

*Serenity
Through Bonsai*



DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI

第一分盆栽會
盆中平穩

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2014 | VOLUME 29, ISSUE 11



GIB & ELISSA HOXIE
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MEMBER WORKSHOP

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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On the Cover | A small selection of Gib and Elissa Hoxie's collection.

Inside Cover | Pink Melaleuca - Myrtaceae Nesophylla, from the collection of Gib and Elissa Hoxie.

This is a popular street and yard tree because of its rambling, twisting structure and its pink flowers about the size of pingpong balls. The pods are seed capsules that form at the base of the flower. After the flower's petals fall off, the branch continues to grow, eventually splitting the capsule which falls off. The actual seeds are released before the capsule splits.

-Gib Hoxie

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was greeted by an email this morning from George Hass, regarding the 2014 GSBF Website and Newsletter Competition. In it he announced that "we have two winners for the 2014 Golden State Bonsai Federation Best Newsletter Competition" and it continues "Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai - The Dai Ichi Gazette Newsletter published by Editor Jason Saito in the Large Club Newsletter Category." This is a great honor for our club, and a special thanks to Jason Saito!



October's Dai Ichi meeting featured a bring your own tree, workshop forum. We had a good turnout and some nice trees were developed. Both Leila Kusumi and Mel Ikeda floated around helping with styling techniques. Doyle Saito had brought along some other bonsai stock that was shared amongst the group. Thanks Doyle. Pictures are on the following pages.

Things are slowing down in the yard for a bit. I've cut back my watering and I'm watering every other day for right now. I'm also wondering how I'm going to reduce my overall water use next year since it is anticipated that our severe drought will continue. Can I meet an additional 20% reduction which is being asked of us. That will be hard to accomplish on top of the years I've worked to reduce my water footprint. Come to the Dai Ichi show in May of next year, maybe I will have 20% of my trees for sale there!?

Also over the next few weeks I will be organizing my potting mediums and start concocting some mixes for all the trees I need to re-pot this coming season. In December if the weather is cooperating I plan to re-pot my cuttings, seedlings, and young stock. Then in the beginning of next year my better trees will get re-potted. This is one area of bonsai where it is easy to get behind the eight-ball and fall short on all the potting that should have been accomplished. It pays to start thinking about this now!

This Month's demonstrator is a great friend of the club, Al Nelson. Again we are blessed to have such wonderful talent here in Southern California. Al is a long time practitioner of the art and is active in many local bonsai clubs. Please come down and watch him develop a saikei featuring indoor plants which will be in our evening raffle.

John van de Wouw

John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai



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Member Spotlight

*"It really is like a Zen experience
to get myself into a tree...
to lose myself in the tree."*

-Gib Hoxie

GIB & ELISSA HOXIE

TEACHING PASSION

It is rare that one finds a couple that are both passionate and successful in the same field, but Gib and Elissa Hoxie are one such couple. While their interests and viewpoints are similar in a lot of ways, their individuality shows, both in their philosophies and in their bonsai. When they are not caring for, acquiring, and developing new trees (collected and pre-bonsai), they can be found teaching workshops twice a month, at House of Bonsai in Lakewood.

Gazette: How and when did the two of you become interested in bonsai?

Elissa: I think it was around 2000, when we started going to nurseries every weekend, and we started buying anything with small leaves on it, that we could develop.

Gib: Elissa was working in a warehouse, no windows in sight, so I bought her a little Juniper from Home Depot so she would have something green on her table. It obviously didn't do very well, so it came home and lived in our garden for awhile. It just kind of grew wild so I would prune it to keep its shape...

Elissa: Well your mother was an avid gardener so you had experience pruning trees...

Gib: That's true. It was also about that time that we visited the botanic garden on Crenshaw, and met Carol Upston at a bonsai show. She showed us around and she talked us into joining the South Coast Bonsai Club. By 2004 we were hooked on bonsai.



*Gib and Elissa
take us on a tour
of their bonsai collection.*



HOXIES (continued)

Elissa: I actually started about a year after Gib. Coming from the fashion industry, I really had an eye for shopping for materials. I really loved the pots and selecting them to go with the individual trees.

Gazette: Who were some of your teachers?

Gib: There were a few great expert demos at South Coast that we enjoyed watching and that inspired us to seek out teachers. We've attended a few classes with Roy Nagatoshi as well as Uyen Truong, whom we learned a lot from. Later, we started taking classes from Ted Matson. He's such a fabulous teacher and you can take a piece of junk to him, with horrible mistakes that you've made, and he'll always find something good in the tree.

