



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

第一分盆裁會
盆中平穩

MAY 2019 | VOLUME 34, ISSUE 05

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



Photo by Barry Miller

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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Ick. Pests. Time to spray.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 34th Annual DIBK show & Sale will take place this weekend, and we are busy getting everything ready. This year, we will be featuring a youth exhibition, where the work of our member's children and other family members will be featured. A great experience for any kid!

For many people, showing their tree for the first time can be a little intimidating no matter how old you are. Some may think that their trees aren't "good enough," but our show is not about competition. As artists, we spend a lot of time and effort creating trees, and getting the chance to display

them is a part of the learning process that every artist needs to go through. Choosing the right stand, accent and display placement, is all a part of the positive experience that will allow you to see your tree in a different light, giving you a new perspective on the tree itself.

Since May is a busy month, we usually don't have a meeting, but this month on May 17th, thanks to the CBS Visiting Artists Program, we will be featuring a return visit by *shohin* master, Tomohiro Masumi.

Tomohiro is the Chairman of the *All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association*, and travels the world teaching advanced styling and display techniques to bonsai artists.

Tomohiro will be demonstrating his mastery and knowledge of these beloved little trees, and it's going to be a fantastic evening with a true *shohin* master. See you there!

Live. Love. Grow.

Jason Saito
Jason Saito

CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY

2ND ANNUAL BEN OKI BONSAI SCHOLARSHIPS



The California Bonsai Society (CBS) has set up a scholarship fund to honor Ben Oki - a man who devoted most of his life to enjoying and sharing bonsai.

Ben was happiest when he was sharing his knowledge or working on a tree. To honor Ben's giving spirit, CBS will be making available, five \$200.00 grants, to anyone in the bonsai community who wishes to attend classes, workshops or other bonsai related educational activity.

To apply, the applicant should write a short note detailing what they plan to do with the funds - which can be used for classes, materials to bring to a class, workshops, etc., so long as it is geared towards improving one's bonsai skills and knowledge with an outside source. *They cannot be used to just buy a piece of material to work on your own.*

The winning applicants must agree that in return for these funds, within 15 days of completing class etc., they will provide CBS with photos and a short write up of what they did with the funds. This will be published on our website and in our newsletter.

The application period will be from April 15th, through May 30th annually with the scholarships awarded by June 15th. The scholarship will be awarded by random drawing.

Anyone in the bonsai community is eligible, and they can apply by sending a short note stating that they are applying for the Ben Oki Scholarship, and must include their name, address and email, as well as the name of their intended teacher, workshop leader etc., and dates of the classes, workshops, or other activity to improve one's bonsai knowledge.

All applications must be postmarked by May 30th.

Applications should be mailed via USPS to:

Ben Oki Scholarship
c/o 17230 Roscoe Blvd.
Northridge CA 91325

Good luck.

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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ALEX MARTINEZ: FASTEST GUN IN THE WEST.

So when you do something for 8 hours a day, 6 days a week, for 22 years, you get pretty darn good at it. And fast too. Alex Martinez has been working and training at Fuji Bonsai Nursery in Sylmar, under the tutelage of Roy Nagatoshi. In that time, Alex has learned the Nagatoshi mantra that anything worth doing, is worth doing well. It is with that can-do, optimistic attitude that spoke when we approached him with several trees to choose from to style in his demo. He said, "why don't we do both?"





The two trees that Alex selected were old growth, nursery stock Prostrata Junipers, and he made quick work of cleaning and prepping the first tree. As he worked the it, Alex explained exactly what he was going to do, and why he was doing it. He gave us many tips, sharing his thoughts along the way.

“When you wire a branch, you need to leave a 1/4” from the base of the branch, until the first loop, so that you don’t strangle the branch, and it doesn’t cut into the bark too quick. As I get to the end of the branch, I make the twists looser and farther apart. That is where the growth is the fastest, and this gives it room to grow and not cut in as fast.

“It’s always better to wire two branches to anchor each other, but sometimes, you have to use a Jin as an anchor.

