



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

第一盆裁會  
盆中平穩

# THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

FEBRUARY 2017 | VOLUME 32, ISSUE 2



SEAN SMITH · ARTISAN | BAIKOEN WINTER SILHOUETTES SHOW



# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can report that we have started the year off with a bang! Our January meeting featured Sean Smith, thanks to Dai Ichi working with other bonsai clubs in the area to sponsor his trip from back east. Plus we had what I would gauge as a full house, with at least one new member joining, and several prospective members in attendance. Refreshments were spot on. The club is doing well and I look forward to the coming year.



It is the beginning of the year and so I want to encourage people to look toward opportunities to pitch in. This includes signing up to bring snacks at one of our monthly meetings, contributing an article or photos to our newsletter, or even renewing your membership in a timely manner. You can renew your membership at our meetings, or via PayPal at: [www.daiichibonsaikai.com/membership](http://www.daiichibonsaikai.com/membership).

Check out our Events listings on the last page. There is a lot going on in the bonsai community and it is always good to support other clubs' efforts.

And with respect, I will always remember my departed friend Gordon Tengan, who spent countless hours as my bonsai sensei.

*John van de Wouw*

John van de Wouw  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

On the Cover | Sean Smith working his magic on a Kishu Shimpaku at the DIBK meeting.  
Inside Cover | Shadows fall. Photographic inspiration by Doyle Saito, and the peanut gallery at the Baikoen Winter Silhouettes show.





S E A N S M I T H

A R T I S A N

[ahr-tuh-zuh n] noun

*a person skilled in an applied art;*

*a **craftsman**.*

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai, along with several other Southern California bonsai clubs, were fortunate to have Sean Smith, a talented and award winning bonsai, suiseki and woodcraft artisan, as their featured presenter.

Mr. Smith hails from Marysville, PA and has studied under Senji Morimae, at his Nursery in Tokyo. He currently creates bonsai display tables, and carves Daiza for renowned bonsai and *suiseki* enthusiasts all over the world. As a result of this work, many awards have been bestowed upon him for his craftsmanship, as well as his strict adherence to these ancient Japanese art forms. Let's take a glimpse into Sean's art and craft.





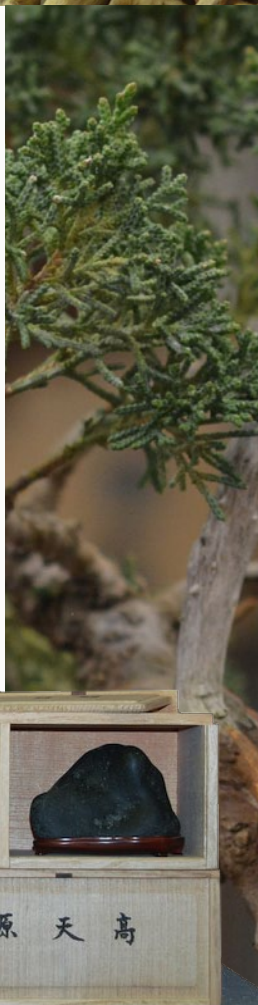
Sean critiques a natural wood stand brought in by Doyle.



Demo tree before



The presentation started with a slideshow on the craft and history of *kiri bako*; wooden boxes used to house antiquities such as fine bonsai pots, as well as scrolls, *suiseki* and other valuables. The box's purpose is twofold. In addition to protection, the *kiri bako* also serves to record the history of the piece it contains. Artist and owner information is recorded onto the cover of these boxes, to catalog the contents' lineage.



Sean then began work on the *Shohin Kishu Shimpaku* provided by Fred Miyahara, who grafted the tree 18 years ago onto San Jose stock. As Sean worked the tree, he shared tips and anecdotes about bonsai. "Number one thing to look for in a tree is the *nebari*. Whether you buy or collect a tree, that's most important because it's the foundation, and the only thing that can't be changed. The second is the front and back of the tree. Also of importance is the branching. Placement can be manipulated, but you don't want to stress the tree by over-bending its branches. Select trees with already established branches that best fit your vision with minimal bending. Your tree will be better for it.

"Take the time to really study and look at your tree, and at different angles. Left, right, tip to the front, tip to the back... move the tree around and really study it. Never buy a tree, and just start creating a bonsai. You have to really look at the tree, to see what will make the best tree, because the decisions you make will last a lifetime. Yes, you can restyle later, but the initial styling sets the tree's direction, and you want to get that right from the start."



Two trees.

One tree.

"Trees that have multiple dominant branches, look like two trees. By changing the angle you can give it the appearance of one tree. It's best to look at your tree at different angles to get the best results."





“Not every tree in Japan is a masterpiece like the trees in Kokufu-ten. Bonsai hobbyists in Japan enjoy the art too, and I’d like to see more of that in bonsai. It should be more about the enjoyment and satisfaction, and less about the stress of competition and perfection.”

