



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

第一盆裁會
盆中平穩

OCTOBER 2019 | VOLUME 34, ISSUE 10

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



Photo by Barry Miller

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our October meeting will be our annual Holiday Potluck and Bonsai Bingo night. It is our clubs tradition to spend this time giving back to our members and friends by partaking of some fantastic food and the opportunity to win some fantastic bonsai material.

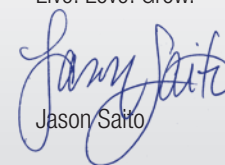
November is going to be a busy month! We'll have not one, but two world class bonsai artists doing both demonstrations and masters series workshops. First off we have the CBS visiting artist, Todd Schlafer, as our November demonstrator. Todd specializes in Colorado *yamadori* and teaches skills learned from

Ryan Neil. During the same weekend, we will also be hosting Jan Culek from the Czech Republic. Jan specializes in handmade slabs and stones and creates wonderful *Ishitsuki* rock plantings as well as traditional bonsai. Their workshops are sure to sell out so RSVP your spot with Doyle today.

The Sunday following Thanksgiving is the annual CBS members sale at Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery in West LA. An annual tradition, the CBS sale is an opportunity to pick up some great material at great prices.

Our next members workshop will be Saturday, Oct 16th. Due to the upcoming Masters Series workshops, there will be no members workshop in November. If there's enough interest, we will pick up the workshops in December, so if you want to attend, Let Doyle know.

Live. Love. Grow.


Jason Saito



BONSAI ILLUSTRATION
MEDIUM: CARVED LEATHER
OWNER: LEILA KUSUMI

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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Todd Schlafer & Jan Culek



Judging Bougies

Photos by Barry Miller

PAUL MINERICH DEMO



Paul Minerich has been practicing bonsai since 2008 when he dug out an old growth Bougainvillea from his yard. Paul's father-in-law was Tim Nomiyama, who owned a nursery and landscape business and also developed Japanese Black Pine from seed.

Paul's love for tropicals, especially Bougies, has led to his obsession with bonsai. Paul studied under Mel Ikeda and DIBK founder Leila Kusumi, and at our September meeting Paul demonstrated Bougainvillea styling techniques and also discussed the art of Kintsugi in relation to bonsai pot repair.

"I'm here to extoll the virtues of everyone's favorite tropical, the bougainvillea. Everyone seems to have one in their yard, and not many people seriously concentrate or specialize in bougainvilleas. I don't profess to be an expert in them but they are my interest and I concentrate on learning as much about them as I can and I have enough experience where I can share some of my experience and to also learn from your experiences too."



Paul's huge bougie on display at the 2019 DIBK Exhibition

“I think Bougies make great bonsai. They’ve got that bling and pizazz when in bloom.”



PAUL MINERICH DEMO

“There are hundreds of cultivars of Bougainvillea; different colors, leaf shapes, both variegated and non-variegated, and they all come from three species: *B spectabilis*, *B glabra* and *B buttiana*. It’s the combination of those species that resulted in the cultivars we have today. You would think they are all the same but there are some subtle differences. The reds and pinks are strong and easy to propagate while the others, not so much. The purples are OK but the other colors just fall off the table in regards to strength and the ability to propagate and develop them. The whites, pink-whites, yellows and oranges are much more difficult as they are weaker plants by nature and for this reason, collecting and cultivating them can be much more troublesome.

“While you can propagate via cuttings, it’s much more fulfilling collecting them from a yard. The feeling after collection when you start to see new growth and know it will thrive is very satisfying. When i do make cuttings, I use straight pumice, and they respond well . . . they love that. When potting, the soil has to be free draining and I’ll often use cactus mix amended with lava, pumice and akadama for that reason.”





Paul then busted out his power tools and the fun began. Working on a large collected piece that was in development, he went over the flaws on the yardadori. Most of the main branches had been sawed off so, after getting some feedback from the attendees, he reviewed his styling and carving options. Using a combination of drills, die grinders and dremels, he carved some attitude and style into the flat cut branches. "Since Bougainvillea possesses a softer wood, you have to treat it with a wood hardener as the carved area will deteriorate over time. In some cases, I leave it untreated as I actually want the area to deteriorate. I look forward to the natural changes of the decay to give it a natural ruggedness that only nature can provide."





This fat trunked beauty resides in a pot gifted to him by his father in law, Tim Nomiya. The pot had been broken at some point, and he kept all of the pieces, did some research into different methods of repair and decided to utilize the Kintsugi method to give this blue beauty a new life.