“When you wire a branch with many secondary branches, try to keep the wire right in between the smaller branches. That way you have enough room on either side to add additional secondary branch wiring, all without having to overlap them.

“I just love working with Prostrata because when you finish the branch selection and wiring, you can give it a shear cut, and you don’t have to be selective when you cut the foliage. Now is the perfect time to do this because this time of year, everything is starting to push growth.



Sensei Roy Nagatoshi introduced Alex to the crowd. “Alex has been with me for twenty something years, and he has become my right hand man. My business would close if he was not around. I travel a lot and when I do, I have no worries when I leave. I trust him 120%.”





ALEX MARTINEZ DEMO

"If you were to bring this Prostrata to the nursery, boss would say to graft it because it has a nice big trunk." Grafting is sensei Nagatoshi's specialty, and many of his beautiful show trees are grafted with *Kishu*.

Once the wiring was done, Alex shaped the tree in a traditional Japanese *Moyogi* style. He explained his thoughts on branch movement, as he went through the entire tree from top to bottom. When that was done, he gave the tree a "haircut" shaping each branch's foliage into the beginning of the sculpted pads they will eventually become. "I'm going to chase everything back. With Prostrata, you can cut it rough, cut it back hard, and they will respond. You also want to leave the juvenile twigs because as they grow, they will ramify into more branching.

"As you shape the tree, you want to leave "layers" where the lower branch pads are wider, and get progressively narrower and smaller as you go upwards towards the top of the tree. This helps to keep the traditional triangle shape we're after."

In 37 minutes, Alex completely cleaned, wired, and styled this overgrown nursery material into the beginnings of a very nice tree.

To see Alex's full demonstration, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai/videos/>



*To see more of Alex and Roy's
bonsai craftsmanship,
or to attend one of their classes
please visit them at*

**Fuji Bonsai Nursery
13170 Glenoaks Blvd
Sylmar, CA 91342**

**Phone
(818) 367-5372**

**Hours
9am - 4pm
Monday through Saturday.**



ALEX MARTINEZ DEMO

Congratulations to Kevin McNally for winning Alex's beautifully styled Prostrata. It will be a fantastic show tree in a few years!

Be sure to attend our upcoming show on Saturday, May 4th as Alex's second styled Prostrata, (amongst other items) will be auctioned off after our reception dinner.

Big thanks to Alex Martinez, and to Roy Nagatoshi, for freely sharing their knowledge and wisdom with us, and the bonsai community.



Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai was live.

Published by Jason Saito [?] · Yesterday at 7:05 PM ·

ALEX MARTINEZ - PROSTRATA STYLING DEMO



Watch Alex's full demo at

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





Thanks to Ron Floresca for handling Live Stream duties...



and to Barry Miller for his fantastic photos.

And as it so happens, the day of our demonstration was also Alex's birthday. Many of his friends, and student's of Roy, attended the demonstration to give support, and to experience the awesomeness of Alex. The crowd then regaled him with song, praise, and paradise cake.





DIBK EXHIBIT @
BUNKA-SAI

BUNKA-SAI SHOW COVERAGE

Once again, Dai 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. It was a fun, family event and there was much to do, and see, and eat.

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 Fred/Shirley Floresca, Allan Sugimura, Doyle Saito, Harry Hirao (courtesy of the Hirao family) and Jason Saito. Demonstrations were presented by Doyle Saito, Louis Carillo, and Jason Saito. We also had a few trees offered for sale with the proceeds benefitting our club.

The exhibit was very popular and It was a great opportunity for our club to reach out to people and share our passion for bonsai.





