



Children and Bonsai *Making Magic*

Children and bonsai are a magical composition. And this year there have been wonderful opportunities at the Museum to see this happen.

Each year the Museum hosts school groups from across the Washington area and one group, from Sidwell Friends School, returns year after year. This year the Sidwell Friends second-graders were led through the Museum by Assistant Curators, **Kathleen Emerson-**



School children writing their thoughts on bonsai, koi and cherry trees.

Dell (Ked) and **Aarin Packard**. Later they gathered under the weeping cherry

in the Arboretum's Great Meadow to compose their thoughts on the visit. A

few weeks later Ked and Aarin received a thank-you note that included some of the drawings, which we would like to share with you on the inside of the *Bulletin*.

Also this year the decision was made to focus on children during the annual Bonsai Festival. There were special art exercises for children, and we were pleased at the number of parents and grandparents who participated as well!

A special booklet for the festival was created by Ked, working with **Nancy Luria**, that

continued on page 3

Alice Naka September 19, 1917–August 1, 2011

By Cheryl Manning

Upon meeting Alice Toshiko Mizunaga for the first time in 1935, John Naka may have thought of this Japanese proverb: "*Tabi wa michidure yowa nasake.*" ("No road is long with a good companion.") For 69 years, their journey together was on a road paved in gold.

Alice Naka, beloved wife of John Naka (1914–2004), passed away on August 1, 2011.

Alice's contributions were instrumental in helping John gain fame as a bonsai artist. She not only edited John's

books *Bonsai Techniques I* and *II* but also distributed tens of thousands of copies. Alice also cared for the priceless bonsai collection in their backyard when John was on the road teaching the art of bonsai.

But it was Alice's feisty spirit, sharp wit, nurturing soul, and beautiful smile that endeared her to friends and family. She is survived by sons Gene, Bob, and Dick, eleven grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.



Alice Naka.

Photo: Larry Ragle



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HONORARY MEMBERS

Thomas S. Elias
Harry Hirao
Yun-hua Hu (China)
Barbara Hall Marshall
Yasuo Mitsuya (Japan)
Hiroshi Takeyama (Japan)
Ted T. Tsukiyama
Changbao Xin (China)
Keiko Yamane (Japan)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Johann F. Klodzen

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Felix B. Laughlin, DC
President
Marybel Balendonck, CA
Vice President
Christopher M. Cochran, VA
Secretary
James Hughes, MD
Treasurer
Carl Morimoto, CA
César A. Portocarrero, MD

MEMBERS

Julian Adams, VA
David Bogan, IN
James Brant, PA
Roger S. Case, Jr., NM
Dennis S. Donald, PA
C. F. Kwok, VA
Ron Lang, PA
Janet E. Lanman, MD
Cheryl Manning, CA
Brussel Martin, MS
Arschel Morell, MD
Doug Paul, PA
Larry Ragle, CA
Glenn Reusch, VA
F. Chase Rosade, PA
Deborah Rose, MD
Wayne Schoech, VT
Fay Sharer, VA
Edward Trout, FL
William N. Valavanis, NY
Benjamin Vinocour, DC
Jack W. Wells, VA
Jane N. Yamashiroya, HI

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

President
American Bonsai Society
President
Bonsai Clubs International
President
Potomac Bonsai Association
North American Representative
World Bonsai Friendship Federation

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM ADVISORS

Colien Hefferan, Director
Nancy Luria,
Education & Visitor Services Unit Leader
Scott Aker, Gardens Unit Leader
Carole Bordelon, Supervisory Horticulturist
Jack S. Sustic, Curator
Kathleen Emerson-Dell,
Assistant Curator for Artifact Collections
Aarin Packard,
Assistant Curator for Plant Collections

President's Letter



I am pleased to announce that **Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki and Mrs. Fujisaki** have recently

accepted NBF's invitation to serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Japanese Pavilion Capital Campaign. A delegation from NBF and the Museum composed of **Ted Tsukiyama, Jane Yamashiroya, Carl Morimoto and Jack Sustic** attended the Asia-Pacific Bonsai Convention in Takamatsu, Japan in November and updated the international bonsai community on the renovation plans for the Pavilion. We will be giving you full coverage of this Campaign in our next newsletter

