



Mrs. Saburo (Yayoi) Kato

Yayoi Kato, the wife of the late Saburo Kato, died on April 24, 2011

Mrs. Kato had been active in the work at Mansei-en in Omiya Village, Japan, from 1946, when it passed to the care of Mr. Saburo Kato, until the summer of 2010. In August of last year Mrs. Kato fell ill and was hospitalized until her death in April.

She accompanied her husband on his trips to the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum and last visited here during the World Bonsai Convention in 2005. She was also present at the dedication of the Museum's *Kato Family Stroll Garden* in 2002.



Mr. & Mrs. Saburo Kato in the Kato Family Stroll Garden during the 5th World Bonsai Convention in 2005.

In February 2010 **Ted and Fuku Tsukiyama, Roy and Jane Yamashiroya** and **Felix Laughlin** visited her at Mansei-en. On that occasion she escorted them into a special room dedicated to the memory of her husband and each guest lit incense as a tribute to Mr. Kato. Mrs. Kato then personally served tea to her guests as they reminisced about their times together.

In a letter of condolence to **Hatsuji Kato**, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Kato, Mr. Laughlin thanked the family for "all the contributions that this family had made to the art of bonsai and world peace."

Daizo Iwasaki, 1916–2011

NBF Honorary Director and long-time Museum benefactor, **Daizo Iwasaki**, died on May 15, 2011 at his home, *Takasago-en Bonsai Garden*, in Ehime, Japan.

In 1976, as part of the original donation of trees from Japan to the people of the United States of America for the celebration of the American Bicentennial, Mr. Iwasaki sent a magnificent Japanese white pine, *Pinus parviflora*, which has been on display in the Museum's Japanese Pavilion for 35 years.

Mr. Iwasaki and his wife **Naemi**, accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Kato to the Museum for the dedication of the *Kato Family Stroll Garden* in 2002. On that occasion, at the request of Mr. Kato, Mr. Iwasaki became Vice-Chairman of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation.

As part of his continuing support of the Museum's Japanese Collection, Mr. Iwasaki donated two additional pines in 2004: another *Pinus parviflora*, this one



Chase Rosade, Ted and Fuku Tsukiyama, Solita Rosade, Betty Gayle and Felix Laughlin with Mr. & Mrs. Daizo Iwasaki in the International Pavilion during the 2005 World Bonsai Convention.

in the slant style, and a *Pinus parviflora* 'Kokonoe' in the formal upright style. During the 5th World Bonsai Convention in Washington D.C. in 2005, these two trees, although still in quarantine, received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be displayed at the convention.

In 2009, on behalf of NBF, Felix Laughlin sent birthday wishes to Mr. Iwasaki telling him:

Thank you for your steadfast support of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum over the last four decades and thank you for your friendship. You exemplify for me and for so many others the boundless spirit of bonsai — with your generous heart, your impeccable appreciation for the beauty of nature, and your deep understanding of the power of bonsai to create immeasurable goodwill in the world. It is our hope and prayer that this spirit will live forever here at the Museum.



With the parting of these two fine friends of bonsai and the Museum, **Ted Tsukiyama** spoke for many when he said: "the world bonsai community is getting emptier and lonelier".



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President's Letter



We had a most productive annual meeting of the NBF Board of Director's on May 6, 2011, with an active dialogue between the directors and U.S.

National Arboretum representatives. **Dr. Colien Hefferan**, the USNA's new Director, briefed the Board on her work on a strategic plan for the future of the National Arboretum and **Dr. Ramon Jordan**, Interim Associate Director, reported on security improvements for the Museum.

NBF's primary focus continues to be the renovation of the 35-year-old Japanese Pavilion. We are deeply indebted to **Dr. Deborah Rose** for her exceedingly generous pledge of \$1.5 million toward this goal. Our Fundraising Task Force will be working over the summer to launch the public phase of the Capital Campaign to raise the additional funds needed to complete the project.

We mourn the loss of **Mrs. Saburo (Yayoi) Kato** and **Mr. Daizo Iwasaki**, and express our most sincere sympathy to their families. With the pass-

ing of Mr. and Mrs. Kato, we wish their son **Hatsuji Kato** and grandson **Haruhiko Kato** all the best as they carry on the Kato family's legacy of excellence in the art of bonsai at Mansai-en. Mr. Iwasaki and his wife Naemi were unparalleled ambassadors to the world on behalf of the international bonsai community, and we look forward to Mrs. Iwasaki's continued good works in spreading the spirit of bonsai across the globe.