~ Sean Smith



“A lot of people in the west don’t realize that a lot of the Japanese arts are woven together. *Sumi* Ink is used to make scrolls... what are scrolls used for? A formal display. *Suiseki*, an object of nature, is used for display in a *tokonoma*. It’s all about display. We in the west will diligently spend time in our back yards on our trees... wiring, unwiring, fertilizing... for so many years. What’s the point of doing that, if it never leaves your back yard?

“You’re an artist creating with your hands and your heart. What better way to get a reaction then by displaying it... by showing your art. You get a warm fuzzy feeling showing off your art to people that appreciate art.

“It’s like that in Japan.”



Michael Izumoto was the lucky winner of Sean’s tree.





Sean also stopped by Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai for a lecture/critique session.



Photo by Doyle Saito

DIBK would like to express our deepest appreciation to Fred Miyahara for arranging and coordinating Sean's visit, and to the generosity of the GSBF, for supporting their member clubs throughout Southern California.

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP

*Individual*  
**\$25.00**  
per year

*Family*  
**\$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.

You can pay your dues at the next club meeting, or by check to:

**CJ Harmatz**  
**2828 Allred Street, Lakewood, CA 90712**

**PAY VIA PAYPAL AT**  
**[www.daiichibonsaikai.com/membership](http://www.daiichibonsaikai.com/membership)**







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BAIKOEN BONSAI KENKYUKAI  
2017 WINTER  
SILHOUETTES SHOW

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On January 21st and 22nd, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai held their 53rd annual Winter Silhouettes show at the LA Arboretum in Arcadia.

The show featured deciduous trees in their winter forms, where the structure of the tree can be fully viewed and appreciated. The show also featured vendors, demos, Taiko drummers and a Saturday night reception and raffle.

As in previous years, the Baikoen Silhouettes show was a fantastic way to kick off the club show season.





CHINESE ELM | CAROL UPSTON



CHINESE ELM | MANNY MARTINEZ



JAPANESE MAPLE FOREST | DICK RYERSON



SHOHIN DISPLAY | DAVID MILES



POMEGRANATE | AL NELSON





CORK BARK ELM | TAKUO NAKAMURA



KOREAN HORNBEAM | JIM BARRET



TRIDENT MAPLE | MEL IKEDA



TRIDENT MAPLE | JIM PIERCE



Ken Teh and Lindsay Shiba present the GSBF Nagata-Komai award to the 2016 recipient, Mel Ikeda.



Advertisement

# SUBSCRIBE TO GOLDEN STATEMENTS

*Join the bonsai community and be informed.*

Your subscription helps fund the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) educational mission. For those living within the US a regular subscription costs only \$25 per year. The magazine is a quarterly publication - Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.

To subscribe provide your name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number along with a check made out to: GSBF Golden Statements.

Mail to: **Golden Statements, PO Box 348, Monterey, CA 93942-0348.**

Or, subscribe online at [http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/?page\\_id=37](http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/?page_id=37) and pay by PayPal.



## Golden Statements — Subscription Form

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Is this an address change?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
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Amount Received:	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>
How paid:	Check # _____ (Name, if different from above _____)		

(Updated 1/2015)



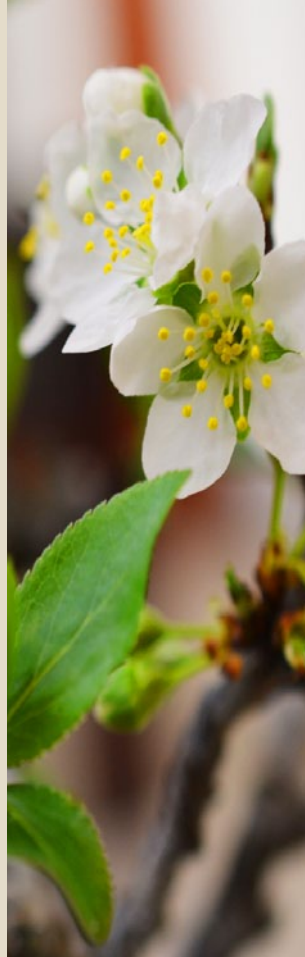
## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of DIBK's original members, Gordon Tengan. Along with Hank Sugimoto, Gordon was a huge part of our club's development. He dedicated his time, along with Leila Kusumi, to teaching classes to many bonsai enthusiasts. Their direction instilled the club's mission to promote sharing knowledge, history and techniques to beginners, and that tradition continues to this very day.

Originally from Hawai'i, Gordon made Southern California, and its bonsai scene, his home. Trained by Tak Shimazu, Gordon was also a member of John Naka's clubs, California Bonsai Society as well as Nanpu Kai.

Always a strong supporter of DIBK, Gordon always showed a tree in our annual shows. In addition to creating and nurturing bonsai, Gordon also loved Vegas, and playing slots at Pechanga.

Gordon will be missed.



