



THE GSBF COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON

GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION COLLECTION SOUTH

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Message from the Chairman

Over the past several months, the GSBF Huntington Committee has been working on numerous projects. We have a wonderful Facebook page created by committee member Carol Upton, which can be found on Facebook by looking for GSBF Bonsai Collection at The Huntington. Please visit our page to “like” and “follow” us on coverage of projects at the collection and in the bonsai nursery.

Many thanks to Eric Jacobson and Janice Hale, from San Diego Bonsai Club, who got the GSBF Huntington web site up and running. Eric walked yours truly through the process of building a website; answering my numerous, completely ignorant, computer questions with out laughing (at least not until I hung up the phone). Janice Hale worked with Eric in this process and has taken on the job of webmaster. To see Eric's and Janice's work our web site can be found at www.gsbfhuntington.com

Our First Thursday Program has been expanded to include the First Saturday of the month. Saturday, August 1st was our first outing. While temperatures were sizzling, it was still very well attended by volunteers and Huntington patrons. It was well received by the Huntington and thoroughly enjoyed by the volunteers.

The Committee has been working on the 2016 Bonsai-A-Thon and I am also pleased to announce Orange County Bonsai Society and Orange Empire Bonsai Society will be hosting the 2016 event. Orange County and Orange Empire are firming up some of their exciting ideas for the event. Please watch our website and Facebook for further updates on Bonsai-A-Thon XX.



Bill Wawrychuk, Chairman

Bonsai-A-Thon XX - February 27th & 28th, 2016

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens
Brody Botanical Center, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California

- 8:00–9:30** **Early Bird Registration for Bonsai Club Members Only:** Pancake breakfast available.
8:00–5:00 **Extensive Bazaar Area:** Select vendors selling top-quality tools, pots and trees (raw material to display-ready); masterpiece trees on display.
8:00–5:00 **Bonsai Exhibit:** By the Orange County Bonsai Society and Orange Empire Bonsai Society.
10:00-11:30 **Guided Tours:** Led by Jim Folsom, Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens.
10:00–2:45 **Demonstrations:** Initial training and advanced styling techniques by experts.
11:30-1:30 **Lunch:** Hotdogs and Hamburgers available.
2:00-2:45 **Dr. Earth:** Organic Fertilizer Seminar. **Saturday only.**
3:00-4:30 **Daily Benefit Drawing & Live Auction:** Demonstration and donated trees, pots, tools and more.
TBA: **Behind the Scenes Tour of Huntington Bonsai Nursery** – Led by Ted Matson, Curator of the GSBF Collection at The Huntington, **Sunday only.**

For updates, check our website: www.gsbfhuntington.com

GSBF Bonsai Collection News

Two major health issues are creating challenges for our collection along with many street and yard trees throughout Southern California. The first is the discovery of the polyphagous shot hole borer in two of our bonsai. This is an insidious pest that has invaded SoCal and threatens our entire arborscape. It spreads wilt disease and so far there are no real controls.

One of our infestations was a small cork oak that quickly succumbed to wilt. A suspicious stain was present on quarter-sized spot on the trunk so the tree was autopsied and the borer was found. Another is Japanese maple that we keep in a different nursery area under R/O (reverse osmosis) water. In this case, a brown wet stain is at the top of the crown, which has collapsed below the indicator. This tree is being kept for observation to see how the problem progresses.

Another issue is the discovery in San Gabriel of a new appearance of HLB, or citrus "greening disease," and The Huntington has been included in the quarantine zone for all citrus. As a result, although we won't have to dispose of any citrus in our collections, they are extremely restricted in their movement and cannot even be moved off their current bench where they are enclosed in caution tape. This will also mean that no citrus of any kind will be allowed onto Huntington Gardens premises for events like the Bonsai-A-Thon.

The volunteer program continues to progress, with Peter Macasieb agreeing to lead a pine management curation team. He led volunteers in an all-day de-candling session on June 27. It turned out to be a cloudy, cool day, with light rain in the afternoon so the group was extremely productive and got through almost all pines in the collection, with the exception of a couple on display and pines in development.

On a related note, Lindsay Shiba has volunteered to head a deciduous curation team. A respected teacher, artist and bonsai nurseryman, his expertise will be welcomed as his program is being put together and will launch sometime this year.

Cheryl Manning has agreed to lead the Naka and Stuart Legacy trees. Since long before John passed, Cheryl worked closely with John, and also became very close to Gloria Stuart, who continued to be a bonsai supporter, even after her "Titanic" fame. In both cases, Cheryl has been quite instrumental in making sure John's and Gloria's trees continue to survive.

Also, Hal Rosenfeld has agreed to lead a display rotation curation team. Hal has been a regular with the first Thursday volunteer program, and over the years wandering the courts and answering questions, he has proven to be a good observer. He also has the knowledge and experience over his years in the hobby to help bring a more coordinated effort to our display rotation planning and execution.

