

*Serenity  
Through Bonsai*



**DAI ICHI  
BONSAI KAI**

第一分盆栽會  
盆中平穩



# THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

JUNE 2015 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 6

**SHOW COVERAGE**

SANSUI-KAI BONSAI CLUB SHOW  
DESCANSO BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW

**AROUND THE WEB**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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*1st Vice President*

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## Club Founders

**Leila Kusumi**  
*Co-Founder | Sensei*

**Jim Tatsukawa**  
*Co-Founder | Sensei*



On the Cover | Micheal Izumoto's Shohin Shimpaku Juniper; 2015 DIBK show.  
Inside Cover | "Life will find a way". Photographic inspiration by John van de Wouw.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Growing season should be in full swing right now, unless of course you live near the coast where the morning drizzle continues. Well OK, things are still growing here just not as fast. I recently returned from a car trip through Baja, California, travelling thousands of kilometers through the Sonoran Desert. Luckily I was a passenger, so I spent hours looking at the desert landscape, and I found one tree species, the Elephant Tree, that enshrines bonsai fundamentals so clearly in their natural growth. Great *nebari*/rootage, great taper from thick to thin, great secondary and tertiary branching, great proportional growth, and pretty flowers. All of the saguaro cactus weren't bad either.



Water restrictions are beginning to be the law of the land. I was hoping that when I started writing about this in last year's newsletters, that somehow we would have dodged this bullet. I'm watering less frequently, I sold a few trees at the plant sale, and that disheartening pine fungus has thinned the number of pines I have. I have had a native Californian landscape in the front yard for many years and I have stopped watering my 12' x 12' lawn in the back. With all this I was able to narrowly come in one CCF under my allocation. Whew! In August of 2013, I had a water leak that I didn't find for a month, and I used 33 CCFs or ~2,500 gallons of water. I should be able to meet this August's allocation with no sweat. If anybody has a 2,000 gallon water tank to lend me I could use it to hoard a little water ;- ) Don't forget to do your part, please.

Mel Ikeda will be our demonstrator this month. While he is not recognized as one of the founders of Dai Ichi, he might as well be. Mel has spent many hours helping to grow the caliber of Dai Ichi with all of his support. Please come out and say thanks when he demos.

A few final thoughts... Our beloved past President, Doyle Saito, has been inducted to the California Bonsai Society. Congratulations, Doyle! The Marina Bonsai Show is June 27 & 28 at the Venice Japanese Community Center during the VJCC Annual Summer Festival. And life preservers as seen in the pine growing out of the asphalt shown to the left. If I could I would dig it out and we could adopt it as the Club's mascot!

