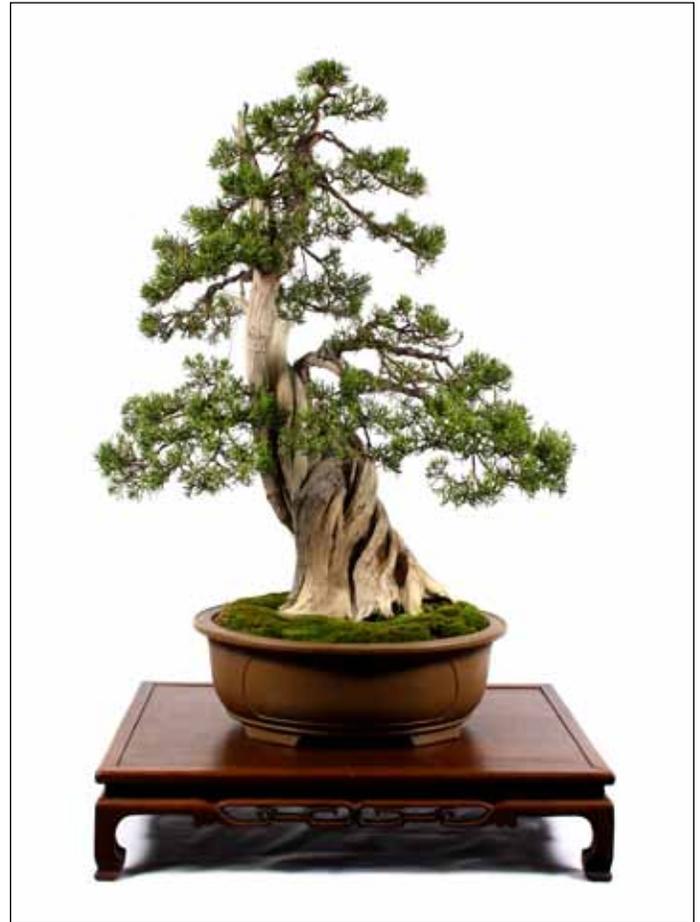




Handsome Accessions for the Museum



California Juniper (*Juniperus californica*) in training since 1990.



California Juniper (*Juniperus californica*) in training since 1982.

In December, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum received a major donation of two outstanding California Junipers (*Juniperus californica*) from **Sze-Ern “Ernie” Kuo** of California. One tree was purchased by Mr. Kuo in 1982 and the second one was collected from the wild in 1990. They have both been trained in the informal upright style.

The large trees were insured for the trip and were transported

from Ernie’s home in Buena Park to Washington, D.C. by **Gary Wood** of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Mr. Woods, a bonsai collector himself, charged only for expenses associated with the trip and delivered them coast-to-coast in just three days!

The trees are now on display in the **Yee-sun Wu Chinese Pavilion** for the winter but will join the other trees in the North American Collection in the **John Y. Naka Pavilion** in the spring.



Gary Wood photographing the trees at the Museum.

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President's Letter



This year—2013—looks like it will be a very exciting one for NBF and the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.

Thankfully, we have almost (but not quite) reached our goal of \$2 million in our campaign to raise the funds needed to renovate the 37-year-old Japanese Pavilion. We hope to start the actual construction later this year.

The renovated Japanese Pavilion will be quite a milestone in the history of the Bonsai Museum—confirming the lasting legacy of the 1976 Bicentennial Gift of bonsai from Japan to the American people and breathing a renewed spirit into the Museum as a whole.

Buoyed by this renewed spirit, we are beginning to implement a new plan to raise the national and international visibility of the Museum, which has already become a popular tourist destination in our Nation's

Capitol. The logical next step, we believe, is to view the Museum as having not only a physical presence in Washington, DC but also a digital presence, and to take advantage of new technological advances to enhance visitation to both.

For the ancient art of bonsai, exemplified by the magnificent specimens displayed so beautifully within this, the world's first, Bonsai Museum, should be available 24/7 to visitors viewing their iPhones anywhere in the world, as well as those strolling through the Museum on a Saturday afternoon.

