



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

第一分盆裁會  
盆中平穩

APRIL 2018 | VOLUME 33, ISSUE 4

# THE DAI ICHI





# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our recent event at the Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural festival, we had the unique opportunity to speak to many people who have little to no exposure to bonsai. Nearly all of them had an appreciation for the art, but when asked if they were interested in learning how to create bonsai, most of them had a reaction of apprehension and fear. Looking at the fine specimen bonsai on display, the notion of creating them can be intimidating to the layperson.

I certainly remember my first time sitting down with scissors and a tree. It can be intimidating, but as you learn and grow, you gain knowledge and confidence, and then it doesn't seem quite so intimidating anymore. With the right guidance, we can all make it seem not so scary for the next generation of bonsai artists.

I'd like to welcome one of our newest members, Dan Sawada. Dan and his wife were at the festival and he relayed to us that he would be retiring soon, and that bonsai was something he might want to learn.

When I heard that, I was really happy and excited for him. Knowing the journey that he is about to embark upon, and the enjoyment and personal fulfillment that comes from learning the new skills that he will acquire, and the trees he will create is very exciting. Let's all make Dan, as well as our other new members, feel welcome as they begin their bonsai journey.

Welcome to the DIBK family.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 2

This weekend, April 14th and 15th, is the opening weekend for the Fullerton Bonsai Exhibit. The exhibition is held at the Fullerton Arboretum and is held in tandem with the Fullerton Green Scene event. Each weekend is hosted by one of five local clubs, DIBK (4/14-15), OEBS - Green Scene (4/21-22), Orange County Bonsai Society (4/28-29), Viet Bonsai Today Society (5/5-6), and Kofu Bonsai Kai (5/12-13). We will be hosting the opening this weekend, so please come out and support the club as we introduce and share our love of bonsai.

Our 33rd Annual "Serenity through Bonsai" Exhibition & Sale is also less than a month away. This is our biggest event of the year and has become one of the best ways for us to reach out to the public and the bonsai community. Let's take the time to speak to each and every guest that visits. Passion can be infectious.

Club members should be receiving their RSVP cards in the mail this week, so please fill them out and send them back as soon as possible. We're still in need of volunteers to assist with the show so please sign up at our next meeting. We'll also be finalizing the Saturday dinner menu, so think about what dish you will be bringing.

Let's make this the best show ever.

Live. Love. Grow.

  
Jason Saito



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# HEAVY TRUNK AND BRANCH BENDING TECHNIQUES

Tom Vuong is a popular demonstrator at many local SoCal bonsai meetings and shows. His knowledge and experience comes from many years of creating stunning works of living bonsai art. His approach however, in many ways comes from his analytical mind, as well as a lifetime spent owning and operating his automotive body repair business.

Bending a tree is no different, in theory, then reshaping the frame of a car. In a wreck, the frame tends to bend, so Tom uses tools to tweak the metal back to factory specifications. Heavy trunk bending is the same concept except in reverse. He uses a lot of the same techniques and tools to gain leverage and the ability to bend large difficult material.

This awesome little Alligator Juniper was donated by Allan Sugimura. In conjunction with Tom, Allan assisted in the pre-demonstration work of applying shop towel strips to the portion of the trunk to be bent. Tom explains, "the towels hold moisture against the trunk, eventually soaking the hardwood within. Over time, with constant soaking, the wood becomes pliable for bending."

WITH TOM VUONG AND ALLAN SUGIMURA





Tom further explains, “I apply the strips of shop towel starting from where I want the bend to begin, to where it will end. I leave extra wraps at each end to make sure that area gets a good soaking. After that, I’ll use common black electrical tape and wrap tightly from one end to the other. The difference here is that I’ll apply the tape sticky side OUT. This way it’s much easier to remove when you’re done. If it is a long stretch of branch I’m covering, I’ll leave gaps along the way so that additional water can be easily applied to the center sections. It’s important to keep the branch constantly wet so you must mist the branch well and often. If you don’t have time, you could also incorporate a medical IV drip bag which allows consistent drips of water to flow through the tube. I use this method to great success.”

Once the branch is nice and bendy, then comes the fun part . . . “Find anchor points in the general area of the start and end, where the bend will fall right in the middle of each point. I use ratchet straps to pull the end points together, facilitating the bend. Once you get the bend you want, you can use zip ties to secure the two ends to hold tension.”

Tom then went over a lot of his tips and tricks to bending, which you can watch in the full demo video posted on our Facebook page.

Congratulations to Keith Waters for winning the Alligator *bunjin* and to Louis Carillo for winning the Japanese Black Pine in our club raffle.

