SPECIAL EXHIBITION ISSUE

SHOW COVERAGE • EXHIBITION CATALOG

JUNE 2019 | VOLUME 34, ISSUE 06

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

...SAI KAI

...through Bonsai

第一盆栽會

盆中平穩

Photo by Barry Miller

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 34th Annual DIBK Show & Sale was one of the most successful that we've had in recent years. We recap the highlights of the event in this issue, so if you missed it, you can enjoy it vicariously here.

We still have a great slate of demonstrations and workshops through the rest of the year.

Returning in July is Bjorn Bjorholm for a workshop and demo. Bjorn has been super busy with his nursery *Eisei-En*, traveling the world teaching and promoting world class bonsai, and we are lucky to have him.

Then in August, we will have a very special evening with John Wang on the topic of *Kaizen* (Japanese philosophy of continuous improvement) as it pertains to bonsai. Attendees are encouraged to bring in their trees, and utilizing digital technology, John will illustrate his thoughts and ideas on styling options. John apprenticed at Mansei-En, and has headlined and demonstrated at conventions throughout the world.

September brings us Paul Minerich, who will be discussing his love for, and demonstrating his knowledge of Bougainvillea.

Bonsai Bingo/Club Potluck returns in October, and the CBS Visiting Artists Program wraps up the year with Todd Schlafer in November.

There will be no members workshop this month but we will pick it back up in July.

I hope to see you all at our upcoming meetings!

Live. Love. Grow.

Jason Saito

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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TOMOHIRO MASUMI:
MASTER CLASS.

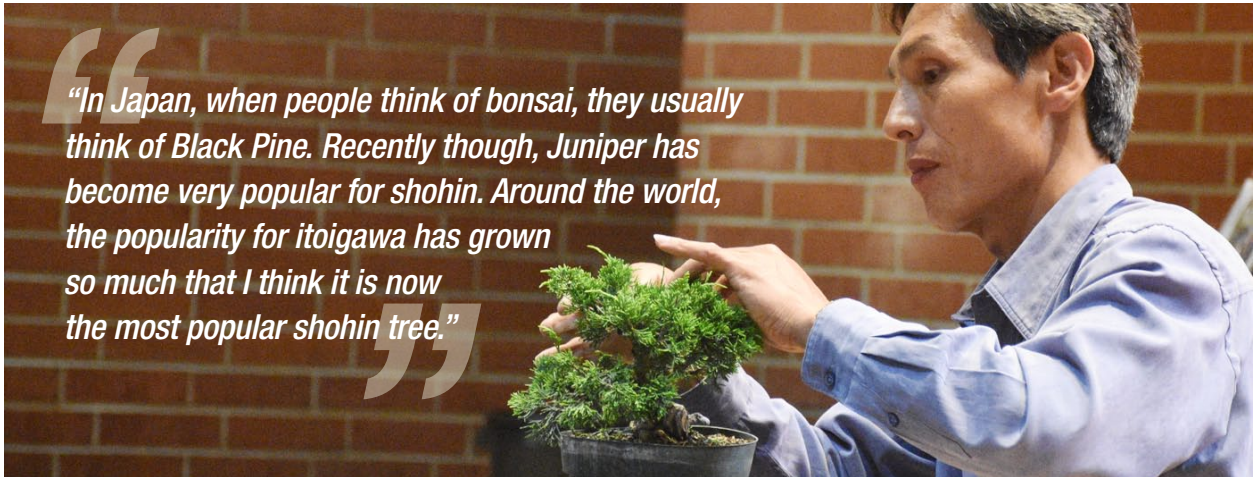
Tomohiro picks up the tree and gazes long and intensely at the structure. The tree, which has already been in development for many years by Mas Ishii, already possesses a very nice, curvy and sinuous structure, as well as full but undeveloped foliage. His eyes narrow as he contemplates and pictures in his mind what the finished tree will be. He smiles.

Photos by Barry Miller

Program Chair Doyle Saito presented Tomohiro with a gift from the club. An avid baseball fan, he appreciated the gift of a bright red Shohei Otani jersey from his favorite SoCal baseball team, the Anaheim Angels.