He then went on to detail the steps and products that he used to repair and highlight the area in order to create a focus on the repair that will add depth, character, and a sense of history to the pot.

A full writeup of Paul's method is included later in this issue.





Thanks to Mark Levinstein for being our guest events announcer for September.



Left: Congratulations to Dan Sawada for being the lucky raffle winner of this nice Bougie donated by Paul.



Special thanks to Paul Minerich for coming down and sharing his knowledge, stories and passion of Bougainvillea. We all gained a newfound appreciation for the popular tropical.



Watch Paul's full demo (in 2 parts) at
<https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai/videos/>



KINTSUGI: THE ART OF POTTERY REPAIR

By Paul Minerich • Photos by Paul Minerich

About 3 years ago, I broke my best bonsai pot while re-potting the Bougainvillea it contained.

I was upset about it because the pot was important to me, having been handed down by my father-in-law Tim Nomiya.

It was made in Japan in the 50's and was the perfect receptacle for my favorite Bougainvillea, and was a reminder of Tim.

I kept the pieces not knowing what to do with them, until one day I came upon the idea of repairing the pot using the "kintsugi" technique.

The idea behind the technique is captured in the Japanese phrase "wabi-sabi" meaning that we should embrace the imperfect and attempt to make something beautiful out of something broken. The technique involves the use of lacquer and metal (gold, silver, brass) powder to finish the mended seams of the once broken pot. Some people intentionally break a piece so it can be repaired with this technique.

I used gold metallic paint instead of real gold. Mine was a big pot and I did not want to have to refinance my house to pay for the repair. The job took several weeks, as this was my first venture and the piece must dry between applications of glue, epoxy, and paint. I started by piecing the broken parts together, making sure that the last piece would go into place after the prior pieces had been set together. I used JB Weld epoxy adhesive, PC11 epoxy to fill in the seams, sandpaper to smooth the glued and filled seams, and Martha Stewart's gold metallic paint to cover the repaired seams. I then varnished the painted seams with a UV protective satin finish varnish.

The pot appears strong but it remains to be seen how the repair materials will hold up to the stress of containing a tree, watering, weather, sun, etc. I think I will go slowly and only use it for limited periods to show a tree, then remove the tree to another pot during the bulk of the year. I was pleased with the result as I think the pot now has a new life and shows a different kind of beauty.



Next members workshop
Saturday, Oct. 19th
TORRANCE

DIBK MEMBERS WORKSHOP

*No workshop in
November.*

*If there's enough
interest, we will
hold one in
December, so
contact Doyle
if you would like
to attend.*

Our September
workshop focused
on exhibition
displays. Various
trees, stands and
accent combina-
tions were studied
and chosen for
ideal exhibition
potential.

Select trees were
then displayed at
a reception for
the Torrance Rose
Float Association
where dignitaries
and officials gath-
ered to celebrate
and commemorate
the winning Rose
Bowl float design.

It was a great
learning experi-
ence for all that
participated.

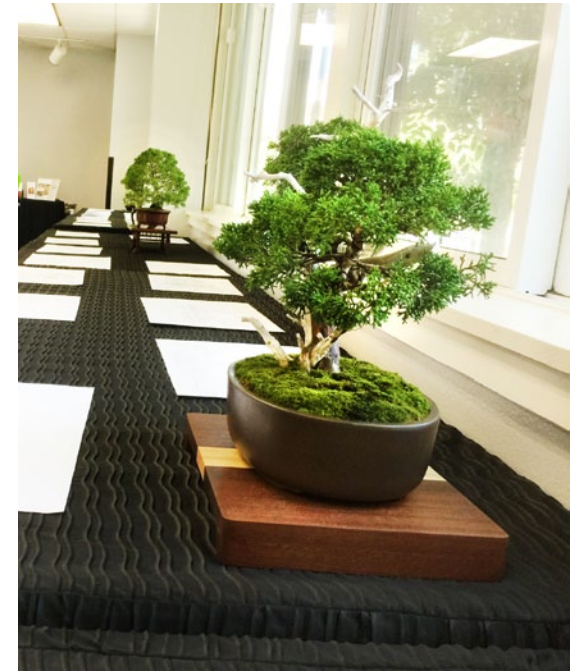


DIBK MEMBERS WORKSHOP



Above: The winning entry which will be turned into a full sized float featured in the next Rose Bowl Parade.

Below: A beautiful and tranquil waterfall at the Pine Wind Garden at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center.