This issue of the *Bulletin* highlights the Museum's work in introducing the younger generation to the art of bonsai. Today we are most fortunate to have a number of talented bonsai artists in their teens

and 20's in the United States. The second-graders' stories and art work shown on pages 4 and 5 of this issue are reminiscent of similar drawings I saw some years ago at Mansei-en created by Japanese children after attending a class offered by the late master **Saburo Kato**. Those drawings, like those here, were heart-warming, and they gently call on us to provide more bonsai educational opportunities for youngsters. Among American bonsai professionals, **Chase and Solita Rosade** have been holding classes for young people for years. The very positive response to NBF's announcement of *The First Curator's Apprenticeship* (honoring the Museum's first Curator **Bob Drechsler**), as described on page 6 of this issue, demonstrates that there is a demand in this country for serious bonsai instruction and promises a bright future for this new program.

Please continue your generosity to NBF in support of our National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. Best wishes for 2012!

Felix

Museum to Have Its Own Mobile APP

Over the summer NBF was approached by **Jim Cortina** of Cortina Productions (www.cortinaproductions.com) who proposed to design a downloadable application program, or app, for the Museum. The only cost for NBF and the Museum would be staff time. The benefit for Cortina Productions would be a beautiful and interesting app to show new clients.

We accepted this offer and the app will be available free to anyone who has an Apple or an Android platform on their smart phone. It will include a map of the Museum, images and information on trees and artifacts, historical videos and photos,

as well as audio and text narratives. This will give visitors on site and far away a rich experience of the Museum's history, collections, pavilions and gardens. Assistant Curator **Kathleen Emerson-Dell** will take the lead on behalf of the Museum in developing the app with Cortina Productions.

An agreement between Cortina and NBF was signed in early November and work will begin immediately with the intention of having the app available for distribution early in 2012.

Children and Bonsai—

Continued from page 1

guides family groups through the Museum's three pavilions. Along the way the children are asked to "enter a miniature landscape," "look at trees in nature," "discover secrets to looking old," and are provided with answers on how bonsai are created and even how to pronounce the word "bonsai." The entire booklet, which was a huge hit at the Festival, is available on the NBF website at: http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/whats_new.html

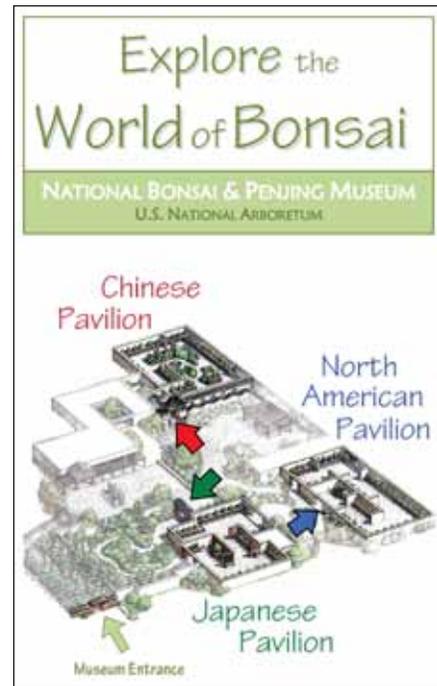
There seems to be a natural coherence between children and bonsai, so the Museum staff is always seeking new ways to encourage this special relationship. They are looking forward to 2012 to see what might happen then!



Children's activity at the Bonsai Festival.



Assistant Curator Aarin Packard talks about the Imperial Pine.



Cover of booklet for family activity in the Museum.



Aarin Packard plays samurai for a group of children.