*John van de Wouw*

John van de Wouw  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

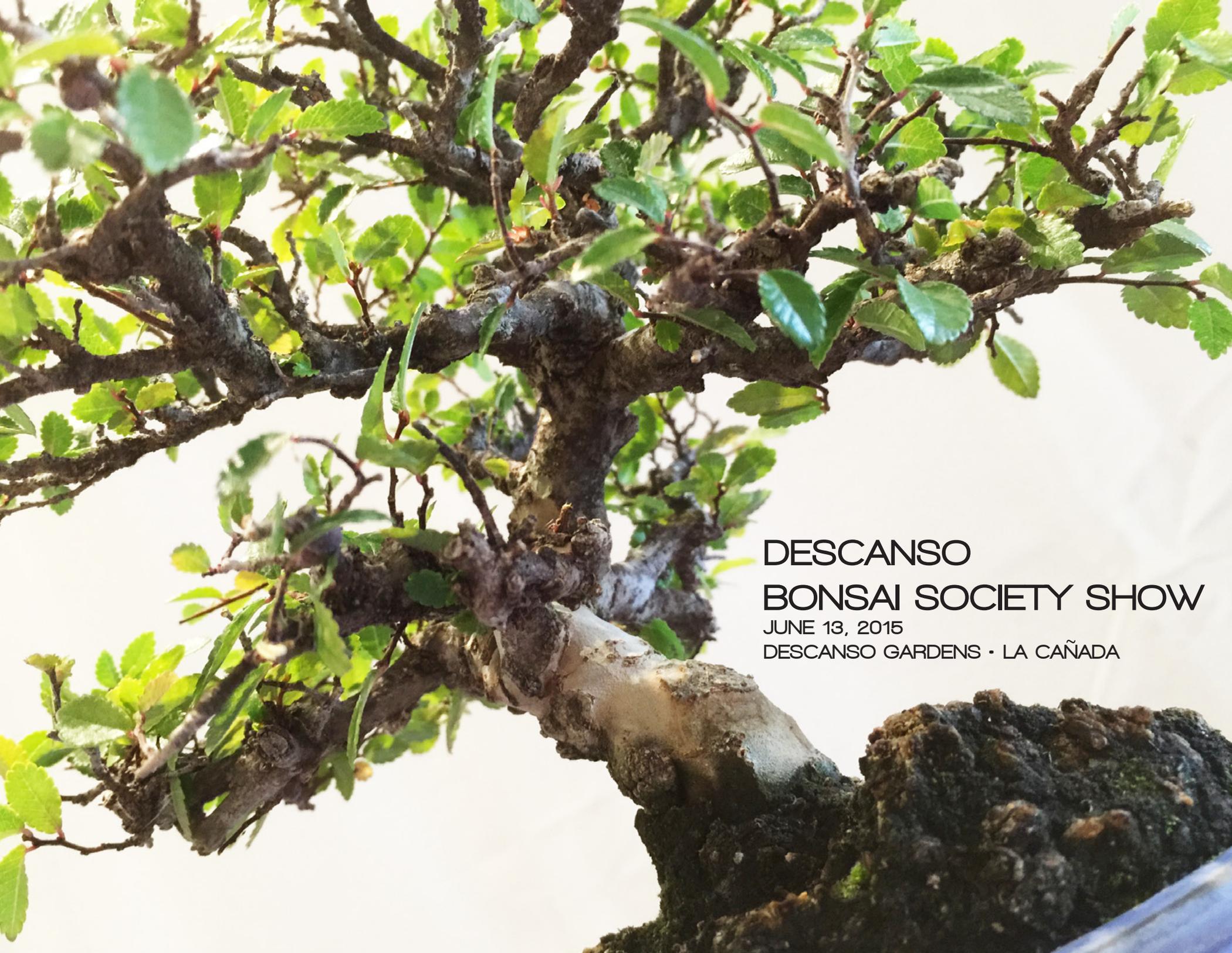


SANSUI KAI BONSAI CLUB SHOW

MAY 30, 2015

JAPANESE GARDENS · VAN NUYS





DESCANSO  
BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW

JUNE 13, 2015

DESCANSO GARDENS • LA CAÑADA



# KAIZEN BONSAI

Graham Potter is a knowledgeable and prolific bonsai artist based out of the UK. At KaizenBonsai.com, you will find feature articles, galleries, Graham's blog and information about his bonsai services.

His website also features an online store where he sells trees, soil, tools, and anything else you could want for bonsai.

Where Graham really shines however, is his YouTube channel, where he prolifically creates how-to demo videos that run the gamut from collecting *yamadori*, deadwood carving and styling, to essential horticultural information. Since he is UK based, his horticultural advice is region specific, but his styling tips are spot on no matter where you live.

His channel currently has over 30,000 subscribers and features quite a large collection of videos demonstrating his advanced bonsai techniques.

