



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

第一盆裁會
盆中平穩

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here, it's warming up and buds are beginning to pop. By this time everyone should be in full on repotting mode.

February brings new growth to the club as well. This month the club begins a workshop program which will meet the Saturday after our monthly meeting, at various member's homes. It's a great way for beginners and advanced artists to learn and share styling and horticultural tips and techniques, and to tour other member's collections. You will find a complete schedule of workshop dates in this issue.

We also have two great field trips lined up. On March 4th, DIBK, along with members of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, will caravan to Central California to visit Ed Clark's Round Valley Nursery.

Ed is a staple at many bonsai shows, and his pre-bonsai stock is second to none. Round Valley is a private nursery so this is a rare opportunity to take a leisurely road trip, and to acquire awesome material direct from the grower.

We will also be touring the collection of our own DIBK member Tom Vuong on March 17th. If you have not yet had the pleasure, Tom has amassed an amazing collection of both in progress, and specimen trees. His collection is an experience not to be missed.

If you're interested in attending any of these events, please let Doyle know, and he'll set you up.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 2

As a part of our initiative of growth, DIBK is dedicated to bringing its members the best demonstrators and workshop instructors available. We are proud to announce the first event in our Masters Series which will be a workshop with Bjorn Bjorholm. Trained in Japan, Bjorn is an extremely talented bonsai artist and teacher with a huge following worldwide, as well as a mainstay in the world bonsai show circuit. We are truly honored to have the opportunity to work with him. The workshop seats are limited, and demand will be high, so tickets will be chosen by lottery at our March DIBK meeting. If you're interested in attending, email doylesaito@yahoo.com to secure your lottery spot today!

This is a good time to recognize the vision and hard work of our Program Chair, Doyle Saito, for bringing the Masters Series, as well as all of our other workshops, demonstrations, and off site activities to fruition. His passion and dedication to bonsai allows our club to remain an active and vital part of the bonsai community.

I would also like to welcome our newest member to the Board, Fundraising Chair, Shirley Floresca. Most of you know Shirley as she is the raging bundle of smiles and energy that has commandeered our annual show sales table for the past few years. Shirley will bring her patented enthusiasm and energy into reinvigorating our fundraising efforts, which allows us to bring to our members bigger and better programs and activities. Shirley will be reaching out to fellow club members to join her on this quest as a part of the DIBK fundraising team. If anyone has fundraising experience and would like to join Shirley's team, please let her know.

The annual DIBK Show and Sale, "Serenity through Bonsai" is just around the corner. We are deep into the planning process and it looks like it's going to be our best show ever! Members should go through their collection to choose which trees they want to display and sell. This year, in addition to the sales tables and the raffles, we will be bringing back our club auction. All trees and pots offered will be curated, and the number of items will be limited to 20, so you can be assured that the auction items will be of exceptional quality. It will be a good opportunity to acquire great material as well as support Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai.

Please also consider supporting the club by donating material to the show, and selling your extra materials and stock at the show sale. Every little bit helps, and we truly appreciate your generous support.

Live. Love. Grow.


Jason Saito
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

It's time to renew your ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership
\$25.00 per year

Family Membership
\$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 and events.

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

CJ Levinstein
827 East Marshall Place
Long Beach, CA 90807
Or pay online via PayPal:
daiichibonsaikai.com/membership



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HITACHIYA

KNIFE AND BONSAI TOOL SHARPENING DEMONSTRATION



With any craft, in order to achieve absolute perfection, an artist requires tools that will effectively do the job. In bonsai, many of our tools have cutting edges that need to be sharp in order to do their job well.

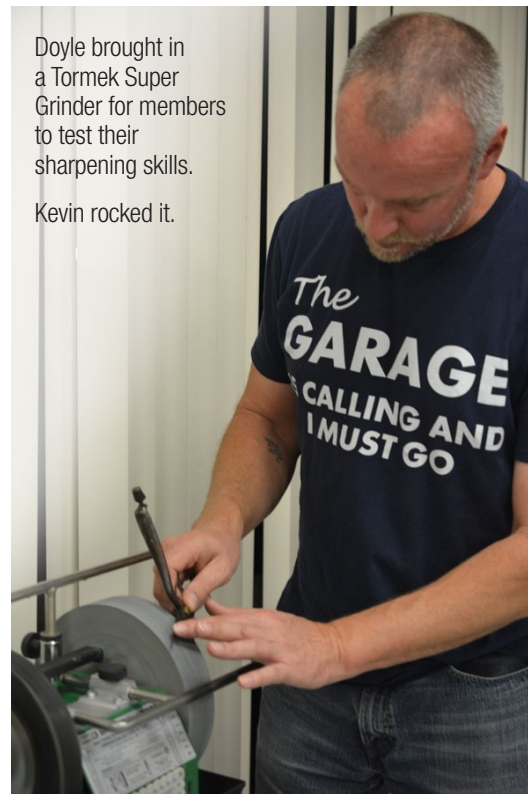
At our January meeting we were fortunate to have the owner of Hitachiya USA, Masazumi Hirota (right), and General Manager, Hiro Lennon (left) demonstrate Japanese sharpening techniques. While the core business of Hitachiya is in the sales and servicing of commercial cookware and kitchen knives, as the duo has shown, the process of honing a fine cutting edge is universally adapted to bonsai tools as well.

