



# THE GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON NEWSLETTER

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Cheryl Manning works on a demo tree at the 2022 Bonsai-A-Thon



Huntington Bonsai Curator Ted Matson created a foemina forest reminiscent of a Japanese coastal grove for the 2022 Bonsai-A-Thon. A video of the forest creation can be seen on the GSBF Huntington website. Above, Ted Matson and his volunteer crew with the foemina forest. From L-R, Keith Martin, Tony Thien, Ted Matson, Daniel Deephouse, Bill Stanton, Mike Kelly.

## UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

This was my last Bonsai-A-Thon as chair of the GSBF Huntington Committee, and I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to work at the BAT this year and made this BAT a rousing success! And thanks to all who worked so hard over the past few years, both at the Bonsai-A-Thon, and with the GSBF Collection of bonsai at the Huntington. It has been a privilege and fun to have worked with you all.

Cheryl Manning will be taking over as Chairperson. A current member of the GSBF Committee, she was also in charge of the very first Bonsai-A-Thon twenty-six years ago.

For the past thirty years, Cheryl has been passionate about the art of bonsai. An artist since childhood and an avid gardener since her teens, Cheryl discovered Murata Bonsai Nursery in 1981—and it was love at first sight: art and gardening wrapped up in one small package.

In 1985, Cheryl joined Satsuki Kai, a club of the leading bonsai masters in West Los Angeles, where she formed lasting friendships.

By 1989, Cheryl was hiking in the Tehachapi mountains with Harry Hirao, collecting California junipers. Later, she was fortunate enough to become not only a student and close friend of John Naka, the father of American bonsai, but also an apprentice in Japan with bonsai master Yasuo Mitsuya, owner of Tokai-en in Toyohashi.

Cheryl has conducted bonsai demonstrations, workshops, and slide presentations in the United States, Canada, and Australia. She's written more than forty articles for many bonsai publications including the column "Trash To Treasure" for *Bonsai: Journal of the [American Bonsai Society](#)*.

Ellen Keneshea  
Chair, GSBF Collection at the Huntington

## 2022 BONSAI-A-THON

Many thanks to all those who donated to the 2022 Bonsai-A-Thon, who were vendors, who volunteered or just plain attended. It was great to be at the BAT in person again!

Once again, we had a table full of Kathy Boehme's gorgeous bonsai pots to raffle—always a highlight.

We netted over \$30,000 to add to the GSBF Endowment at the Huntington, which goes to support the Bonsai Curator and one other bonsai staff position..

### THANK YOU TO DONORS

Marybel Balendonck

Kathy Benson

Marge Blasingame

Kathryn Boehme

Mathew Borst

Bonnie Brown

Sue Carter

Jason Chan

Tom Chen

Chikugu En/Gary Ishii

Descanso Bonsai Society

Edward Ewing

Gabriel Gonzalez

Huntington Collection

Janelly's Bonsai/Jannette Baotista

Ellen Keneshea

Kofu Bonsai Kai

Jeff Lahr

Las Vegas Bonsai Society

Peter Macasieb

Cheryl Manning

Ted Matson

Robert Pressler

Ron Reekers

Richard Ryerson

Doyle Saito

Jason Saito

San Diego Bonsai Club/Bill Graham

Victor Shelton

Tak Shimazu

South Coast Bonsai Association

Cary & Steve Valentine

Isabel Vargas

Tom Vuong



Top to bottom, L-R , Demonstrators Jason Saito, Jason Chan, Peter Macasieb and Bob Pressler work on trees that were auctioned at the Bonsai-A-Thon.

Lucky bidders also won trees from the other demonstrators—Tak Shimazu, Tom Vuong. and Cheryl Manning.

BAT attendees filled the Brody Center Auditorium to hear Tom Elias give a special presentation on the Art of Japanese Viewing Stones, or followed Chinese Garden Curator Phillip Bloom as he led a tour of the expanded Chinese Garden and Penjing Court. On Sunday, Ted Matson led a group through the Ben Oki Bonsai Nursery.

Among the many volunteers who made the BAT possible were, L-R, Wendy Tsai, Marissa Macasieb, Hannah Vuong, Mitch Matsey, and Joe Galgoul.



This year's bonsai exhibit included trees from retiring GSBF Committee members whose tireless work kept the GSBF bonsai collection growing, and Bonsai-A-Thon going, for the past 25 years.

Above, left, longtime Treasurer Elizabeth Likes's boxwood, originally designed by John Naka.

Above, past Chairman Jim Barrett's pomegranate.

Left, Auction and Raffle Chair Marge Blasingame's Chinese elm.

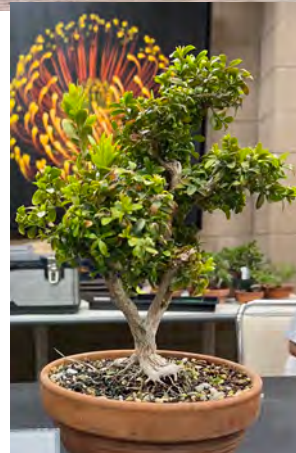
**We cannot thank them enough!**

*Unless otherwise noted, all photos by Ellen Keneshea, Newsletter Editor*

BEFORE AND AFTER  
for three demonstrators' creations.

Right—Two saikei created by Jason Saito  
Left—Marybel Balendonck's bougainvillea, trimmed and  
repotted by Cheryl Manning  
Center— Jason Chan's re-imagining of a juniper

*Photos by Michelle Nakamura*



Bonsai volunteers are working at the Huntington every week and we need help!  
*If you wish to come and work on the bonsai, email Ted Matson at [tmatson@huntington.org](mailto:tmatson@huntington.org)*

On another note, Bonsai-A-Thon 2023 will have to be re-configured, and probably curtailed in some way, Bonsai Curator Ted Matson has been told by Huntington Botanical staff. We don't yet know what the changes will be, or how extensive. The GSBF Committee will be hammering it all out with the Huntington as we head toward the next Bonsai-A-Thon. Details to come!



## BEN OKI BONSAI NURSERY



The Ben Oki Bonsai Nursery at the Huntington just got a makeover, including new ground cover, redwood benches, and watering system. Top, clearing the nursery to make way for the improvements. Below and right, new benches, some lower for easier access to the bigger trees.

*Photo by Mitch Matsey*



*Photo by Mitch Matsey*