Masumi then sat down and narrated his thoughts on the tree. “The tree has a good base and movement. First thing I do is find the front, then the apex and first branch. Once these are determined, you can then make decisions on which other branches to keep or discard based on their position and necessity.

“The most important thing for keeping *shohin* healthy is proper watering. There’s less soil, so it will dry out quickly, and it must never be allowed to fully dry out. I water up to three times a day during the hot summer months.”



TOMOHIRO MASUMI **DEMO**

"I love deciduous trees. I apprenticed with Hiroshi Takeyama at *Fuyo-En* nursery where he specialized in deciduous trees and that's where I developed my love for deciduous species. My favorites being Maples and Zelkovas.

"I do not put moss on my trees. When it is mossed, the roots will sometimes grow into it which hinders good *nebari* development. Plus you cannot see if the soil is dry or not. I will sometimes moss the tree right after a repot to hold moisture in, or for a show for aesthetic purposes but other than that, I don't use it.

"In Japan, most people use Chinese pots. They would prefer to use antique Chinese pots, because the clay is smooth and they have very nice patina, but not too many people can afford them. Because they are expensive, I use high quality pots only for showing trees."

While Tomohiro wired and styled the entire tree, he shared much more of his knowledge, which you can see in his full demonstration on our Facebook page.

The end of the meeting was spent with attendees purchasing raffle tickets in hopes of winning Tomohiro's beautiful demo tree. Congratulations to Barry Miller who was the lucky winner.

Special thanks to the California Bonsai Society's Visiting Artists Program for giving us another opportunity to learn from a true *shohin* master.

Watch Tomohiro's full demo at
https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai/videos/

LIVE

Serenity
through Bonsai
34th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

This year's DIBK show, "Serenity through Bonsai," was a phenomenal success. It brought together the club's friends and supporters to share, with the public, the beauty and serenity that bonsai can bring.

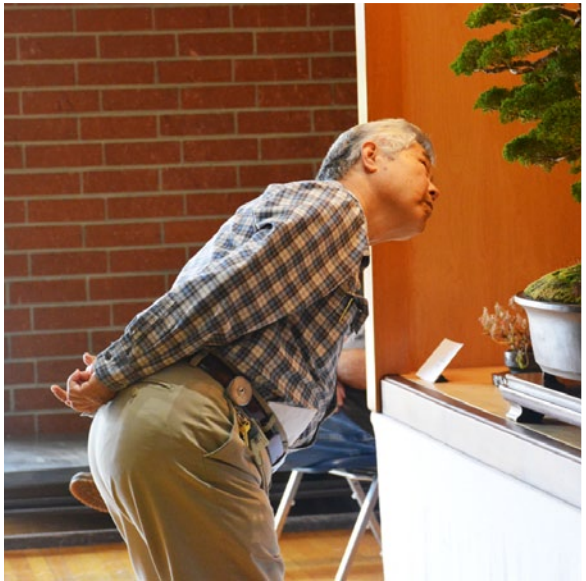
The exhibit showcased a variety of different styles of bonsai, at all artist levels. The exhibit was well attended, and club members, as well as friends and supporters of the club, lent their very best trees, offering them in harmonious displays of nature and art.

The public was excited to participate in the beginner's bonsai workshop taught by experienced and talented bonsai artists, led by Robert King. Participants got the chance to learn bonsai basics and to create their own procumbens nana bonsai.

People either experience these workshops as a fun way to spend the morning, or as a first step into a lifelong passion for bonsai. The latter is why the club continues to carry on this show tradition.

Attendees were then treated to a terrific demo by Mike Pistello, which you can read about in this issue, or watch on our Facebook page.

Later in the day, the attendees were further encouraged to network and enjoy a great meal at the show reception and dinner. The selection of food was varied and all incredibly delicious thanks to everyone that contributed a dish to the feast. Seconds (and maybe even thirds) were a must!



The evening's festivities were highlighted by our club auction and raffle. Many great pieces of pre bonsai and finished material, pots, stands and other various bonsai related goodies were available. The bidding was exciting and fast-paced, thanks to the efforts of auction caller extraordinaire, Bob Pressler, and his posse. During the raffle, runners were busy handing out great prizes to delighted winners. Many thanks to those who donated their time and material to make this year's auction and raffles a great success.

