



# THE GSBF COLLECTION AT THE HUNTINGTON

## GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION COLLECTION SOUTH

Volume 10, Issue 2

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### Message from the Chairman

First of all, thank you Abe Far for appointing me chairman of The GSBF Collection at The Huntington Committee. After Abe made the announcement of my appointment, numerous people sent me words of encouragement and congratulations, which were very much appreciated. To all those who contacted me, THANK YOU!

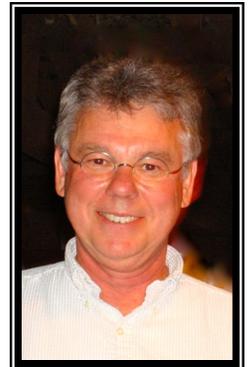
How does one become chairman of The GSBF Collection at The Huntington? It's easy, just excuse yourself at a committee meeting to use the facilities and when you come back you too will be chairman!

This year's Bonsai-A-Thon was a financial success that we have not seen in some time. Thank you all for your help. And an ever bigger thanks to the people who put it on; the people who work it, the demonstrators, and the staff of The Huntington. Without the help from all of these participants, the Bonsai-A-Thon would not even be an event.

This coming year will bring many changes to The GSBF Collection at The Huntington. You saw the first change with the publication of our newsletter being sent to all bonsai club members in SoCal and affiliate clubs in Nevada and Arizona. We are hoping to publish our newsletter quarterly. Other goals are to request the donation of quality pots, display stands, and bonsai books for the GSBF collection. We are also working on updating the GSBF Collection web site with pictures and bios of those responsible for keeping the collection up and running.

Stay tuned for more announcements about our programs and exciting innovations to promote the art of bonsai.

*Bill Wawrychuk, Chairman*



### 2015 Bonsai-A-Thon Highlights



Bill Wawrychuk hands Jim Folsom a check for \$15,000 to be applied to the GSBF Endowment at the Huntinton



Lois and Bill Hutchinson are honored for their contributions to The GSBF Collection at The Huntington and the southern California bonsai community.

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## **GSBF New First Saturday Program at the Huntington**

In the winter edition of *Golden Statements*, I wrote an article about GSBF's First Thursday Program at The Huntington. The First Thursday Program supplies Bonsai Garden Specialists to The Huntington for the bonsai pavilions. As a Bonsai Garden Specialist, you answer the general public's bonsai questions. It is like working your club's show, only at The Huntington on the first Thursday of the month.

The program has been so successful that The Huntington has approved GSBF's request to expand the program to add the **First Saturday of the Month**. So if you were unable to participate in the First Thursday Program, you can now volunteer on the First Saturday of the month.

The GSBF program is twofold. One, GSBF offers our expert knowledge of bonsai to patrons of The Huntington. Two, it allows GSBF to reach out to the general public and expand knowledge on the art of bonsai. The program allows Huntington patrons interested in bonsai to get information and have their questions answered by an expert. It is also an avenue to obtain new members for local Southern California clubs.

The program is open to everyone in the Southern California bonsai community. **You can volunteer for one, several, or all twelve Saturdays in the year!** Parking for the Bonsai Garden Specialists is **INSIDE** the gardens right above the collection. As an added bonus, you get to wear a spiffy GSBF Huntington Collection apron and a really neat Huntington Garden's Volunteer Badge. How cool is that!

**If you would like further information on the GSBF First Thursday/Saturday Program, please contact me. Bill Wawrychuk, 818-790-9415, b\_wawrychuk@yahoo.com**

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## **Donate Your Pots, Indoor Display Stands & Bonsai Books to The GSBF Collection at the Huntington**

The GSBF Collection at The Huntington is looking to upgrade the pots for the trees in their collection. The easiest and best way to accomplish this is to ask bonsai enthusiasts for donations of pots. We all have extra pots under the bed, back of the closet and in the garage that "someday" we will use! Well that "someday" is now and The GSBF Collection at The Huntington has the trees that need better pots. If you are downsizing, need a tax deduction, moving, or just need to get rid of your pots (that are not cracked or chipped), consider donating them to the GSBF Huntington Collection. We can also use display stands.

The Huntington is also expanding their library of bonsai books and is looking to add to their inventory.  
**All donations will be accepted.**

In the case of duplicates, or an overstock, the excess pots, display stands and books will be held for later use or sold or auctioned at GSBF Huntington Collection events with all proceeds going to the GSBF Collection general fund. By donating, you not only get a tax deduction, but help the Collection by allowing us to make expenditures in areas other than on pots, display stands and bonsai books.

