



THE GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON NEWSLETTER

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UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

For those of you who tuned in to our Virtual Bonsai-A-Thon this year, many thanks and we hope you enjoyed it!

For myself, I missed seeing everyone and getting together in person, but fingers crossed next year we'll be able to be back at the Huntington and can all get together there.

In case you missed the Bonsai Tours with Ted Matson, or would like to see them again, here are the links to the three videos put together by master videographer Tom Lau.



And here is a link to the whole Virtual BAT, including the morning program on Bonsai with Ted Matson, and the afternoon session on Penjing with Phillip Bloom.

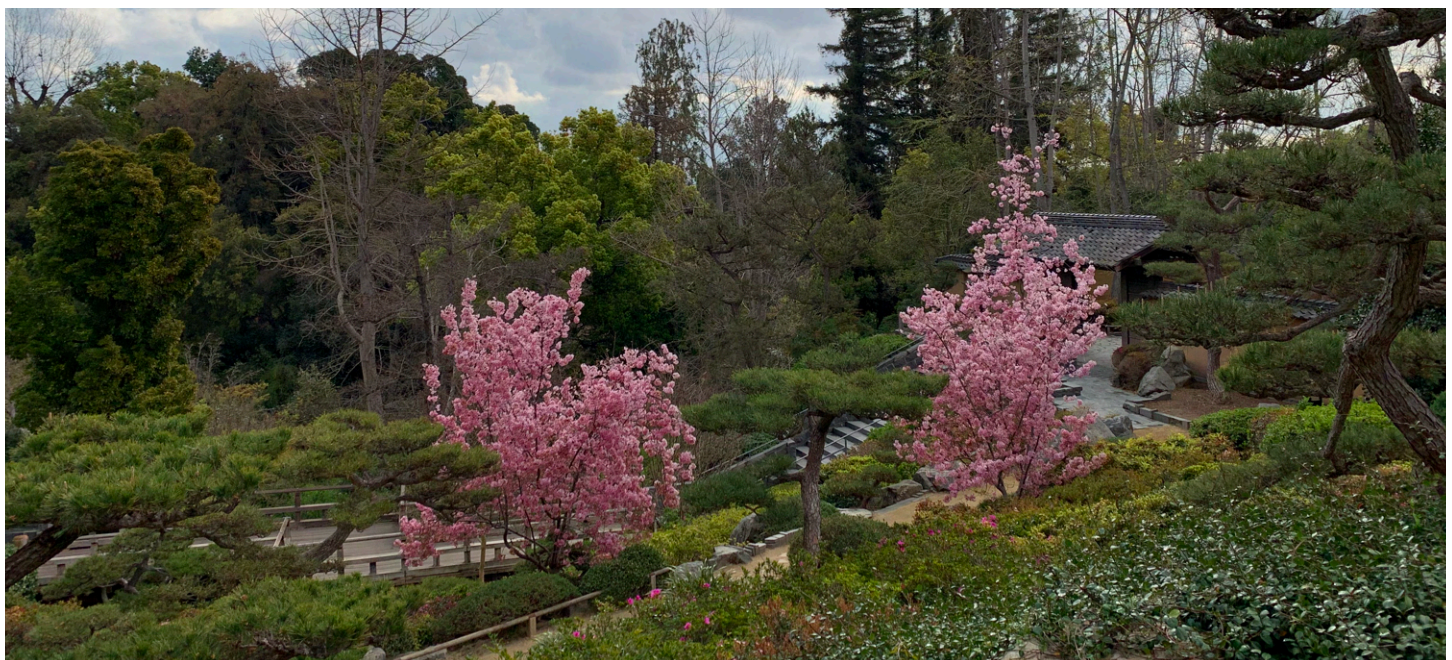
<https://www.huntington.org/videos-recorded-programs/virtual-bonsai-thon-2021>

There will not be a GSBF Convention this year, but there will be a two day GSBF Rendezvous October 2 & 3, 2021, in Santa Nella. Preliminary plans are that we will have demos, bring your own tree workshops, tomodachi, vendors, silent auctions and consignment sales. Meals will be on your own. The event will be free admission.

Bonsai volunteers are now working at the Huntington. If you wish to come and work on the bonsai, email Ted Matson at tmatson@earthlink.net.

Meanwhile, stay safe, be well, and enjoy your bonsai!

Ellen Keneshea
Chair, GSBF Collection at the Huntington



FAREWELL, JIM FOLSOM

After 36 years as Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Jim Folsom has retired, leaving a spectacular legacy: a diverse collection of more than a dozen themed gardens and a rigorous program for botanical research and conservation. He oversaw the expansion of the Bonsai Collection in 2012, adding an Upper Bonsai Court, including a shohin collection, above the Lower Court. His retirement coincides with what may be his most ambitious project—an almost \$55 million expansion of the Huntington's spectacular 15-acre Chinese Garden—Liu Fang Yuan 流芳園, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance. The project took almost thirty years to complete. It includes an expansive penjing court which beautifully complements the bonsai exhibits in the Japanese Garden.

As Botanical Director, Jim was a great friend to the bonsai community and we will miss him!

For a fuller biography of Jim Folsom, check out “Legacy of Wonder” on the Huntington website.



Top, Jim giving tours at the Bonsai-A-Thon. Below left, with Marybel Balendonck at a BAT, bottom right, a final tour of the Gardens last December before moving on to the next adventure.