Elissa: Ted really has the patience of Job when it comes to his students — especially the beginners. We try to emulate his teaching style when we hold our workshops.

Gazette: What do you like most about teaching? Do you teach together or individually?

Elissa: Well we have a long table and we each take individual students from each end of the table. We go from person to person assisting them with whatever material they bring in.

Gib: For me, this story encapsulates what I love most about the workshops... A boy brought in a spruce that he had wanted to develop in the windswept (*fukinagashi*) style. It had, as young spruce will, zillions of branches. I told him "you know you'll have to lose a lot of these branches" and the boy replied "I don't want to, I'd like to keep them all." So I said "OK, go to the whiteboard and draw your tree in the style you imagine it to be."



Elissa's collection soaking up the midday sun.



HOXIES (continued)



After he finished, we reviewed it and he was happy with the design. I then asked him to count the branches. There were 8 branches. I then asked him to count the branches on his tree. He got maybe a few inches above the soil line and at that point, he understood why he had to cut off most of his branches. Leading him to reach that conclusion was just wonderful.

Elissa: While a lot of people bring in developed trees that only need refinement, most people do come in with raw material and while you explain to

them that a branch needs to be removed, they don't really comprehend why. Gib has this thing where he'll take a handkerchief and cover the branch to illustrate the point and you can just see in their face, that "ah-hah" moment when they get it, and understand why something looks better. It's fun to see people develop a little bit of an eye that way.

Gib: We try to make a point to the students to take a more naturalistic approach to bonsai. Try to give your tree some evidence... scars that indicated it was burned in a fire once and came back, or suffered in a drought and lost some branches, or even a bear had come along and raked part of the bark off. Think of what could have happened to your tree to give it age, because you want it to look strong, as if it had to overcome some huge adversity, in order to survive.

Gazette: What is one piece of advice you give to beginners?

Gib: I urge students to take pictures of their material throughout the development process. We put together a history of every tree we have from initial purchase to its current state, and this is a tremendous tool for documenting where you started from and what you've accomplished so far. It's vital to know what you've done and this will guide you to where you want the tree to go.



Elissa: My philosophy with new trees is to create opportunities. I try to create ramification and structure, so that you have the options to make good decisions later on. I don't have an ultimate vision of what the tree will ultimately become, but I will give it the groundwork. You don't tell a tree what to do, you let it tell you what it wants to be.

Gazette: Well, we thank you both, for taking the time to share your collection and your passion and knowledge of bonsai with us.



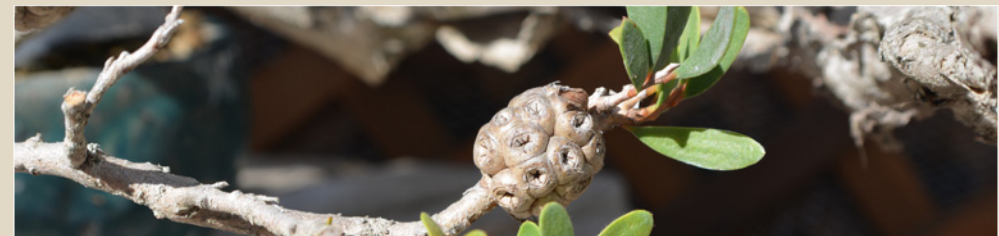
Elissa working on her willow leaf ficus. The tree on the right was grown from cuttings, taken from the tree she is working on.



Paperbark Maple



Collected Cedar



Corkbark Oak



Windswept Melaleuca

Photo by Gib Hoxie

If you're interested in attending Gib and Elissa Hoxie's bonsai workshops, please contact House of Bonsai for more details

5214 Palo Verde Ave, Lakewood, CA 90713 | Phone (562) 804-6888



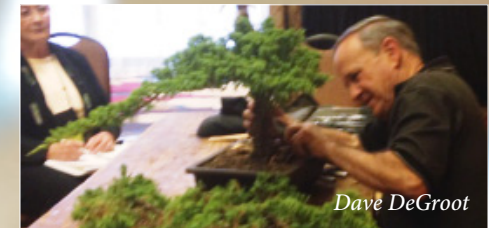
BONSAI VISIONS OF THE WEST

CONVENTION COVERAGE BY: CJ HARMATZ | CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention, "Bonsai Visions of the West," was held in Sacramento on Oct 30-Nov 2, 2014. There were about 220 people in attendance to hear the headliners, participate in workshops and seminars, view the bonsai exhibits, meet up with old friends, and meet new ones. DIBK club members and friends in attendance were: Leila Kusumi, Mel Ikeda, Doyle Saito, Fred Miyahara, CJ Harmatz, Mark Levinstein, and David and June Nguy.