**If you have any questions, or wish to donate a pot, display stand or bonsai books, please contact me (b\_wawrychuk@yahoo.com). And please remember, GSBF is a 501c3 non-profit organization and as such, any donation is tax deductible.**

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## GSBF Bonsai Collection News

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The bonsai collections at The Huntington continue to improve in terms of overall health. Since converting to a new soil culture a bit over three years ago, most all trees have shown a steady increase in vigor and growth. With less aggressive pruning, many species are also filling out a bit more and looking more lush. One major indicator of the increased health is the fact that a tropical jaboticaba is producing fruit (which is a challenge even for those who have this species in Florida). As all trees continue to improve their health, we will begin to work more on either restyling the tree to recapture what had been lost or to establish a style that had been lacking.

In early 2015, we staged two transplanting sessions. All trees have recovered nicely and are growing well. The trees in both collections are on track to be in totally new soils by the end of next year.

Ryan Neil update: The trees that Ryan Neil has been helping us on, including at least one GSBF tree--the Kimura tree--are doing very well. In December, Ryan had volunteers clean out the trees and he performed major restyling work which often involved splitting, splining and wrapping branches to effect major bends. Volunteers then did detailed wiring and we followed that up with branch arrangement earlier this year. Since that work, all are growing out again and Ryan will come for a detailing follow-up this summer. While dates aren't set yet it's looking like some time in July.

During the Bonsai-a-thon, we culled approximately 15 trees from the collection and put them on the auction block for fundraising. As has been the practice since this event began, the culled trees come from the blended collections (mostly from donations of collections/estates), and all proceeds go toward the bonsai fund. These trees are considered to be lesser quality or among an excessive number of one species/style. There are additional trees that we will be able to cull at future events, so the BAT can expect continued support along these lines.

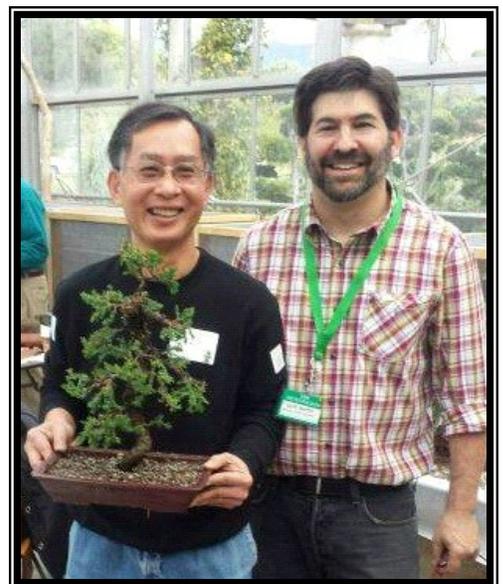
Among the donations at the BAT were pots and trees from Kathy Boehme. We accessioned one of her pieces, a very nice, old trident maple over a rock planted in a custom pot. It currently sits in the greenhouse where it's getting R/O water and is looking lush.

We also staged successful children's and adults' workshops at the BAT. Marketed to Huntington members with material provided/acquired by The Huntington, the teachers for this program consist mostly of volunteers from GSBF member clubs. For that reason, I asked Bill W. to take on a greater role in recruiting and managing this teacher group. This idea is to create a standing group of volunteer teachers that could be tapped for any manner of classes and workshops that arise during the year.

In June, I will teach another round of Bonsai Gakko classes at The Huntington, which is an introductory course to understanding and appreciating fine art bonsai, and is designed to develop a better novice bonsai student for local teachers. The program is designed so it can eventually be delivered by an experienced bonsai volunteer, and efforts this summer will focus on making it more of a stand-alone electronic presentation. I know of at least two students from those classes who have made the commitment to pursue bonsai as a hobby and have moved onto local teachers.

Over the past year, I have developed a comprehensive volunteer program that I hope to formally launch this year. Based on a concept of "curation teams," this program will be key to creating more engagement between the bonsai community and the collections. When fully operational, this program will provide opportunities for volunteers to come and help no matter their skill level. Tasks and responsibilities will be assigned according to the volunteer's skill level, and as they improve, there will be opportunities to do more.

**Ted E. Matson**  
**April 29, 2015**



Bonsai-A-Thon Workshop

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## 2015 Bonsai-A-Thon Wrap-Up

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Like last year, Mother Nature was kind to us by giving us two beautiful, fun filled and informative days, ALMOST. She let loose with the rain as the last vendor, Nathan Simons, finished loading and Ray and I were just starting to load up. Oh Well. The threat of rain didn't deter participants. They came prepared. We again had a terrific turnout including the San Diego Bonsai Club bus group, a family from Arizona and a group from Nevada.

As Co-chairs, Jim Barrett and I, Marge Blasingame, wish to issue a special thanks to all of you, staff, volunteers, demonstrators, donors and participants, with an extra special thank you to all the Huntington staff, Danielle Rudeen, Melanie Thorpe, Jim Folsom and Dave MacLaren.

Jim Folsom always comes up with something new to show us on the very popular annual tour he and Dave take us on. This year it was the beautiful stone bench that was installed in the Evelyn Zillgitt Upper Bonsai Court in memory of Kay and Kahn Komai. The bench has been donated by the California Bonsai Society, Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai and Santa Anita Bonsai Society.