It was a great weekend that gave our club members and friends a chance to interact and share the art of bonsai with the public, as well as the opportunity to own some great material.

*And this is why we do what we do. The sense of **pride** and **accomplishment** on each participant's face makes the beginners workshop such a worthwhile tradition…*

Each journey begins with a single step, and we strive to provide this to anyone that has the desire to learn bonsai. The goal of the DIBK beginners workshop is to give people who have never been exposed to bonsai before, the opportunity to learn proper methods and techniques to create living works of art from an experienced bonsai artist.

Our commitment to this mission doesn't stop there. We conduct ongoing monthly workshops where our new members can continue their education. It is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month (the day after our club meeting) at one of our senior member's homes. The workshop also provides atendees the opportunity to view the host member's collection of trees, which can be quite inspiring.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in becoming an ongoing student at our monthly members workshop, please stop by one of our meetings and talk to our Program Chair, Doyle Saito, and he will hook you up. You may also reach him via email at doylesaito@yahoo.com.

CLUB/VENDOR SALES DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI SHOW COVERAGE

RECEPTION DINNER DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI SHOW COVERAGE

A big thank you to Akie Uyemura, Patricia Vargos and Kazu Ogino for always supporting us by showing and demonstrating their beautiful hand painted works of art. It's such a natural and beautiful contrast to our bonsai.

BIG GUNS

And no, I'm not talking about his arms. OK, maybe just a little.

When we started planning the events for the 34th Annual DIBK show, we wanted to bring in a headline demonstrator that possessed a strong vision and talent, who would share with us a different perspective on creating world class bonsai.

That persepective came from Northern California's own Mike Pistello.

"If you can clean a tree well, you can do good bonsai. I say that because cleanng gets you into the structure of the tree, what's there. What you can use and what you can't. It makes you aware of your options before you start making decisions.

"A lot of people when they start cleaning a tree, they go 'I'll clean everything out of the crotches, and eliminate everything growing upward and downward, and then we're done'. Actually, and especially if the tree is on the weaker side, leaving crotch growth is important and is good. You can always come back later and remove it, but think about how the tree evolves and grows bigger - we have to have something to cut back to. If we only leave the growth at the tips, we have nothing to cut back to. Everything growing downward has to come off for aesthetic reasons, and because they will get very little sunlight under the foliage pad, and will eventually become weak and die.

"I'm also looking for weak interior branches that will not benefit the final design, and will in all probability, die anyway. I also eliminate branches that I can't really wire, and that won't benefit the health of the tree. Removing these will also help to make a path for a nice, clean, wire application.

"The strength in Junipers lies in the growing tips. There's a hormone called auxin that exists at the growing tips of all the branches that helps to elongate cells and give strength to the tree. This is why when we work on Junipers we don't want to take the tips off right away, especially when the tree is in development. We want to leave them. Believe it or not, those tips will push back budding on a tree."

"As you style your tree, you're making choices, and these choices should reflect where you want your tree to be down the road. Sure you want to have a cute little tree when you're done, but the emphasis should be on the bigger picture. Set it up for five years… ten years down the road."

And these are just a few snippets of wisdom (out of many) that Mike openly shared with us. After the Juniper was styled, Mike was on a roll, and went on to style a Japanese Black Pine, and both trees were auctioned off later that evening.

Mike really is a knowledgable and dynamic presenter, and he explains his methods and ideas in a way that any experienced artist or layperson can easily grasp and comprehend. His philosophies are based on sound and proven techniques, and you (and your trees) can't go wrong with taking his advice.

If you missed his demo, be sure to catch Mike's full demonstration video on our Facebook page. You'll also get a second chance to learn from Mike as he will also be demonstrating at the GSBF convention in Riverside this October.

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai was live.
Published by Jason Saito [?] · May 4 at 1:03 PM ·

MIKE PISTELLO - KISHU SHIMPAKU STYLING DEMO @ DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI SHOW

Watch Mike's full demo at
https://www.facebook.com/DaiIchiBonsai/videos/

LIVE

A LITTLE SLICE
OF NATURE.
FRANK GOYA SAIKEI DEMO

Sunday brought us another great demonstration with Frank Goya. Assisted by Jaime Chavarria, Frank showed the attendees what it takes to create a three-tree Juniper saikei. In addition to the Junipers, the beautiful tray landscape consisted of natural rock (hardscape), Irodium and Dwarf Mondo grass (accents), as well as white sand to represent a peaceful flowing stream.