## GET YOUR SHOW TREES READY!



DAI ICHI  
BONSAI KAI

*Serenity  
through  
Bonsai*



### 32nd ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT & SALE

May 6 and 7, 2017  
Ken Nakaoka Community Center  
1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena

#### SATURDAY • MAY 6

10:00am - 4:00pm

10:30am

1:00pm

6:00pm

Show & Sales Area Open

Beginner's Hands-on Workshop  
(free tree to first 15 newcomers to sign up  
Saturday morning)

Round Robin Bonsai Demonstration

Reception & Entertainment

#### SUNDAY • MAY 7

10:00am - 3:00pm

1:00pm

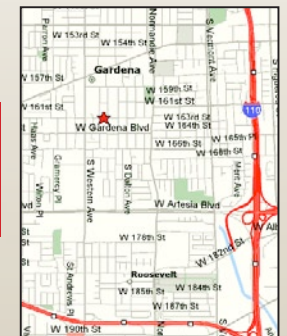
Show & Sales Area Open

Mr. Frank Goya, Saikei Demonstration

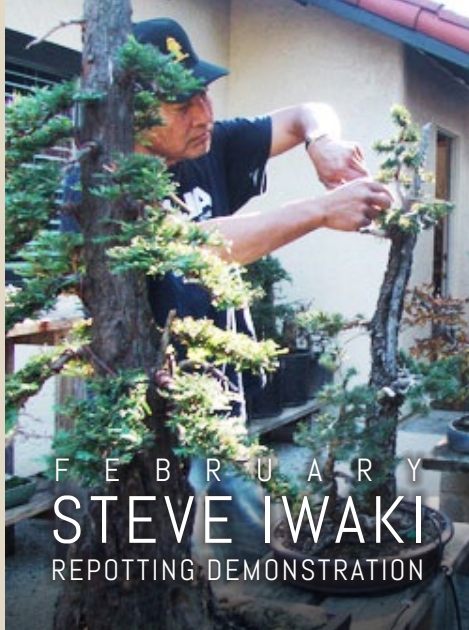
Novice to master exhibitors, daily demonstrations and drawings, bonsai plants, tools, and accessories on sale throughout the show. Free admission and parking.

For more info, call Doyle Saito at  
**(310) 539-9265**  
or visit  
**daiichibonsaikai.com**

Directions:  
405 Freeway or Artesia Boulevard (91 Freeway) to Western Avenue. Western Avenue north to 162nd Street. Turn east (right) on 162nd Street to the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, located on the south side of 162nd Street at 1670 W. 162nd Street.







## February 17, 2017

Our feature presenter for February will be Steve Iwaki. A second generation bonsai artist, Mr. Iwaki offers workshops and demos throughout California. Steve's philosophy is simple:

"My goal is to pass down what I've learned from others, my experiences, and my appreciation of this traditional practice. In doing so, I find that I teach all the facets of the art form, from the technical and craftsmanship side to the more esoteric aspects. I believe that bonsai instills in you commitment, patience, and a sense of accomplishment; and above all creates balance in your life."

Steve will be demonstrating repotting techniques at our February 17th meeting. To learn more about Steve, please visit his website at [www.iwakibonsai.com](http://www.iwakibonsai.com).

## UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

MARCH 17, 2017  
**FRED MIYAHARA**  
*Repotting Workshop*

APRIL 21, 2017  
**NATHAN SIMMONS**  
*Tree & Pot Selection*

## EVENTS

### February 3-5, 2017

#### Southern Breeze Tree & Stone Society Exhibition

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road

Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The exhibition will be part of their Chinese New Year's Festival. This year, our exhibition will be staged in the Rose Hills Foundation Court Yard in the new Education Center complex near the new entrance.

### February 25-26, 2017

#### Bonsai-A-Thon XXI

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens  
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. Pancake breakfast, demonstrations, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area, raffle and auction.

For more information visit  
[www.gsbfhuntington.com](http://www.gsbfhuntington.com)

### April 29-30, 2017

#### San Diego Bonsai Exhibition

Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park

Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM. Free admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale, as well as other bonsai-related items.

For more information visit  
[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

### May 6-7, 2017

#### Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

#### Serenity Through Bonsai Show & Sale

Ken Nakaoka Community Center  
1670 W. 162nd St.

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Admission is free. For more details about our club and show please visit:

[www.bit.ly/DIBK-Web](http://www.bit.ly/DIBK-Web) or  
[www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB](http://www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB).

For more event information, please visit  
[bit.ly/GSBF-MoreEvents](http://bit.ly/GSBF-MoreEvents)

## GRATITUDE

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

### Benefit Drawing Contributors

Kevin Sweeney, Gary Ishii (Chikugo-En)  
Doyle Saito, Tom Vuong, Ivan & Fatima Salas

### Refreshment Contributors

Tom Vuong, Jason Saito, Doyle Saito,  
Tom & Apinya Culton, CJ & Mark Levinstein

### Refreshment Signup for February

Liz Do, Michael Izumoto, Judy & George Unrine

*Please remember to sign the contribution sheet so that we may acknowledge your generosity.*

### Welcome New Members

Liz Do

### Special thanks to

Sean Smith, Fred Miyahara, GSBF, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, and Doyle Saito  
*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.

Our club is dedicated to promoting the art of bonsai, and takes great pride in its family-oriented character.

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 the public is welcome.

[www.daiichibonsaikai.com](http://www.daiichibonsaikai.com)

***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](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)