



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

第一分盆裁會
盆中平穩

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

AUGUST 2016 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 8



BOB HILVERS, GSBF CLARK BONSAI COLLECTION | INTERVIEW: DENNIS MAKISHIMA

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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On the Cover | Bob Hilvers gives us some insight into what it takes to successfully curate the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection.

Inside Cover | Ginkgo Forest at the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Fresno.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've fallen into a routine when I write the President's Message. I start Sunday mornings after reading the paper, having a couple of cups of coffee, and reviewing the draft content from Jason. Then I procrastinate until I find that little bit of inspiration to continue.



The people who have shown dedicated service to the art and teaching of bonsai. Of course a list could be offered, but I learned a long time ago that there are times and places for lists, and this is not one of them. It's not too hard to just sit back and think of all the bonsai artists that have touched your life, and those that go beyond promoting the art form, who have a wide and sustained reach. Thank you!

One by one I have been reading about the local water authorities rescinding their water conservation policies. Finally, mine informed me by mail that they too have changed things. Voluntary 10% conservation from my base year, "Water Bank" suspended, and no more overage surcharges. This gives us more freedom in the yard which was badly needed, but remember water conservation remains important and dry will likely be the new norm.

The Dog Days of Summer are here, I just Googled it :-) OK, there was a coincidence that this ancient Greek celestial event occurred during the hottest part of the year. The ancient Greeks thought of the constellation Canis Major, coinciding with the heliacal rising of Sirius, the dog star, as a dog chasing Lepus, the hare. Nevertheless it's hot out there so watch out for your trees.

John van de Wouw

John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

BOB HILVERS

A few months back, we covered the first annual Kōen-nai no Bonsai (*Bonsai in the Park*) event to benefit the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection at the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Woodward Park, Fresno.

The GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection is expansive and beautiful, and is in no small part due to the efforts of the collection's long time curator, Bob Hilvers. This month, we were fortunate to have Bob take the three (turned five) hour drive down to Gardena, to give us some insight on what it takes to develop and nurture such a beautiful collection.

"The collection came about through a chance meeting with Bill Clark, who was an avid collector of Japanese art. Bill utilized his extensive private collection to create the Clark Center for Japanese Art & Culture in Hanford.

"After the construction of the reserve area, calls for donations of bonsai went out to collectors throughout the state. Local bonsai clubs were enlisted to assist in getting the project off the ground and the Center bonsai collection was launched. Slowly the collection began to grow in numbers and quality of bonsai.

"Since the inception of the bonsai exhibition in 2006, a hallmark of the bonsai collection has been the relentless march toward excellence. The Clark Center started to collect bonsai and could add major holdings of aesthetically and historically important bonsai. The Clark Center's bonsai collection is now considered one of the finest in California even to the extent that the quality of the bonsai outpaced that of the exhibition area in which they were displayed.



Bill Clark was born in Hanford on October 2, 1930. After studying at UC Berkeley and UC Davis, he entered the Navy and eventually returned home to the family dairy in Hanford.

From 1958 to 1971, Mr. Clark operated the family ranching and dairy operation, Cal Clark Holsteins. During that time, he helped develop the family's herd into one of the nation's top 10 Registered Holstein Herds.

A passionate world traveler, Mr. Clark fell in love with Japanese art while he was in the Navy.

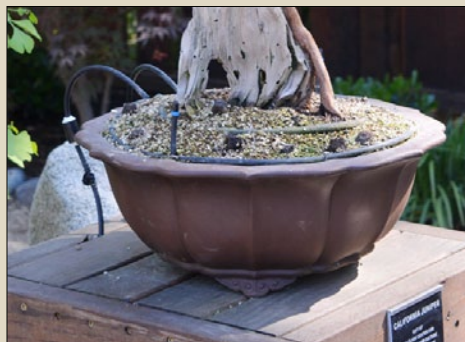
In 2009, the Japanese government awarded him a high honor in recognition for his "accomplishments in contributing to the introduction of Japanese art and toward the promotion of cultural and educational exchange" between Japan and the U.S.



