



THE GSBF COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON

GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION COLLECTION SOUTH

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2018

Message from the Chairperson

A finished bonsai is a dead bonsai. Or so I was told when I first began learning bonsai some seventeen years ago. If the bonsai is alive, it needs continual care and attention to nurture it through the passing seasons, but if you work hard, the tree rewards you by becoming a thing of beauty. I was mulling this over walking through the bonsai collections at The Huntington on my volunteer day, trimming here, weeding there, cleaning this pot, adding moss to that one, and marveling at how much the trees in the collections have grown and improved over the years.

It's a real pleasure to now chair the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington Committee, and to be able to help the bonsai thrive.

We are now gearing up for the Bonsai-A-Thon, February 24 and 25, 2018. It's an annual event where we pull out all the stops with an exhibit, auctions, raffles, tours of the Huntington Gardens, backstage tours of the bonsai nursery, workshops, and vendors. Best of all, admission is free to participants.

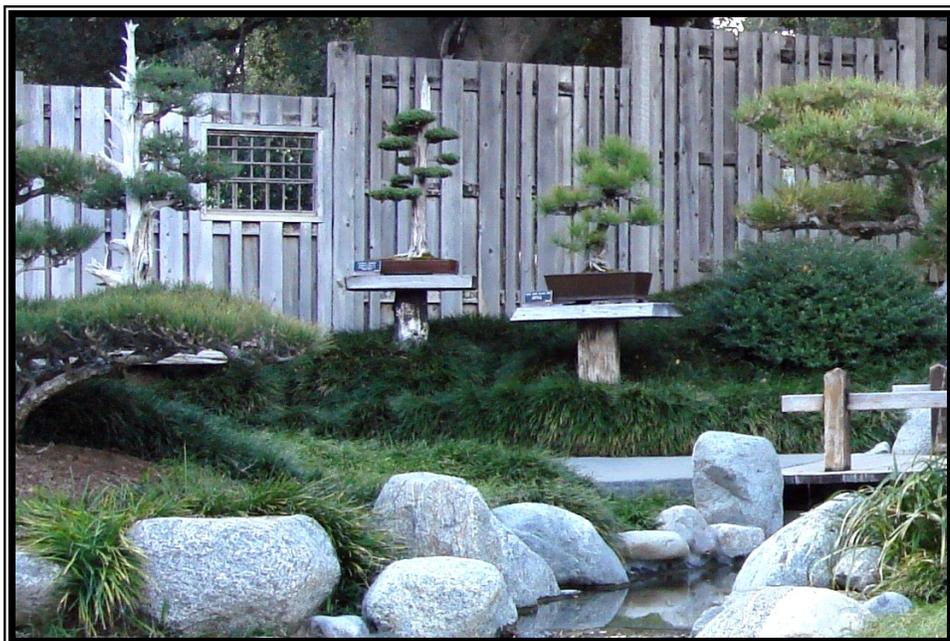
Another way to put that first sentence: a bonsai is never finished. Many of these lovely works-in-progress are on display daily in the upper and lower bonsai courts in the Japanese Garden. More will be in the exhibit at the Bonsai-A-Thon. Stop by the courts, come to the Bonsai-A-Thon, see the trees and feel your spirits lift.



Ellen Keneshea, Chairperson

First Thursday & Saturday Volunteers

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO ROAM THE UPPER AND LOWER BONSAI COURTS AT THE HUNTINGTON GARDENS ON THE FIRST THURSDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH TO CHAT WITH VISITORS AND TELL THEM ABOUT THE WONDERS OF BONSAI!!



FREE ADMISSION AND FREE HUNTINGTON APRON TO ALL VOLUNTEERS! YOU WILL LOOK AND BE TOTALLY OFFICIAL!!

**THE GARDEN IS OPEN FROM
10 AM TO 5PM
COME FOR A FEW HOURS,
COME FOR THE DAY**

**CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL YES!
TO ELLEN KENESHEA
(818)521-7569
ekeneshea@gmail.com**

BONSAI-A-THON 2018

Fundraiser for THE GSBF COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON Saturday February 24th & Sunday February 25th, 2018

GSBF Early Bird Passes & Bonsai Club Members 7:30am - 5:00pm
General Public 10:00am - 5:00pm

