



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

第一分盆栽會  
盆中平穩

APRIL 2019 | VOLUME 34, ISSUE 04

GATE DAI ICHI





# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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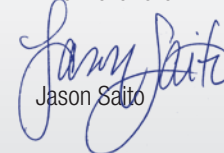
This year has just been flying by, and preparation for our 34th Annual show “*Serenity through Bonsai*” is in full swing. We have a fantastic roster of events and demos planned for the show. By now you should have received your exhibition registration card and hopefully sent it back in. Starting this year, we will not be accepting trees in the show without first receiving the response card, so make sure that you fill it out and send it back to Joan if you want to show your tree. And we strongly encourage every member to show a tree. Even if you're just a beginner, showing a tree is part of the bonsai learning experience, so plan on participating.

Our feature demonstrator for the show will be Mike Pistello. Mike hails from Northern California, and is a talented artist that has studied with Jimmy Inadomi, Yoneo Uchida, and Boon Manikativipart. Mike has performed demonstrations for many clubs throughout the Bay Area and enjoys teaching bonsai as often as his schedule allows. Some of his favorite species and specialties are: Japanese Black and Red Pine, Sierra and California Juniper, and the Itoigawa and Kishu cultivars of shimpaku.

The show will also feature ink wash painting demonstrations by the Sumi-e club, as well as lifetime DIBK member Frank Goya.

This year's show is shaping up to be a great event.

Live. Love. Grow.

  
Jason Saito





GOJIRA

*Gojira is a mountain landscape Penjing created by the saikei study group led by Frank Goya. This piece was created for the California Bonsai Society, and auctioned off at the Annual CBS Show. 100% of the proceeds benefit the CBS Ben Oki Scholarship fund.*

*Special thanks to Robert Pressler, Frank Goya, Jaime Chavarria, Doyle Saito, Robert King, Carol Upston, Liz Do, and Jason Saito*



CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY

# 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](http://daiichibonsaikai.com/membership)



## IN THIS ISSUE

**4**

WILL BADDELEY  
Demo Coverage

**8**

WILL BADDELEY  
Workshop Coverage

**10**

CBS  
Show Coverage

**14**

ON THE BENCH  
Tips and Techniques





# BRINGING DEADWOOD TO LIFE.

Once again, we were fortunate to have UK bonsai artist and master carver, Will Baddeley, join us at our March meeting for an evening of carving, drilling and a whole lotta smoke and sawdust in the air. Will worked on an established *Prunus Mume* (Japanese Flowering Apricot) which was once a much taller tree, and now established in a large nursery pot. The main trunk had died back, which fortunately for us, gave Will a great place to start.

Will explained, "For whatever reason, the main trunk died back. It's currently too tall and too straight, so my main goal is to shorten it and to create some interest lower down the the tree while making it look as old as possible.

"The way I approach straight trunks is most people will hollow out the middle of the trunk first, but what you're left with is relatively little wood around the sides which makes it difficult to give the trunk movement. If you create the profile first, then do the hollowing, you preserve a lot more of the wood, thus giving you more options. That's the way I like to work, and it tends to work for other people too."



Will then started grinding off the bark to determine where the dead part ends and the live part begins. Once that was determined, he used various bits and blades to shape the trunk into a more aesthetically pleasing shape featuring movement and age.

As far as his tools and techniques, it's difficult to explain in an article format, so log onto the DIBK Facebook page and watch Will's entire advanced carving demonstration:

<https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai/videos/>

Live Stream by Ron Floresca



*“What trees are not good for carving?”*

“Wisteria is not good. The wood is too soft and it just gums up your tools. It's not conducive to good carving. Bouganvillea can be carved when used with a spirit based wood preservative. I wouldn't carve a Ficus. You can make hollows, but I wouldn't try to incorporate any external based features. It's just too soft.”



