

AUGUST 2018 | VOLUME 33, ISSUE 8

THE DAI ICHI

# GAZETTE



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

第一分盆栽會  
盆中平穩



Photo by Barry Miller

# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The bonsai show season is in full swing, and this month is jam-packed with exhibits and events for all to attend.

On August 15, the California Bonsai Society will be hosting renowned tropical bonsai expert, Pedro Morales, as their demonstrator. Pedro will also be demonstrating at Kofu Bonsai Kai on Saturday August 18.

He will be teaching a bring-your-own-tree tropical bonsai workshop on Saturday, August 18th.

The workshop will be held at Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery in West Los Angeles. The workshop fee is \$100, limited to 10 people and lunch is included. Seats are still available, so contact Marianne at [yamaguchinursery@gmail.com](mailto:yamaguchinursery@gmail.com) to reserve your space.

August 18th and 19th is a very busy weekend indeed, as the Nampu Kai show returns to the JACCC in downtown LA. A Nisei Week tradition, Nampu Kai always puts on a fantastic show with great material and intertesting demonstrations.

That same weekend (I told you it was a busy one), is the Viet Bonsai Today Society's third annual exhibition. It will be held at the beautiful Bao Quang Temple in Anaheim. This show always features top notch bonsai and great demos and raffles.

For more information about these shows, see the events section at the end of this newsletter.

Also to note, our August workshop has been cancelled. We will resume in September.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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In the digital age, social media has done an amazing job of educating the masses and bringing entertainment and information to people around the world. Our social media focus so far has been on Facebook, and sharing our content there has brought great interest in our club.

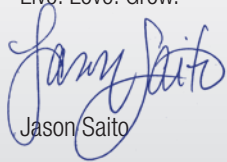
We're going to try something different now.

Some of you may have noticed that we did not live stream last month's demonstration with Lindsay Shiba. We're going to focus some of our efforts into creating edited content for our YouTube channel. Yes, we have a YouTube channel. Though it's been long dormant, we plan on developing it to be another platform where viewers can enjoy our demonstrations. Since almost 5 billion videos are watched on YouTube every single day, it's really a no-brainer to target YouTube.

As time permits, we hope to fill the channel with lots of great bonsai interviews, demonstrations, events and show coverage. If you get a chance, please visit our page and follow and like our videos.

[bit.ly/DIBK-YouTube](http://bit.ly/DIBK-YouTube)

Live. Love. Grow.

  
Jason Saito



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## NEXT MONTH

# BUILDING MOUNTAINS,

# ONE STONE AT A TIME



Photos by Barry Miller

Lindsay Shiba is a second generation bonsai artist, teacher and nurseryman. His bonsai training began at the young age of 11 as he learned from his father, Katsumi Shiba, an early student of John Naka. In 1972, Lindsay's interest developed when he became a student of Khan Komai of Bonsai-En in Temple City. Today, Lindsay is a popular fixture in the bonsai world as a frequent demonstrator and teacher throughout the world.

At our July meeting, we were treated to an evening with Lindsay as he created a stunning miniature mountain grove planting. An *Ishitsuki*, or rock planting depicts a scene out of nature that is both natural and elegant. The gracefulness of the trees and accents plants are enveloped by the rich, weathered colors and textures of old rustic stones. Not quite bonsai and not quite saikei, *Ishitsuki* is a style that has been around for a long time and remains popular throughout the world.

Lindsay explains, "The process begins by gluing rocks together, but before I start, I really want to give credit where credit is due. . . I was taught this technique by a bonsai master from Honolulu named Ed Nakanishi. I was on O'ahu about 12 years ago, and Ed showed me his technique that he developed for gluing rocks and stone together. His technique uses a fast curing CA (aka cyanoacrylate, super glue or crazy glue), and a mixture of 40% coarse sand and 60% portland cement. Together, the sand mixture and the glue will create a strong bond between the stones that dries in seconds.

"I was kind of amazed at this demonstration piece that Ed had made. He created the stone and did the planting the same day, and at the time that I saw it, it had been 8 years since it was made, so his technique holds up really well."