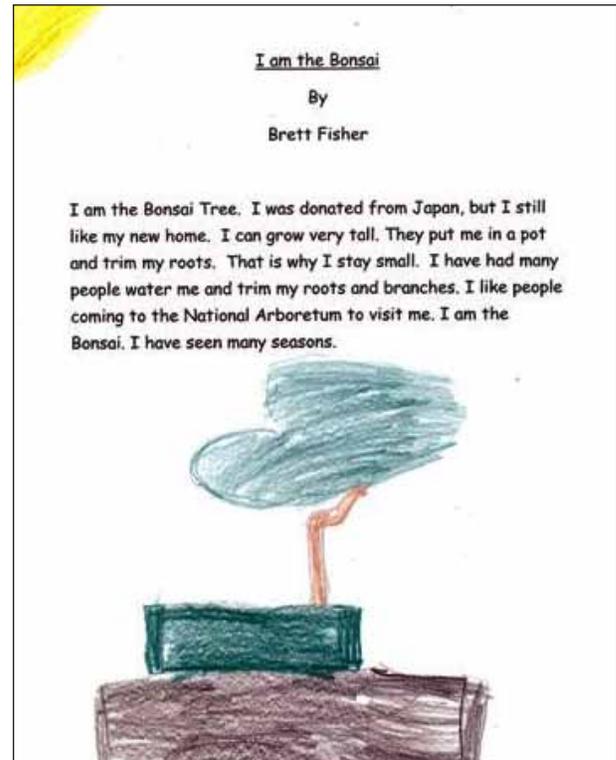
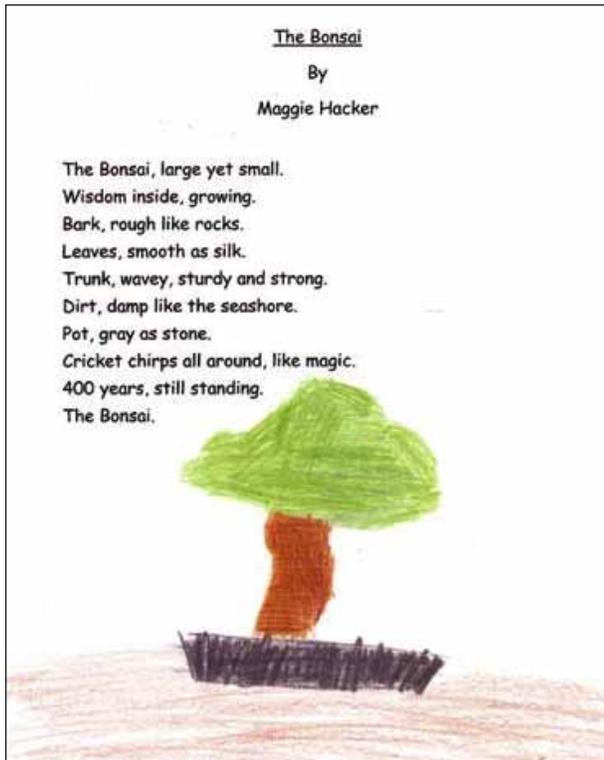
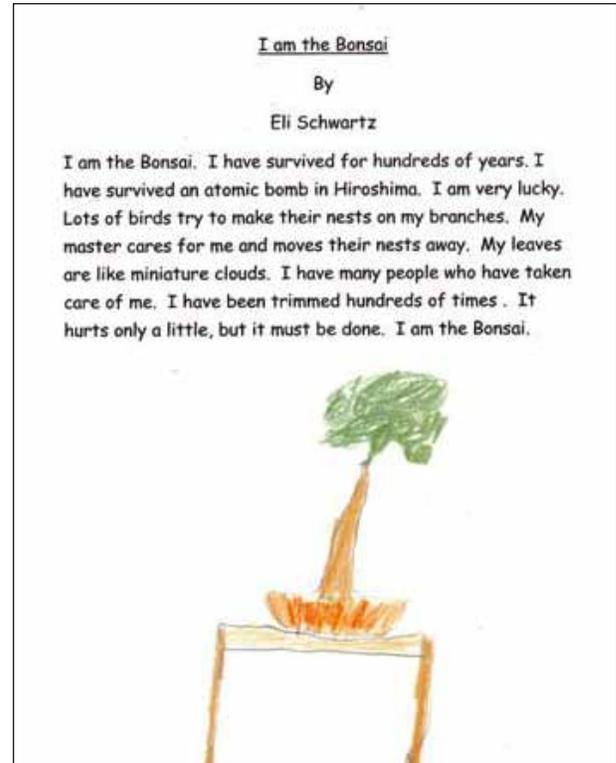
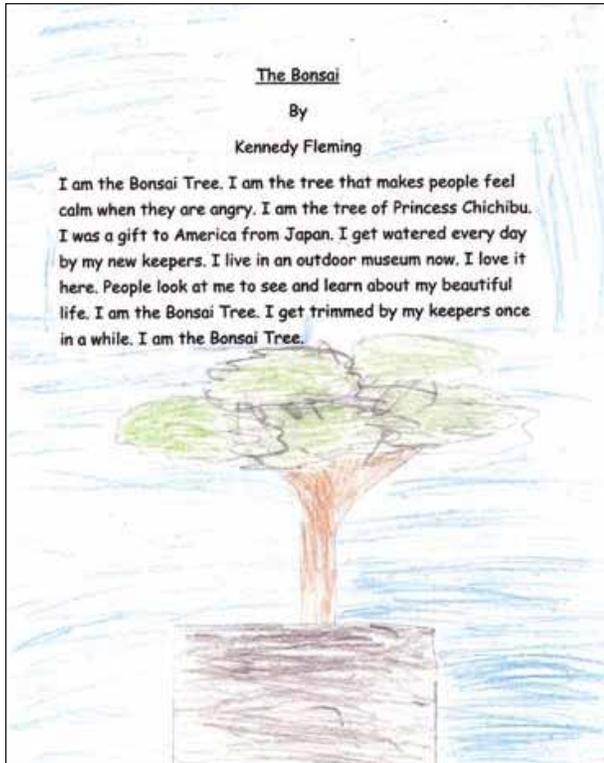
Assistant Curator Kathleen Emerson-Dell in "The Year of the Rabbit" exhibit.

