



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

第一盆裁會
盆中平穩

DECEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 34, ISSUE 12

THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



Photo by Barry Miller

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Saito

President

Newsletter / Website / Social Media

Doyle Saito

1st Vice President

Program Chair

Robert King

2nd Vice President

John van de Wouw

Show Chair

Past President

CJ Levinstein

Membership Chair

Treasurer

Joan Shiozaki

Corresponding Secretary

Judy Unrine

Recording Secretary

Historian

Shirley Floresca

Fundraising Chair

Carol Takahashi

Librarian

Kevin Sweeney

Benefit Drawing Chair

Barry Miller

Hospitality

Club Photographer

Dan Sawada

Publicity

CLUB FOUNDERS

Leila Kusumi

Co-Founder | Sensei

Jim Tatsukawa

Co-Founder | Sensei

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my term as club president ends, I would like to thank everyone that gave their time and efforts in helping to grow the club, and supporting our mission to promote the art of bonsai. We've accomplished a lot in the last two years and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

With so many choices of bonsai clubs in the Southern California area, I thank all of you for supporting and being members of Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai. Each and every one of you have made this club a family, and that is very special.

When I think about what the club truly stands for, I am constantly reminded of our clubs co-founder's, Jim Tatsukawa and Leila Kusumi. Their determination, dedication and drive revolved around their selfless passion for sharing their bonsai skills and talents with others. We should all strive to become teachers and ambassadors of bonsai just as our founders were.

In the coming year, if every single DIBK member brought into the club, one new member to mentor and inspire, just imagine where we will be in two years. Five years. Twenty years.

Now that is a challenge I'd truly like to see accepted and fulfilled.

See you at the next meeting!

Live. Love. Grow.



Jason Saito





17th Biennial Shohin Seminar

Friday, January 31 – Sunday, Feb 2, 2020



Workshops

Bonsai masters, teachers, and enthusiasts from all over the country donate their time to this unique biennial event.



Register

Registration options: Full registration or Day Pass



Event Schedule

Discover the many demonstrations, workshops and events available.

Shohin photos on the CalShohin.org website graciously provided by [Jonas Dupuich](#).

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

Registration is now open for the Shohin Seminar to be held in Santa Nella, CA. Forms are available at <http://www.calshohin.org>.



IN THIS ISSUE

4

TODD SCHLAFER
Prostrata Styling Demo

11

TODD SCHLAFER
Masters Series Workshop

12

JAN CULEK
Masters Series Workshop

14

JAN CULEK
Ishitsuki Demo

16

CBS SALE
Event Coverage

taming the
BEAST
with two heads



todd schlafer

Photos by Barry Miller



Photos by Barry Miller



TODD SCHLAFER DEMO

Closing the year out with a bang, the CBS Visiting Artists Program demonstrator, Todd Schlafer, turned this beast of a Prostrata into a well refined and tamed piece of art. The very old growth nursery stock was gifted with a nice chunky trunk and it possessed sinuous and reaching branches that went off in opposite directions. What a monster.

Todd was more than up to the task. He usually deals with collected material that has nothing but natural growth and no training other than what mother nature gave it, so in Todd's skillful hands, this was hardly a challenge at all.



Todd inspected the tree and guided us through the strengths and weaknesses of the material. The tree was almost two conjoined trees so it called for either a secondary canopy or a mother-daughter, twin trunk composition. He proceeded to go through and remove any unnecessary branches while assessing the next move.

“By eliminating these branches, we really open it up and it gives us a clear view of the structure of the tree. One thing I always do as I’m making my branch cuts is I’ll bend the cut branches until they break. This gives me an idea of the flexibility of this tree, and that knowledge is good to have when it comes time to actually bend your wired branches. It gives you a sense how hard you can push it... especially with collected trees.”



“One thing I always do as I’m making my branch cuts is I’ll bend the cut branches until they break. This gives me an idea of the flexibility of this tree, and that knowledge is good to have when it comes time to actually bend your wired branches. It gives you a sense how hard you can push it... especially with collected trees.”



With a few heavy branches to be lowered, Todd affixed a length of rebar to the trunk and to the edge of the pot. This allowed the branches to be further lowered than the wire alone would allow. "You'll notice I don't affix guy wires to the pot itself. When you do, it puts stress onto the root system, so by attaching the rebar to the trunk, that pressure is alleviated which is better for the health of the tree."



“When collecting, do your research. Inevitably the first few trees you collect, you’ll probably kill. When I first started, there were trees I didn’t think I could collect. They were really nice but I left them with the thought of coming back when I knew more about them. It’s also about the best time of year to collect. You want to limit the amount of negative variables to ensure the best chance for survival.”





