

The Gazette

Official Publication of

Dai Ichí Bonsai Kai



“Serenity Through Bonsai”

April 2011
Volume 26, Issue 4

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

April 2011 Meeting -

Friday April 15, 2011 7:00 P.M.

John Van de Wouw

Greetings Dai Ichi Members,

Our April meeting will be an opportunity for club members to tune-up their tree prior to our May show. Please bring a tree that you either plan to display in the show, or one that you hope to show someday. We will talk about display dais, accent plants, and tree preparation. If you are able to bring a tree, dai, and accent plant we will also talk about the composition and placement of the display. Even if you don't plan on displaying a tree this year, the discussion will be informative for the future.



President's Message

by Herb Eisenberg

This year's Bonsai-a-thon was a very successful fundraiser for the Golden State Bonsai Federation collection of trees at the Huntington Library and Gardens. Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai was honored to have its' trees featured as the main display. It was a very impressive exhibit and we received many compliments. Trees were displayed by members: Gary Lai, Harley Newman, Leila Kusumi, Travis Goldstein, Peter Macasieb, Herb Eisenberg, Carol Upston, and John Van de Wouw.

The Ko Yu Kai Shohin Bonsai Club also had a wonderful display at the Bonsai-a-thon. The club has only been exhibiting for three years, starting at the Dai Ichi show in 2008. The exhibit was so impressive that Ko Yu Kai has been invited to return for next year's Bonsai-a-thon and also display at the bi-annual Shohin Seminar in Santa Nella in February 2012.

As a thank you to members of the clubs of the Golden State Bonsai Federation, that support the bonsai collection, the Huntington Library will host a reception on Saturday evening, March 26th, during the California Bonsai Society's annual show. Dai Ichi Members are invited to attend this event. The reception begins at 6:30 P.M. in the Friends Hall at the Huntington Gardens, 1152 Oxford Rd., San Marino. I hope many of our members will take advantage of this yearly celebration.

In February and March we had some impressive demonstrations during our monthly meetings. Mel Ikeda and Ben Oki each did a great job and produced impressive results. Carl Crouse and Doyle Saito are now the happy owners of procumbens nana bonsai: one, a shohin and the other a semi-cascade.

The annual Dai Ichi show "Serenity Through Bonsai", is coming up very soon and it's time to start thinking seriously about your show tree. This year every member should consider placing a tree in the show. It doesn't matter whether you've been in the club for twenty years or just a short time, your tree is important and we value your participation.

Happy bonsai,
Herb

Dai Ichi Thanks

Contributors to the Refreshment Table in February:

Tom & Apinya Culton, Judy & George Unrine,
Doyle Saito

Contributions to the Benefit Drawing table from:

Herb Eisenberg, Judy Unrine, Cindy & Gammel

Refreshments

April

Herb Eisenberg
Dorothy Ray



May

Doyle Saito

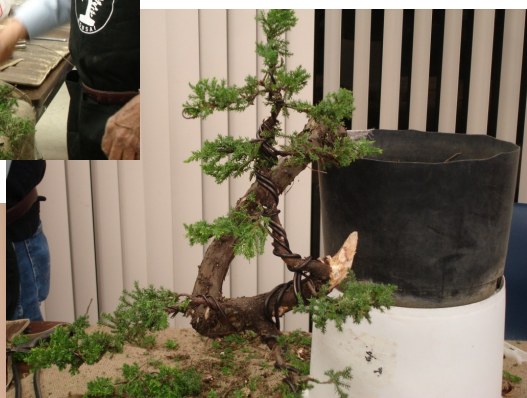
Welcome

Welcome to the following new member

Jim Morris

March's Ben Oki Demo







THE GSBF COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON

The California Bonsai Society's 54th Annual Show





Huntington Highlight

By Grace Farag

Huntington Highlight: Celebrating the Art of Bonsai

Bonsai enthusiasts and appreciators flocked to the California Bonsai Society's 54th annual show, which took place at The Huntington over the weekend.

On Saturday and Sunday, [The Huntington](#) hosted the 54th annual bonsai show of the California Bonsai Society. Miniature trees of diverse varieties and styles were displayed throughout Friends Hall and in a side courtyard, giving visitors a great opportunity to experience the many facets of this ancient, revered art form. Many Society members were on hand to answer questions and share their knowledge with visitors.

Bonsai trees have always had a special fascination for me. I love the way that their small scale draws attention to the complexity and beauty of a tree's form. Bonsai seems to me to encourage a shift in perspective, so that I see the world—and my place in it—from a different point of view. Similar to the Japanese art of suiseki, or [viewing stones](#), there is an invitation to imagine yourself as part of the scene in front of you.

“You look at it, you think that you are in nature,” said Ken Teh, a Society Member from Arcadia. “It’s very relaxing.” Teh’s tree was a Chinese elm that he had inherited from his teacher, the late Melba Tucker—a well-known name in bonsai and suiseki circles. Tucker started the tree from one that she found growing in a sidewalk. Teh has been working with it for 25 years. In other words, bonsai is a long-term relationship.

The California Bonsai Society was founded in 1950 by legendary bonsai teacher John Naka, who passed away in 2004. [Ben Oki](#), a leading bonsai master and the curator of The Huntington’s bonsai collection, studied under Naka. In fact, more than half the trees in The Huntington show belonged to students of Naka, according to Teh.

If you're wondering what kinds of trees can be used for bonsai, the answer, judging from the specimens in the show, is: pretty much anything you like. California juniper is popular, but I saw many others—olive, fig, oak, Chinese elm, maple, even an orange tree. Over many years, these trees are carefully pruned to promote growth while wire is used to train trunks and branches into the desired shape.

One of my favorites was a flowering manzanita at the front of the hall. Manzanita, Society member John Van de Wouw told me, is difficult to use for bonsai because it doesn't usually transplant well. It was a treat to see its graceful form and delicate pink buds among the rugged pines and junipers.

Van de Wouw had a black pine on display that he's been working with for eight years. His own fascination with bonsai started at a young age, as it blended his enjoyment of gardening with Japanese culture. "[G]rowing up in Southern California, there's such a rich Japanese heritage," he said. He began doing bonsai in the '80s, and was accepted into the Society in the early '00s.

As enchanting as bonsai is, the painstaking process of rendering nature in miniature is not for everyone. "It takes a long time and you have to have patience," said Van de Wouw, who told me that Ben Oki has said you have to work on a black pine for at least 50 years.

Also present at the show was Larry Ragle, who founded suiseki club California Asekei Kai, and his wife Nina. I met the Ragles in December during the [Viewing Stones exhibit](#); turns out that Ragle is also the current president of the California Bonsai Society.

Nina showed me Larry's display of *sho-hin* bonsai trees (*sho-hin* are the smallest bonsai). I marveled at the tiny details, the exquisite turns of trunks and leaves, and it occurred to me that there is just as much art in what is not seen—the patience, the discipline and the commitment that are necessary to help the tree develop into the artist's vision for it.

"Some people don't understand ... there's no way that this can come instantly," Ken Teh said to me with a smile. In a day and age when speed and efficiency always seems to be of the utmost essence, the art of bonsai reminds us that there is all the time in the world to grow.

<http://sanmarino.patch.com/articles/huntington-highlight-celebrating-the-art-of-bonsai>

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Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai
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Torrance, CA 90505

*Club Meeting Friday April 15, 2011 **Show Workshop***
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Bonsai Show May 7th & 8th, 2011
Club Meeting Friday May 20, 2011—TBD