



Janet Lanman Elected NBF Honorary Director



Janet Lanman with Yuji Yoshimura.



Janet Lanman with Museum Curator Jack Sustic and
NBF President Felix Laughlin at the NBF Reception in May.

Photo: Mike Colella

Janet Lanman, a long-time member of the National Bonsai Foundation's Board of Directors and a volunteer at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, has been elected as an Honorary Director of NBF.



Janet Lanman working on the Yamaki Pine.

Photo: Joseph Mullian

Janet discovered bonsai in 1965 when she accompanied her husband Jonathan to Japan where he was a visiting medical professor at a university in Tokyo. On a trip through the mountains, she saw "a wondrous jewel of nature—a bonsai." These "horticultural poems", as she called them, mesmerized her and, upon her return to the United States, she began studying with **Yuji Yoshimura**. Bonsai became a passion in her life and, when she moved to Washington in 1975, she began to volunteer in the Museum and continued to do so until 2011. She was a founder of NBF and also served as a board member of the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) from 2001 through 2010.

In 2001 Janet funded the production and printing of the NBF publication "*The Bonsai Saga: How the Bicentennial Collection Came to America*" by Dr. John Creech, the Director of the U. S. National Arboretum (1973–1980).

Janet was honored for all of her work on behalf of NBF and the Museum at the annual NBF Board of Director's reception in May of this year.

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President's Letter



You can almost sense the future of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in the lovely image of **Janet Lanman** and her teacher, **Yuji Yoshimura**,

on the cover of this issue. Like **John Naka** on the West Coast, Mr. Yoshimura was the seminal bonsai master on the East Coast, and these two masters and their students became key figures in making the Museum what it is today. Janet has been a preeminent champion of the Museum from the beginning, and her foremost maxim that "the trees come first" has been heeded by NBF every step along the way.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Japanese Pavilion Campaign. I am happy to report that NBF recently deposited in a government trust fund the estimated construction cost of the renovation of the Japanese Pavilion and the Kato Family Stroll Garden leading into the Pavilion. We are now in the good hands of **Michael Wigfall**, the contracting officer at the

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Thank you for your support of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum!

NBF is now accepting donations of used cars, trucks or boats. These vehicles can be donated anywhere in the country and will be picked up free of charge. NBF will receive a cash donation and your donation is fully tax-deductible. If you have a donation to make please call Johann Klodzen at (202) 396-3510 or send an email to jklodzen@bonsai-nbf.org. It is easy to do and it will be of great benefit to the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.



First Curator's Apprenticeship

By Chris Baker

Summarizing my time as the National Bonsai Foundation's "First Curator's Apprentice" at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum is not an easy task. I have met numerous interesting people, and worked on many outstanding trees. I have also achieved a better understanding of how a large collection like this one is managed, and I have been able to observe close-hand the changes that take place from day to day. Much like the art of bonsai, this apprenticeship had countless layers to it and each one had its own rewards.

However, when I think back on my apprenticeship there are a few things that stand out. An unexpected part of being an intern was getting to know the history of the people who have donated trees and had an impact on the Museum with their passion for bonsai. I even had the opportunity to speak with some of these wonderful people and to learn more about their lives first hand.

My apprentice project was a presentation to U.S. National Arboretum staff and volunteers on *Bonsai and The People Who Created Them*, so I had the pleasure of interviewing **Chase Rosade** and **Marybel Balendonck** during the Potomac Bonsai Association's (PBA) Bonsai Festival which takes place at the U. S. National Arboretum every May. Both Chase and Marybel have donated trees to the North American Collection and have been huge supporters of the Museum since its inception. They each had stories to tell and life lessons to share with me. In addition, they are wonderful ambassadors for bonsai and the Museum.

Marybel was born and raised in Dallas, Texas and later moved to California. It was there that she embarked on her bonsai education with **Jim Barrett**, **John Naka**, **Harry Hirao**, and **Ben Oki**, among others. She was the first Caucasian American to be asked to join the California Bonsai Society by John Naka. Prior to her membership in this organization, it was an exclusively



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Japanese American club with only two women members. Her stories of John Naka and the bonsai community in California were fascinating to me and her generosity and commitment to the Museum are clearly evident.

