

Kofu Bonsai Kai kofukai.org

May 2023 Newsletter

Meeting As Usual at the Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim

Saturday May 20 at 6:00 PM There will be a raffle at this meeting!

President's Message

Greetings friends, bonsai enthusiasts and maybe more importantly, casual acquaintances. At first it may seem illogical that casual friendships are more valuable than deep friendships but just a quick google reveals a wealth of research and observation supporting this.

And it make sense. Casual friendships are low stakes relationships. We can hear new ideas, encounter opinions very different from our own, float creative ideas, work on short term projects, even say the wrong thing, make faux pas and still feel the benefits of a sense of connection to a larger community, all without the risk of damaging a deep friendship.

This benefit is one of the reasons, maybe the biggest reason that I give time and energy to the bonsai world. Sure, I love the art form and love to tell people about it and share experiences with fellow bonsai people. But behind all that is the understanding that in a divisive and contentious world, this sense of community brings people together over a common interest, people who may differ so much from each other that they would never have met.

I attended the Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai dinner last week and it was great to see everyone back together again. Before the pandemic I was perhaps taking this extraordinary community a little for granted and seeing everyone, especially Frank Goya who is 100 years old reminded me of what a great thing we have going in this special world.

Next month we will be having our annual benefit auction in the big hall at our regular meeting place. I hope you will take advantage of that opportunity to financially support our club by donating to the auction and by bidding enthusiastically.

Also, if you haven't done so, I hope you will give your support to other bonsai clubs as well as Kofu.



In other news, we have our show dates for the Bowers:

Set up Wednesday September 13

Show from Thursday September 14 through Sunday the 17.

More details to follow. There will be a demonstration on Saturday the 16th at 1 pm as usual.

Thank you all for your support and special thanks to David Melitz, Debra Mauzy Melitz and Jason Chan for helping me finally get the storage unit cleared out.

Carol Upston

At left is the beautiful Satsuki azalea shown by Maryanne Yamaguchi at the Dai Ichi show.

Kofu Kai Welcomes CBS Visiting Artist Adam Toth



Hello everyone, my name is Adam Toth.

I have been studying bonsai seriously for about 7 years now and spent a little over 3 years studying at Taisho-en with Taiga Uruahibata San, and received an official shohin certificate from the Japanese Shohin Bonsai Association. Before that with Jonas Dupuich at Bonsai Tonight and currently spend a few days a week working at his nursery now. During my time in Japan I spent a lot of time studying and thinking about how we can grow and produce better shohin and small sized trees. I really enjoy working on yamadori junipers and hope to continue learning and enjoying this truly unique art form. I look forward to meeting and working with you all!

See you soon!

Adam Toth



Marybel Balendonck **October 2, 1925 - February 28, 2023**

Recently American bonsai lost one of its founders, supporters and most influential artists, Marybel Balendonck, here shown with the late Harry Hirao. Here are some edited and updated excerpts from her Los Angeles Times Obituary.

Marybel Balendonck led a long life of achievement in the field of American bonsai and enjoyed a long career in office administration and contract management for firms including Texas Instruments and Hughes in Texas and California. She married William Balendonck in 1949 and they lived and worked in Dallas before moving to Fullerton California in 1965.

Marybel became intrigued with the Japanese art of bonsai cultivation and hosted classes in her Fullerton garage led first by John Naka, the founder of American Bonsai and more recently by Tak Shimazu. When John Naka invited her to join his select club of bonsai artists based in Southern California, Nambu Kai, she was the first non-Japanese member. In 1982, Marybel helped found the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the National Arboretum in Washington D.C.. She was instrumental in raising funds to build the John Naka American Pavilion of Bonsai adjacent to the Japanese Pavilion, which houses bonsai given to the U.S. by Japan celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976. She stood next to John Naka and his wife Alice when the Naka Pavilion was dedicated in October 1990. She became vice president of The National Bonsai Foundation, which oversees the museum. Her magnificent elm forest is part of the museum collection and her liquidambar grove and other bonsai she cultivated are housed at the Huntington Library, Art Galleries and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. She is survived by many nieces and nephews and was preceded in death by her husband Bill in 1977. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the National Bonsai Foundation.

Marybel was a friend, colleague, mentor, and artist who made a significant and lasting contribution to the art of bonsai in America. Those of us who knew and loved her are working to put together an event to remember Marybel, hopefully in the near future.

Rest in peace Marybel, Harry and John and thank you for your efforts in making bonsai an art form open to all.