*“What trees are good for a beginner to learn carving?”*

“Anything cheap (audience laughs). The harder woods are better, so Boxwoods are good to practice on. If you have one in the garden, get it established then practice on that. Junipers... anything cheap really. You can even practice on a lump of wood in a vise. It's a good way to get used to the tools and how they work. What tools perform what tasks.”





*“What tree has the best  
smell when you carve it?”*

“There’s a tree called  
Prunus Mahaleb, and it’s a  
Mediterranean species.  
I’m a big fan of Marzipan,  
and it smells just like Mar-  
zipan. Wonderful.”







Congratulations to Violet Geeter for winning the beautifully carved Japanese Apricot. It will be a fine addition to your collection.

Thanks to Will Baddeley for once again sharing his knowledge, and giving us an entertaining, dusty, noisy and awesome demonstration. We're looking forward to your next visit!



Watch Will's full demo at  
<https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai/videos/>





Prior to the demo, Will led a fantastic carving workshop where members brought their trees in for some dremel kinda love. Will guided each person to make their trees the best that they could be.

## WILL BADDELEY WORKSHOP





# WILL BADDELEY WORKSHOP







CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY  
ANNUAL 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.

## CBS SHOW COVERAGE





KEI IKARI | Scrub Oak



KIKUJO YAMAGUCHI | Wisteria



CAROL UPSTON | Olive





ELLEN KENESHEA | Hackberry



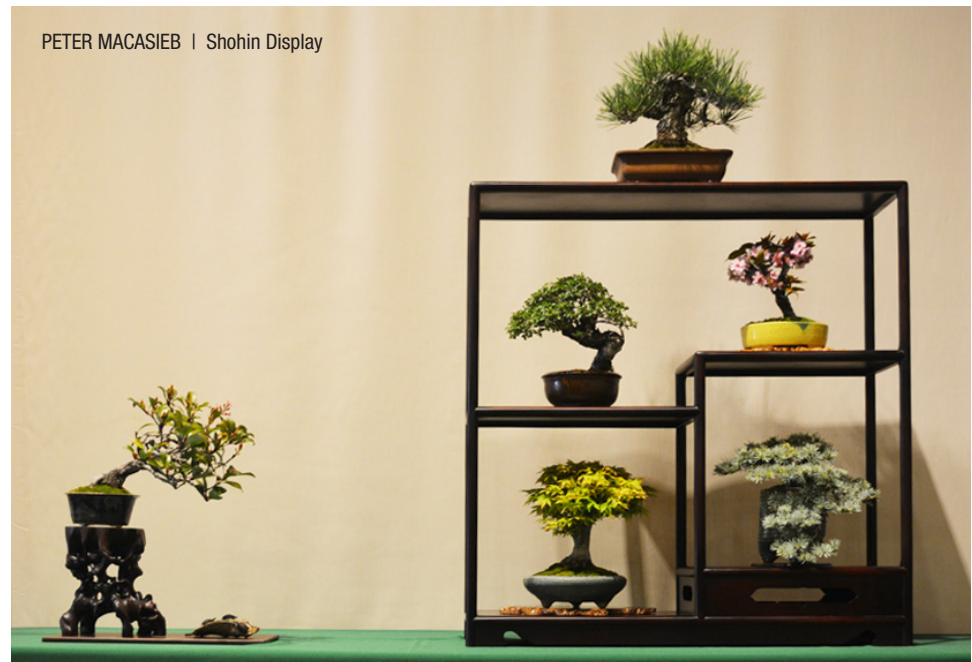
KEN TEH | Pomegranate



MEL CARILLO | Portucularia Afra



PETER MACASIEB | Shohin Display





# ON THE BENCH

TIPS • TECHNIQUES • ADVICE

By Doyle Saito

Spring is a busy time in the life of a bonsai artist. Here in the City of Torrance basin, the temperatures have ranged from mild and warm to downright cold. Compared to other parts of the county, our cold weather can get down to mid 30's and sustained for a few days at a time. The days are getting longer and the temperatures are climbing; this is perfect weather for pests to breed and multiply.