Congratulations to the lucky winner, Cheryl Manning!

After the demo, we had a chance to celebrate Frank's Birthday. Happy Birthday Frank!

Cut yourself a slice of cake sensei.

Wow!

That's a big slice!

mmm…

MMMM…

CHOMP!! NOM NOM NOM…

Thank you to sensei Frank for another great saikei demonstration, and for allowing us to celebrate your birthday with you!

Special thanks also go to Jaime Chavarria for his assistance creating a beautiful saikei!

Watch Frank's full demo at
https://www.facebook.com/DaiIchiBonsai/videos/

LIVE

THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING THIS YEAR'S SHOW A SUCCESS!

GRATITUDE

Friday Setup
Keith Waters, Allan Sugimura, Fred & Shirley Floresca, John Magana, Tom Vuong, Bill Nguyen, Dave Hazzard, Doyle Saito, Barry Miller, David and Debra Mauzy-Melitz, Ron Floresca, Kevin Sweeney.

Sale
Fred & Shirley Floresca, Ron Floresca, Joan Shiosaki, Dave Hazard, Joe Ortega, Louis Carillo, Hoa Nguyen.

Vendors
Mel Ikeda, June Nguy & Michelle Lao, Nelson Sanabria.

Sumie Group
Akie Uyemura, Patricia Vargos, Kazu Ogino.

Food Reception/Dinner
CJ & Mark Levinstein, Hannah Vuong, Joan Shiosaki, Tammy Miller.

Beginners Workshop Instructors
John van de Wouw, Robert King, Kevin Sweeney, Allan Sugimura, Michael Izumoto, Louis Carillo, John Magana, Paul Minerich, Joe Ortega, Lloyd Garver, Barry Miller, David & Debra Mauzy-Melitz, Dr. Chin, Shinya Miyakoshi, Mel Ikeda, Dave Hazard, Cathy & Mark Edgar.

Show Headline Demonstrator
Mike Pistello.

Event Photography and Live Streaming
Jason Saito, Barry Miller, Ron Floresca.

Security
John Magana.

Auction
Bob Pressler-*Auction Caller Extraordinaire*.
Auction posse: Dave Hazard, Doyle Saito, Glen Takahashi.

Auction Donations and Contributors
Bob Pressler-*Kimura Bonsai Nursery,* Gary Ishii-*Chikugo-En Bonsai Nursery,* Marianne Yamaguchi-*Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery,* June Nguy, Michelle Lao-*Bonsai Unlimited,* Shirley & Fred Floresca, Doyle Saito, Tom Vuong, Allan Sugimura, Jason Saito, Michael Reindel.

Auction tree styling: Peter Macasieb, Tom Vuong, Allan Sugimura, Albert Rivera.

Benefit Drawing Donations
Kevin Sweeney-*Ticket drum master,* Jaime Chavarria, Peter Macasieb, Tom Vuong, Milton Louie, Tyler Ferer, Leila Kusumi, Allan Sugimura, Carol Upston, Bob Pressler, Karen Ohlinder, Wendy Chu, David & June Nguy, Michelle Lao, Akie Uyemura, John Magana, Michael Izumoto, Mark Williams, Fred & Shirley Floresca, Doyle Saito, Jason Saito.

Special thanks to all of our auction runners!

Sunday Demonstration
Frank Goya, assisted by Jaime Chavarria.
Frank graciously donated his beautiful saikei to the Sunday raffle.

Sunday Breakdown
Keith Waters, Louis Carrillo, Paul Minerich, Doyle Saito, Allan Sugimura, Fred & Shirley Floresca, Glen Takahashi, Ron Floresca, Jason Saito, Robert King, Barry Miller, Glen & Carol Takahashi, Ivan Salas, John van de Wouw, Michael Izumoto, Kevin Sweeney, Hoa Nguyen.

Special Thanks to

City of Gardena, Ken Nakaoka Community Center – Pauline Moses
For their ongoing support of the DIBK show, use of the Nakaoka facility, as well as assisting with show setup and cleanup.