The pair started off the evening going through the different types of knives and explaining the different cutting edge that each style of knife possessed. The techniques used to hone an edge were described and demonstrated as Masazumi-san sharpened a blade using various grits of whet stones, an abrasive block that hones the steel into a sharp point and creates an increasingly finer edge, the higher the grit number. A really dull edge would start off with a low numbered stone such as a 200 or 400 grit, and you gradually work your way up through the higher number stones (800, 2,000, 4,000) until you've reached the desired sharpness. Stones that are 4,000 and above give a more finely tuned edge, as well as the polished finish. Once you get up to 10,000 grit, you'll get a mirror like finish.

With bonsai tools such as cutters and grafting knives, these whet stones work well. Other curved tools require a different approach. Hiro-san explained, "When sharpening bonsai tools with a curved edge (like a concave cutter), it needs to be sharpened differently. There are stones with a contoured, curved surface that need to be used in order to create that sharpened curved cutting edge."

Overall, it was a really fun and interesting demonstration and we thank Masazumi and Hiro from Hitachiya for generously sharing their tool and knife sharpening knowledge with us.





Doyle brought in a Tormek Super Grinder for members to test their sharpening skills. Kevin rocked it.

Watch Hitachiya's full demo at www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai



Renaissance Man

Masazumi Hirota is truly a renaissance man.

His family has been in the commercial cookware and cutlery business for generations.

He's ridden motorcycles across America, and throughout the world. He has his pilot's license and owns a fishing ship.

His future goal is to ride in a submarine. Maybe bonsai master might be in his future as well?

Stop by his store and check out the wide selection of Japanese cooking items he offers.



HITACHIYA USA

KITCHENWARE

KNIVES & STONES

TABLETOP & BAR

GRILLWARE

SHARPENING

SPECIAL ORDERS

CLASSES



Visit Hitachiya USA, Inc.

Web

www.hitachiyausa.com

Contact

Phone

310.534.3136

Email

shop@hitachiyausa.com

Store

2509 Pacific Coast Hwy, Torrance, CA 90505

Facebook

www.facebook.com/Hitachiya

BAIKOEN BONSAI KENKYUKAI

2018 WINTER SILHOUETTES SHOW

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai held their 54th 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. In addition to the stellar exhibition, the show also featured vendors, demos, Taiko drummers and a Saturday night reception and raffle.





The show featured a demonstration by nursery owner and bonsai artist Ed Clark, on creating bonsai from raw nursery stock.

We will be visiting Ed's nursery in March for a tour and a buying trip. For more information on joining us, please see the Calendar of events in this issue.

Watch Ed Clark's full demo at
www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai





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

CALIFORNIA SHOHIN SOCIETY 2018 SHOHIN CONVENTION

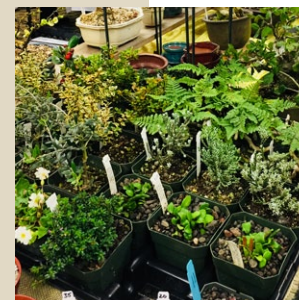
SANTA NELLA, CALIFORNIA

The California Shohin Society organizes a shohin convention every 2 years. This is the only event of its kind held in the United States. The instructors donate their time for the demonstrations and workshops held during the convention, enabling costs to remain reasonable for attendees.

The 2018 seminar was glorious fun. Vendors from throughout California brought out their best shohin material as well as tools, pots and other bonsai offerings.

The demonstrations and workshops were unique, fun and they showcased the talented instructors' techniques and styling skills perfectly.

If you've never attended the Shohin Seminar before, you should make plans to attend in 2020. It's an experience you'll always remember.



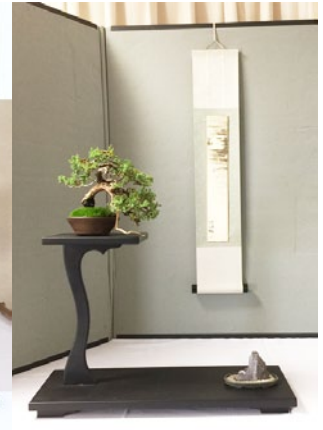


VENDORS





EXHIBIT





WORKSHOPS



DIBK MEMBER WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - February 17, 2018, 9:00 am

Member Workshop

Location: Torrance, CA

The first of our Workshop series begins with repotting. Bring your trees, pots, and materials, and get advice on repotting or any other bonsai styling or horticultural advice from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early by calling Doyle at 310.940.0482



NURSERY TOUR & BUYING TRIP

SUNDAY - March 4, 2018, Time: TBD

Ed Clark's Round Valley Nursery

Nursery Tour and Buying Trip

Location: Central California

In conjunction with Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, we will be visiting the nursery of Ed Clark. Ed is known for his wide selection of field grown pre-bonsai material.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early by calling Doyle at 310.940.0482



