

**COME CELEBRATE WORLD BONSAI DAY, SATURDAY MAY 11! (Page 2)**



Take a bonsai making class at 11am for \$60



Draw or color bonsai



Watch bonsai demonstrations



Have a delicious Koppa Joy Coffee



Take a docent led bonsai tour



## BONSAI TOMODACHI

### THE CLARK BONSAI COLLECTION NEWSLETTER

#### CURATOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings my friends,

We often speak of the Clark Bonsai Collection in museum terms. We refer to our Bonsai as assets. We record their specific attributes in a master database in a process called "accessioning" (museum speak for inventory). We present them to visitors in "exhibitions" that offer information about the individual exhibit and the art of Bonsai in general. We employ docents to greet visitors, help them to understand what they see and enjoy their experience. We are open to the public with regularly scheduled hours of operation and

conduct community outreach to promote our contribution to the public good.

Recently we have started to ask ourselves, if we are functioning as a museum, could we actually be one, by legal definition? A little research reveals the State of California defines a museum as. *"Public or private nonprofit institutions that are organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes and that own or use tangible objects, care for those objects and exhibit them to the general public on a regular basis."*

According to the *Museum Field Guide*, *"Good design and interpretation are essential ingredients for a successful museum. It is not enough simply to put objects in a gallery. Visitors need help in understanding objects, making sense of museum collections and putting them in context."*

According to *Running a Museum: A Practical Handbook*, *"The functions of a museum are collection, exhibition, conservation, research and education. Museums collect artifacts, and documents to display and research. They hold both temporary and permanent exhibitions to educate the public about culture, art science and more."*

Well heck, it seems we are indeed a museum, and a pretty good one based on our growing national recognition. Having said that I must also point out that the actual operation of a museum involves much more than the definitions above imply. It takes dedicated people, lots of them. It takes funding, lots of it, and it takes an organization to put the people together with the funding to realize a vision. In our case, our vision is to be a museum of Bonsai.

I am pleased to inform you that we have taken the necessary steps to form a nonprofit organization, the **Bonsai Foundation of the Central Valley** with the primary function of supporting the Clark Bonsai Collection in the form of the **Clark Bonsai Museum**.

Please join us as we continue the Journey started long ago by Bill and Libby Clark. We will need your help and support to meet the many challenges before us.

#### EVENTS

##### **New & Renewed Bonsai Exhibition**

March 23-June 23

**World Bonsai Day** May 11 10-4  
[gsbfclarkbonsaicollection.org/activities/](http://gsbfclarkbonsaicollection.org/activities/)

##### **Strides for Wellness in Shinzen**

Thursday, May 16 3-630pm  
[www.shinzenjapanesegarden.org/event/strides-for-wellness/](http://www.shinzenjapanesegarden.org/event/strides-for-wellness/)

**Japanese Culture Day at the Fresno Art Museum** June 2  
 Bonsai Lecture & Demos

Due to the Boots in the Park event in Woodward Park on Saturday, those planning to attend the World Bonsai Day activities in the Clark Collection bonsai garden in Shinzen, would do well to come in the morning. The country concert and all its many other attractions can attract thousands. Although the concert is 5-10pm, the other event gates open at noon. Many attendees park outside the park and walk in, but traffic and parking will cause delays and congestion.



**CBCS WORLD BONSAI DAY  
SATURDAY, MAY 11 10AM-4PM**

**Bonsai-Making Class 11am \$60**

Participants will learn about the art of bonsai and make their own bonsai to take home with them with clear and simple instructions for bonsai care.

You can register online at

[gsbfclarkbonsaicollection.org](http://gsbfclarkbonsaicollection.org)

or in person in the bonsai garden in

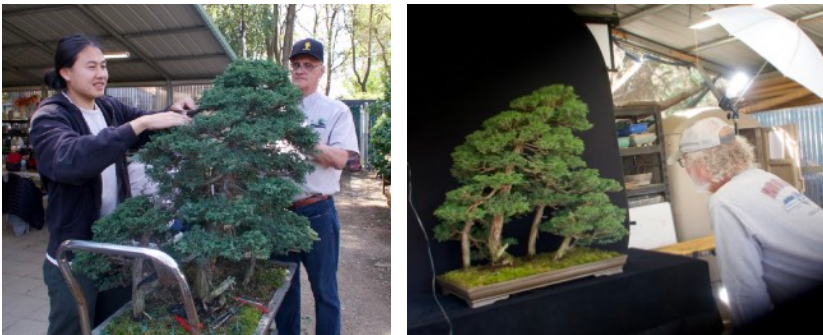
**Other Activities—All Free!**

- **Bonsai Scavenger Hunt & Draw your favorite bonsai with World Bonsai Stickers for participants**
- **Bonsai Coloring Sheets**
- **Hourly tours of the current exhibition: *New and Renewed Bonsai* and other signature bonsai from the entire Collection of 130 world class bonsai beginning at 11am.**



Kuppa Joy will be serving their delicious coffee beginning 11am-? while supplies last. All proceeds go to the Clark Bonsai Collection

### SOME BONSAI ARTISTRY IN THE GARDEN



Julian Tsai and John Wright perform some last minute grooming for the Sawara Cypress to get its glamor shot by Mike Baldwin. The photo will be part of its application to appear in the Pacific Exposition: An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai in Oakland, CA in October.



Henry Espinosa proudly shows off his first bonsai.



Artist Caty Hastings enjoys capturing the natural beauty of the garden in pastels.





**BONSAI OF THE MONTH:****Two Views****CBCS 063**

**LEGACY COLLECTION:** Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

Artist/ Maker: Ben Oki

Common Name: California Juniper

Botanical Name: Juniperus Californica

Date Acquired: 4/26/24

Age: Est 300+

Evergreen

Style: Shakan / Slanting occurs in nature as a result of the wind blowing in one dominant direction or when a tree grows in shadow and bends toward the sun, leaning in one direction. The slant style trunk emerges from the soil at an angle, and the apex of the bonsai will be located to the left or right of the root base.

Donor: Transfer from The GSBF Huntington Bonsai Collection

**Ben Oki (1927-2018)**

We are pleased to announce that the Clark Bonsai Collection has received from the Huntington Bonsai Collection a bonsai created by Ben Oki. You may not be familiar with this name, but he was a pivotal figure in the promotion and proliferation of the art of Bonsai following WWII. Ben was a contemporary of John Naka and is often regarded as John's successor. He was the founding Curator of the Huntington Bonsai Collection.

Ben was born in Sacramento California but was not interned with other Japanese Americans at the start of the WWII because he was living in Japan during the war years. His family sent him to live in Hiroshima at the age of 6. He survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by ditching school that day to go fishing in the countryside with some of his friends. When he returned home, it wasn't there.

Ben was an internationally known bonsai master and headliner at conventions, conducting workshops, demonstrations and critiques. Ben specialized in California Junipers and is well known for his rugged, freeform style, fine detail work fast wiring and skillful techniques. International and National Bonsai Design Awards were established in his name as well as the Ben Oki Bonsai Scholarship.

You are all invited to come by the CBC and view a piece of Bonsai history and another link our Collection now has to the common experience we share with human history..



[gsbfhuntington.com/ben-oki](http://gsbfhuntington.com/ben-oki)

**You can support the Clark Bonsai Collection and its many world class bonsai such as this one currently on exhibit in the bonsai garden by becoming a sponsor. Please visit [www.gsbfcclarkbonsaicollection.org/adopt-a-tree.html](http://www.gsbfcclarkbonsaicollection.org/adopt-a-tree.html) to find out about the benefits of becoming a bonsai sponsor.**