Thanks to Tom and Allan for bringing this great information to our club, and to our Facebook friends.



Watch Tom’s full demo at  
[www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai](https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai)







MEMBER COLLECTION TOUR  
TOM VUONG



Our March presenter, and DIBK member, Tom Vuong graciously invited DIBK club members to tour his collection of in progress and exhibition material. The quantity and quality of his trees is amazing to say the least. After the tour Tom and Hanna treated us to a fantastic feast of delicious Bahn Mi sandwiches, noodles and much more!

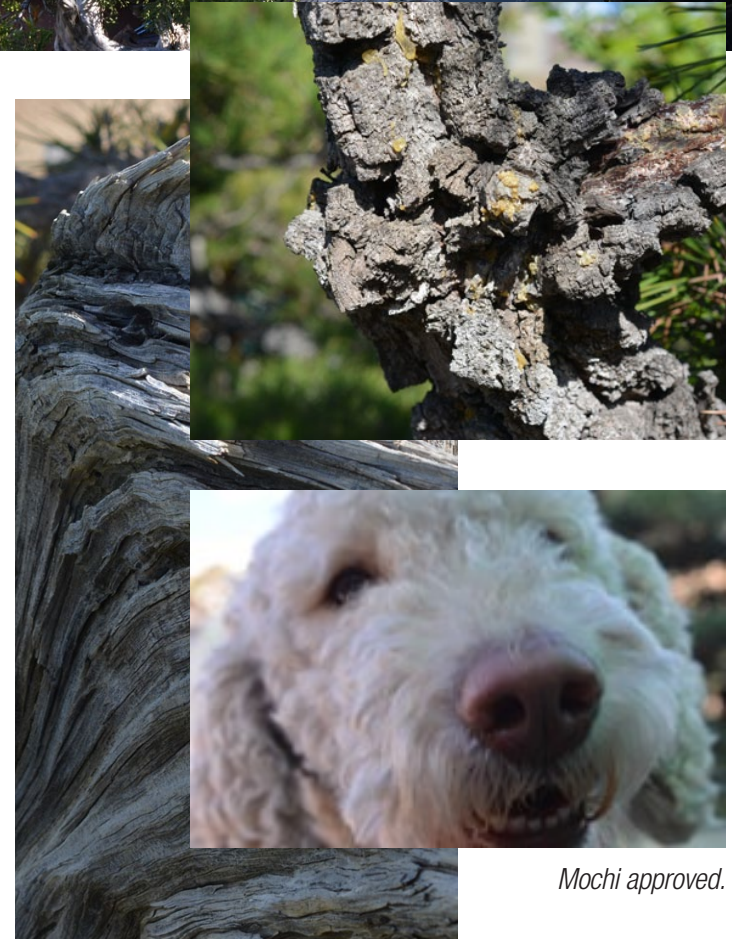
Thank you Tom and Hanna for your generous hospitality. The tour was a real treat!



*One of Tom's many large California Junipers. Doyle for scale.*







*Mochi approved.*



A close-up photograph of a pine bonsai tree. The tree has a thick, gnarled, brown trunk with visible roots extending from the base. The branches are covered in dense, green needles with yellowish tips. The background is blurred, showing hints of a wooden structure and a green surface.

# 2018 CBS SHOW

The California Bonsai Society is one of the oldest bonsai clubs in Southern California and their annual show is always a highly anticipated event.

This year's exhibit showcased many examples of the best of Southern California bonsai.



SCRUB OAK  
Lindsay Shiba



In Memory of

Ben Oki

1927 - 2018

Our Teacher. Our Mentor, Our Friend.

