



THE GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON NEWSLETTER

November 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Our last Bonsai-a-Thon was a challenge. Not only did we have a smaller venue due to the construction in Banta Hall, but the skies opened up and we were drenched by a river of rain that caused The Huntington to close their gardens. Fortunately, the bonsai community donned their rain gear and joined us for a wonderful weekend. Thanks to all the volunteers, vendors, demonstrators, and participants who contributed to such a successful event during a difficult time.

The 2024 Bonsai-a-Thon is just around the corner and we're busy planning for a great weekend. Now that all construction has been completed, we will return to our original floor plan with the demos and exhibit on the lower level of Banta Hall and the raffle/auction on the upper level. Vendors will occupy the Ahmanson and the courtyard.

Young Choe will be our visiting artist and conduct a kusamono demonstration on Saturday and a workshop on Sunday. With participation and donations from our bonsai community, we are optimistic that our fundraiser will be spectacular.

The Huntington will create a new portal so bonsai club members can sign up for one free pass to the Bonsai-a-Thon. If you want to attend both days, you will need to make a reservation for the second day which includes an admission fee. If you are already a member of The Huntington, your membership entitles you to free admission on both days. The Huntington does so much to support the bonsai collection. If you would like to support The Huntington, please become a member, and visit the gardens, museums, and library whenever the mood strikes.

The GSBF Rendezvous in Santa Nella (October 20-22) was a huge success with more than 350 people in attendance. Additions to the event this year included many workshops, almost all of which sold out. Headliner Bjorn Bjorholm transformed a huge Utah Juniper, conducted a workshop, and critiqued the bonsai exhibit which featured trees from the three GSBF Collections. Dedicated collection committee members not only prepared the five Huntington trees for display but also transported them along with all exhibit materials and then set up the entire exhibition on the afternoon before the event. Sincere thanks go out to Joe Galgoul, Mike Kelly, Mitch Matsey, Kathy Benson, and Ellen Keneshea for a job well done. After the Saturday night banquet, David Nguy was presented with the Circle of Sensei award for all his contributions to GSBF. The next Rendezvous will be in October 2025 and the planning has already begun so it should be special.

Cheryl Manning
Chair GSBF Collection at the Huntington

CURATOR'S REPORT



Wow! I can hardly believe that it's been over a year since my last curator's report, but apparently that's the case. I know part of the delay was the lingering impacts of Covid which continued to limit some of our activities into the current year, so we really didn't have a lot to report on. But that has changed. First off, we had a number of different acquisitions to both GSBF and HG collections.

Some were in-kind gifts for fundraising, and some were pieces that we added to our collection holdings. The highlights:

- 10/26/22, 11 bonsai/penjing (many quite large) and 1 antique Chinese pot from private collector
- 10/31/22 bonsai pot donated by Ray Blasingame
- Nov./Dec./22, nearly 100 olive stumps were collected from the

Huntington rose garden and potted, with 50 subsequently sold at the BAT, and 50 remaining in the nursery

- 3/2/23, 1 root-over-rock trident maple in a Nick Lenz pot donated by Myron Muth and the Muth family in memory of Pauline Muth

- 3/5/23, Japanese black pine developed by Elaine Graczyk for more than 40 years and donated by Cheryl Manning.

- 4/24/23, a large procumbens nana juniper forest originally styled by John Naka for Elaine Graczyk, donated by Dr. Alexander Sinclair in memory of his late wife

- 5/12/23, 13 bonsai pots donated by James Bercerra (HG employee)

- 7/7/23, SoCal Masterworks of Bonsai Journal, donated by Marge Blasingame

- 8/28/23, 3 wooden display stands made by Bob Watson, donated by Marge Blasingame

- 9/2/23, 5 floor turntables donated by Walter Zipush

- 9/16/23, 7 tree foemina forest on a granite slab donated by Ted Matson

- 9/25/23, 15 bonsai as an in-kind donation from Michael Rovens, of which 6 shohin will be added to the collection along with some of the pots, 2 others will be offered to the Phoenix Japanese friendship Garden for their planned bonsai pavilion and the remainder will be sold at the BAT

On 10/20/23, we transferred a 3-tree Hollywood juniper bonsai to the GSBF Clarke Bonsai Collection at Shinzen Gardens in Fresno.

We did lots of repotting this year, using all of our recycled soils from previous years. I have another batch drying in the sun that we'll sterilize with steam for next year.

We also did some major culling of HG collection trees for the BAT this year, mostly duplicates of species/style, excess trees from collection gifts, or lesser quality trees that were unlikely to be put on display.

HG also purchased two new very heavy-duty lift carts to help with the handling of our large trees.