Serenity through Bonsai

EXHIBITION CATALOG 2019

CATHY EDGAR
procumbens nana

JOYCE GIBBS | SHOHIN DISPLAY
burt davyi
chinese elm
olive,
juniper

JAIME CHAVARRIA | ISHITSUKI
procumbens nana
kingsville boxwood
chinese elm

Serenity through Bonsai

FRANK GOYA
boxwood

MICHAEL IZUMOTO
japanese black pine

Serenity through Bonsai

SHIRLEY FLORESCA
chinese elm
kishu shimpaku

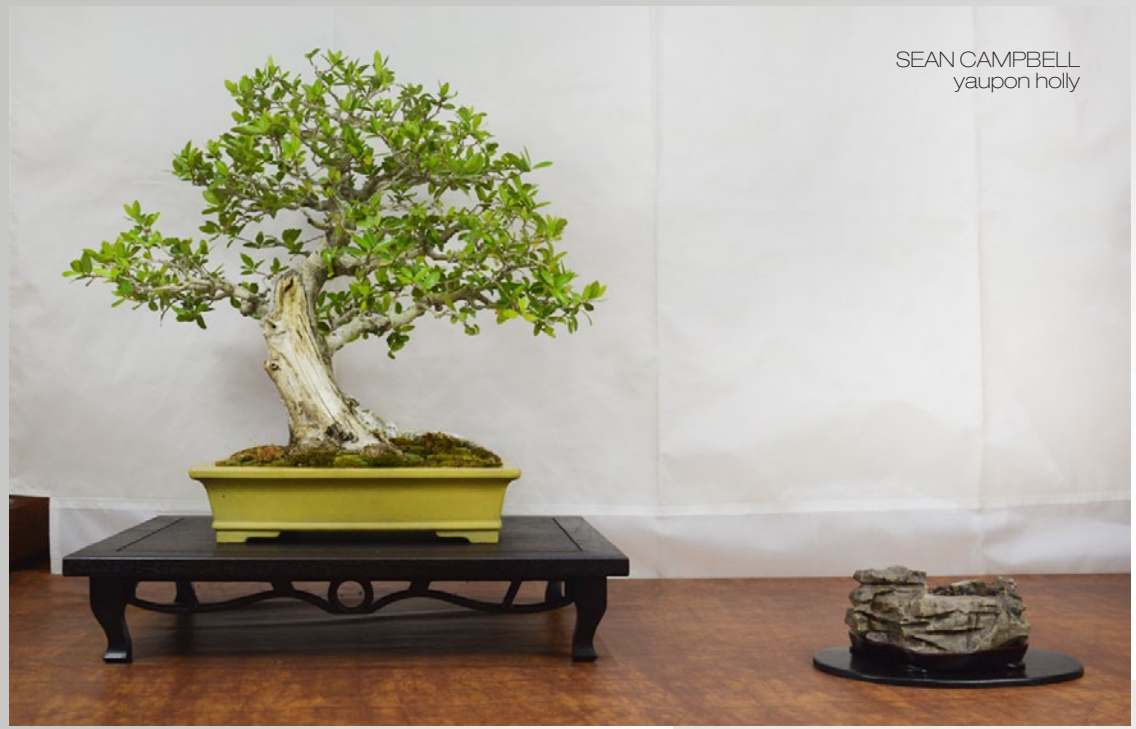
FRED FLORESCA
kishu shimpaku
olive

Serenity through Bonsai

ELISSA HOXIE
liquid amber

GIB HOXIE
monterey cypress

Serenity through Bonsai



SEAN CAMPBELL
yaupon holly

FRED MIYAHARA
procumbens nana

Serenity through Bonsai

MARK EDGAR
chinese elm
kishu shimpaku

AL NELSON
olive

Serenity through Bonsai

JOE STASSI
camper town elm

KEVIN SWEENEY
foemina

Serenity through Bonsai

MEL IKEDA
satsuki azalea

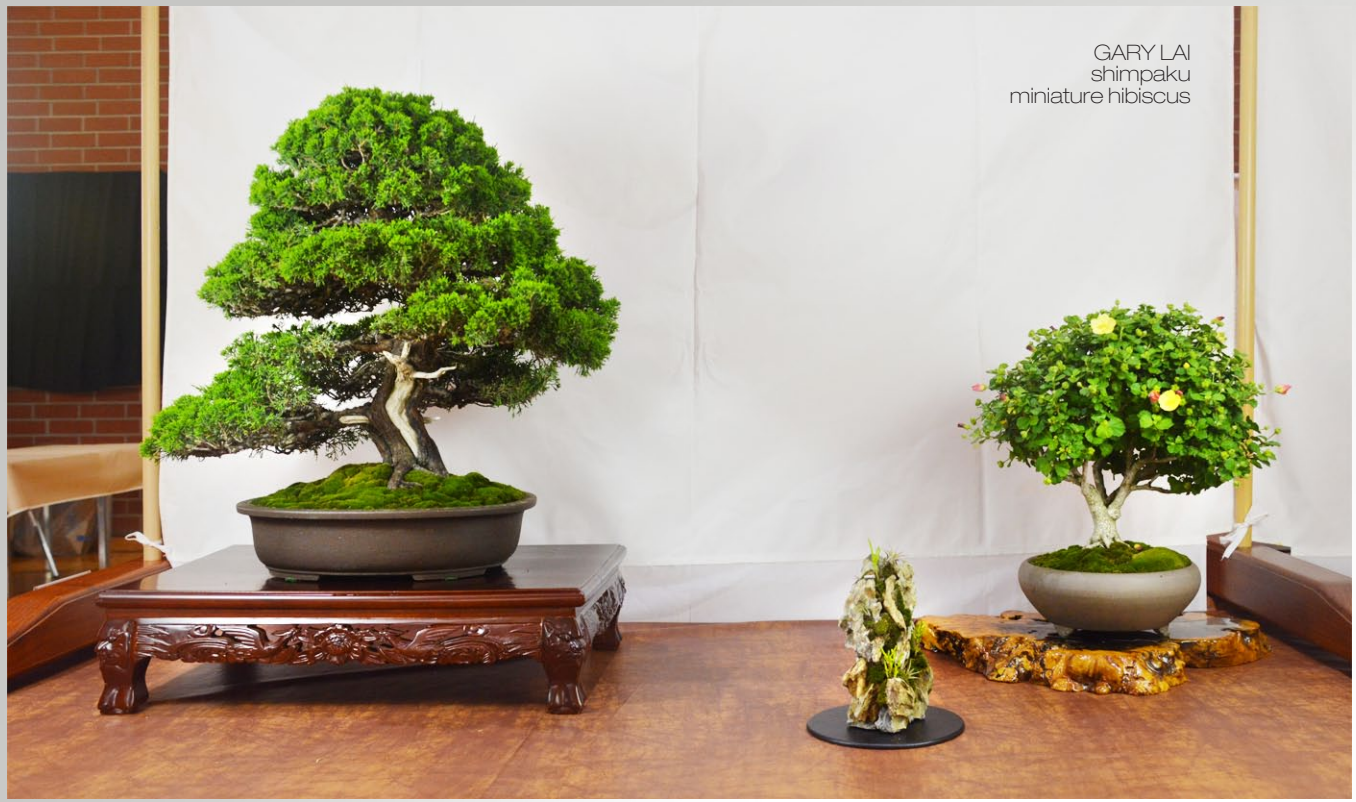
ALLAN SUGIMURA
chinese elm

Serenity through Bonsai

DAVID MELITZ
ginko

BARRY MILLER
firethorn

Serenity through Bonsai



GARY LAI
shimpaku
miniature hibiscus

KEI IKARI
japanese black pine

Serenity through Bonsai

MARIANNE YAMAGUCHI
japanese maple
murasaki kiyohime

CAROL UPSTON
olive

Serenity through Bonsai

PAUL MINERICH
bougainvillea

JASON SAITO
landscape penjing
procumbens nana

Serenity through Bonsai

JOHN MAGANA
shimpaku

DOYLE SAITO
trident maple

Serenity through Bonsai

KEITH WATERS
saikei
shimpaku on rock

ROBERT KING
ginko forest

Serenity through Bonsai

NELSON SANABRIA
cork bark jade

FATIMA SALAS
boxwood