Stepping into the digital age, NBF has worked with Assistant Curator **Kathleen Emerson Dell** and **Cortina Productions** to develop a fabulous new mobile app, now available for free downloading on your iPhone. See the article on p. 4. This is just an example—albeit a powerful one—of the astonishing progress NBF and the Museum are making in promoting our favorite art form.

New Donation Levels

NBF has adopted new donation levels for giving. They are as follows:

Basic	\$35 up to \$99
Sponsor	\$100 up to \$249
Patron	\$250 up to \$499
Benefactor	\$500 up to \$999
Capital Director	\$1,000 up to \$4,999
Bonsai Ambassador	\$5,000 up to \$9,999
Foundation Steward	\$10,000 and above

The Charter Donation level (\$25) remains an option for those who joined in 2004 or before.

If you have not yet donated for the year 2013 please do so now. You can either send in a check (envelope is enclosed) or donate online at the NBF website www.bonsai-nbf.org

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

Campaign for the Japanese Pavilion: A Gift Renewed

The *Campaign for the Japanese Pavilion: A Gift Renewed* is continuing to move forward. Rhodeside and Harwell, the landscape architectural firm for the project, is completing work on the engineering drawings and seeking final approval from the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts. This summer NBF will be required to give the government the funds to complete the construction of the project and then soon thereafter the request for bids will be posted. It is the hope of all that construction can begin this fall with completion predicted to be in Spring 2014.

Enclosed in this issue is a copy of an article by Curator **Jack Sustic**, which was previously published in *Bonsai: The Journal of the American Bonsai Society*. This piece, in pictures and words, describes the background and ceremony of the momentous 1976 Bicentennial gift of bonsai that would be housed in the new Japanese Pavilion. This “new” pavilion and the accom-

panying **Kato Family Stroll Garden** leading to the pavilion are now 37 years old, and the frangible stucco surface is deteriorating from exposure to searing heat, high humidity and frost fractures. The original benches and woodwork are succumbing not only to the effects of the weather, but to insect damage as well. And the gravel pathways through the garden and pavilion are eroding. To stabilize the impaired architecture, the stucco walls will be replaced with more weather-tolerant material, the wooden display benches will be removed and replaced by stone plinths, and the pathways will be covered with stone pavers for easier access by all visitors.

As of mid-January 2013, \$1,666,392 of the \$2 million needed for the completion of the project was pledged. One anonymous donor has pledged \$1.5 million and almost \$200,000 has been pledged by other supporters of the Museum from around the country. A

complete list of these donors appears on the NBF website.

This still leaves NBF with the daunting task of having to raise an additional \$300,000. We believe that we can do that with your help and that of all the friends and supporters of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. All gifts will be acknowledged by NBF on the website, in publications, as well as in a permanent donor book. Gifts of \$5,000 and over will also be honored on the new Donor Wall in the **Mary Mrose International Pavilion**.

If you have not yet done so, please pledge now to help us to restore the Japanese Pavilion and the Stroll Garden so that these historic structures will be preserved for the benefit of the visitors of today and tomorrow, and to perpetuate the legacy that was bestowed on us in 1976. It will be truly *A Gift Renewed*.

A pledge form is included with this *NBF Bulletin*. Thank you for your generosity.

Three New Members Elected to the NBF Board

- **Ms. Le Ann Duling**, originally of Honolulu, Hawaii, was introduced to bonsai at an early age by her Japanese-American grandmother. A Master Gardener, Le Ann has worked on gardens in the Napa Valley of California and in Virginia where she currently resides. She is a member of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society and is on the Board of Directors and President-elect of the Potomac Bonsai Association. A volunteer in the Museum for 7 years, she was the winner of the 2012 Juried Show.
- **Dr. Howard Smith** began practicing the art of bonsai in 1991 after graduating from medical school. With his wife, Sylvia, he operates a bonsai nursery, the *Bonsai Smiths*. He has served as Vice-President

and President of the Bonsai Society of Dallas, Texas and is a club teacher with that club as well as the Fort Worth Bonsai Society. He was also the Chairman of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation Convention (LSBF). The first graduate of **Boon Manakitivipart's** *Bonsai Intensive* course, he continues to work with Boon in the U. S. and Japan. He has twice placed in the *Top 100 Trees in the World Bonsai Contest* and received awards for the best conifer, best deciduous and best overall bonsai at the LSBF State Convention.