Photo by Tom Lau

MEMBER COLLECTION TOUR

SATURDAY - March 17, 2018, 10:00am

Tom Vuong Collection

Member Collection Tour

Location: Anaheim, CA

Tour the beautiful and massive collection of DIBK member Tom Vuong.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early by calling Doyle at 310.940.0482



DIBK MASTER SERIES

PRESENTS

BJORN BJORHOLM



MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018 • 9:00AM – 2:00PM

GARDENA, CA

\$175 members • \$200 non members*

Enjoy this rare opportunity to attend a hands-on workshop with one of bonsai's pre-eminent artists, Bjorn Bjorholm. Bring your best show trees and get invaluable advice. Seating for this workshop will be extremely limited. Attendees will be chosen by lottery drawing on March 16. Seat is reserved upon receipt of payment. For more information and to reserve your spot in the drawing, please email doylesaito@yahoo.com.

* Price includes \$25 DIBK membership for the year.

For more information about Bjorn, please visit www.bjornbjorholm.com



Photo courtesy of www.bjornbjorholm.com

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - February 17, 2018 , 9:00 am
Member Workshop
Location: Torrance, CA

The first of our Workshop series begins with repotting. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get advice on repotting or any other bonsai styling or horticultural techniques from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

MARCH

FIELD TRIP

SUNDAY - March 4, 2018, Time TBD
Ed Clark's Round Valley Nursery
Nursery Tour and Buying Trip
Location: Central California

In conjunction with Baiokoen Bonsai Kenkyukai , we will be visiting the nursery of Ed Clark. Ed is known for his field grown pre-bonsai material.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

FIELD TRIP

SATURDAY - March 17, 2018, 10:00am
Tom Vuong Collection
Location: COrange, CA

Tour the massive collection of DIBK member Tom Vuong. Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

APRIL

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - April 21, 2018, 9:00 am
Member Workshop
Location: Gardena, CA

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

MAY

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - May 19, 2018, 9:00 am
Member Workshop
Location: Torrance, CA

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

JUNE

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - June 16, 2018, 9:00 am
Member Workshop
Location: Torrance, CA

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

JULY

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - July 21, 2018, 9:00 am
Member Workshop
Location: Torrance, CA

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

AUGUST

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - August 17, 2018, 9:00 am
Member Workshop
Location: Torrance, CA

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

SEPTEMBER

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - September 22, 2018, 9:00 am
Member Workshop
Location: Gardena, CA

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

OCTOBER

DIBK MASTER SERIES WORKSHOP

MONDAY - October 29, 2018, 9:00am

BJORN BJORHOLM

\$175 members • \$200 non-members

Enjoy this rare opportunity to attend a hands-on workshop with one of bonsai's preeminent artists, Bjorn Bjorholm. Bring your best show trees and get invaluable advice. Seating for this workshop will be extremely limited. Attendees will be chosen by lottery drawing.

For more information and to reserve your spot in the drawing, please email doylesaito@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY - November 17, 2018, 9:00 am
Member Workshop
Location: Torrance, CA

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.



Photo courtesy of Santa Anita Bonsai Society

FRANK YEE

PORTULACARIA FOREST

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Frank Yee is a bonsai enthusiast that was originally inspired by The Huntington's Bonsai Collection. Frank is a long time member and past board member of Santa Anita Bonsai Society. Frank has also done demos at Santa Anita Bonsai Society and at the Bonsai-a-thon at the Huntington.

Influenced by John Naka, Frank has designed and created bonsai from, Junipers, Liquid Ambers, Olives, Elms, Ginkgo, and several other species.

Frank will be creating a spectacular cork bark Portulacaria forest. See you there!

UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

MARCH 16, 2018 | **TOM VUONG**
HEAVY BRANCH BENDING TECHNIQUES

APRIL 20, 2018 | **PETER MACASIEB**
SHOHIN STYLING TECHNIQUES

MAY 18, 2018 | **WILL BADDELEY**
TREE STYLING AND CARVING

EVENTS

February 24-25, 2018

Bonsai-A-Thon XXII

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

April 28-29, 2018

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

May 5-6, 2018

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 or
www.bit.ly/DIBK-FB

May 20, 2018

Sansui Kai Annual Show and Sale

Japanese Garden
Tillman Water Reclamation Center,
6100 Woodley Ave. Van Nuys, 818-756-8166)
Entry fee of \$5.00 gains admission to the show and sale as well as the gardens.

For more information visit
www.sansui-kai.org

For more event information, please visit
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

Jason Saito, Doyle Saito

Refreshment Contributors

Allan Sugimura, Doyle Saito, CJ Levinstein,
Barry Miller

Refreshment Signup for February

Kevin McNally, John Van de Wouw

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

Special thanks to

Masazumi Hirota, Hiro Lennon - Hitachiya, Tom Lau, Lindsay Shiba - Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai
GSBF, California Shohin Society, Santa Anita Bonsai Society
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

***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