

# Ted Matson

For the past 14 years, Ted Matson has been curator of the bonsai at The Huntington. His dedication, artistic talent, and leadership in training and organizing volunteers has elevated the bonsai to a world-class collection. He has been an integral part of the Bonsai-A-Thon since it began in 1996.

Ted started his bonsai journey in San Francisco in 1979. After moving to Los Angeles in 1980, he took classes from leading masters in Southern California, including Roy Nagatoshi, Melba Tucker, Warren Hill, and John Naka. In 1988, Ted began offering classes at his home in Pasadena. For more than three decades, he has been an in-demand demonstrator for clubs and study groups throughout California and across the U.S.



Ted's collection includes trees of all sizes, styles, and a range of species. They are admired for their proportion, refinement, and detail. Ted's tiniest tree is a fig that he has cultivated in a thimble-sized white pot for approximately 30 years.

Perhaps his most iconic bonsai is a seven-tree Foemina juniper grove on a granite slab that he began designing in 1980. It was selected for photographic display in the 1999 JAL World Bonsai contest and featured in the Japanese bonsai magazine *Bonsai Shunju*. In 2015, this forest was featured at the inaugural Artisan's Cup. Ted has generously donated his beloved slab planting to The Huntington for visitors from all over the world to enjoy. We are grateful for his artistry, inspiration, and mentorship.