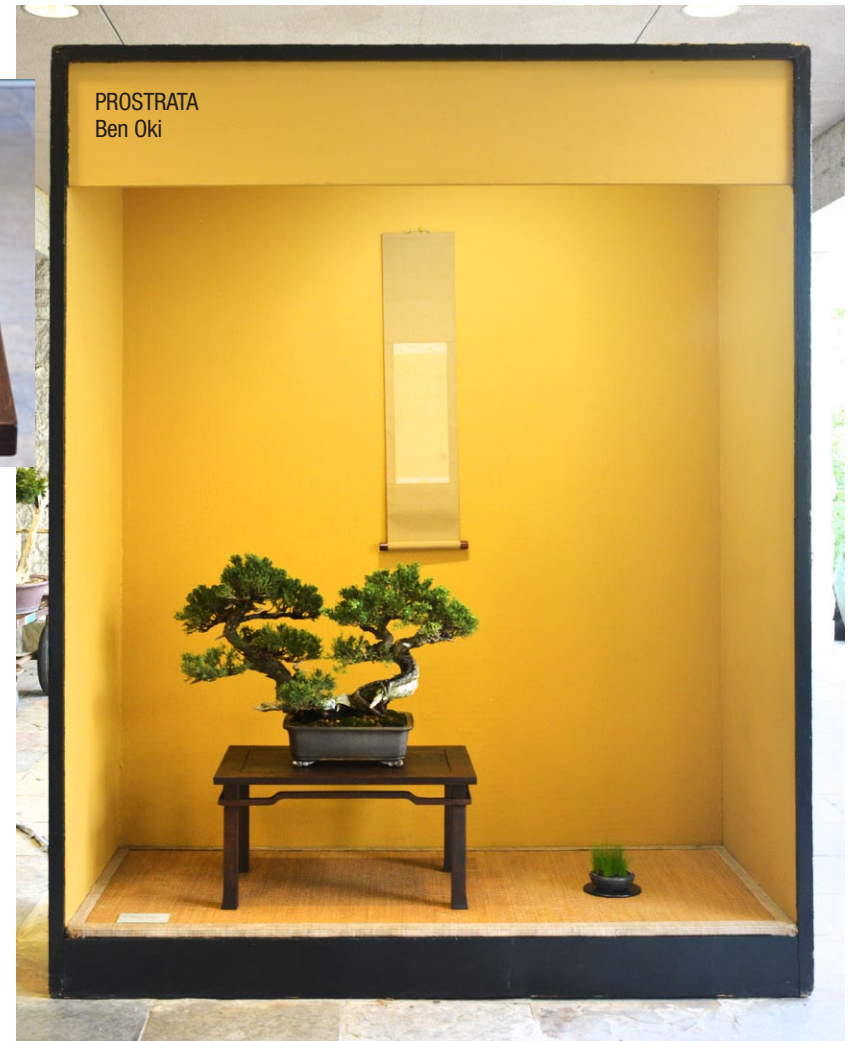
BOXWOOD  
Carol Upston



PINEAPPLE  
GUAVA  
Ken Teh



PROSTRATA  
Ben Oki



CATLIN ELM  
Ellen Keneshea





ATLAS CEDAR  
Steve Valentine



PLUM  
Kathy Benson



PROCUMBENS RAFT FOREST  
Doyle Saito





## SAIKEI DEMONSTRATION

by Jaime Chavarria and Robert King



Watch the full demo at  
[www.facebook.com/californiabonsaisociety.org](https://www.facebook.com/californiabonsaisociety.org)



## CALIFORNIA JUNIPER STYLING DEMONSTRATION

by Tak Shimazu



Watch the full demo at  
[www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai](https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai)





# BUNKA-SAI

## JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL





**D**ai Ichi Bonsai Kai was honored to participate in the Torrance Sister City Association's Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival, held at the Ken Miller Recreation Center. The festival celebrated many traditional Japanese arts, crafts and activities such as origami, music, judo, dance, calligraphy, ikebana, storytelling, and of course, bonsai. Our exhibition featured trees by Frank Goya, Saikei Society of Southern California, Tadashi Kajikawa, Doyle Saito, and Allan Sugimura. Demonstrations were presented by Jason Saito and Kevin Sweeney. The exhibit was very popular and attendance was high. Supporting the club at the event was Allan Sugimura, Kevin, Aki and Skylar Sweeney, John van de Wouw, and Johnny Magana. It was such a great opportunity for our club to reach out to people and share our passion for bonsai.



### About the Torrance Sister City Association

From its beginning in 1973, the Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA) has been all about cultural exchange. TSCA has been promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding between the City of Torrance and the City of Kashiwa, Japan, and the relationship now spans generations.

Their Student Exchange Program is the foundation of their friendship with Kashiwa. Every July since 1974, Torrance sends a group of about eight students to Kashiwa for three weeks. Student ambassadors are hosted by the families of the Kashiwa delegates, and students' families return the favor when the Kashiwa students come to Torrance.



To promote the Student Exchange, TSCA hosts its annual Bunka-Sai at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. This cultural festival offers an array of Japanese-themed entertainment, exhibits, food, arts & crafts, and gifts. Recognized local masters give virtuoso performances in dance, calligraphy, martial arts, and music, that draws visitors from great distances. It's a two-day celebration of Japanese culture that has been an unbroken tradition in Torrance since 1973.

For more information about the TSCA, and the Bunka-Sai Festival, please visit <http://torrancesistercity.org/>



OLIVE (Tanuki)  
Tadashi Kajikawa

This majestic Olive *tanuki* was graciously gifted to the club by Tadashi Kajikawa. Tadashi is a longtime bonsai artist who was a member of Koyu Kai, the club that previously produced the bonsai exhibit at the Bunka Sai Festival.