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

- DAILY SCHEDULE -

***Some activities are for Saturday or Sunday Only where noted.
Visit www.gsbfhuntington.com for more information.***

7:30–9:30	Early Bird Registration & Pancake Breakfast for Bonsai Club Members Only
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: GSBF Bonsai Collection at The Huntington
9:00-Saturday Only	Huntington Sponsored Beginner’s Bonsai Workshop - <i>Saturday Only</i>
9:00–Saturday Only	Huntington Sponsored Children’s Bonsai Workshop - <i>Saturday Only</i>
9:00–2:00	Demonstrations: Initial training and advanced styling by experts— Saturday: Mel Ikeda, Cesareo Perez, Tom Vuong, Peter Macasieb, David Miles/Gonzalo Rodriguez. Sunday: Roy Nagatoshi, Bob Hilvers, Ken Teh, Frank Goya, Tak Shimazu.
10:00- Saturday Only	Guided Tours: Led by Jim Folsom, Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens.
10:00-2:00	Sale Area benefiting the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington
11:30-1:30	Lunch: Hotdogs and Hamburgers available.
2:00-4:30	Live Auction followed by Raffle: Demonstration and donated trees, pots, tools and more. Please bring your donations of bonsai related items for the drawing and auction!
10:00-Sunday Only	Behind the Scenes Tour of Huntington Bonsai Nursery – Led by Ted Matson, Curator of the GSBF Collection at The Huntington - <i>Sunday only.</i>

**Please remember to bring your bonsai related items to
donate to the daily raffle and live auction.
Thank You!!!**

2017 BONSAI-A-THON - THANK YOU!!!

The Golden State Bonsai Federation is fortunate to have three world class bonsai exhibits. The Bonsai-A-Thon is held each February as the annual fund raising event benefiting the Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington. Through the generosity of The Huntington, GSBF affiliated Clubs and bonsai artists like you, this collection thrives. Once again, many, many thanks to the all who made donations to the 2017 Bonsai-A-Thon Raffle and Auction. The **San Gabriel Nursery** donated many pre-bonsai to our sale area. We were again very fortunate to receive another large donation of over 100 hand-crafted bonsai pots from **Kathy Boehme**.

Some donated several items and may be listed under more than one category. We sincerely hope we have not overlooked anyone.

CASH DONATIONS

\$1,000 & Up

Marybel Balendonck

\$100 to \$999

Marge Blasingame
Bill & Lois Hutchinson
Gary Lai

Club Cash Donations

California Bonsai Society
Santa Anita Bonsai Society
San Pu Kai

CLUB DONATIONS

(Non-Cash)

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkuykai
California Bonsai Society
Dai Ici Bonsai Kai
San Diego Bonsai Club

DEMONSTRATION TREE DONATIONS

Kathy Benson
Frank Goya
Bob Hilvers
Mel Ideda
Fred Miyahara
Roy Nagatoshi
Al Nelson
Dihn Nguyen
Cesareo Perez
Bob Pressler
Albert Rivera
Tom Vuong



VENDORS

Jim & Helen Barrett
Chikugo-En Nursery
House of Bonsai
David & June Nguy
Ron Reekers
Dick Ryerson
Frank Yee

DONATIONS

Barry Altshule
Kathy Boehme
Louis Carrillo
Keith Carter
Tom Chen
Peter Chong
Ed Clark
John DeLuca
Abe Far
Joyce Gibbs
Bob & Janice Hale
Harry Hirao
Phil Hogan
Mel Ikeda
Shirley Kavanaugh
Howie Kawahara
Kim's Bonsai Nursery
Doug McGavin
Dinh Nguyen
Bill & Claudia Packard
Doyle Saito
San Gabriel Nursery
Stuart Shim
'lyn Stevenson
Gloria Tillman
Steve & Cary Valentine
Tom Vuong
Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery

Bonsai Collection News



This summer and fall saw an increased focus on styling and refinement of our trees. Our recent emphasis has been on keeping our trees vigorous and, with good soils and watering practices and a managed fertilization program, we've accomplished that. Many people have observed that our collection trees have a healthy "glow" about them, so they will respond well as we get into the detailed work.

One thing that has helped up keep with the effort is a growing body of bonsai volunteers. While many continue to come from the bonsai community, many new volunteers have come from the Bonsai Gakko classes taught at The Huntington (every June and October). While these people are brand new to bonsai, they are willing learners. One benefit is that they are learning proper techniques and methods right away rather than having to unlearn bad practices. I try to get them working on trees as quickly as possible, starting out with potential culls and secondary pieces that they can work on without the fear of ruining an important art piece, and often working alongside a more experienced person. Since they're using the volunteer program as a means to continue their bonsai education, they are highly motivated and some of my most dedicated volunteers. As a result, they are quickly becoming valuable workers with a growing set of useful skills.