Deciduous trees and conifers are all pushing new buds while some trees completely leafed out. The young new growth acts as candy to pests; aphids, spider mites, scale, borers, whiteflies and many others. You should develop a plan of attack to fight these pests in your garden. There are many systemic sprays used to kill insects, test them first on a tree or plant that is not a show ready tree. Testing first will allow you to test strength of solution, application care and effectivity of the systems being tested.





# ON THE BENCH

CONTINUED



Malathion, commonly used to fight many different types of insects, is ineffective against spider mites.

If spraying is a problem, you can use a topical or granular application. Bayer Advanced provides a 12 month tree and shrub protection formula; this is granular form of fertilizer/insecticide which is applied around the base of the tree.



Photo: Bonsai Tonight



If you create tea bag containers of fertilizer, you can just add this to the mix. If you are spraying, remember to spray top and bottom of leaves and branches. Some artists will create a large container of solution and dunk the entire canopy of the tree in the solution.

You should already be fertilizing your trees. You can use organics, liquids, cakes, granules, or any and all forms that work for your trees. Starting with the first sign of growth or bud swelling, you should start to implement your fertilizer plan. I use a base of Milorganite, adding Bayer Advanced granules, and a crushed version of Japanese suet cakes. Placing the contents in tea bags, I apply where needed to my finished trees. For trees in training pots, I apply a liberal amount of Milorganite. This compound is organic, I have never had any problems with burning trees from over fertilization.

During the rainy season, apply fertilizer before the rain and let your trees enjoy a nice soaking, along with a healthy dose of food.







## ALEX MARTINEZ STYLING DEMO

**APRIL 19, 2019**

Our feature demonstrator for April will be Alex Martinez. Many of you already know Alex as Roy Nagatoshi's right hand man, both at his demonstrations, and at his business Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar. Alex has 22 years experience learning the Nagatoshi family tradition of bonsai.

Alex is passionate about teaching and spreading the knowledge of bonsai with artists, both old and new. He excels at wiring and styling Junipers, which he will demonstrate for us on Friday. Alex will be demonstrating his styling skills on a Prostrata, which will then be raffled off to one lucky winner.

See you there!

### UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

MAY 2019 | **TOMOHIRO MASUMI (JAPAN)**  
*Advanced Shohin Techniques*

JUNE 2019 | **JAIME CHAVARRIA & JASON SAITO**  
*Ishtsuki Demonstration*

JULY 2019 | **BJORN BJORHOLM (NASHVILLE)**  
*Advanced Styling Demo  
Masters Series Workshop*

## EVENTS

**April 27-28, 2019**

**San Diego Bonsai Club  
54th Annual Spring Show**

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park.

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Amazing Bonsai will be on display. Bonsai of various sizes and species as well as other bonsai-related items will be for sale by club members at attractive prices. Open to the public and admission is free.

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

**May 4-5, 2019**

**Serenity through Bonsai  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Exhibition and Sale**

Ken Nakaoka Community Center

1670 W. 162nd Street, Gardena

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

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

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

**May 19, 2019**

**Sansui Kai Annual Bonsai Show**

Japanese Garden

6100 Woodley Ave

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Demonstration at 1pm. For more information:  
Steve Riley at [tonapahal1953@gmail.com](mailto:tonapahal1953@gmail.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

Kajikawa Family, Oneda Family, Tyler Ferrer  
Doyle Saito, Shirley Floresca

### Refreshment Contributors

Shirley Floresca, Ron Floresca, Hoa Nguyen,  
Salas Family, Michael Izumoto, Rajesh Buhari,  
Barry Miller

### Refreshment Signup for April

Please feel free to bring any yummy treats you desire. See you there!

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

### Special thanks to

Will Baddeley, California Bonsai Society 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:  
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