continued on page 4

Children and Bonsai—

Continued from page 3

Drawings and Letter from Sidwell Friends School



continued on page 5

Children and Bonsai—

Continued from page 4

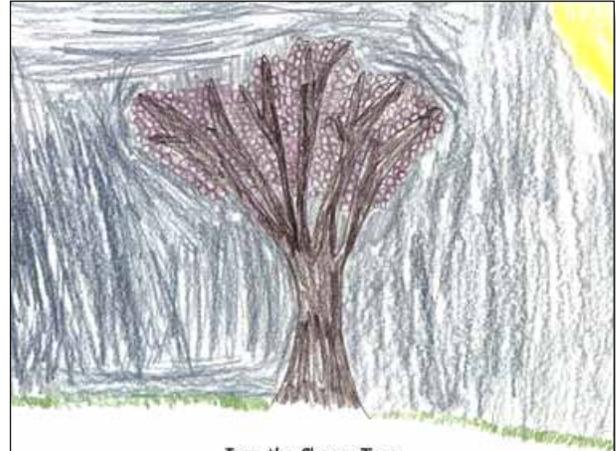


The Great Koi

By

Ollie Rhee

I am the Great Koi. I swim through the water like a long delicate piece of fabric floating silently on a wavy blanket of blue. As the days go by I see more and more people come to visit me. I like people having lunch by the Koi pond. They sit and watch the Koi glide through the water. We cluster together in front of them, bobbing up and down like apples in the water. I am the Great Koi.



I am the Cherry Tree

By

Leyla Unsal

I am the Cherry Tree. My pink blossoms are like snow in the midair. I will often see birds and children scampering around. The arboretum is my home. My friends and I are happy. My blossoms swing down and tickle your faces. You giggle, then laugh. I remind you of happiness, as my long flexible branches weep. Swaying, swaying, swaying, singing to the beat of my swaying while my pink blossom shake hands with the daffodils.

April 28, 2011

Dear Kathleen & Darin,

We wanted to extend our heart-felt thanks for your care, kindness, and effort in providing a wonderful experience for our students. Every year we anxiously await our trip to the National Arboretum. Your passion for your subject and the knowledge you convey are contagious. We treasure our time with you and we are truly grateful.