Our efforts to help with the crisis in Japan are outlined elsewhere in this Bulletin. We are very grateful to all of those who contributed to the Tohoku Disaster Relief Fund that will provide aid to those in the bonsai community who were affected by the earthquake/tsunami.

To promote the younger generation's involvement in the art of bonsai, NBF has created an annual "First Curator's Apprenticeship Program," as discussed further on page 3 of this issue. This program will be an ongoing tribute to retiring NBF Director Bob Drechsler, who served as the first curator (1976-1996) of what is now the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum and set a high standard of horticultural and artistic competence for his successors.

NBF Announces Bonsai Pot Purchase Award

The cascade style blue atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca'), donated to the North American Collection in 1990 by **Frederic and Ernesta Ballard**, is in need of a new pot. To further NBF's goal of promoting the art of bonsai in the United States, NBF announced a competition to commis-

sion an American-made container for this tree. The deadline for submitting a design for this pot is **August 1, 2011**. The prospectus of the competition and photos of the tree are posted on the NBF website at: <http://www.bonsai-nbf/site/projects.html>

Visit NBF's Website:
www.bonsai-nbf.org

NBF 2011 Board Meeting & Bonsai Festival

The NBF Board Meeting was held on Friday, May 6, 2011 in conjunction with the annual Bonsai Festival sponsored by the Potomac Bonsai Association, the U.S. National Arboretum and NBF.



Youngest NBF Board Member, Benjamin Vinocour, with oldest Director, Harry Hirao.

At the Board meeting the announcement was made of the “*First Curator’s Apprenticeship*” in honor of **Robert Drechsler**, the Museum’s first curator and a departing member of the NBF Board of Directors. The intention of the apprenticeship is to bring young people interested in the art of bonsai to work at the Museum for short periods of time in order to expose them to some of the day-to-day aspects of bonsai care. Contributions in honor of Mr. Drechsler can be made to the NBF “*First Curator’s Apprenticeship*” and information about applying for the apprenticeship will be posted on the NBF website later this summer.



Chris Freeman, First Place Winner of the Potomac Bonsai Association Juried Show, with his tree.

This year’s bonsai festival featured workshops and demonstrations by NBF Board members **Harry Hirao**, **Julian Adams** and **Chase Rosade**. Chase was also the judge of the PBA Juried Show and the New Talent Competition. The winners of the Juried Show were **Chris Freeman** (First Place), **Stephen Moran** (Second and Third Place) and **Ron Lang** and **Xuan Le** (Honorable Mention). The New Talent Contest Winners were **Stephen Moran** (First Place), **Paul Battista** (Second Place) and **Thomas Sones** (Third Place).

This year an effort was made to focus on activities involving families and chil-



Steve Moran, winner of the New Talent Competition, with his tree.



Harry Hirao teaching in his Bonsai Festival Workshop.

dren. To that end **Janice Kaplan**, of NBF’s Marketing Alliance wrote an article for the May issue of *Washington Parent Magazine*, “Small Hands, Small Branches: Connecting Kids with the Art of Bonsai”. For the Festival itself, Assistant Curator **Kathleen Emerson-Dell** designed a brochure, *Explore the World of Bonsai*, to introduce families to the offerings of the Museum and its collections. There was also a special tent where children could color and stamp bonsai drawings. Both activities were a huge success and will be continued and expanded at future festivals.



Children enjoying the Bonsai Festival activity for kids.

From the Curator

By Jack Sustic

Over-wintering all of the tree collection in the covered Chinese pavilion has been a longstanding challenge. The main problem has been maintaining temperatures cold enough after the plexi glass roof panels are installed to keep the trees dormant. The longer that a tree is dormant the stronger it will be for the growing season. A short dormancy year after

year will weaken a tree. So in an effort to achieve a longer and more natural dormancy period, larger exhaust fans were installed in 2003. This was a great help, but trees were still breaking dormancy a little bit too early. For example, in the past many of the Chinese elms would bud out as early as mid-February.

So last fall I decided to spray the roof panels with a liquid greenhouse shade, and we have been very pleased with the results. The trees broke dormancy much later this year, more in line with their

counterparts in the landscape. It is late March as I write this and the Chinese elms are just beginning to break bud. We are most pleased with this outcome!



Chinese Pavilion Roof with liquid greenhouse shade.

Museum Notes

- In February the Museum received three distinguished guests from Bhutan in a visit that was arranged by NBF Board Member, **Dr. Deborah Rose**. The visitors were: **Tshering Penjor**, from Kabisa and a Member of the National Assembly of Bhutan; **Dr. Sonam Wang**, Chief of the Nature Conservation Division of the Department of Forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture in Bhutan and currently the Edward Mason Fellow in the Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University, and **Thinley Dorji**, a distinguished carpenter from *Tsa Chhu Phu* a healing hot spring in Bhutan.