Kofu Bonsai Kai kofukai.org

Founding President

Harry Hirao

Past President

Manuel Martinez

President

Carol Upston 310-346-4203

carolupston@icloud.com

Vice President

David Melitz

Recording Secretary

Open

Treasurer

Ryan Cali

Program Chair

David Melitz 949-337-2334

dmelitz@uci.edu

Workshops

David Melitz 949-337-2334

Website

Bob Warner

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Show Co-Chairs

Mike Viljak 949-642-3577

Benefit Drawing

Dan and Wanda Danesi

714-826-5024

David and Debra Melitz

949-274-0370

Membership

Ryan Cali 949-735-3463

52 Dianthus

Rancho Santa Margarita CA

92688-1024

Newsletter Editor

Carol Upston 310-346-4203

carolupston@icloud.com

kofukai.org

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**Corrected Date for Costal Bonsai Club
Show at Sherman Gardens**

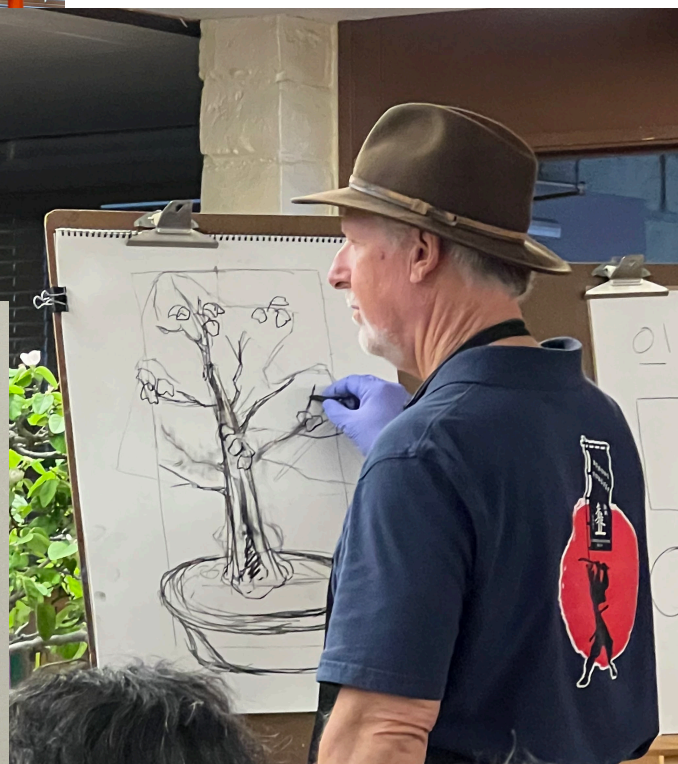
**Saturday June 3rd through Sunday
June 4th**

2647 East Coast Highway
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
<https://thesherman.org/>

If you are interested in showing a tree,
please contact Debra.
dmauzyme@uci.edu

Last Month with Ron Reekers

Ron Reekers gave a very interesting talk and demonstration about bonsai design and how he goes about evaluating the form of trees and making decisions about how to develop the trees over time. We got lots of positive feedback about this meeting and hope that Ron will continue to exhibit his interesting trees at our show. Ron donated one of his beautiful etchings to the club and it will be featured in our June auction.



The Golden State Bonsai Federation presents



BONSAI *RENDEZVOUS* 2023

October 20, 21, and 22
Friday - Saturday - Sunday

Headliner - Bjorn Bjorholm

Bjorn workshops & demos all day
Friday & Saturday
Open Q&A with Bjorn on Sunday morning

Joshua Roth "Rising Stars" Competition
all day Saturday

Multiple workshops all day Friday & Saturday

Exhibition by the GSBF Collections

All-Access Educational Seminars all 3 days

BYOB Social Hours Friday & Saturday

Saturday Awards Dinner & Live Auction

Silent Auctions (Consignement Sales & Donations)

Tomodachi

Top bonsai vendors all 3 days



Registration opens on May 1

Early Bird Pricing (until July 30)

3-day admission	\$ 80
3-day admission with gourmet banquet	\$130

Regular Pricing

3-day admission	\$ 95
3-day admission with gourmet banquet	\$145

1-day admission is always	\$ 45
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Rooms are limited so make your reservation today!

Ask for the GSBF BONSAI RENDEZVOUS rate

1-209-826-4444

Hotel Mission De Oro

Access the GSBF website via the QR code to see event updates and sign up for an event reminder

www.gsbfbonsai.org/2023-rendezvous



ARCADIA BONSAI SWAP MEET

Enjoy a day of buying, selling or swapping bonsai, tools, and pots. EVERYBODY is welcome. This is a FREE event. We welcome newcomers.



June 11,
2023



405 S. Santa Anita Ave
Arcadia (North end of
parking lot)



10.00 AM-
12.00 PM



FOR MORE INFO:

EMAIL: minguseyes@gmail.com

On Facebook at: LA Community Bonsai Swap Meet group