Lindsay brought with him a large selection of large and small volcanic stones to build his planting base. “When picking rocks to use, you want to select rocks that have similar color, texture, shapes and movement; and yes, rocks can have movement. When you put your composition together you want it to have a similar “thrust” of different rocks that go in the same direction. This will make the combination look like it was naturally formed that way.

“When selecting placement of your stones, you want to have at least three solid points of contact between the stones. The larger, and the more contact points the better, as they will give the structure stability and strength.

“This method works best with porous rocks as CA does not stick as well to smooth surfaces. A lot of rocks are heavy, so if you start out using large round pieces, it will be very heavy. It’s better to use a lot of smaller, flatter pieces to create bulk. This also gives you a lot more opportunities to create direction and movement.

“The idea is that while you hold the rocks together in the position that you want (*fig. 1*), carefully spoon some of the sand/cement mixture over the contact points (*fig. 2*), then drip the CA onto the cement mixture (*fig. 3*). Because the CA is so thin, it will absorb quickly into the sand mixture through wicking action.

“When you create rock compositions using this method, make sure you do this either outdoors, or in a well ventilated area, as the fumes from the CA, and the cement dust can be very noxious. You’ll also want to wear proper eye and hand protection while you work.

“When you drip the CA onto the sand mix, it will produce smoke due to the exothermic (heat producing) reaction of the CA and cement. You’ll also want to be careful to only drip the CA onto the sand mix as the CA will actually discolor the stone and make it darker.

**PRO TIP** - Most people don’t know it, but cyanoacrylate has a shelf life. At room temperature it is about 12 months unopened, and one month once opened. It evaporates quickly and also oxidizes through exposure to heat, moisture, and air, so once you’ve opened the bottle, never leave the bottle uncapped for long periods of time. Once you’re done, replace the cap tightly, store the bottle in a ziploc bag or other airtight container, and keep it in the freezer until next use.

You can find large bottles of cyanoacrylate at hobby or woodworking stores, and online. You want to choose the “super thin, 1-3 second bond” type.



FIGURE 1 SELECTING AND FITTING

*“When creating the structure, start from the base. You want it solid and stable so you can build upon that. I like to create little cantilevers, shelves and balconies to give the piece movement and direction, and so it doesn’t just look like a pile of rocks.”*



FIGURE 2 APPLYING SAND/CEMENT MIX

*“You’ll want to wash your rocks thoroughly so that they have a clean surface for the joint to have a good bond. The joints are waterproof and can be hidden by muck or you can also glue additional rocks to cover.”*



FIGURE 3 APPLYING CA

*“You have to drip the CA quickly, but sparingly and accurately, onto the joint. It needs to fully soak in. Be careful of over dripping as the thin CA tends to run down the stone, and usually on the side that you can’t see or notice while you’re doing it.”*



As you're creating the structure, you'll want to accommodate for the trees you intend to use. As Lindsay explained, "The problem I started out with is that the trees I chose for this planting are kind of big, so I need to make a surface pocket, ledge or shelf large enough to accommodate the rootball of each planting. Otherwise it won't be very well proportioned and the health of the tree could suffer."

"Like bonsai, your structure should have different peaks and levels. Create them at various angles and heights so that they look like a natural formation. It's nice if there's little fissures and cracks between stones. It adds detail and provides options for additional planting or moss areas. These kind of details give the piece character."

"For a very strong bond, you need the sand mixture to fully absorb the CA. Any dry pockets will result in no bonding. Since CA dries through exposure to air, the drip points will begin drying as you're applying. You want to be liberal, yet precise, on the drip points. The best way to do this is in several steps, creating multiple layers using smaller amounts of the sand mixture for each pass. If you try to do a large amount at one time, the CA may not wick all the way through, and that is how these joints commonly fail."

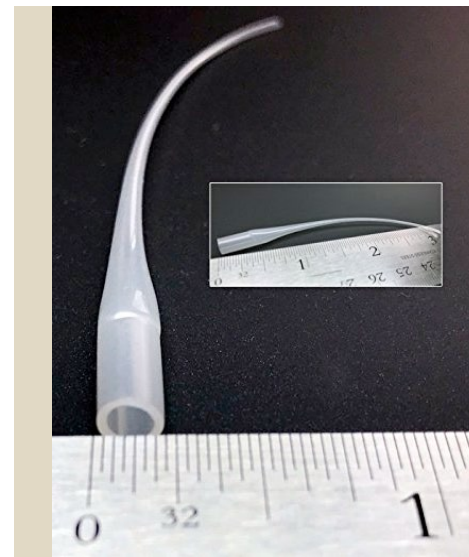
"As best as possible, you'll also want to cement the contact points from all sides. The first joint should be enough to hold the rocks in place, so turn the piece 90 degrees, then make another joint on that side. Keep doing that until all contact points have been joined from all sides. Basically, wherever you can make a contact joint, make a contact joint."