Photos by Doyle Saito



We were only allowed 30 minutes for our demonstration, so we had to do a quick and dirty (literally - there was muck everywhere) abridged version of the full demonstration.

The saikei from the demonstration will be offered for sale in our auction at the upcoming DIBK Exhibition & Sale on May 5 - 6.

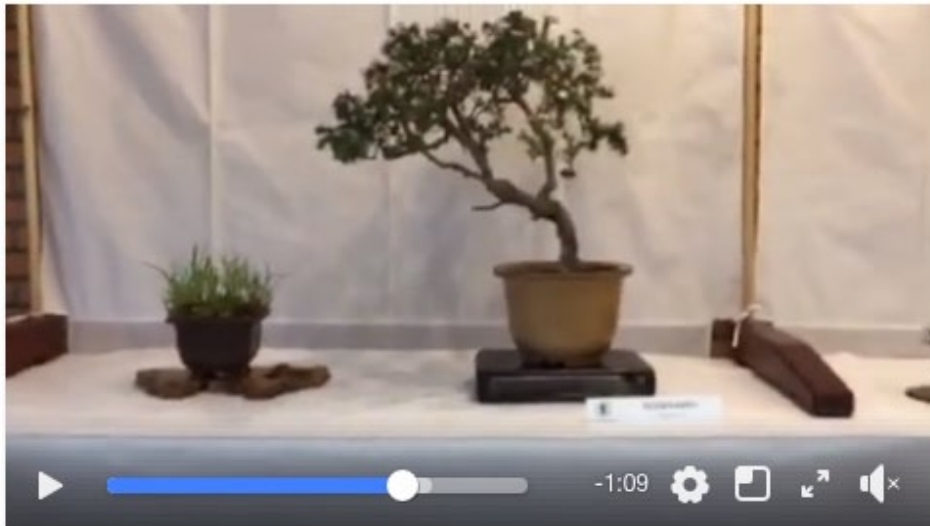
We also had a blast making donation trees for the festival to raffle off. We were told they were a big hit.



**Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai**

Published by Jason Saito [?] · Yesterday at 9:26am · 🌐

DIBK Exhibit at the Bunka Sai Festival in Torrance.



**Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai** was live.

Published by Jason Saito [?] · Yesterday at 12:05pm · 🌐

KEVIN SWEENEY - THREE TREE FOEMINA FOREST.



View the exhibition at  
[www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai](https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai)



Watch Kev's full demo at  
[www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai](https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai)







Hina dolls on display.



The raffle table was incredibly busy the whole time. The students were very persuasive salespeople.



Artwork on display.



Adorbs.



Yummy food was available. Nomnomnom.



Many calories and smiles in those little treat bags.



Fun and hijinx at the bazaar.



# CAROL'S CORNER



## BOOK REVIEWS FROM OUR CLUB LIBRARIAN

As the club librarian, I look forward to sharing book recommendations with you in this new *DIBK Gazette* column. I haven't been doing bonsai as long as many members here, but I do enjoy learning from every available resource I come across, and one of the best ways I've found is through books. It's how we learned in school after all! Books are great because you can go at your own pace, and refer back to them whenever you have a question. I'll be hand selecting a small sampling of publications to bring to our monthly meetings, where club members in good standing can borrow them.

### **Keep Your Bonsai Alive & Well**

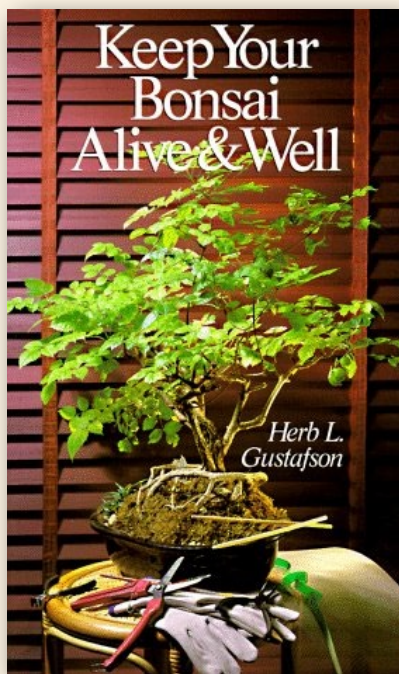
Herb Gustafson

96 pages (full color), 6 1/4 x 10 1/4.

Herb Gustafson is a prolific bonsai artist and author. He has written many books on the subject and this offering covers many aspects necessary in growing and maintaining healthy bonsai.