"As the bonsai collection became more visible to the public, its growth continued and increased in quality. Through donations, very fine, and in some instances historically significant, bonsai were acquired. A large number of trees were donated by Kathy Boomsma, who donated her entire collection. Another example is the addition of a large portion of the remaining Kawaguchi Collection that included two important bonsai, the legendary

bonsai of the late Sam Kawaguchi, and the other a major work by the late Harry Koga, Sam's teacher.

"After Bill's passing last year, the Clark Center closed, and the antiquity pieces were sent to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The bonsai collection was gifted to the GSBF, and currently resides in the newly built Shinzen Friendship Garden in Fresno."



The exhibit utilizes two separate, mirrored, double redundant watering systems throughout its collection. Every bonsai has two sources of water, just in case one system fails. Each system has their own set of valves, and their circuits have their own computer controller. This is very important as the weather in Fresno, at times, can be quite unforgiving.



The gate, as well as the fencing, came from the original center in Hanford. The granite plaque greets visitors as they approach the collection.



The courtyard features beautiful Toko-kazari (Tokonoma + Kazari-meaning decoration and display), where the finest trees are displayed. The area also serves as a venue for events. Our wine and cheese event at Kōen-nai was held here. These benches were also brought over from the Clark Center.



Once inside, there are a number of trails to stroll through. We came up with the concept of a stroll garden, where the viewer strolls through paths, and at each turn, discovers a new section hidden from the original path. Traditional Japanese landscaping concepts were merged with bonsai aesthetics to design the garden.

For more information, please visit www.shinzenjapanese garden.org
or call 559.840.1264 (Ext 1)



The bonsai display was designed by local landscape architect Bob Boro, and developed by Clark Collection curator Bob Hilvers. It features a "hide and reveal" design concept which allows visitors a leisurely stroll following pathways that slowly reveal the trees and their settings. The project's commitment to water conservation is evidenced by the irrigation system designed by Ray Thieme and Gene Nelson, which utilizes the latest technologies. Drought resistant plants were selected and installed with water retaining polymer-coated sand.



INTERVIEW

A gorgeous
Blue Atlas
Cedar
cascade
from Dennis
Makishima's
collection.

Photos by
Paul Minerich

AN INTERVIEW WITH DENNIS MAKISHIMA

BY PAUL MINERICH | CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Dennis Makishima has had a long and illustrious career in bonsai and horticulture, and was the first to introduce aesthetic pruning in the United States. His work combines horticultural science, bonsai aesthetics, and creative interpretation of his small trees in urban situations.

Dennis has successfully pruned over 10,000 trees, conducted 200 pruning projects and taught 500 workshops and classes across the United States and abroad. Moreover, he has consulted at arboreturns, large public gardens and significant private estates.

Dennis took his first bonsai lesson in 1982. He had the wonderful opportunity to learn from bonsai pioneers in California. Their teachings combined the styling and caring of trees with the traditions and philosophy of the bonsai art form.

To date, his bonsai collection numbers over 500 trees, many of which are featured in the 2002 edition of the Sunset publications *Bonsai Book*.





When I visited with Dennis Makishima in late June, the weather was sunny and warm and he had a student working on the trees. I was impressed with his collection, as his yard is completely full of bonsai, including a front yard full of Junipers of various types in nursery containers. What a sight to behold!

Dennis has been pruning trees professionally for about 35 years, and doing bonsai for 34 of those years. He trained in Japan with Mr. Mitsuya, in the city of Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, known for their Mikawa Black Pines. He also cares for many heritage trees given to him by bonsai artists of the prior generation, from all over the state.

Standing in his office/work room in the back, you catch a glimpse into the memories and experiences that make him the teacher he is today. Adorned throughout is his memorabilia, including pictures of him assisting bonsai masters such as Mr. Kobayashi and Kimura.

Along with the tour of his beautiful garden, Dennis offered us some insight into his knowledge and techniques in bonsai.

"I have no automatic watering system, I do it all by hand. That way you can tailor the watering to areas that specifically need it.