- **Mr. Alan Walker** of Lake Charles, Louisiana began his career in bonsai in 1972 when he was introduced to the art by **Ray Storts** of Tulsa, Oklahoma. While attend-

ing graduate school in Baton Rouge, he joined the Louisiana Bonsai Society and later the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society. A lifetime member of Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) and the American Bonsai Society (ABS), he has served as President, Vice-President and Executive Director of BCI, and served on the Board of that organization from 1993–2006. In 1989 he co-founded the Lake Charles Bonsai Society and has been the Treasurer and the editor of its monthly newsletter, *Bonsai News*, since 1994. In 2002 he hosted a meeting of all Louisiana bonsai organizations, which led to the founding of the Louisiana Alliance of Bonsai Societies.

Museum Notes

- **Warren Hill**, who served as Curator of Bonsai at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum from 1998 to 2001, is recovering from a cerebrovascular event and is progressing well. His many friends and students in the bonsai community across the country send best wishes to him and his wife **Sharon** for a speedy recovery. Warren's mailing address is: 265 Jaybird Lane, Greeneville Tennessee 37743.
- In September **Ryan Neil** of *International Bonsai Mirai* in Portland, Oregon visited the Museum and walked through the collections with Assistant Curator

Aarin Packard. He spoke in admiration of the unique history that the Museum possesses. On October 4–6, 2013, Mr. Neil and **Michael Hagedorn** will present

the *Artisan's Cup of Portland Bonsai Exhibit: American Bonsai: Reforged and Refined* at the **Portland Museum of Art**. Visit: www.artisanscupofportland.com.



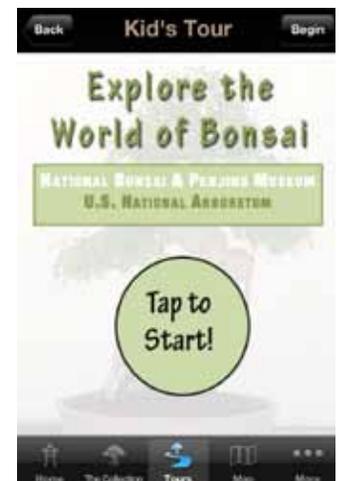
Aaron Packard and Ryan Neil at the Museum.

Museum's Official App is Ready to Download

The official mobile app of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, designed by **Cortina Productions** of McLean, Virginia, is now ready to be downloaded from the Apple iTunes App Store. You will find it listed in the Education category. The app is free and compatible with all iPhones.

Parts of the app are still under development so it will continue to be enhanced in the months to come. Also at present it is not optimized for use on an iPad, nor is it yet available for Android users. But these users can look forward to being able to download it later this spring.

Kathleen Emerson-Dell has had major responsibility, on behalf of the Museum, for the content of the app, and she has worked closely with **Owen Wilson** of Cortina in getting it ready for distribution. Be sure to take the "Test Your Knowledge" quiz on the app.



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

Sketchbook Stories

Marybel Balendonck's Crape Myrtle

by Cheryl Manning

Marybel Balendonck has always loved styling her own bonsai. She takes pride in transforming raw stock into show trees. There is, however, one tree on her bonsai bench that was styled in large part by someone else.

In 1990, a crape myrtle in **Khan Komai's** bonsai nursery caught Marybel's attention with its thin, curvaceous trunk and numerous branches. She trained it as an informal upright with long, horizontal branches.

Marybel had her apartment complex painted in 1997. The clumsy painter broke two lower branches of her crape myrtle. Adding insult to injury, he buried the branches in her trash can (as if she wouldn't have noticed the damage).

John Naka examined her damaged tree during his bonsai class. He studied the delicate, undulating trunk and sketched a *bunjin* tree with a drop branch. She loved John's sketch and began the transformation by removing several branches, leaving only the upper ones.