The guests were in Washington to meet with government officials and concluded their visit with a stop at the Museum. As Deborah Rose said: "After a long day working with elected representatives and fighting Washington traffic, the peace and grace of the Museum was especially appreciated."

More information and additional photos are on the NBF website at: http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/whats_new.html



Thinley Dorji, Deborah Rose, Sonam Wang, Jack Sustic and Tshering Penjor in the Special Exhibits Wing.

- As in years past the Museum participated in the annual national *Sakura Matsuri* Festival on April 9th. **Nancy Luria**, Unit Leader for Education and Visitor Services and Museum Assistant Curator, **Kathleen Emerson-Dell** (Ked) managed the booth with help



Saburo Kato Display on World Bonsai Day.

- from Volunteers **Chris Baker**, **LeAnn Duling** and her husband **Tom Duling**.
- NBF has begun purchasing new periodicals from Japan for the Museum library. The publications include: *Kinbon*, *Bonsai-Shunju*, *Kokufu Bonsai-ten*, *Nihon Suiseki Meihin-ten*, *Nihon Bonsai Sakufu-ten*, *Kindai Bonsai* and *Aiseki*.
- NBF purchased two pots from Japan for collection trees. One pot was for the Japanese White Pine, *Pinus parvifolia*, donated by **King Hassen**, and in training since 1832. The second pot was for the *Ficus microcarpa*, donated by **Mike Uyeno** in 1971. The trees will repotted in the new containers in spring 2012.
- Mr. Yasuo Mitsuya**, who was recently appointed as an Honorary Director of NBF, visited the Museum in April and spent some time working on trees



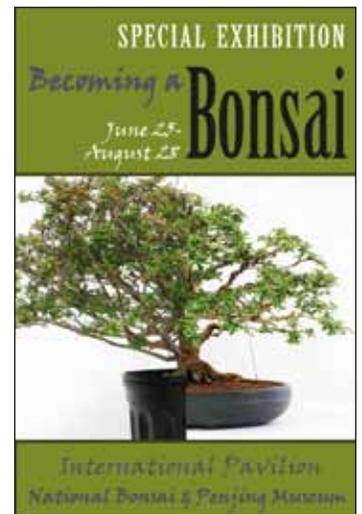
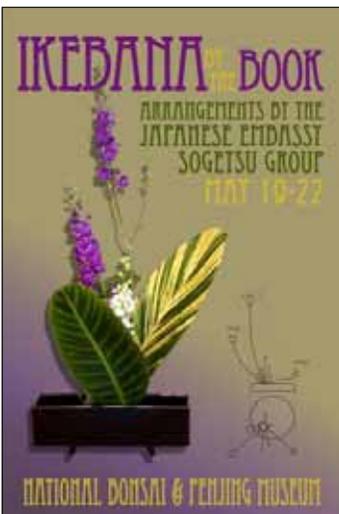
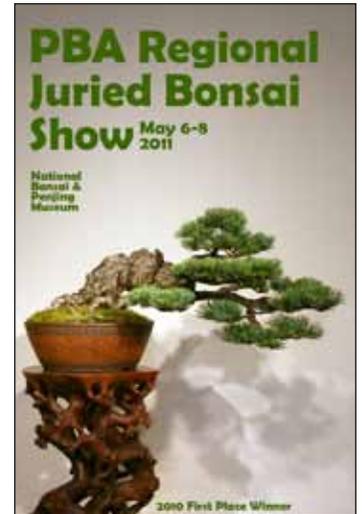
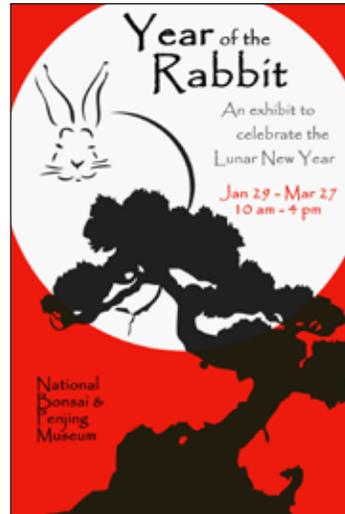
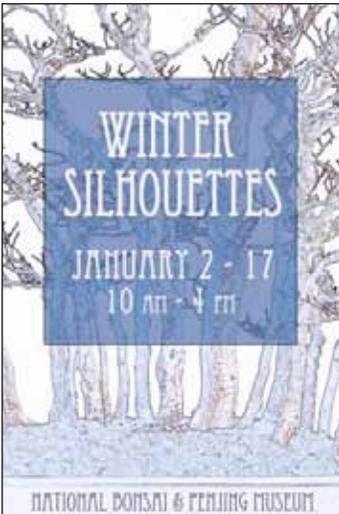
Kathy Shaner, Gordon Deeg, Yasuo Mitsuya and Hideko Metaxas at the Museum.