Sincerely,
Sidwell Friends
Second Grade

Museum Notes

- **Keith B. Scott**, donor of *Ulmus carpinifolia* (Smooth Leaf Elm) in the North American Collection, died on May 6, 2011. A resident of Ohio, Mr. Scott was a contributor to *International Bonsai* and a frequent presenter at *American Bonsai Society* and *Bonsai Clubs International* events. During his career he was the Curator of Bonsai at the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Ulmus carpinifolia (Smooth Leaf Elm). Donated by Keith Scott.

- At the 2011 NBF Board meeting the *First Curator's Apprenticeship* in honor of former Curator and NBF Board Director **Robert Drechsler** was announced. The *Apprenticeship*, designated for young people interested in learning about the art of bonsai, will be administered under the auspices of the Arboretum's Internship Program. The chosen intern will work closely with Curator **Jack Sustic** for eight consecutive Sundays in March and April, at the peak of the repotting season. This timeframe will provide the apprentice with an intensive orientation to bonsai care and technique. The position was open for application until November 1, 2011 and attracted 17 candidates, which is good news for the future of bonsai!
- Earlier this year NBF sponsored a *Bonsai Container Purchase Award Competition*. The purpose of the competition was to design a pot for the *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca' (Blue Atlas Cedar) that was donated to the North American Collection by **Frederic** and **Ernesta Ballard**. This tree has a storied past as **Yuji Yoshimura** assisted with

the initial styling and **John Naka** advised on subsequent styling. For many years this dramatic tree has resided in a mediocre pot making it an ideal candidate for the competition. In August, an entry from **Sara Rayner Alms** of Red Wing, Minnesota was selected as the winner of the competition. The pot is to be delivered to the Museum by January 15, 2012 and the tree will be repotted soon thereafter. We will have more news on this in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

- The 2012 Bonsai Festival, sponsored by the Arboretum, NBF and the Potomac Bonsai Association (PBA) will once again take place on the first weekend in May (May 5–7). This year the Juried Show will be the "Best of PBA Trees" and will be on exhibit in the Special Exhibits Wing. **Harry Hirao** and **Suthin Sukosolvisit** will hold demonstrations and conduct workshops during the weekend, and the third *New Talent Competition* will be held on Friday May 5. The 2010 winner of this competition, **Tom Kodiak**, secured a place in the national 2011 *Joshua Roth New Talent Competition* and was awarded First Place for his tree design. Congratulations to Tom!
- The Arboretum has provided \$100,000 in funding to begin the implementation of the Master Plan for Signage in the Museum. The Master Plan has been approved by the National Park and Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. This first phase will include the installation of a *Museum Donor Recognition Wall*, entrance gate and orientation signs, as well as new tree identification signs. **Nancy Luria**, Unit Leader of the Arboretum's Education and Visitor Services Unit, is the Coordinator for this important project.



From Chaos, New Life, Sheila Advani.

- The *Autumn Ikebana Exhibit: Sogetsu School, Washington D.C.* was on display in the Special Exhibits Wing over the weekend of September 30–October 2. The arrangements were designed and dedicated to the victims of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.



Orchid Display in the Tokonoma Room.

- For the second consecutive year the National Capital Orchid Society annual show was held in the Mary E. Mrose International Pavilion of the Museum. As always the spectacular display of orchids attracted thousands of visitors who also then had an opportunity to visit the Museum's collections.



Vaughn Banting's Flaming Sweet Mum.

- *Flaming Trees & Frozen Mums* was the title of the Museum's annual autumn exhibit. The exhibit featured a formal display of selected trees that were at peak fall color and chrysanthemum stones from China and Japan that represented "Frozen Mums." The exhibit received a lovely photo display in the *Washington Post*.
- Assistant Curator **Aarin Packard** has started a wonderful new Museum Blog: *Capital Bonsai*. You can look at it through a link on the NBF website Home Page, <http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/index.html> or at the blog site <http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/index.html>, where you can subscribe to updates.