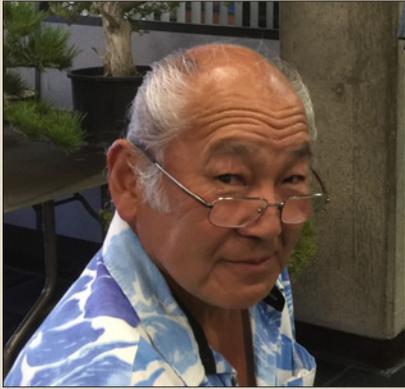
You can check out Graham's website and YouTube Channel at:

[www.kaizenbonsai.com](http://www.kaizenbonsai.com)

[www.youtube.com/user/GrahamWPotter](http://www.youtube.com/user/GrahamWPotter)



## JUNE DEMO MEL IKEDA



*Due to unforeseen circumstances, Robert Pressler will not be presenting at our next meeting. Mel Ikeda has graciously stepped in to teach us some of his tried and true bonsai techniques.*

**M**el Ikeda grew up with bonsai. His father, Masayuki Ikeda, owned and operated the family nursery, Ikeda Bonsai Garden. Mel worked with his father and later trained with renowned bonsai masters Harry Hirao, Kahn Komai, John Naka, and Kenji Miyata. Mel served as a GSBF Trustee at Large. He conducts bonsai demonstrations throughout the U.S. Mel was a headliner at the Bonsai Ohana II Convention in Hawaii in 2009. Mel has also headed several "Round Robin Styling" demonstrations at GSBF conventions.

## EVENTS

June 27-28, 2015

**Marina Bonsai Show at the  
VJCC Annual Summer Festival**  
12448 Braddock Drive, LA 90066

Hours: 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM Sat  
11:00AM – 8:00PM Sun

Admission is Free. In addition to the show, there will also be food, games, ondo dancing, cultural exhibits and demonstrations. For more information please visit [www.vjcc.com](http://www.vjcc.com)

September 23-27, 2015

**Kofu Bonsai Kai  
2015 Bonsai Fest at the Bowers  
Museum "The Bonsai Tradition:  
Cultural Arts of Japan"**

John M. Lee Court, 2002 N. Main St  
Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM daily

Featuring bonsai trees of the members of Kofu Bonsai Kai and special presentations by noted speakers. Free to Bowers Museum members or with paid museum admission. Final speaker and presentation schedules will be posted on at [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org) and [www.kofukai.org](http://www.kofukai.org).

Questions? Call the museum at (714) 567-3695 or email Michael Walsh at [michaeljwalsh@outlook.com](mailto:michaeljwalsh@outlook.com).

October 3-4, 2015

**Conejo Valley Bonsai Society:  
12th Annual Bonsai Exhibition**  
2001 Thousand Oak Blvd.

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Demonstrations at 11 AM (Saturday)  
and 2 PM (Sunday) in the Bandstand.  
Free Admission.

For information, call Marj Branson at 805-373-1330 or visit [www.cvbs-bonsai.org](http://www.cvbs-bonsai.org).

For more event information, please visit  
[www.bit.ly/GSBF-Events](http://www.bit.ly/GSBF-Events)

## GRATITUDE

*Thank you to all of the members who contributed.  
The club truly appreciates your generosity and giving spirit.*

**Refreshment Signup for June**  
Please feel free to bring refreshments  
to the June Meeting.

*Please remember to sign the contribution sheet so that we may acknowledge your generosity.*

*Special thanks to*

Sansui Kai Bonsai Club, Desconso Bonsai Society, and Graham Potter  
*for their contributions to this issue of the DIBK Gazette.*

## ABOUT DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

**D**ai Ichi Bonsai Kai ("Number One" Bonsai Club) was established in January, 1986 and takes great pride in its family-oriented character. Our club is dedicated to promoting the art of bonsai.

The club meets on the third Friday of each month at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena, at 7:00 P.M. Each meeting features a bonsai demonstration, benefit drawing and is open to the public.

Our annual bonsai show is held on the first weekend in May at the Nakaoka Community Center. Other club activities include: bonsai digs, annual auction, potting parties, outings to nurseries and private gardens.

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DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Please feel free to forward this publication to friends, family  
or anyone with an appreciation for bonsai.*

Do you have any comments, questions, or submissions? If so, please contact:  
**Jason Saito** ph 310.909.4598 | email [jason@zenpalace.com](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)

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