Drawing Chair	Open
Newsletter	Doyle Saito doylesaito@yahoo.com
Publicity	Tom Culton

Co-Founder/Sensei

Leila Kusumi (310) 327 0216

March 2011 Meeting -

Friday March 18, 2011 7:00 P.M.

Ben Oki

Japanese-American Ben Oki was born in Sacramento, California, in 1927. At age six he moved to Japan, where he learned Japanese landscape and stone techniques. In 1950, Ben returned to the United States after graduating from Matsu Moto Business School, and has managed his entrepreneurship in landscape gardening ever since. Ben is a curator of the Bonsai Collections at Huntington Library and Botanical



Gardens in San Marino, California. Ben studied under world master John Naka, and has assisted him with demonstrations and meetings. Ben has become one of the internationally known bonsai masters, and takes a key role at conventions by conducting workshops, demonstrations, and critique sessions.

President's Message

by Herb Eisenberg

February is the big month for repotting bonsai and I've been pretty busy. It seems that I have a lot of trees in 5, 10 and 15gallon containers that are ready for potting. Many of these trees were acquired as a result of Manny Martinez demonstration a few years ago in which he recommended looking for large nursery stock and cutting it down to get a head start on thick trunk, old looking bonsai.

So many new trees going into bonsai pots required a lot of shuffling. It became pretty hard to keep track of which tree was going into which pot. One of the things that I've starting doing is naming my trees. If I dug it from Ted Oka's front yard, then I call it Ted. If I got it at a Lance Laney workshop at the Shohin Seminar then it's called Lance. To keep track of which tree goes where I've starting using blue painters tape to mark the pot indicating which tree will go into it. It was like an assembly line taking a tree out of one pot, cleaning it and then preparing it for the next tree. I'm almost done, but not quite.

After potting many trees for the first time, another issue to consider is when to repot older trees that have been in their pot for while. I use little markers that show the date of the last potting. However, I don't think there is any hard and fast rule as to when to repot a tree. Some general thoughts are: shohin, which are in small pots require repotting quite often. Also, shrubs like hibiscus or mulberry produce a lot of fibrous roots and also need frequent repotting (maybe every 2 or 3 years). My oaks also seem to produce dense roots and also get more frequent re-pots. I usually wait a little longer with junipers and elms. With California junipers, which have very fragile roots, I wait the longest before the soil is changed. If you're not sure, you can look for roots coming out of the bottom of the container, or the tree pushing itself out of the pot. It's also useful to poke a thin chopstick into the root ball to see if the soil is very compacted.

Adequate preparation is very helpful when repotting. Make sure to prepare ahead with new soil, drain hole covers, and tie in wire so the roots don't dry out. Then create a flat root ball bottom, so the tree is stable in the pot. I try to use the "goldilocks rule" by cutting off not too much or too little of the of the old root ball. It's also a good idea to keep the tree out of the sun and wind for a few days after repotting. Good luck, and....

Happy bonsai,
Herb

Dai Ichi Thanks

Contributors to the Refreshment Table in February:
Tom Culton, Herb Eisenberg, Doyle Saito

Contributions to the Benefit Drawing table from:
Herb Eisenberg, Doyle Saito, and
Rick and Andrea Wagner

Refreshments

March

Tom Culton

April

Herb Eisenberg,
Dorthy Ray



February's Mel Ikeda Demo

Utilization of Nursery Stock





**Carl the big
winner**





THE GSBF COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON

Presents
Bonsai-A-Thon XV





Bonsai-A-Thon XV

Shohin Display





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Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai
22720 Eastwood St
Torrance, CA 90505

Club Meeting Friday March 18, 2011 **Ben Oki**

Club Meeting Friday April 15, 2011—TBD

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Bonsai Show May 7th & 8th, 2011