Mountain Hemlocks styled by Dave DeGroot (left), and Peter Tea (right).



Dave DeGroot



Kathy Shaner styling a Redwood

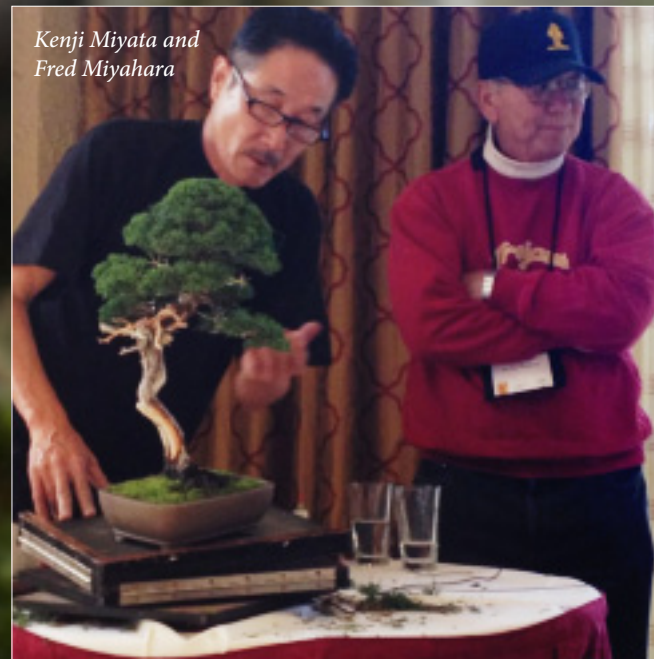


Before



After

Above: Peter Tea works his magic on an old growth Juniper.



Kenji Miyata and Fred Miyahara





TREES

Photos by CJ Harmatz

in Fall Colors



DIBK GAZETTE WINS GSBF AWARD



At GSBF 37, the *DIBK Gazette* was awarded the prize for best large newsletter (over 4 pages), a Japanese woodblock painting print (pictured above), by Ando Hiroshige (1797-1858).

Thanks to June Nguy for accepting the award on behalf of the club.

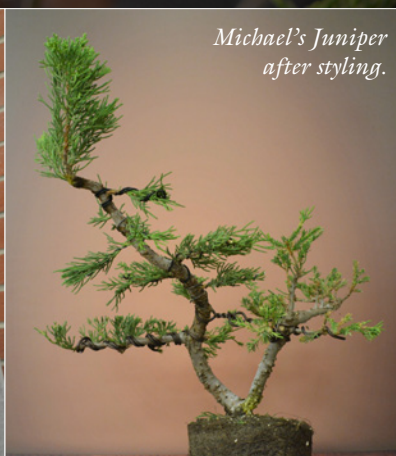
Congratulations also go out to the *Bay Area Satsuki Aikokai* Newsletter, for winning the award for Small Club Newsletter (less than 4 pages).

Member Workshop

Our members really dug into their material at the October DIBK Workshop. From raw nursery material to developed trees, everyone took advantage of the opportunity to learn hands on, from senior members and each other. It was a most productive and fun event.



Michael Izumoto watches as Leila Kusumi teaches the basics of styling his Juniper.



Michael's Juniper after styling.



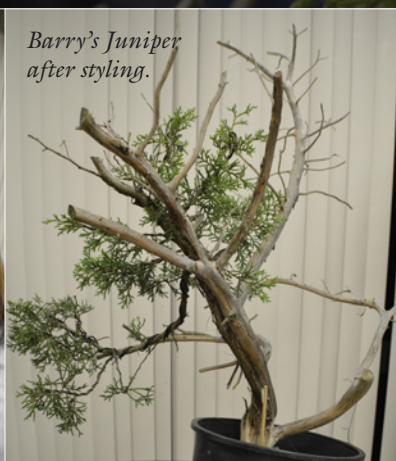
Judy Unrine working the foliage on her Kishu Juniper.



Judy's Kishu Juniper after styling.



Leila Kusumi examines the foliage on Barry Miller's California Juniper.



Barry's Juniper after styling.



Mel Ikeda and Tyler Ferrer discuss styling options for his Foemina Juniper.



Nelson Sanabria studies the styling options for his Nana Juniper.



Nelson's Juniper after styling.



Member Workshop



Kei Ikari and his impressive California Juniper.



Doyle working his Juniper into shape.