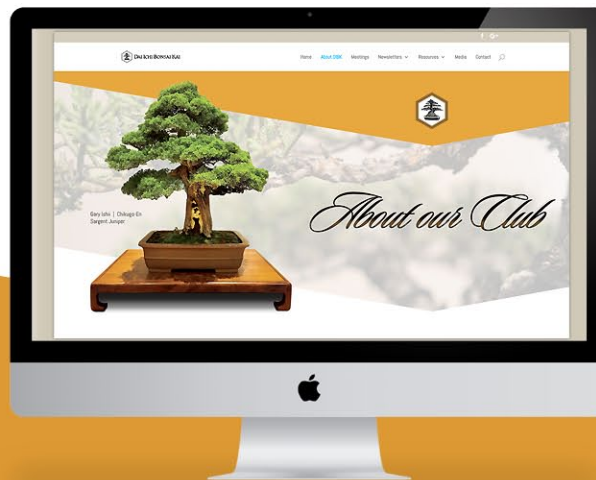
"My theory on bonsai styling is to emphasize the unique feature (*omoshiroi*) of each tree. If the tree does not have a unique feature, I will often develop one, such as a unique angle in a branch or trunk. My styling is very naturalistic. I'm not overly meticulous when it comes to styling, and every tree does not need to fit a styling recipe. For example, a tree might look more natural if what would be the north side of the tree is less vigorous than the south side, as it would be in nature, so I might emulate that.

"Bonsai need to periodically be allowed to simply grow and redevelop strength. Always keeping a tree in show condition will result in a weak tree. I've seen many *Kokofu-Ten* bonsai exhibit award winning show trees a year after the show, and they were all basically unrecognizable. For the overall health and well being of the tree, they were allowed to simply grow in a corner of the nursery."



DIBK WEB v4.0

COMING SOON



AUGUST JASON CHAN



Friday, August 19th

In 2012, Jason became an apprentice to renowned artist, David Nguy. Jason is also very active in the bonsai community. In 2014, Jason was elected to the board of the Golden State Bonsai Federation. In 2015, he became the editor of Golden Statements, GSBF's quarterly bonsai publication. Locally, he has served as an officer for Kofu Bonsai Kai, one of Southern California's largest bonsai clubs and was also a founding member of the Chino Bonsai Club. He also contributes regularly to various bonsai publications including Bonsai Club International and GSBF.

Be sure to attend the next meeting to learn Jason's basic and advanced bonsai techniques.

UPCOMING

September 16, 2016
Kathy Benson

October 21, 2016
Workshop

EVENTS

August 20 - 21, 2016

Nan Pu Kai: 27th Annual Show
Nisei Week at JACCC

224 S. San Pedro Street (Little Tokyo)

Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

John Naka's club will host special guest exhibitors as well as club members' trees. Additional information about Nisei Week can be found at: www.niseiweek.org

September 24 - 25, 2016

San Diego Bonsai Club
2016 Fall Bonsai Exhibition

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily

Featuring demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM. Free Admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale. For more information visit www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com or contact Janice Hale.

September 29 - Oct 2, 2016

Kofu Bonsai Kai
2016 Bonsai Fest at the Bowers Museum
"The Bonsai Tradition: Cultural Arts of Japan"

John M. Lee Court, 2002 N. Main St. Santa Ana

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM daily

Featuring bonsai trees of the members of Kofu Bonsai Kai. Demonstration by Takuo Nakamura, Sat. 1st at 1 PM. Free to Bowers Museum members or with paid museum admission. Final speaker and presentation schedules will be posted on at www.bowers.org and www.kofukai.org.

October 1 - 2, 2016

Conejo Valley Bonsai Society:
13th Annual Bonsai Exhibition

2001 Thousand Oaks Blvd.

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Demonstrations at 11 AM (Saturday) and 2 PM (Sunday) in the Bandstand. Free Admission.

For information, call Marj Branson at 805-373-1330 or visit www.cvbs-bonsai.org.

For more event information, please visit
www.bit.ly/GSBF-Events

GRATITUDE

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

Benefit Drawing Contributors
Jim Harlow & Family, Doyle Saito,
Tom Vuong, Louis Carrillo,
George & Judy Unrine

Refreshment Contributors
Doyle Saito, Joe Ortega,
Tom Culton, Tom Vuong

Refreshment Signup for August

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

Bob Hilvers, GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection. Shinzen Friendship Garden

Paul Minerich, Dennis Makishima

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.

*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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