Chase Rosade was always interested in horticulture and he kept trees in small containers even before he knew what a bonsai was. Then he saw his first bonsai at the Philadelphia Flower Show while in elementary school and he was taken by it. He attended Delaware Valley College and earned a degree in ornamental horticulture and then began working for Princeton Nurseries in New Jersey. After 5 years he decided to travel visiting England, France, India, countries in the Middle East, and lastly Japan. It was there that he had his first opportunity to study bonsai with **Kyozo Yodshida**. That experience inspired him to return home to Pennsylvania to start teaching bonsai himself. Several years later in 1970, he opened the Rosade Bonsai Studio in New Hope, Pennsylvania, not far from where he was born and raised. Since then Chase has traveled the world with his wife Solita teaching countless people about the joy of bonsai.

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number of Harry's donated trees and have seen him perform demonstrations at the Arboretum in the past. But this apprenticeship afforded me the opportunity to personally assist Harry in one of his demonstrations during the PBA Bonsai Festival, which was one of the highlights of my time here. And an additional bonus of my work at the Museum was that I was able to give my own demonstration at the PBA Bonsai Festival and to lead a Museum workshop.

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most comprehensive collection in the country.

I am grateful to the National Bonsai Foundation for their sponsorship and support of this apprenticeship and the Museum. To be chosen as a “*First Curator's Apprentice*” has been an honor for me. I believe that this learning experience, combined with the time that I have spent working in Japan, has helped to round out my training as a bonsai apprentice. Whether I was studying with Jack Sustic, my mentor and friend,

or listening to stories from living legends like Chase Rosade and Marybel Balendonck, or learning about bonsai masters who have gone before me, this experience has forever altered my life's path. I am now looking forward to pursuing what I truly love as I continue my bonsai journey.

Chris Baker was a horticulturist at the National Aquarium in Baltimore for 4 years and spent six months in Japan during 2012 studying with Tohro Suzuki at Daijuen Nursery in Okasaki, Japan.

World Bonsai Day

By Jack Sustic

On May 11 the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum celebrated the third annual World Bonsai Day (WBD). Held every year since 2010 on the second Saturday in May, World Bonsai Day was established by the **World Bonsai Friendship Federation** (WBFF) to honor **Saburo Kato** and his contributions to bonsai as well as

to celebrate bonsai in general. This is the one day every year that lovers of bonsai and bonsai organizations can come together all over the world to celebrate this art form.

At the Museum this year there were free bonsai demonstrations and curator-led tours, which drew large crowds. There was also a special display honoring Mr. Kato. In addition, for the first time this year the *Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden* in Florida, the *North Carolina Arboretum*, and the

Pacific Rim Collection at Weyerhaeuser in Washington State joined with the *Rosade Bonsai Studio* in Pennsylvania and the Museum to celebrate World Bonsai Day on a national scale.

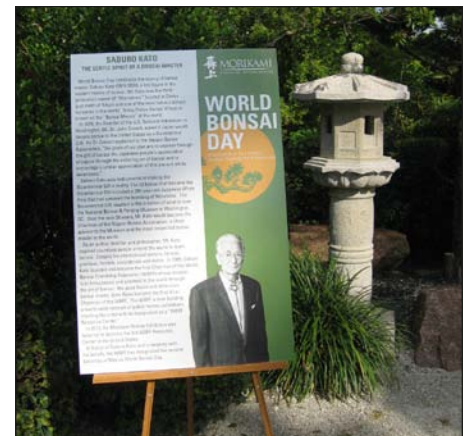
If you would like more information about World Bonsai Day or you wish to join us by celebrating the 4th Annual World Bonsai Day in 2014 please contact Solita Rosade at wbfemeritus-chair3@comcast.net or me at jack.sustic@ars.usda.gov



The Tokonoma at the Museum on WBD.



WBD at the Rosade Studio.



The Morikami celebrates WBD.



Robert Cho on WBD at the Pacific Rim Collection.



Arthur Joura lectures on WBD at the NC Arboretum.