Next, the shallow oval pot needed to go. Marybel found the perfect replacement in her garage — a small, round pot with a blue and purple glaze that she had won at a club raffle. A few months later, blossoms opened, and

she saw how well the flowers complemented the colorful pot. One last procedure loomed before the tree matched the sketch, but Marybel balked at pulling down the left branch because she was afraid of breaking it.

Several years later, Marybel took her redesigned tree (lacking the drop branch) and sketch to a Kofu Kai Bonsai club meeting where John was conducting a tree critique. John liked the results, so she displayed her crape myrtle in *Baikoen Kenkyukai's Winter Silhouettes* show. And that would have been the end of our story if Marybel hadn't decided to repaint in 2008.

Little did she know that her new painter also fancied himself a bonsai artist. He broke the lower left branch about two inches from the trunk. At least he didn't try to hide his mistake; he left the branch on top of the trash.

The painter had inadvertently helped Marybel create the drop branch that would complete John's design. Within weeks, numerous sprouts emerged from the calloused break. This new growth had the flexibility that the old branch lacked.

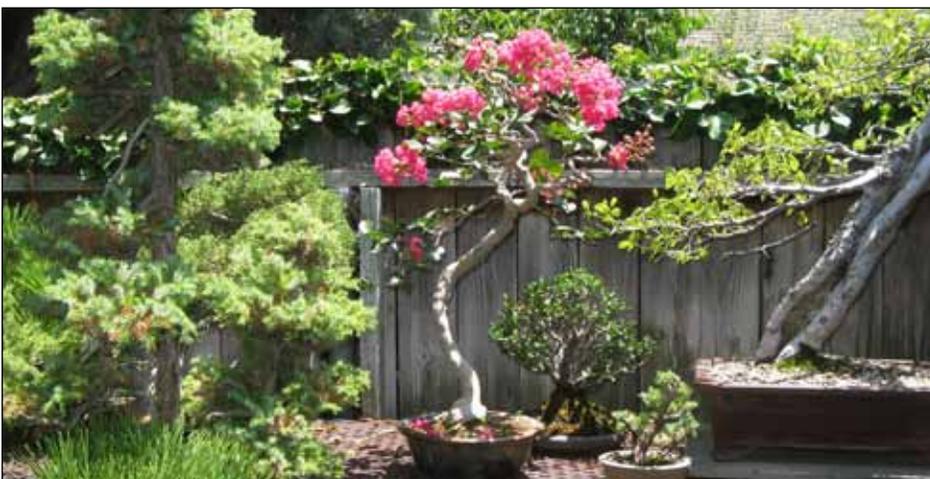
After one growing season, Marybel wrapped the most vigorous sprouts with anodized aluminum wire. She positioned them to match the long,

dramatic element of John's sketch. The drop branch has been in development for four years now and is beginning to take shape.

Marybel now loves the look of her tree and enjoys the explosion of pink blossoms on her bonsai bench each August. One can only hope that the next time she repaints, the crape myrtle is safely stashed away from another house-painting Picasso.



Page 3 of John Naka's Sketchbook.



July color in Marybel's back yard.



Bunjin show tree in January.

Curator's Corner

by Jack Sustic

This past September I made a couple of "bonsai" stops during my trip to Europe. The first stop was to attend a **World Bonsai Friendship Federation** meeting at the **Crespi Museum** in Milan, Italy.

Luigi Crespi has created a beautiful museum with thousands of bonsai and artifacts that are certain to please all bonsai artists. My visit also coincided

with the bi-annual Crespi Cup. This exhibition features the best bonsai, stones and containers throughout Europe. It was truly an outstanding exhibition with many beautiful trees.

My second stop was Belgrade, Serbia to visit with members of the **Belgrade Bonsai Society**. This is a small group with about 20 members who all have a real interest in learning

as much as they can about bonsai practices. I spent the day with the club's president **Dragoslav Radovanovic** at the home of **Valdimir Nestic** making styling suggestions but mainly enjoying the bonsai camaradery.

Both visits made me realize once again how bonsai is such a wonderful bridge between different nations and cultures.



Entrance to the Crespi Museum.



Jack Sustic, right, "talking bonsai" with Dragoslav Radovanovic and Valdimir Nestic.

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.

