



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

第一分盆裁會
盆中平穩

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THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

This month we had Tak Shimazu planned as our monthly demonstrator. Tak lives in Riverside and is able to grow and cultivate beautiful bonsai, with average summer temperatures in the high 80s, 90s and 100s. I had planned to ask Tak to describe his growing process as it pertains to Shimpaku, both Kishu and Itoigawa. Grafting this material to understock, growing from cuttings, and cultivating these trees into beautiful bonsai and wonderful workshop material trees, has been a staple for Tak for many years. I was particularly interested in the pruning and pinching techniques that Tak applies to his Shimpaku to maintain its tight foliage pads.

Here is my only tip for the month: spray, spray and spray again. This season we have a very healthy spider mite infestation. You may notice discoloration of your trees, webbing, and white dandruff like material when you shake your trees. Take a close look, get a piece of white paper, shake the tree above the paper and check for the small black specs. When you smear these specs, those will be spider mites.

To rid these pests you will need a plan of action. The first spraying, with a system insecticide of choice, (I use "Bayer Advanced – Insect, Disease, & Mite Control") will kill the mites. A second spraying within three days will kill the mites and the hatched eggs layed by the prior mites. The third spraying, again within three days, will kill any residual mites still around.

Thank you and stay safe.



Doyle Saito
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

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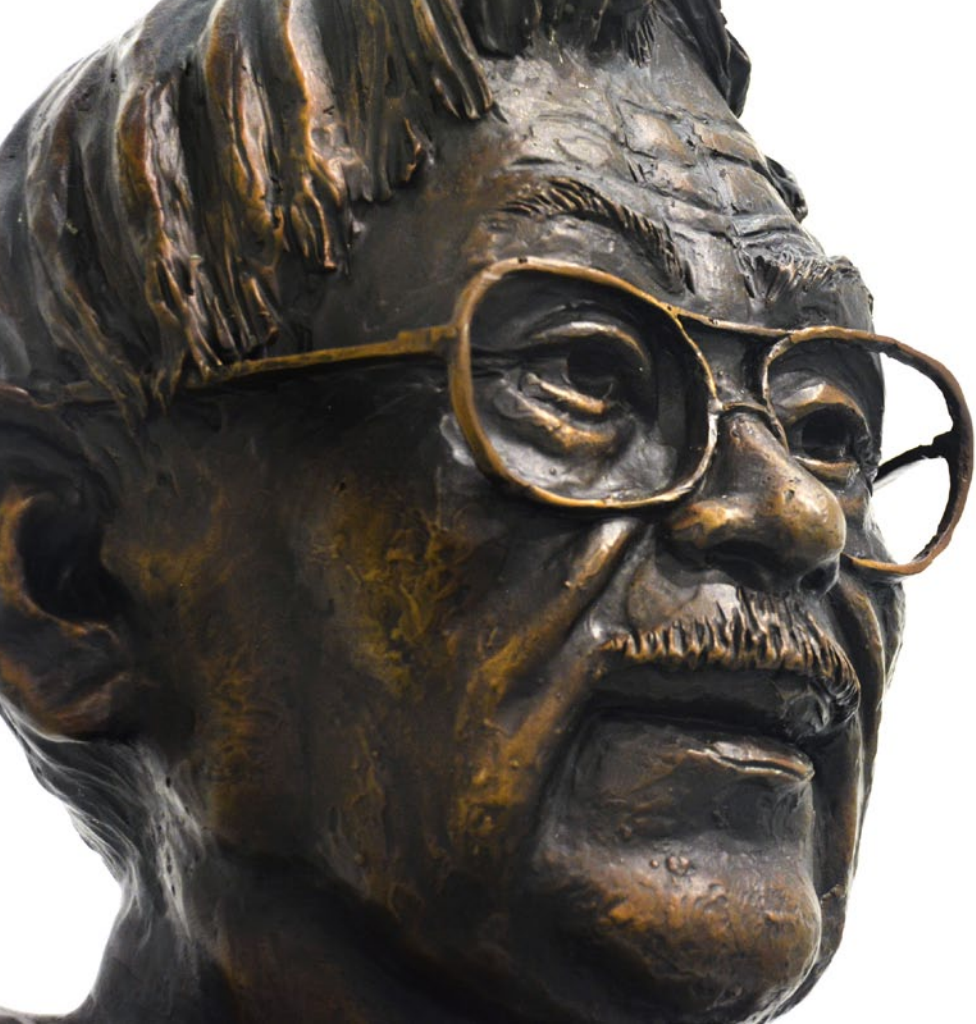
- Monthly demonstrations
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- Annual show and sale
- Subscription to our award winning newsletter *the Dai Ichi Gazette*.