Once the structure was completed, Lindsay then went on to prep the trees he'd chosen for the planting. Two unusual Junipers were chosen as well as a Kingsville Boxwood.

"I found these Junipers at a nursery and they were sold in one gallon containers as ground cover. They are similar to Juniperus Communis and they look like nana with slightly coarser foliage."

After preparing the rootballs, trimming and wiring the trees, the planting process began.

"I gave these Junipers a light trim, reducing the foliage so that it looks like a tree instead of a bush. What I like about these trees is the long lower branches. I think it will look pretty cascading down off of the high ledges."



**PRO TIP** - Cyanoacrylate comes in a long tipped bottle, but sometimes that tip may not be long enough, or the opening at the tip may be too large resulting in larger drips that are wasteful and hard to control.

If that is the case, use a "Precision Applicator CA Glue Tip," which is available through online retailers. It fits over the standard CA bottle tips and extends the reach while providing a much smaller opening. It lets you reach deep into the crevices between stones, which results in much better accuracy and control, with a lot less waste.



“Sometimes, if there’s a big hole between the rocks, I’ll add a screen to keep the soil and muck in place. These plantings are not going to be repotted every year so, if you feed it regularly, they will last a long time.

“A lot of the styling with these plantings comes from the composition itself. The tree needs to match the landscape, so after you plant the rootball, trim and style the tree according to how it interacts with the rocks. Branches that interfere with other rocks get wired away or eliminated altogether.

“Like with bonsai, you really want your planting to look good from all sides. It’s good to spread your planting all around because even if some people will not see the back when the piece is on display, *you’ll* want to know that the piece looks good all the way around. If you want to get technical, plant the Conifers at the top, as that’s how you display *shohin* trees.

Lindsay then places a medium sized Kingsville Boxwood on the back side. The foliage peeked out from the side, and was visible from the front so that gave the piece more of a sense of depth.

“Other types of trees you could use are Cotoneasters, which show well because of their creeping nature and the beautiful berries that form. Japanese or Trident Maples are beautiful choices. If you can find little Azaleas, they look cool too. For ground cover, obviously moss, but a lot of times I’ll use Elfin Thyme. They have a wonderful fine texture with slow growing roots and unlike moss, they can take the sun. What’s neat is I’ll plant it on the muck and it will eventually cascade down from the cliffs giving a nice draping effect.”

With the planting done, the surface of the muck was then covered with moss. “Sometimes when you have a large patch of muck, you can embed small rocks into the surface of the muck and then moss around it. This gives the illusion that it is a piece of the bigger hardscape underneath. These little fine details really help to create dimension and a very rustic, natural feel to your planting.”

After the planting was done, it was placed on a beautiful cobalt blue tray. The blue represents the ocean or a lake and the contrast made for a very nice mountain scene.





Congratulations to Louis Carillo who won Lindsay's Rock planting, and to Carol Takahashi for winning the bare rock arrangement in the club raffle.



Watch Lindsay's full demo at  
<https://youtu.be/705FkrsXkZU>





# WORKSHOP CALENDAR

## AUGUST

**NO MEMBER WORKSHOP**

## SEPTEMBER

**MEMBER WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY - September 22, 2018, 9:00 am**

**Member Workshop**

**Location: Gardena, CA**

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

## OCTOBER

**NO MEMBER WORKSHOP**

## NOVEMBER

**MEMBER WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY - November 17, 2018, 9:00 am**

**Member Workshop**

**Location: Torrance, CA**

Continuation of our Workshop series. Bring your trees, pots and materials and get styling, horticultural tips from senior club members. Non-members \$25 (annual membership fee). Members FREE.