Sketchbook Stories

Cheryl Manning's California Juniper

By Cheryl Manning

The Japanese government has given the United States many bonsai over the past thirty-seven years. But only once has the United States reciprocated. President Clinton presented Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi with a bonsai in the spring of 1999. One week before the Prime Minister's visit, **John Naka**, **Marybel Balendonck**, and I were in Washington, D.C. to attend the annual NBF board meeting. We were thrilled to be at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the U. S. National Arboretum during the arrival of the wooden crate, which cradled the bonsai gift that was styled and donated by **Ernie Kuo**: a California juniper collected from the Mojave Desert. John inspected the masterpiece tree from his longtime student even before the crate was delicately dismantled. Five years later, I attended the Kokufu show, Japan's most prestigious bonsai exhibition. On display, with more than 200 Japanese masterpiece bonsai, was President Clinton's gift to the Prime Minister.

Some of the most spectacular bonsai in Southern California are native junipers collected from the Mojave Desert. Only once did I accompany John Naka on a collecting trip to the Mojave Desert. But whenever I visited his garden, I admired the ancient junipers he'd collected decades earlier. They were almost as numerous as his beloved pomegranates. However I have been fortunate enough to hike the Tehachapi Mountains with **Harry ("Mr. California Juniper") Hirao** and collect bonsai material in Jawbone Canyon. Many of my bonsai buddies and I have hiked the hills trying (and rarely succeeding) to catch up to Harry.

My tiniest California juniper is on page 12 of *John Naka's Sketchbook*. It's only 17" tall and easily held in one hand. In 2000, John studied my shaggy tree in an oversized, blue-glazed pot when I brought it to his monthly class. His sketch for the future featured smaller foliage mass and a tiny pot to emphasize the delicate, undulating trunk. Years later, when I was editing

John Naka's Sketchbook, I reexamined his design and felt ashamed that I had never styled that tree.

As soon as the book was in production, I started transforming the bush into a bonsai. In the past eight years, I've repotted the juniper three times, and it now resides in a small, handmade pot by **Jim Barrett**. For the first five years, I reduced the number of branches while I encouraged foliage growth close to the trunk. This year, I carved fissures and taper into the lower two-thirds of the trunk to harmonize with the interesting upper trunk before shaping the foliage yet again.

I was fortunate to be a guest at John's home and honored to have him visit my garden. Whenever we were strolling in our backyards, he focused his attention on the flowering and fruiting trees rather than his majestic junipers or my fluffy junipers. As I write this, one of his pomegranates is flowering, another is setting fruit, and now – thirteen years after John redesigned my little tree – the California juniper finally resembles its sketch.

John Naka's Sketchbook is available from Stone Lantern at www.stonelantern.com



Shaggy Tree in a big blue-glazed pot.



John's Sketch of my small California juniper.



After much TLC.

Campaign for the Japanese Pavilion — Update

The *Campaign for the Japanese Pavilion: A Gift Renewed* is moving forward but **\$290,000** still needs to be raised to bring the Campaign to a successful conclusion.

In June the engineering drawings were completed by the landscape architecture firm of Rhodeside & Harwell and in July

NBF turned over a check for \$1,500,000 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for construction costs. The contract will soon go out for bidding and work is to begin in the Fall.

We are asking all of our supporters to make a generous contribution toward the

completion of this important renovation project so that the Museum can continue to be the showcase institution for bonsai in the United States.

A pledge form is enclosed in this *Bulletin* and a complete list of donors is on the NBF website at www.bonsai-nbf.org

Museum Notes

- The NBF Board of Directors met at the Arboretum on Friday, May 3. The meeting focused on the Fundraising Campaign for the Japanese Pavilion with presentations by NBF Board member **Errol Reese** and **Julie Crudele**, the NBF fundraising consultant from Capacity Partners. In attendance were three new members of the board: **LeAnn Duling** of Virginia, **Howard Smith** of Texas and **Alan Walker** of Louisiana. At the meeting Arboretum Director **Colien Hefferan** explained that beginning in mid-May the Arboretum and the Museum would be closed to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays due to the sequestration caused by a reduction in federal funding. This action, which will remain in effect at least through the end of the year, eliminated the need for staff furloughs or layoffs.
- The *Bonsai Festival* sponsored by NBF, the Potomac Bonsai Association and the U.S. National Arboretum was held over the first weekend in May in the newly renovated Administration Building and on the grounds of the Arboretum. This year's event featured an expanded outreach to new bonsai enthusiasts.