Serenity through Bonsai

IVAN SALAS
ficus microcarpa

AMELIE SALAS
shimpaku

YOUTH EXHIBIT

Serenity through Bonsai

AMATI CARILLO
portulacaria afra

YOUTH EXHIBIT

ISIS CHAVARRIA
chinese elm

YOUTH EXHIBIT

Serenity through Bonsai

SAMANTHA ALTAFFER
suiseki swan

YOUTH EXHIBIT

KEITH WATERS
wizard of oz
chinese elm

YOUTH EXHIBIT

JEMMA WATERS
serissa

YOUTH EXHIBIT

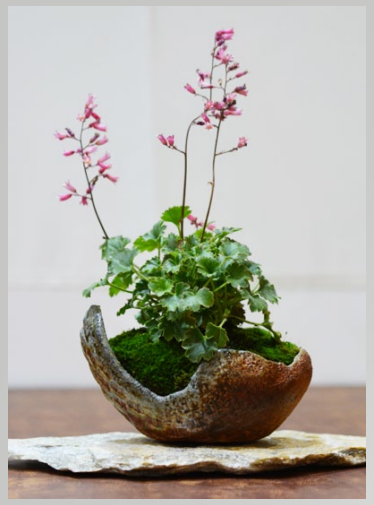
MAGGIE O'BYRNES
jurrasic park saikei

YOUTH EXHIBIT

Serenity through Bonsai

TOM VUONG
shimpaku

Serenity through Bonsai



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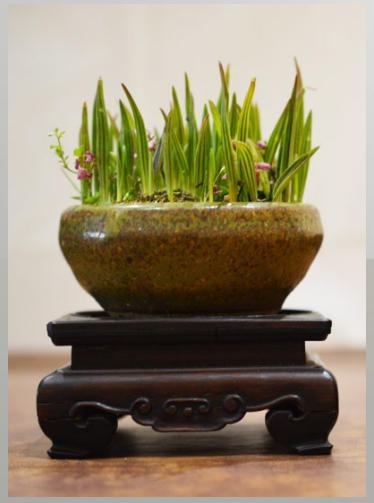

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

SHOW YOUR DIBK COLORS

T-SHIRTS
$15.00

APRONS
$25.00

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.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT OUR CLUB MEETINGS.

ONLINE ORDERING COMING SOON!

JAIME CHAVARRIA
JASON SAITO

ISHITSUKI AND SAIKEI DEMO
JUNE 21, 2019

At our June meeting, Jaime Chavarria and Jason Saito will simultaneously create a rock planting *(ishitsuki)* and a landscape planting *(saikei)*, as well as discuss the skills and techniques used to create naturalistic landscape plantings.

Jaime and Jason are students of *saikei* and bonsai master Frank Goya, and they will be demonstrating the differences and the similarities of two distinct styles of landscape planting. Both pieces will be raffled off in the June raffle, so don't miss your chance to be a part of this unique dual demonstration.

UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

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

AUGUST 2019 | **JOHN WANG**
Kaizen/Bonsai Improvement Event -
Bring your trees!

SEPTEMBER 2019 | **PAUL MINERICH**
Bougainvillea Styling

EVENTS

June 8-9, 2019
Orange County Bonsai Society
55th Annual Bonsai Show
Orange County Buddhist Church Social Hall
909 S. Dale Street, Anaheim
Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Workshops, Demonstrations by Peter Macasieb and June Nguy. Free admission and parking, Raffle, door prizes and vendor sales For more information: www.ocbonsai.org

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.gsbfconvention.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
Kajikawa Family, Oneda Family, Tyler Ferrar, Leila Kusumi & Family, American Bonsai, California Bonsai Society, Robert Pressler- Kimura Bonsai, Doyle Saito, Gabriel Gonzales, Gib & Elissa Hoxie, Sean Campbell, Richard Offord & Violet Geeter, Salas Family

Refreshment Contributors
Jason Saito, Doyle Saito, Kei Ikari, Barry Miller, Allan Sugimura, Louis Carrillo

Refreshment Signup for June
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, Mike Bell!

Special thanks to
Tomohiro Masumi, California Bonsai Society-Robert Pressler, Pauline Moses-Ken Nakaoka Community Center, Mike Pistello, Frank Goya, Jaime Chavarria.
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

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