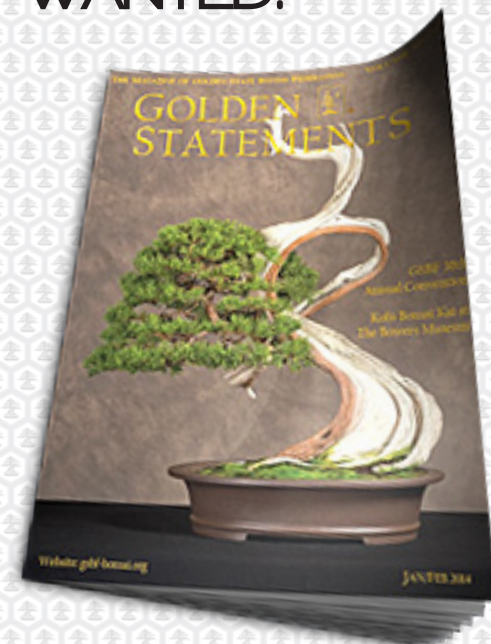
Above: Leila helps Kevin Sweeney with styling tips for his Brush Cherry Eugenia.



Below: Kevin works his Juniper as Mel daydreams about eating poke on a beach in Hawaii. ;)



HELP WANTED!



The staff of Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) publication *Golden Statements Magazine* is in need to fill the following positions:

- Treasurer
- Advertising Manager
- Subscriptions Manager
- Part Time Assistants

For more details on duties and special perks, please contact:

George Haas
Past Editor of
Golden Statements Magazine

707-762-9154 or
gwhaas@comcast.net



BONSAI SWAP MEET

Sweltering heat and bonsai. A match made in heaven. The trees love it and the people... well, maybe not so much. The second bonsai swap meet was held on Saturday the 4th and there were many vendors displaying pots, soil, and refined and pre-bonsai material for sale.

While attendance was a bit lower than expected (probably due to the scorching, 100°+ weather), that just means that the people who did attend got some really great deals.

Thanks to Keith Martin and Michael Jonas, for putting on this event.





ADAMASKWHY

Adam Lavigne is many things. Sculptor, painter, cool dad, guitarist... bonsai artist. Adam hails from Florida and when he's not busy tending to his nursery, giving demonstrations, or running workshops, he can be found drinking beer and torturing trees (often with a chainsaw), then sharing the process on his site, [Adam's Art and Bonsai Blog](http://adamaskwhy.com).

Images courtesy of Adam Lavigne.



Living in such a humid state, it's no wonder that Adam works with a lot of tropicals. His website is full of step-by-step, illustrated tutorials. His posts are irreverent, funny, oftentimes bawdy, but always entertaining. Check it out!

www.adamaskwhy.com

NOVEMBER DEMO WITH AL NELSON



Al Nelson is well known, not only for his extensive knowledge of Oaks, but also for his love and passion for Saikei. Al will be our featured demonstrator at our next meeting on Friday, November 21st, where he will be creating a *saikei* consisting of indoor plants. The finished tray landscape will then be placed in our club raffle, so be sure to support the club and buy your tickets for a chance to win!

COMING IN DECEMBER



EVENTS

Sunday, November 30, 2014
West Los Angeles
California Bonsai Society Sale
Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery

1905 Sawtelle Boulevard

Hours: 9 AM – 3 PM

Interested DIBK Members are encouraged to arrive early to assist sales staff.

Dec. 26, 2014 – January 2, 2015
San Marino
California Aiseki Kai:
25th Anniversary Exhibition
of Viewing Stones

Botanical Center of the Huntington
Library and Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Road

Admission: See website

Hours: 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM

For information, email
hutch@aisekikai.com or visit:
www.aisekikai.com

February 28 – March 1, 2015

San Marino
Bonsai-A-Thon XIX

The Huntington Library and
Botanical Gardens,
1151 Oxford Road

Admission to the event is free with
Bonsai-A-Thon “early bird” registra-
tion between 8 AM – 9:30 AM.

Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Pancake breakfast, tour hosted by Jim
Folsom (Director of the Garden),
demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits,
large sales area, raffle, and auction.
Sunday only: “Bring-Your-Own-Tree
Bonsai Consulting Clinic.

For more information, contact Marge
Blasingame, (626) 579-0420 or email
margeblasingame@att.net.

GRATITUDE

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

Refreshment Contributors

Doyle Saito, Jason Saito, Kei Ikari, Barry Miller

Refreshment Signup for November

Feel free to bring your favorite snacks to the next meeting.
*Please make sure to sign the refreshments donation sheet so we can
acknowledge your contribution in the next issue.*

Special thanks to

CJ Harmatz, Gib and Elissa Hoxie, Adam Lavigne,
Keith Martin and Michael Jonas,
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