Photo: Mike Colella

PBA Bonsai Help Booth.

- Each year the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) sell used horticultural books at the Spring Plant Sale. Requests are frequent for second-hand bonsai books but the supply is limited. If you have any bonsai books to donate, FONA would be delighted to receive them at any time during the year. This would be a contribution to FONA and the gift will be acknowledged. Please contact Mary Gene Myer at mgmyer@mindspring.com
- Former Museum Curator **Warren Hill** has donated two forest plantings to the North American Collection, a Chinese quince, *Pseudocydonia sinensis*, and a spruce, *Picea abies* 'Nana'. We will have more on this important acquisition in the next *NBF Bulletin*.



Photo: Mike Colella

NBF Board Meeting Attendees.

A young bonsai enthusiast.

- In the previous issue of the *NBF Bulletin* we neglected to credit **Michael Jonas** for the photo that went with Cheryl Manning's story about Marybel Balendonck's Crape Myrtle. Apologies to Michael.



Photo: Michael Jonas

Bunjin show tree in January.

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Pacific Rim Collection at Weyerhaeuser in Washington State joined with the *Rosade Bonsai Studio* in Pennsylvania and the Museum to celebrate World Bonsai Day on a national scale.

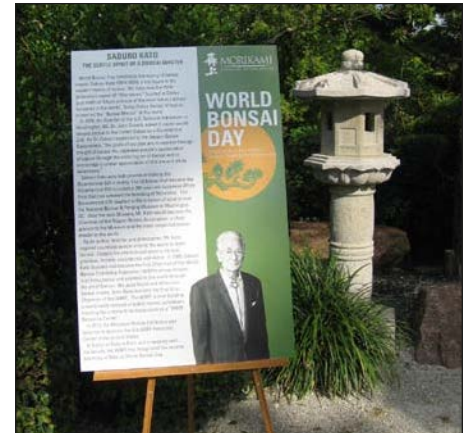
If you would like more information about World Bonsai Day or you wish to join us by celebrating the 4th Annual World Bonsai Day in 2014 please contact Solita Rosade at wbfemeritus-chair3@comcast.net or me at jack.sustic@ars.usda.gov



The Tokonoma at the Museum on WBD.



WBD at the Rosade Studio.



The Morikami celebrates WBD.



Robert Cho on WBD at the Pacific Rim Collection.



Arthur Joura lectures on WBD at the NC Arboretum.

Sketchbook Stories

Cheryl Manning's California Juniper

By Cheryl Manning

The Japanese government has given the United States many bonsai over the past thirty-seven years. But only once has the United States reciprocated. President Clinton presented Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi with a bonsai in the spring of 1999. One week before the Prime Minister's visit, **John Naka**, **Marybel Balendonck**, and I were in Washington, D.C. to attend the annual NBF board meeting. We were thrilled to be at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the U. S. National Arboretum during the arrival of the wooden crate, which cradled the bonsai gift that was styled and donated by **Ernie Kuo**: a California juniper collected from the Mojave Desert. John inspected the masterpiece tree from his longtime student even before the crate was delicately dismantled. Five years later, I attended the Kokufu show, Japan's most prestigious bonsai exhibition. On display, with more than 200 Japanese masterpiece bonsai, was President Clinton's gift to the Prime Minister.

Some of the most spectacular bonsai in Southern California are native junipers collected from the Mojave Desert. Only once did I accompany John Naka on a collecting trip to the Mojave Desert. But whenever I visited his garden, I admired the ancient junipers he'd collected decades earlier. They were almost as numerous as his beloved pomegranates. However I have been fortunate enough to hike the Tehachapi Mountains with **Harry ("Mr. California Juniper") Hirao** and collect bonsai material in Jawbone Canyon. Many of my bonsai buddies and I have hiked the hills trying (and rarely succeeding) to catch up to Harry.