On August 3 & 4, we also held another session of work involving our California juniper restoration efforts under the guidance of Ryan Neil (our first curation team). This work was a follow-up to the second session with him, which entailed major structural styling in early December, 2014, and followed up with detailed wiring and foliage arrangement over the month of January. Since then, the trees were allowed to grow and were fed well.

That effort produced a vigor that, at this session, enabled Ryan, working on some trees alone and guiding volunteers on others, to do another cleaning, detailed wiring (as needed), thinning (to balance), and repositioning of foliage masses to bring the trees to a higher level of refinement, including the Kimura tree that is part of the GSBF collection. Ryan was very pleased with the progress of all trees and, while many have to complete some more structural "set" with more growth, there are a few that are very close to being ready to move into the display rotation, and the Sherwin Amimoto tree that could go out right away if the soil were dressed. All will be quite stunning, and some of the very best bonsai in our collections.

GSBF Bonsai Collection News - Continued

Continued from Page 2

Finally, one of The Huntington's finest bonsai, an old massive olive collected, styled and donated by John Naka, has been selected as one of the 70 trees (of over 300 entries) selected for display in The Artisan's Cup, an exhibition of the finest examples of American bonsai to be held at the Portland Art Museum (a first for bonsai!) on September 25-27, 2015. Since June, we've been working to trim, clean and prep the tree so it looks its very best for the exhibition. The tree, along with others from California, will be transported via a climate-controlled truck.

Ted E. Matson
August 13, 2015

Editors Note:

*For more information on the polyphagous shot hole borer you can visit:
http://ucanr.edu/sites/socaloakpests/Polyphagous_Shot_Hole_Borer/*

*For more information on HLB citrus "greening disease" you can visit:
<http://www.californiacitrusthreat.org/huanglongbing-citrus-greening.php>*

GSBF First Thursday & First Saturday Programs at the Huntington

Our First Thursday and First Saturday Programs are, to put it simply, a success. It allows GSBF to reach out to the general public and expand knowledge on the art of bonsai. The program allows Huntington patrons interested in bonsai to get information and have their questions answered by an expert. It is also an avenue to obtain new members for local Southern California clubs.

The program is open to everyone in the Southern California bonsai community. **You can volunteer for one, several, or all twelve Thursdays and/or Saturdays in the year!** Parking for the Bonsai Garden Specialists is **INSIDE** the gardens right above the collection. As an added bonus, you get to wear a spiffy GSBF Huntington Collection apron and a really neat Huntington Garden's Volunteer Badge.

If you would like further information on the GSBF First Thursday/Saturday Program, please contact Bill Wawrychuk, (818) 790-9415, b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com



Harry Hirao Mr. California Juniper

Harry Hirao, friend, teacher and mentor of countless enthusiasts of bonsai and suiseki, passed away on July 23, 2015 at the age of 98 years.

A kind, gentle man known for his generosity, Harry looked forward to sharing his love for bonsai and suiseki with everyone he met. His bonsai classes, demonstrations and displays of his beloved California junipers were world famous.

Harry took pleasure in taking his students and friends to dig California junipers. Every tree digging trip was a great adventure with everyone hoping to find a masterpiece just over the next hill. However, if you did not find a tree, he was sure to find one for you to take home.

Harry Hirao is known and respected world wide in the bonsai and viewing stone community.

During his lengthy career Harry received numerous awards. He donated a masterpiece bonsai to the John Y. Naka North American Pavilion, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington D.C., the Golden State Bonsai Federation collections at Lake Merritt in Oakland and The Huntington in San Marino, as well as the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion. Harry also donated viewing stones in honor of his beloved wife, Alyce Hirao to the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum as well as donating to The Huntington, Harry Hirao Viewing Stone Courtyard.

Harry Hirao leaves a great legacy of beautiful bonsai and suiseki, but more importantly, he leaves many, many friends.

Glenn Jensen, San Diego Bonsai Club
Curator: Japanese Friendship Garden Bonsai Collection, Balboa Park, San Diego



For More Information about The GSBF Collection at The Huntington

Visit our Website:

www.gsbfhuntington.com

Or



**GSBF Bonsai Collection
at The Huntington**

Chairman

Bill Wawrychuk

b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com
(818) 790-9415

Donations

Bill Wawrychuk

b_wawrychuk@yahoo.com
(818) 790-9415

Financial Donations

Elizabeth Likes
lizlikes@aol.com
(818) 352-3064

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Janice Hale
janicehale2015@gmail.com
(858) 603-5751

Golden State Bonsai Federation

<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org>

The GSBF Collection at the Huntington

<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/huntington/>

Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108
<http://www.huntington.org>
(626) 405-2100