HUNTINGTON UPDATE

The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens will begin to reopen its art galleries on April 17, so that the public may at last see the [newly restored masterpiece](#) of 18th-century British portraiture, *The Blue Boy* by Thomas Gainsborough. In addition, “[Made in L.A. 2020: a version](#),” the fifth iteration of the Hammer Museum’s biennial exhibition, will debut simultaneously at both the Hammer and The Huntington in two versions that make up the whole. “Made in L.A. 2020” will remain on view at both institutions through Aug. 1.

All of The Huntington’s galleries have been closed since March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; but, with county public health permission to safely reopen museums, The Huntington will once again welcome visitors to three distinct gallery spaces: the first floor of the Huntington Art Gallery, and the galleries where “Made in L.A.” is on display—in the MaryLou and George Boone Gallery and a portion of the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art.

Planning for the reopening of other galleries at The Huntington, including the Library Exhibition Hall, is underway.

Those who wish to visit The Huntington—either to walk in the gardens or to enter galleries—must obtain a standard online ticket in advance at [huntington.org](https://www.huntington.org), according to requirements in place since the gardens reopened last July. All visitors are required to comply with such COVID-related safety measures as wearing face coverings (even if vaccinated) and being screened for symptoms, including a temperature check. Those wishing to enter galleries will be required to queue up outside gallery doors as needed to maintain the Los Angeles County occupancy guidelines for the Red Tier, which limit indoor occupancy to 25 percent. Inside galleries, visitor traffic flow and other distancing measures will be enforced.

AN UPDATE FROM JONAS DUPUICH ON THE PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO

For starters, Eric Shrader and I have decided to move the event to next year. We're aiming for the first or second weekend in November, 2022. The main reason for this is to give exhibitors more time to prepare their trees for the show. It also allows us to avoid conflict with the [U.S. National Exhibition](#) which will be held this fall in Rochester, New York.

We've also selected a name for the event: **The Pacific Bonsai Expo!** The idea is to identify the location of the event without providing any limits on who we expect to participate.

For those who missed the [previous post](#), here's a rundown of the plan:

- The event will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area

- The event is open to everyone; out of state submissions are welcome

- Jurors will determine which trees are accepted for display

- We're aiming to display 75+ trees

- There will be a large vendor area

- The event will feature traditional and non-traditional displays

Over the coming months, Eric and I will refine our ideas for the event ahead of the submission period this coming fall and winter. Here are some things we're working on:

JUDGING

We're evaluating different approaches to judging so we can recognize outstanding entries in different categories. To ensure broad participation in the judging process, we're considering inviting each bonsai club in Northern California to nominate a judge to participate in a panel. *There are a lot of ways to fill a panel, so please let us know if you have any suggestions.*

AWARD SPONSORSHIPS

One way to encourage participation is to allow sponsors to directly support exhibit awards. Under this model, bonsai vendors, local businesses, or individuals can select awards to sponsor and determine the award levels. If someone wants to encourage non-traditional displays, they can sponsor an award for the *Best Non-Traditional Bonsai Display* in hopes of attracting submissions to the category.

RECOGNIZING BONSAI CLUBS

As bonsai organizations provide support to enthusiasts and professionals around the world, we'd like to create opportunities for them to participate in the event. This might include noting club affiliations on exhibit displays, encouraging clubs to sponsor exhibitor fees for accepted submissions, and allowing submissions for group displays. Clubs may also contribute by coordinating volunteer activities at the event in areas like docent tours, security, or special events.

If you're curious to learn more about the event, check out the recent episode of the Bonsai Wire Podcast in which Andrew Robson interviews Eric Schrader and I about our plans, including info about the a venue we're excited about on the San Francisco Bay.

Listen at:

[Bonsaiwirepodcast.com](https://www.bonsaiwirepodcast.com)



Work continues on the bonsai collections under Covid-19 protocols and I'm happy to report that, with masking, distancing and working outside, we've managed to avoid outbreaks related to our volunteer activities.

That has enabled us to repot more than 100 trees, including the entire collection from Dr. Hart Isaacs that we received in December. We've also repotted a gift of 42 quite old and powerful shohin/chuhin bonsai (mostly junipers, but also a dozen deciduous trees-- elms, zelkova, pomegranate, and a pine) donated by Marge Blasingame that will enhance our holdings of smaller trees. More recently, Ray Blasingame also began bringing in Marge's collection of viewing stones as another donation.

Some other gifts received in 2021 are a contorted Japanese quince donated by Ted Matson in memory of Sarah Gyer, a well-known old Satsuma plum bonsai (faithful in both flowers and fruit) donated by Kathy Benson, and two bonsai pots and sphagnum moss donated by Michiko Watanabe.

Mr. Che has also been busy repotting many very large penjing that have been added to that collection. The result is that we've consumed massive volumes of potting soil already this year. But, it's been worth it as all trees are looking very healthy.

The one limitation we have is that, even with more people receiving the vaccine, I still can't put teams together to work on some of our biggest trees. We've been using our "Third Hand" equipment to get to some large pieces, but there are some that will have to wait to be repotted, most likely next year.

The Lifelines/Timelines exhibit ended its four month winter run on Jan. 25.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted E. Matson Curator