You can pay your dues in person
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or by mailing your check to:

CJ Levinstein
827 East Marshall Place
Long Beach, CA 90807

Or pay online via PayPal:

http://www.daiichibonsaikai.com/?page_id=1655



*“There are no
borders in bonsai.
The dove of peace flies
to palace as to
humble house,
to young as to old,
to rich and poor.
So does the spirit
of bonsai.”*

— John Yoshio Naka

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California Juniper by KEI IKARI (NAMPU KAI EXHIBITION 2019)

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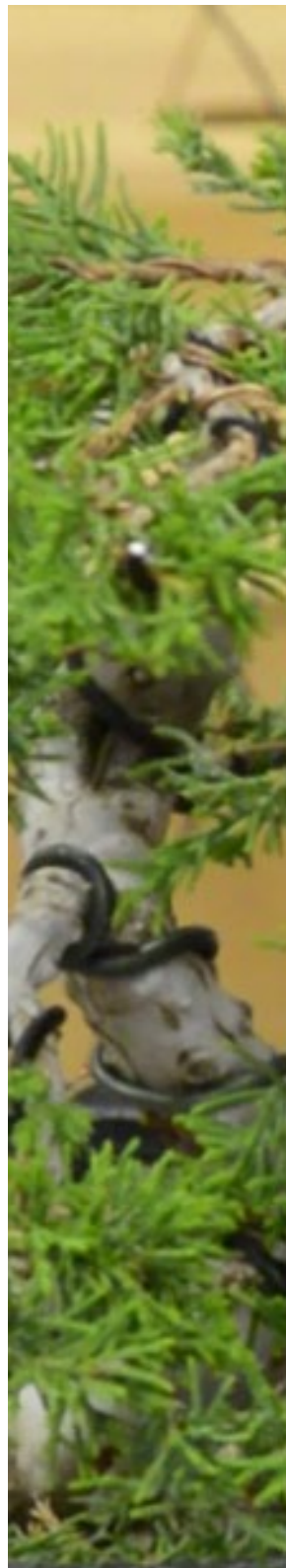
TAK SHIMAZU



Tak started the demo by presenting two different 7 to 10 year old *Itoigawa* grown from cuttings, and attendees voted on which tree he was to work on. The first tree had been previously wired and was ready for further refinement, while the other had no training applied. The audience chose the first tree.

Tak explained, "In Japan, trees are wired and trained in stages, often taking years in between to finish. Unlike the demonstrations you see here where the entire tree is wired, cut back, pinched and styled, in Japan, large branches are wired first while smaller secondary branches are wired months later. This minimizes damage to the tree and its delicate branch structure, and allows the tree to recover in less stressful steps."

Living in an area where temperatures can reach 110 degrees, Tak explained he often uses two stacked nursery cans for his material in training. "With the double stacked pot, moisture is trapped between the two pots and it will not dry out as quickly. When I use clay nursery pots, it will often dry out within the day."





"With *Shimpaku*, over time the inside foliage will fall out as the new growth emerges, so now I remove the inside old growth to make wiring easier."

Explaining wiring techniques, Shimazu said, "When you wrap your wire around a branch, you want the wire to go in the same direction that the branch is moving. For example, if you are wiring a branch to be bent to the left, the wire should be directed so that the angle over the top of the branch is going over to the left side of the branch, and vice-versa for the opposite direction. The reason is that when you wire in the direction of the bend, the wire wraps and holds tighter around the branch. If you go the opposite way of a bend, it gets looser, and loose wire does not work well when setting the movement. When it comes to rewiring the same branch, the bend will be set already, in which case, you should wire in the opposite direction to avoid creating obvious wire marks in case it grows out too much."

Tak finished the styling and Peter Macasieb was the lucky winner.



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.



With bonsai club meetings cancelled throughout Southern California, many clubs have taken to creating Facebook live stream demos. Here are a few clubs to check out.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB



Watch the demo as well as join the San Diego Bonsai Club's Facebook group at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/119048901440758/>

SANSUI KAI BONSAI CLUB



Watch the demo as well as follow and like Sansui Kai Bonsai Club's Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/119048901440758/>

DESCANSO BONSAI SOCIETY




Watch the demo as well as follow and like Descanso Bonsai Society's Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/descansobonsai/>




Our friend Bjorn has been prolific with his uploading of top notch video contents. His *Bonsai-U* series is especially well suited for bonsai practitioners to learn and understand the principles of creating and maintaining world class bonsai. They are a must watch!





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How to Refine Japanese Black Pine | Bonsai-U

8.8K views • 1 day ago




Bonsai at Extreme Locations | Bonsaikunst Hamburg

20K views • 1 week ago




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33K views • 1 week ago




Bonsai Network Vidcast | Double-Flush Pine

5.8K views • 2 weeks ago




Sekka Hinoki from Simple Material | Bonsai-U

30K views • 3 weeks ago




Bonsai Network Vidcast | Air-layering Bonsai

7.5K views • 3 weeks ago



Building a Japanese-Style Gate at Eisei-en

20K views • 1 month ago



Bonsai on a Saturday Afternoon at Eisei-en

20K views • 1 month ago

For up to date information and antics from Bjorn, visit/like/subscribe to his social media:

web: <http://www.bjornbjorholm.com> • <http://www.eisei-en.com>

insta: <https://www.instagram.com/eiseienbonsai>

youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/EiseienBonsai/videos>