TODD SCHLAFER DEMO

"All of the trees I collect go into straight pumice from New Mexico. A good medium promotes good root growth. I always leave some native soil in the rootball and they go into pots at least 24 hours after collection. On the second repot, I'll eliminate the native soil so that it is then in a 100% bonsai soil mix."

Todd finished off the styling and shared further stories and tips along the way. You can watch his full demo on our facebook page (link below).

Congratulations to the lucky winner, Bob Pressler, who won Todd's demo tree in our benefit draw raffle.

To learn more about Todd Schlafer, you can visit his web site at <http://www.firstbranchbonsai.com>.



Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai was live — with California Bonsai Society and Todd Schlafer.

Published by Jason Saito [?] · November 15 · 🌐

TODD SCHLAFER - PROSTRATA STYLING DEMO

Thanks to Todd Schlafer for a very informative demonstration. It turned out fantastic!

Special thanks to the California Bonsai Society, and their Visiting Artists Program (VAP) for another world class artist's demonstration.



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



TODD SCHLAFER **MASTERS SERIES WORKSHOP**



Before the November meeting demonstration, Todd held a workshop and assisted attendees with styling and design choices for their finest trees.

He shared with us many tips and stories about his experiences collecting and working raw collected stock. It was a great productive day.





JAN CULEK **MASTERS SERIES WORKSHOP**

Photos by Doyle Saito



At our Masters Series workshop with Jan Culek, attendees worked on their trees as well as one of our club trees. It was a learning experience for all as he taught aspects of styling and refinement on an already styled old growth Prostrata that had been donated to the club. The tree came out beautifully and it will be available for sale at a future club auction.



JAN CULEK **ISHITSUKI** DEMONSTRATION



Above: Pre-visualization of the planting composition.
Below: Selecting the correct angle for the hardscape.



The assembled natural tufa stone was anchored into place with heavy gauge copper wire that extended into the stone by 4". It was cemented into the stone and wired to the pot at the correct angle and tension to keep the heavy structure in place until the newly planted roots set in.



JAN CULEK **ISHITSUKI** DEMONSTRATION



To learn more about
Jan Culek, visit his
web site at
www.janculekbonsai.com



JAN CULEK ISHITSUKI DEMONSTRATION

During his brief visit with us, Jan had the opportunity to work at the GSBF Huntington as well as have a bit of fun too.



Thanks to Marianne Yamaguchi and Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery for hosting the demonstration.

Special Thanks to Bob Pressler and Kimura Bonsai Nursery for his continued support and generous donation of materials for Jan's demonstration.



 **Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai** was live — with Kimura Bonsai and Landscape Nursery and Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery.
Published by Jason Saito [?] · November 17 · 🌐

JAN CULEK -ROCK PLANTING DEMO PART ONE

Thanks to Jan Culek for the great demonstration.

Special thanks to Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery for hosting the demonstration, and to Kimura Bonsai Nursery for donating the fantastic material.

Part Two:

<https://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai/videos/2615655268512009/>



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



CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY **ANNUAL SALE**

Once again, Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery in West LA was the scene of the California Bonsai Society's Annual Bonsai Sale.

Many people journeyed into the frosty cold morning, for a chance at some great material at even greater prices. The crowd showed up early to get the best bargains. Here are some scenes from the event.



CALIFORNIA BONSAI SOCIETY **ANNUAL SALE**





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!

DECEMBER
NO MEETING

*May the magic
and wonder
of the
holiday season
stay with you
throughout the
coming year! ...*

*See you all in
January!*

UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

JANUARY 2020 | **ALBERT RIVERA**
Kishu Grafting Techniques

EVENTS

Dec 26 – 30, 2019

California Aiseki Kai 28th Annual Show

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

Suiseki Exhibition

Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

For more information, visit:

www.aisekikai.com

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, reception, raffle and auction.

For more information:

Ken Teh: kenwteh6@gmail.com

or visit www.baikoenbonsai.com

January 31 - February 2, 2020

17th Annual Shohin Seminar

Hotel Mission DeOro

13070 S Highway 33, Santa Nella

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Exhibit, sales area, Saturday night reception

For more information:

<http://www.calshohin.org>

February 22 - 23 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 Draw Contributors

Gib & Elissa Hoxie, Shirley Floresca
Doyle Saito, and Others

Refreshment Contributors

Allan Sugimura, Joan Shiosaki, Dan Sawada,
Doyle Saito, Carol Takahashi,
Fred Floresca, Louis Carrillo

Special thanks to

California Bonsai Society, Todd Schlafer, Jan Culek,
Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery, Kimura Bonsai Nursery
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