It provides the answers to commonly asked care and maintenance questions, creating an invaluable handbook for bonsai gardeners. Explore the needs of indoor and outdoor plants, watering, weeding, seasonal care, repotting, how to control pests and diseases, and more. Consult handy checklists for tasks to be done in each season; and for over 150 species from Abelia to Ziziphus a convenient chart provides information on the soil requirements, pruning techniques, sunlight tolerance, whether it's an indoor or outdoor plant, and the most common pests it attracts. Plus, treating bonsai in emergency situations.

Overall this book is great information for keeping your bonsai alive and well.



*Keep Your Bonsai Alive and Well* was graciously donated by Carol and Glen Takahashi, and is available for checkout.

For a complete list of our library publications, please visit

<http://www.daiichibonsaikai.com/media/library/>

To check out a book, fill out the form on the library page, and you can pick them up at the next club meeting.

## GET YOUR SHOW TREES READY!

All DIBK members are encouraged to show a tree in this year's show.

Start getting your best trees ready, and please send back the response card ASAP so we may facilitate the display planning.



DAI ICHI  
BONSAI KAI

# Serenity through Bonsai

## 33rd ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT & SALE

**May 5 and 6, 2018**

Ken Nakaoka Community Center • 1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena

### **SATURDAY • MAY 5**

10:00am - 4:00pm	Show & Sales Area Open
10:30am	Beginner's Hands-on Workshop (Free to first 15, <i>first-time</i> participants only)
1:00pm	Round Robin Bonsai Demonstration
6:00pm	Private Dinner Reception
7:30pm	Bonsai Auction

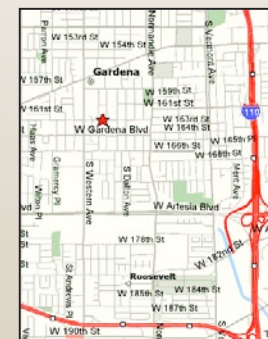
### **SUNDAY • MAY 6**

10:00am - 3:00pm	Show & Sales Area Open
1:00pm	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.





# CALENDAR

## APRIL

### MEMBER 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

### MEMBER 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

### MEMBER 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

### MEMBER 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

### MEMBER 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

### MEMBER 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~~ **ALL SEATS ARE SOLD OUT**

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.

## NOVEMBER

### MEMBER 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.





## PETER MACASIEB

### SHOHIN STYLING TECHNIQUES

#### APRIL 20, 2017

Peter Macasieb was born in the Philippines and immigrated to the US in 1983. He began studying bonsai by reading John Naka's book, until he met Harry Hirao in 2004. His relationship with Harry Hirao began when he was invited to assist him in a bonsai demonstration.

Peter has also studied with Boon Manakitivipart and Tak Shimazu where they introduced him to grafting and the art of *shohin*. He has won best of show in the Santa Anita Bonsai Society and the John Naka Award with his *shohin* display at Descanso Bonsai Society. He keeps busy teaching, performing demos, running shohin study groups, and convention workshops.

He is a member of California Bonsai Society, Baikoen, Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai, Santa Anita Bonsai Club, Kofu Kai and Orange County Bonsai.

Peter will be discussing *shohin* styling techniques at the April meeting.

#### UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

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

JUNE 15, 2018 | **TED MATSON**  
DECIDUOUS TREES

JULY 20 2018 | **LINDSAY SHIBA**  
ISHIZUKI / ROCK PLANTING

## EVENTS

#### April 14 – May 13, 2018 Bonsai Exhibit at the Fullerton Arboretum

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Weekends Only

The exhibit will be staged with participating clubs and individuals cycling their trees throughout the event.

[www.fullertonarboretum.org](http://www.fullertonarboretum.org)

#### 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.

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

#### 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.

[www.sansui-kai.org](http://www.sansui-kai.org)

#### June 16-17, 2018

##### Descanso Bonsai Club Annual Show

Japanese Garden

1418 Descanso Dr, La Canada Flintridge, California 91011

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

[www.descanso-bonsai.com](http://www.descanso-bonsai.com)

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

Gib & Elissa Hoxie, Tadashi Kajikawa,

Louis Carrillo, Fred & Shirley Floresca,

Joyce Gibbs

#### Refreshment Contributors

Louis Carrillo, Tom Culton, Tom & Hannah

Vuong, Doyle Saito

#### Refreshment Signup for April

Allan Sugimura, Jason Saito

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

#### Special thanks to

Tom and Hanna Vuong, Allan Sugimura, California Bonsai Society, Torrance Sister City Association - Werner Willoughby, and Carol Takahashi 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)