My tiniest California juniper is on page 12 of *John Naka's Sketchbook*. It's only 17" tall and easily held in one hand. In 2000, John studied my shaggy tree in an oversized, blue-glazed pot when I brought it to his monthly class. His sketch for the future featured smaller foliage mass and a tiny pot to emphasize the delicate, undulating trunk. Years later, when I was editing

John Naka's Sketchbook, I reexamined his design and felt ashamed that I had never styled that tree.

As soon as the book was in production, I started transforming the bush into a bonsai. In the past eight years, I've repotted the juniper three times, and it now resides in a small, handmade pot by **Jim Barrett**. For the first five years, I reduced the number of branches while I encouraged foliage growth close to the trunk. This year, I carved fissures and taper into the lower two-thirds of the trunk to harmonize with the interesting upper trunk before shaping the foliage yet again.

I was fortunate to be a guest at John's home and honored to have him visit my garden. Whenever we were strolling in our backyards, he focused his attention on the flowering and fruiting trees rather than his majestic junipers or my fluffy junipers. As I write this, one of his pomegranates is flowering, another is setting fruit, and now – thirteen years after John redesigned my little tree – the California juniper finally resembles its sketch.

John Naka's Sketchbook is available from Stone Lantern at www.stonelantern.com



Shaggy Tree in a big blue-glazed pot.



John's Sketch of my small California juniper.



After much TLC.

Campaign for the Japanese Pavilion — Update

The *Campaign for the Japanese Pavilion: A Gift Renewed* is moving forward but \$290,000 still needs to be raised to bring the Campaign to a successful conclusion.

In June the engineering drawings were completed by the landscape architecture firm of Rhodeside & Harwell and in July

NBF turned over a check for \$1,500,000 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for construction costs. The contract will soon go out for bidding and work is to begin in the Fall.

We are asking all of our supporters to make a generous contribution toward the

completion of this important renovation project so that the Museum can continue to be the showcase institution for bonsai in the United States.

A pledge form is enclosed in this *Bulletin* and a complete list of donors is on the NBF website at www.bonsai-nbf.org

Museum Notes

- The NBF Board of Directors met at the Arboretum on Friday, May 3. The meeting focused on the Fundraising Campaign for the Japanese Pavilion with presentations by NBF Board member **Errol Reese** and **Julie Crudele**, the NBF fundraising consultant from Capacity Partners. In attendance were three new members of the board: **LeAnn Duling** of Virginia, **Howard Smith** of Texas and **Alan Walker** of Louisiana. At the meeting Arboretum Director **Colien Hefferan** explained that beginning in mid-May the Arboretum and the Museum would be closed to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays due to the sequestration caused by a reduction in federal funding. This action, which will remain in effect at least through the end of the year, eliminated the need for staff furloughs or layoffs.
- The *Bonsai Festival* sponsored by NBF, the Potomac Bonsai Association and the U.S. National Arboretum was held over the first weekend in May in the newly renovated Administration Building and on the grounds of the Arboretum. This year's event featured an expanded outreach to new bonsai enthusiasts.



Photo: Mike Colella

PBA Bonsai Help Booth.

- Each year the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) sell used horticultural books at the Spring Plant Sale. Requests are frequent for second-hand bonsai books but the supply is limited. If you have any bonsai books to donate, FONA would be delighted to receive them at any time during the year. This would be a contribution to FONA and the gift will be acknowledged. Please contact Mary Gene Myer at mgmyer@mindspring.com
- Former Museum Curator **Warren Hill** has donated two forest plantings to the North American Collection, a Chinese quince, *Pseudocydonia sinensis*, and a spruce, *Picea abies* 'Nana'. We will have more on this important acquisition in the next *NBF Bulletin*.



A young bonsai enthusiast.

- In the previous issue of the *NBF Bulletin* we neglected to credit **Michael Jonas** for the photo that went with Cheryl Manning's story about Marybel Balendonck's Crape Myrtle. Apologies to Michael.



Photo: Mike Colella

NBF Board Meeting Attendees.



Bunjin show tree in January.

Photo: Michael Jonas