Peter Macasieb again led volunteers in two days of pine de-candling in June, and also conducted a morning drop-in pine clinic. The trees are fuller and denser than ever, so we're anticipating Peter leading our group in our winter work. Many pines will require wiring out this year, so that will be a focus in coming weeks.



Lindsay Shiba continues to come in on occasion to work on his group of deciduous trees. While volunteers do the regular maintenance, Lindsay has been working to build new structure on some trees, and refine others.

Probably the most visible changes in our collection involve the California junipers that are being refined by Ryan Neil. Last year, he came to do the first major detailed styling of the trees. Many of them held their refinement through the year. However, with the recent session in November, Ryan was able to bring the trees to an even higher level of artistry, with a few major design changes to go along with many subtle and not-so-subtle refinements. Over 25 volunteers came both days that Ryan was here, with many pitching in to help with cleaning, wiring, cleaning up, etc., and all gaining some advanced knowledge thanks to Ryan's willingness to teach along with working. We've already put a few of those

Bonsai Collection News

trees on display in the courts, and will add more in coming months.

Another development was the receipt of all the remaining trees, stands and other miscellaneous bonsai-related items from Ben Oki. Ben is in a nursing home, so his family made the donation of his items to The Huntington. There are a few things from that group that we have accessioned, including stands; and those trees we keep will be maintained in Ben's style. Among the pieces are a double-trunk prostrata juniper and a cedar elm. Other pieces are still being considered for final accession; what is not accessioned will be offered at the Bonsai-A-Thon.

Earlier this year, The Huntington received trees from the estate of the late Dr. Hal Rosenfeld as a gift from his son, Jordan Rosenfeld. They include some pieces that we've accessioned, as well as some we're able to offer guest artists to style, including a California Juniper that Mauro Stemberger styled in a public demonstration last spring.

On December 6th, Mauro returned for a day of follow-up work on the two trees he styled earlier in 2017. The Trees had pushed long spikes, and Mauro did thinning and wiring to bring both to a nice second stage of refinement (nice enough for one to maybe put out on display). He also tackled a tall and massive California juniper formal upright, thinning and opening to create greater spread and volume, as well as breaking up some long empty spaces with more foliage planes. While we weren't able to finish the top, Mauro left instructions for us to complete the work on the crown. He'll be back in the spring to perform another round of work. As with Ryan, Mauro was a willing teacher to the group of volunteers in attendance.

The Society of Botanical Illustrators has selected bonsai as their subject matter this year. I gave a lecture to the group this summer, outlining the principles and concepts behind bonsai design. The members then selected pieces from our collections to depict in a manner of their choosing and have been coming in on a fairly regular basis over the course of a few months to do their on-site work, which they then refine in a studio setting. Next year, the best of the group's efforts will be featured in a display in The Huntington Botanic Center. It has been interesting to see what a botanical illustrator sees in a bonsai.



Ryan Neil's California juniper refinement



Mauro Stemberger's project, top completed by Huntington volunteer team.

Collection News, Cont.

I gave a lecture for the second time this year to a group of high school students in the performing arts who were participating in the staging of the opera, "White Bird of Poston", which is set in the internment camps of Arizona. I brought out The Huntington's collection of three pots from the internment camps, plus some trees from our collection that are significant to both Native American and Japanese culture, and an olive that has a history involving internment camp survivors. I was also invited to attend a performance of that opera in October.

We had a visit from Mr. Yamaji on July 4, 2017. He is the nurseryman from Japan who was involved on their end of a bonsai exchange program earlier this year. He sent us a collected native shimpaku juniper and we sent them a camellia. Both are doing well. The juniper is under quarantine for another 1.5 years, at which time we can begin working on it. It's quite a striking tree, with dramatic movement and deadwood. To help cope with the different climate here, where it is so dry, we had it under misters since last May.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ted E. Matson, Curator



Photos in this issue provided by Julian Tsai, Ted Matson,
Ellen Keneshea and Janice Hale.

For More Information about The GSBF Collection at The Huntington

Visit our Website:
www.gsbfhuntington.com

Or



**GSBF Bonsai Collection
at The Huntington**

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