Tohoku Disaster Relief Funds Distributed

In late May NBF sent to Japan almost \$30,000 that had been collected for bonsai people affected by the March 11 earthquake/tsunami. In October NBF received a letter from **Hiroshi Takeyama**, Director of the Nippon Bonsai Association, in which he said:

“Thank you so much for your good will. Sincerely, I thank you on behalf of the Nippon Bonsai Association, from the bottom of my heart.” The money was distributed to those groups and individuals within the Association that were most affected by the disaster. For

the most severely damaged regions, Mr. Takeyama sent NBF the photographs below showing the presentation of funds. The complete text of his letter is available on the NBF website at: <http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/contributors.html>.



New Security System in the Museum

By Jack Sustic

Contractors are currently in the final stages of installing a new security system in the Museum. Portions of the old system were almost 30 years old and in disrepair. To say that the old system needed replacement is an understatement.

This new system has many state-of-the-art features that will allow us to manage the security of the bonsai and artifacts, as well as the facility, much

more efficiently. The most obvious improvement will be in the way that the bonsai and artifacts are protected from theft and damage. A new Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID), which will have motion and tamper sensors, will allow us to track each bonsai and artifact from a central monitor. If an object is moved an alarm will sound and alert us immediately to the location of the bonsai or artifact.

In addition to monitoring the collections through the RFID system we will also have 33 new high-resolution color cameras with capabilities for day and night recording of movement within the complex. These have been installed in all areas of the Museum and are a major improvement over the old black and white cameras.

Now, for the first time in many years, we believe that the Museum is well protected!



One of the 33 new cameras keeping a watchful eye on the bonsai.



Exit gate with a new RFID reader.

Bonsai Stamps in 2012

For many years bonsai lovers have sought to have the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) issue a stamp honoring this art form. **Eunice Corp** of Cadillac, Michigan and **Jerry Antel**, of Columbia, Missouri have been very active in this effort. In 2006 Ms. Corp organized a petition supporting a Commemorative Postage Stamp for American Bonsai Trees, and NBF was instrumental in getting signatures for this petition.

In 2009, stamp designers from the USPS contacted NBF seeking informal counsel on the history of bonsai and how they are styled. Former Museum Curator **Jim Hughes** and the pres-

ent Curator **Jack Sustic** both offered advice to the artist, **John Dawson** of Hawaii, as the work moved forward.

In August of this year NBF learned that the stamps, which will be Forever® stamps, are to be issued sometime in 2012. Since NBF and the Museum were involved in the design process and the Museum is featured in the press release, NBF Board Director **Carl Morimoto** suggested that we host the Issuing Ceremony at the Museum. The idea was enthusiastically endorsed by Arboretum Director **Colien Hefferan** and an invitation has been sent to the Postal Service seeking permission to hold this event here.



NBF Sends Letter to APHIS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed stringent regulations on the importation of bonsai and penjing into the United States. In 2002 a pilot program was established by APHIS that permitted bonsai and penjing to be imported if they were subject to a post-entry quarantine. This program has proven to be effective in preventing the introduction of pests from other countries. Also some American importers have complied with pre-entry quarantine regulations for the importation of these trees.

The new regulations would preclude the importation of bonsai and

penjing despite the success of the pre-entry and post-entry quarantines already in place.

In September NBF President, **Felix B. Laughlin**, submitted a letter on behalf of NBF to APHIS, supporting the efforts of USDA to increase protection against pest introduction through the importation of plants, but he also strongly urged them to continue to allow American bonsai and penjing importers to continue to import bonsai using either pre-entry or post-entry quarantine measures and to exclude bonsai and penjing from the list of prohibited plants for importation.



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



Please renew your membership for 2011 so that you will continue to receive future issues of the NBF Bulletin. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. You can send either a check or credit card information (name, number, expiration date).

Categories of Support:

Basic	\$35
Student	\$15
Organization	\$50
Contributor	\$50 to \$99
Sponsor	\$100 to \$249
Patron	\$250 to \$999
Benefactor	Over \$1,000

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