- with the staff. He was accompanied by **Kathy Shaner**, **Hideko Metaxas** and **Gordon Deeg**.
- The Museum celebrated World Bonsai Day on May 14th with a special display honoring the work of **Saburo Kato**, the founder of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation and in whose honor the World Bonsai Day is dedicated. The day included special tours and demonstrations as well as family activities.
- Earlier this year the Arboretum announced plans to eliminate a large portion of the historic Azalea Collection and to dismantle the renowned Boxwood Collection due to a loss in private funding. This announcement precipitated great public dismay, as well as an anonymous gift of \$1 million to the Friends of the National Arboretum to save these collections. The Arboretum has now suspended its plans to remove these collections pending further discussion.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in January between representatives of the governments of the United States and China for the development of the China Garden at the National Arboretum. A fundraising effort is underway to raise funds for this initiative.

Receive information and the Bulletin Electronically

If you would like to receive the *NBF Bulletin* and other Museum related information via email please send us your name and email address in the enclosed envelope or email the information to: jklodzen@bonsai-nbf.org

These are the posters that have been used to advertise the Museum exhibits thus far in 2011. They were designed by Assistant Curator Kathleen Emerson-Dell.



Virginia E. Bird (1922–2011)

Once again the Museum has lost two ardent supporters.

Virginia E. Bird (Ginnie) and her husband, the late Charles (Chuck) Bird, were connoisseurs of Kingsville boxwood and cultivated them as bonsai. They were also bonsai potters and long-time members of the Potomac Bonsai Association. Ginny was a Museum volunteer and worked with John Naka during his visits to the Museum.



Virginia E. Bird.

Pat Lucke Morris (1939–2011)

A member of the Brandywine Bonsai Society and the Delaware Bonsai Study Group, **Pat Lucke Morris** was also active in Bonsai Clubs International and volunteered in the bonsai collection at Longwood Gardens. A frequent visitor to the Museum, Pat was in attendance when the Yamaki pine was repotted in the Spring of 2010.



Pat Lucke Morris.

The presence of Ginnie and Pat will be greatly missed in the bonsai community.

NBF Offers Condolences to Japan

Following the tragic events in Japan during March the National Bonsai Foundation responded in two ways. First, a letter, signed by Felix Laughlin for the NBF Board, was sent to the NBF mailing list. The letter stated that "... it would be wonderful if those of us involved with the National Bonsai Foundation could assist our fellow bonsai community in Japan by organizing a special NBF fund to assist those bonsai people directly affected by the disaster. Such a gesture by NBF and its supporters would show the strong bond of friendship through bonsai that exists between our two countries and demonstrate our solidarity with the people of Japan in this time of crisis."

The response to this letter from the bonsai community was extraordinary. Almost \$30,000 was raised in just over a month and this has been sent to **Mr. Hiroshi Takeyama**, Director of the Nippon Bonsai Association, for distribution to the Japanese bonsai community affected by the earthquake/tsunami. The list of those who contributed to this appeal is enclosed as an insert to the Bulletin.

Secondly, a *Book of Condolences* was available in the Mary E. Mrose International Pavilion for visitors to inscribe their thoughts and prayers to the people of Japan who are suffering in

the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami. The inside of the book is inscribed with this message:

To the Nippon Bonsai Association

We offer to the people of Japan and to the bonsai community of Japan our profound condolences for the suffering you have endured following the devastating earthquake and tsunami that occurred in your country in March 2011. As we have rejoiced with you in the past through our love of bonsai, we are bound now in the present with you in sorrow. It is our steadfast belief that the gifts of bonsai from Japan stand as a pledge of the bond of friendship between our countries and as a promising symbol of our hope for the Japanese people.

*U. S. National Arboretum
National Bonsai & Penjing Museum
National Bonsai Foundation
Museum Visitors and Lovers of Bonsai
Washington D.C. 2011*

The Book will be carried to Japan by Jack Sustic to be presented to the Nippon Bonsai Association at the Asia Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki convention in November.

Recent New NBF Members

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