Each year, for the past several years, I've selected a different club to host that year's Bonsai-A-Thon. This year it was the California Bonsai Society. As usual the advanced planning starts months before with confirming the dates and appointing the committee chairs. Gib and Ellissa Hoxie took care of the publicity, submitting ads to Golden Statements and providing information to the clubs for their newsletters. The panels of 4 to 5 demonstrators each day were set up by Jim Barrett. Carol Upston again organized the vendors. Elizabeth Likes (lunch) and Joe Galgoul (breakfast), and their crew, made sure we didn't go hungry. Elizabeth does double duty as the collection treasurer. Ted Matson handled auctioneer duties both days and conducted an "open to the public bonsai clinic" on Sunday. The Huntington's continuing education group scheduled a children's/adult workshop in conjunction with the Bonsai-A-Thon event Saturday morning. Ted put together a panel of teachers and led the class. Wendy Tsai and Marissa Macasieb handled the raffle and auction duties.

Thank you for some terrific donations. The income profit realized from this years Bonsai-A-Thon was the best ever, around \$18,000. Jim Folsom was presented with a \$15,000 fund transfer check to the endowment from our general fund getting us a little closer to our goal.

**Marge Blasingame**  
**Co-Chair, 2015 Bonsai-A-Thon**



Jim Folsom, Director of Gardens, leads Bonsai-A-Thon participants on a tour of the Huntington's beautiful gardens.



Peter Macasieb with a Liquid Amber he styled and donated to the Auction. (Your Editor is the new proud owner.)

# Thank You to All Who Contributed to the 2015 Bonsai-A-Thon

## CASH DONATIONS

\$1,000 and Up  
Marybel Balendonck

\$100 to \$999  
Marge Blasingame  
Fred Miyahara

Up to \$99  
Kathy Benson  
Elizabeth Likes  
Mary Morrissey

## CLUB CASH DONATIONS

\$1,000 and Up  
California Aiseki Kai

\$500 to \$999  
California Bonsai Society

\$100 to \$499  
Santa Anita Bonsai Society

## DONATIONS

Bob Ahlstrom  
Jim Barrett  
David Bergstein  
Marge Blasingame  
Tom Chen  
Abe Far  
Jim Greaves  
Sarah Gyer  
Cheu-Mei 'Judy' Hsaio  
Huntington Collection  
Bill & Lois Hutchinson  
Cheryl Manning  
Ted Matson  
May McNey  
Charlie Mosse  
Larry & Nina Ragle  
Lindsay Shiba (Mt. Fuji  
Nursery)  
'lyn Stevenson  
Ken Teh  
Steve Valentine

## CLUB NON-CASH DONATIONS

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai  
Descanso Bonsai Society  
San Diego Bonsai Club  
San Pu Kai

## DEMONSTRATION TREE DONATIONS

Kathy Benson  
Frank Goya  
Bob Hilvers  
Mel Ikeda  
Marcus Juniel  
Peter Macasieb  
Al Nelson  
David Nguy  
Cesario Perez  
Ken Teh

## VENDORS

Jim & Helen Barrett  
Bonsai Nate (Nathan Simmons)  
California Bonsai Studio (Travis Goldstein)  
Chikugo-En Nursery (Gary Ishi)  
Frank's Bonsai (Frank Yee)  
Phil Hogan & Al Nelson  
House of Bonsai (Victoria Lee)  
Mel Ikeda  
Dr. Gary Lai  
Legacy Cork Oaks (Barry Altschule)  
Moss Factory (Carol Upston)  
Larry & Nina Ragle  
Ron Reekers  
Dick Ryerson & Yamoto Ryerson  
Stone King (Freeman Wong)  
West America Trading  
(Dave & June Nguy)



## Kay and Khan Komai Memorial Bench Dedication



On a warm sunny day at The Huntington, you can now sit on a new bench in the cool shade in the upper bonsai courtyard and admire the shohin display. The beautiful new stone bench, honoring Kay and Khan Komai, was donated by the members of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai, the California Bonsai Society and the Santa Anita Bonsai Society. Many of you may have studied the art of bonsai at the Komai Bonsai Nursery in the San Gabriel Valley.

Among many contributions to the bonsai community, Kay and Khan Komai helped found the Santa Anita Bonsai Society, the Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Society and the Golden State Bonsai Federation. Kay's father was co-founder of the California Bonsai Society and Khan was the master of ceremonies for years at their annual shows. The next time you are at The Huntington, come relax in the shade and reflect on all that the Komai's have contributed to our enjoyment of the art of bonsai.



### For More Information about The GSBF Collection at The Huntington

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#### Golden State Bonsai Federation

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#### The GSBF Collection at the Huntington

<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/huntington/>

#### Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

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