Spaces are limited so reserve your spot early.

## DECEMBER

**NO MEETING/MEMBER WORKSHOP**

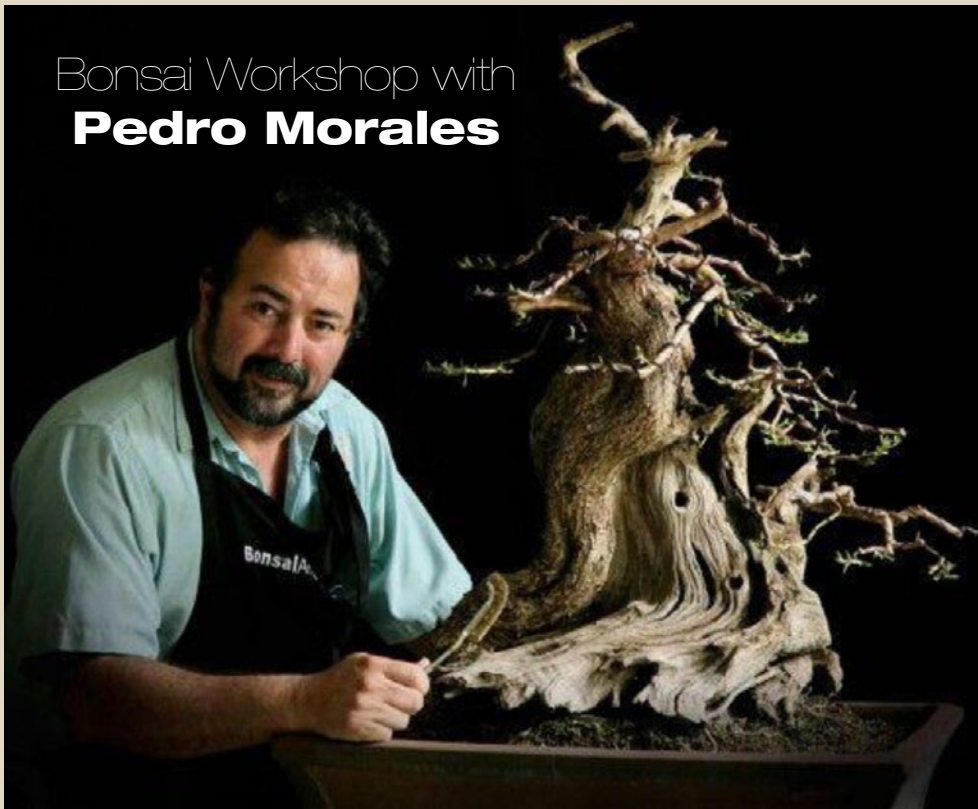
Membership is required for participation. To sign up, please contact Doyle Saito at 310.940.0482 or email [doylesaito@yahoo.com](mailto:doylesaito@yahoo.com)

Our monthly workshops have been fruitful and well attended. It's a great way to keep up on maintenance and styling work as well as to learn or teach a thing or two.

At our July workshop we had a special guest, as Joan Shiosaki brought her grandson, Jarrod who was visiting from up north. Jarrod had a blast styling his first Juniper and also created a nice boxwood landscape planting. The enthusiasm and joy in his eyes reminds us why we do this!



Bonsai Workshop with  
**Pedro Morales**



**Saturday, August 18, 2018, 9am - 3pm**

*Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery, 1905 Sawtelle Blvd.*

*West Los Angeles, CA 90025*

*Workshop fee: \$100, includes lunch.*

Join us for a workshop with world renowned bonsai artist Pedro Morales of Puerto Rico. Mr. Morales will be in southern California as part of the California Bonsai Society's Visiting Artists Program.

This bring-your-own-tree Workshop will be your opportunity to work with and gain hands-on instruction and insights from the master of tropical bonsai. Mr. Morales has lectured at multiple World Bonsai conventions and travels around the world to share his bonsai wisdom.

A great opportunity to learn and take your bonsai to the next level!

Limited to 10 participants. Please register by email to [yamaguchinursery@gmail.com](mailto:yamaguchinursery@gmail.com).