**FRED & SHIRLEY
FLORESCA**

KISHU JUNIPER (*JUNIPERUS CHINENSIS*)

STYLE:
LITERATI
(*BUNJIN-GI*)



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

**HARRY HIRAO and
CHIYOKO ALYCE HIRAO**

COURTESY OF THE HIRAO FAMILY

JUNIPER (*PROCUMBENS NANA*)

STYLE:
ROOT OVER ROCK
(*SEKIJOJU*)



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai





JASON SAITO

JUNIPER (*PROCUMBENS NANA*)

STYLE:
MOUNTAINSCAPE ROCK PLANTING
(ISHITSUKI)



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

ALLAN SUGIMURA

CHINESE ELM (*ULMUS PARIVOLA*)

STYLE:
BROOM
(HOKIDACHI)



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai





DOYLE SAITO

SHOHIN DISPLAY (VARIOUS SPECIES)

STYLE:
SHOHIN
(BONSAI UNDER 10")
Measured from the top lip of the pot

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Society of Bonsai



KISHU JUNIPER
JUNIPERUS CHINENSIS



CHINESE ELM
ELMUS PARIVOLA



JAPANESE BLACK PINE
PINUS THUNBERGII (AWAJI)



JAPANESE MAPLE
ACER PALMATUM



BOSTON IVY
PARTHENOCISSUS TRICUSPIDATA



Our first demonstration was by Louis Carillo. In his very first demonstration, Louis worked on a healthy Juniper ready for styling. He taught the proper techniques for a general cleanout and preparation for bending and styling. He then wired the tree, explained the steps of branch elimination, then initial styling. And just in the nick of time (It was only a 45 minute demo), he completed the task by repotting into a proper bonsai pot. Louis did a fantastic job and the crowd was very impressed.



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





Our second demonstration was by Doyle Saito. Doyle has been meticulously growing these seven Japanese Maples for a few years, and it all came together in front of the eager and curious crowd. As he built his forest, Doyle explained the thought process and techniques that go into creating bonsai, as well as a natural looking forest composition.

As most people only think of bonsai as one tree, the crowd was fascinated to see a miniature forest come to life before their eyes.

Fantastic job Doyle! You should do demos more often.



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





Funny thing happened on the way to the third demonstration. An hour before Jason Saito's cliffscape mountain planting demo was about to start, in a freak cart accident, the top portion of the piece broke off.

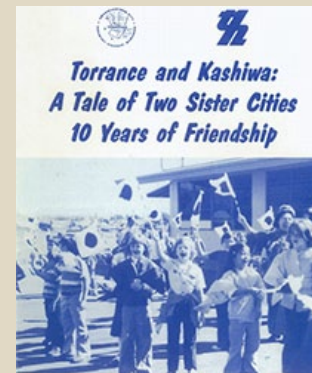
So what to do... Reworking the two pieces into one hillside mountainscape did the trick. With minutes to spare, the two halves were reconfigured using cement and cyanoacrylate glue (the same method the rocks were glued together in the first place) and it held strong for the demo.

The cascade Juniper Nana was styled and donated by Allan Sugimura. After the demo, the piece was dismantled and underwent further reinforcement (and a color change). It will be offered for sale at the DIBK auction at our show on Saturday evening, May 4th.



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





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 Japanesethemed 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/>



Next workshop
Saturday, May 18
TORRANCE

If you have trees to work on, contact Doyle
to reserve your spot for the next session!

DIBK MEMBERS WORKSHOP

Photos by Fred Floresca



Advertisement

GSBF CONVENTION 42

BONSAI FOREVER



Taiga Urushibata



Enrique Castaño



Ryan Bell

Registration Opens July 1st

October 24-27 2019



Hotel:
Marriott Riverside
at the Convention Center
3400 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Convention Chair:
Steve Valentine
(760) 445-2548
caryme2@yahoo.com

Co-Chair:
David Nguy
(323) 842-6188
waimexport@aol.com
www.gsbfconvention.org

Featuring: Taiga Urushibata, Enrique Castaño, Ryan Bell, Kathy Shaner, David Nguy, Peter Macasieb, Lucy Judd, and Tak Shimazu to name a few...



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

SHOW YOUR DIBK COLORS



T-SHIRTS
\$15.00

**MERCHANDISE WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
AT OUR SHOW ON MAY 4TH.**

**ONLINE ORDERING
COMING SOON!**



APRONS
\$25.00

SHOW SPECIAL \$35.00*
1 SHIRT, 1 APRON

T-shirts are Glidden Ultra Cotton T-Shirts 2000 and available in men's size S, M, L, XL, XXL.
Aprons are one size fits all with adjustable neck strap and three pockets.