Among our losses have been a juniper procumbens saiikei (which we'll rebuild with new trees), and a large cork-bark pine that was way overdue for a repotting but couldn't be done during Covid work restrictions.

This past year saw my volunteer program return to a more normal mode of operation, where I could put groups of people to work on our larger trees. Luckily, there continues to be support. Among the reasons is that I've relaunched my Bonsai Gakko classes and have welcomed a couple of groups of new volunteers as a result, so we're able to catch up on some critical work. The Fall '23 session is going on as of this writing.

Much of HG's focus this past year was finishing the Chinese garden and penjing area, and then doing an all-out blitz to open the 230-year-old "shoya" heritage house, which is located immediately across from the bonsai nursery. That opened to the public on October 21. So, going ahead, the focus will turn on revamping the bonsai display courts with rearranged pedestals and pedestal tops, and the addition of a "walk of the giants" that will feature some of our larger bonsai in the Zilgitt Bonsai Court. And, as a larger project, a new, multi-purpose bonsai work area will be created with the idea of creating public interface with visitors touring through the house.

Respectfully submitted.

Ted E. Matson, Curator of the GSBF Collection at The Huntington

JAPANESE HERITAGE SHOYA HOUSE

The Japanese Heritage Shoya House, is a 3,000-square-foot residence is 320 years old, served as the center of village life in Marugame, Japan. In 2026, Akira and Yohko Yokoi offered their historic family home to The Huntington. It was carefully deconstructed, moved and reconstructed at The Huntington. Since 2019, artisans from Japan have been working with local architects, engineers, and construction workers to assemble the structures and re-create the traditional wood (no nails) and stonework features, as well as the roof tiles and plaster work while maintaining the traditions of Japanese craftsmanship and esthetics.

The historic house was the home for many generations of the Yokoi family, who served as the *shoya*, or village leaders, of a small farming community near Marugame, a city in Agawa prefecture, Japan. A *shoya* acted as an intermediary between the government and the farmers. The compound has been reconstructed on a 2-acre site, which includes a newly constructed gatehouse and courtyard based on the original structures, as well as a small garden with a pond, an irrigation canal, agricultural plots, and other landscape elements that closely resemble the compound's original setting.



2024 Bonsai-A-Thon

Fundraiser for

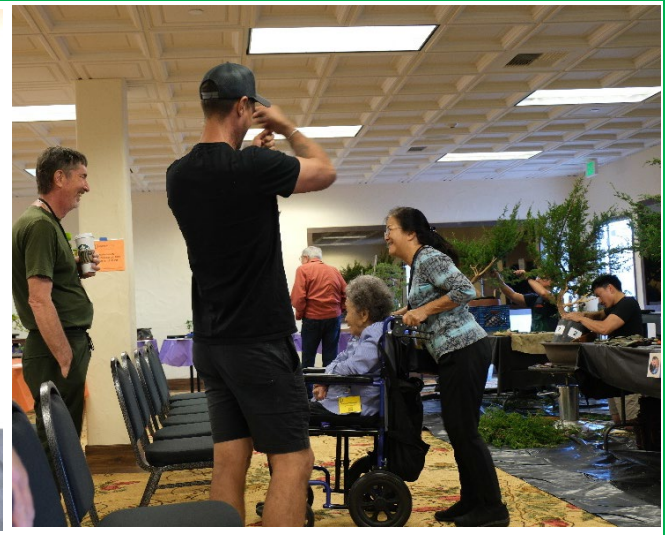
The Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, Brody Botanical Center,
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California
February 24 & 25, 2024, 10am to 5pm



- Vendors selling top-quality tools, pots and trees (raw material to display-ready); masterpiece trees on display.
- Bonsai styling demonstrations by bonsai masters, styled trees auctioned each day.
- Tour of new Japanese Heritage Shoja House
- Tour the expanded Chinese Garden
- Backstage tour of the Bonsai Nursery
- Enjoy Vendors, demonstrations, auctions, raffles, huge sales area.
- Daily benefit drawing & Live and Silent Auctions.
- Kusamono demonstration and workshop by Young Choe
- Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai – 2024 Bonsai-A-Thon Hosts

GSBF 2023 Rendezvous Highlights





GSBF 2023 Bonsai-A-Thon



THANK YOU DONORS

FRED MIYAHARA	DICK RYERSON
KATHRYN BOEHME	REMY HUFFMAN
JIM and HELEN BARRETT	BRIAN KEND
CHERYL MANNING	JANETTE BAUTISTA
KATHY BENSON	DAVID MELITZ
MITCH MATSEY	PETER MACASIEB
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