TODD SCHLAFER



WORKSHOP (Bring your own Tree)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

8am - TORRANCE

\$125 (MEMBERS)

\$150* (NON-MEMBERS)

* Price includes DIBK membership for 2020.

DEMONSTRATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI NOVEMBER MEETING

7pm - KEN NAKAOKA CENTER, GARDENA

Todd Schlafer is a long time enthusiast who has been honing his skills under the direction of International bonsai master Ryan Neil of bonsai Mirai. Todd started his bonsai career under the tutelage of International bonsai master Harold Sasaki in Denver, Colorado.

An avid collector of Colorado *yamadori*, Todd runs a website called *First Branch Bonsai* where he sells some of his pre-bonsai collected trees. Todd's obsession with collecting trees started when Jerry Morris, another regular at Colorado Bonsai, invited him on a collecting trip to Utah. He learned very quickly that basic design principles did not necessarily apply to collected material with sparse foliage and unconventional branches. His study with Ryan focused on the advanced techniques of setting tree structure, which is the most difficult skill set to achieve in bonsai development and refinement. Todd pushed himself to become proficient in these techniques.

If you have any trees in development (especially *yamadori*) that you need expert styling on, don't miss your chance to get it from a world class bonsai artist. Seats are limited and available on a first come, first served basis so RSVP today by contacting Doyle Saito at (310) 940-0482 or email doylesaito@yahoo.com.

JAN CULEK

WORKSHOP (Bring your own Tree or Rock Planting)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

9am - TORRANCE

\$125 (MEMBERS)

\$150* (NON-MEMBERS)

* Price includes DIBK membership for 2020.

DEMONSTRATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

10am - YAMAGUCHI BONSAI NURSERY
WEST LOS ANGELES

Hailing from the Czech Republic, Jan Culek has been practicing bonsai since the age of ten. Jan has studied under Václav Novák, and has been intensively honing his bonsai techniques while earning his degree in art history, and painting and drawing. Jan specializes and is known for his handmade stones and slabs as well as the majestic *ishitsuki* plantings he creates with them.

Jan will be one of the main demonstrators at the European Bonsai Show in October, and he will be visiting us before heading up to Bonsai Mirai.

Seats are limited and available on a first come, first served basis so RSVP today by contacting Doyle Saito at (310) 940-0482 or email doylesaito@yahoo.com.





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!



BONSAI BINGO CLUB POTLUCK DINNER

OCTOBER 18th, 2019

Celebrating the holidays early this year, DIBK will be having it's Holiday Party/Potluck at the October meeting. Attendees are asked to bring a food dish to the meeting.
Food suggestions to bring:

- Main Dishes • Side Dishes • Salads •
- Desserts • Drinks • Snacks •

If you have any questions about what dish to bring, please contact Doyle at 310.940.0482.

We will also be having a Bonsai Bingo event, where everyone will be playing for some fantastic prizes and some major bonsai fun! Be sure to attend our last big blowout of the year!

UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

NOVEMBER 2019 | **TODD SCHLAFFER (CO)**
JAN CULEK (CZ)
Bonsai Styling Demo
Masters Series Workshop

DECEMBER 2019 | **NO MEETING**
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

EVENTS

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.
For convention, workshop, seminar, excursion info, and to register, visit www.gsbfcconvention.org

November 25, 2018 California Bonsai Society Sale

Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery
1905 Sawtelle Boulevard
Hours: 9 AM – 1 PM
A variety of material will be on sale from CBS members. Come early for best selection.
NO SALES BEFORE GATE OPENS.

January 18 - 19, 2020 Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai 56th Annual Winter Silhouettes Show

Arboretum of Los Angeles
310 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia
Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Exhibit, sales area, Saturday night reception featuring entertainment, food, giant raffle and auction.
For more information:
Ken Teh: kenwteh6@gmail.com
or visit www.baikoenbonsai.com

February 2020 Bonsai-A-Thon XXIII

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
For more information visit:
www.gsbfhuntington.com

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
Shirley Floresca, Richard Offord,
David Hazard, Kevin Sweeney, Kusumi family

Refreshment Contributors
Doyle Saito, Fred Floresca, Allan Sugimura,
Elissa Hoxie, Joan Shiosaki

Refreshment Signup for October

October is our annual club POTLUCK and BONSAI BINGO night.
Attendees are encouraged to bring a food dish to share. See you there!

Welcome New Members

Steve Abshear and Frank Montoya, Jr.
Welcome to the Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai family!

Special thanks to

Paul Minerich, Torrance Rose Float Association
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