# Call for GSBF Convention 41 Exhibition Tree Submissions

The Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention is rapidly approaching, October 24 - 28, check out the website [www.gsbfcconvention.org/](http://www.gsbfcconvention.org/). For the tree exhibit this year, individual clubs have been asked to submit a representation of their best trees for consideration in the exhibit. Kathy Shaner is in the process of collecting information about owner bonsai to be on display.

The convention will host bonsai dignitaries and enthusiasts from all over the country as well as Japan. From Japan, bonsai master Yasuo Mitsuya, teacher to many of our prominent bonsai artists here in the United States, will attend with a several associates. The convention exhibit is our opportunity to show the exceptional level of bonsai artistry in California. Let us help make this exhibit the best possible. We are counting on you to help us.

Attached is an entry form for those who are interested in showing a tree(s). These completed forms will be given to Kathy Shaner who will make the final selection for entry into the exhibit. I should receive the completed forms by October 1, 2018. There is space for a limited number of trees and, for this reason, it may be that all trees submitted may not make it into the show. But the more Kathy Shaner has to choose from, the better the exhibit. Kathy is asking for variety, especially deciduous species. Please note that the trees do not need to be show ready when the photo is taken for the form.

You can download the submission form here: [bit.ly/2AOyJMC](http://bit.ly/2AOyJMC)

There is a judged exhibit as well. If you would like to enter a tree in the judged exhibit, please view the information on the website <http://www.gsbfcconvention.org/judged-bonsai-competition.html>



## ROY NAGATOSHI MEMBER TREE CRITIQUE

### AUGUST 17, 2018

Bonsai Master Roy Nagatoshi was born in the United States and raised in Japan, where he learned the art of bonsai from his father (Shigeru Nagatoshi).

Roy continues the bonsai traditions of his father as a second generation bonsai nurseryman by upholding the history and heritage of past generation bonsai masters.

Roy will be critiquing and providing guidance on styling and horticultural issues on member trees, so bring your trees to the next meeting.

He will also have his tools ready in case you want him to assist you on implementing his suggestions.

### **BRING YOUR TREES!**

#### UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018 | **RON REEKERS**  
JAPAN PRESENTATION/DEMO

OCTOBER 19, 2018 | **HOLIDAY POTLUCK**  
BONSAI BINGO

## EVENTS

### August 18 – 19, 2018 Viet Bonsai Today Society 3rd Annual Bonsai Exhibition

Bao Quang Temple  
713 N Newhope Street, Santa Ana  
Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The show features demonstrations, club sales, vendors and an auction on both days. For more information, please contact Dinh Nguyen at (949) 302-3048, or Tom Vuong at (714) 878-8004.

### August 18 – 19, 2018 Nan Pu Kai: 29th Annual Show Nisei Week at JACCC

Doizaki Gallery  
224 S. San Pedro Street (Little Tokyo)  
Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

John Naka's club will host special guest exhibitors as well as club member's trees.

Additional information about Nisei Week can be found at: [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org)

### September 6 – 9, 2018 Kofu Bonsai Kai 2018 Bonsai Fest at the Bowers

John M. Lee Court, 2002 N. Main St.  
Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM daily  
Featuring bonsai trees of the members of Kofu Bonsai Kai and special presentations. Free Admission to bonsai area. Bonsai pots and trees for sale.

For more information visit [www.kofukai.org](http://www.kofukai.org)

### September 29 – 30, 2018 San Diego Bonsai Club 2018 Fall Bonsai Exhibition

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park  
Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily  
Featuring demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM. Free Admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale. For more information visit [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

For more event information, please visit  
[bit.ly/GSBF-MoreEvents](http://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

Lindsay Shiba, Tom Vuong, Shirley Floresca,  
Gregg Perkins, Jason Saito,  
Kajikawa family, Oneda family.

### Refreshment Contributors

CJ & Mark Levinstein, Doyle Saito,  
Fred Floresca, Joan Shiosaki, Dan Sawada,  
Tom Vuong, May Schlotzhaur, Hoa & Le,  
Glen & Carol Takahashi, Joseph Ortega.

### Refreshment Signup for August

Kei Ikari

*Please remember to sign the contribution sheet so that we may acknowledge your generosity.*

### Special thanks to

Lindsay Shiba, Tom Culton, Doyle Saito  
*for his 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](http://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](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)