Pictures shown are for illustration purposes only. Actual products may vary.

**For a limited time only. While supplies last.*



**DAI ICHI
BONSAI KAI**

*Serenity
through Bonsai*

34th ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT & SALE

Headline Demonstration by
MIKE PISTELLO

Saturday, May 4, 2019 @ 1:00pm

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



Our headline demonstrator for the show will be Mike Pistello. Known online as Bonsai Mike, Mr. Pistello 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.

LIVE STREAM starts about 1:00pm

www.facebook.com/DaiIchiBonsai



LIVE



ROCK PLANTING/SAIKEI DEMO & WORKSHOP

The demonstration will be held on Friday, June 21, 2019 at Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai in Gardena. Jaime Chavarria and Jason Saito will simultaneously create a rock planting (Ishitsuki) and a Landscape Planting (Saikai), as well as discuss the skills and techniques used to create naturalistic plantings. This demo is free and open to the public.

Then on Saturday, June 22, attend a one-day workshop where you will create a beautiful 3 tree Ishitsuki (rock planting) or Saikai (landscape planting) using nursery stock and building materials. Design, horticultural techniques, aftercare and maintenance will be discussed.

The workshop fee is \$100. Everything you will need (slab, rocks, junipers and other materials) will be provided. Spaces are limited so reserve your spot today by calling Kimura Bonsai Nursery at (818) 343-4090.

Friday Demonstration - June 21, 2019 - 7:00pm

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

Ken Nakaoka Community Center
1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247

www.daiichibonsaikai.com

Saturday Workshop - June 22, 2019 - 9:00 am

Kimura Bonsai and Landscape Nursery

17230 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91325

(818) 343-4090 • www.kimurabonsainursery.com





Photo courtesy of Rick Wagner

TOMOHIRO MASUMI ADVANCED SHOHIN TECHNIQUES

MAY 17, 2019

Returning once again to DIBK, is Koju-En nursery owner and *shohin* bonsai master, Tomohiro Masumi. The nursery, started by his father Hirouchi, specializes in, and are world renowned, for their high quality *shohin* trees.

Tomohiro is the Chairman of the All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association, and travels the world teaching advanced styling and display techniques to bonsai artists.

Tomohiro will be demonstrating his mastery and knowledge of these beloved little trees and it's going to be a fantastic evening with a true *shohin* master. See you there!

Photo above: Tomohiro styling a Mas Ishii Kishu at a 2002 DIBK meeting.

UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

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

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

AUGUST 2019 | **TBD**
TBD

EVENTS

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

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

June 22-23, 2019

Marina Bonsai Show at the VJCC Annual Summer Festival

12448 Braddock Drive, LA 90066

Hours: 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM Sat

11:00 AM – 8:00 PM Sun

Admission is Free. In addition to the show, there will also be food, games, ondo dancing, cultural exhibits and demonstrations. For more information please visit www.vjcc.com

October 24-27, 2019

GSBF Convention 42 Riverside - "Bonsai Forever"

Riverside Convention Center

Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily

Taiga Urushibata, Enrique Castano and Ryan Bell will headline. Registration begins

July 1st. For convention, workshop, seminar, excursion info, and to register, visit

www.gsbfcconvention.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

Fred Floresca, Tom Vuong, Jason Saito,
Michael Izumoto, Doyle Saito, Oneda Family,
Kajikawa Family, Leila Kusumi Family

Refreshment Contributors

Ron Floresca, Shirley Floresca, Richard Offard,
Allan Sugimura, Carol & Glen Takahashi,
Steve Ettinger, Doyle Saito

Refreshment Signup for May

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.

New Members

Welcome, Raul Ibarra Contreras!

Special thanks to

Alex Martinez, Roy Nagatoshi, Torrance Sister City Association - Werner Willoughby
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