



# WBFF North American Regional Report 2025

North American Bonsai Federation (NABF)

## President's Report

Across North America more people than ever are now learning the art of bonsai which was in no small part due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This rise in popularity has resulted in an increase in exhibitions across the country, an increase in the number of bonsai suppliers and a rise in the number of public bonsai collections.

In May of 2024 the American Bonsai Society in conjunction with the Michigan All State Show held their annual learning seminars in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This event coincided with World Bonsai Day. NABF set up a table at registration to celebrate WBD and to promote the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> WBC in Malaysia.



During the ABS event I presented President Karen Harkaway with a gift, and certificate for outstanding bonsai to Bill Valavanis on behalf of Chairman Kim.





Later in August on behalf of Chairman Kim I presented a gift to the Midwest Bonsai Society President Larry Stephan. The Midwest Bonsai Society holds a very nice regional exhibition annually at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

For the past several months I've been working to rebuild the NABF Board. One priority is looking to the future and having a mix of younger people and seasoned veterans on the board with broader expertise like viewing stones and potters. Although we still have a couple vacancies, we now have a strong board in place to represent the NABF/WBFF family and they are eager to help promote the next World Bonsai Convention in Malaysia.

The NABF is also focused on supporting the North American Cooperation Centers, by establishing the **Consortium of Cooperation Center Curators**. By establishing this consortium, the NABF can help assist the centers in sharing best practices, relevant information, raising awareness and appreciation for the centers and in general, to promote a greater appreciation for the art of bonsai.

Additionally, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization the NABF has established the **NABF Cooperation Center Assistance Fund**. This fund is designed to help support activities like World Bonsai Day, bonsai or bonsai related exhibitions, bonsai research and the promotion of such activities.

This fall the American Bonsai Society will be holding their annual "bonsai learning seminars" in conjunction with the U.S. National Exhibition in Rochester, NY. This exhibition is always highly anticipated and attended. The NABF will be sponsoring the Friday evening reception at this event. This will be one of our best opportunities to promote the WBFF/NABF and the 10<sup>th</sup> WBC in North America.

On behalf of the entire NABF Board I look forward to the coming year and doing everything we can to help make the 10<sup>th</sup> WBD a huge success!

Jack Sustic  
President, North American Region

## NABF Director's Reports

### **Chris Baker – North Central Region Director, International Consultant, WBFF Cooperation Center Curator (Chicago Botanic Garden)**

With the turn of the New Year and longer days, the hope of spring starts to creep in. Repotting season has begun at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Plans for World Bonsai Day are set and we are excited to have several additions to this year's program. Along with the usual demonstration and courtyard tour, we will be having a children's area for coloring and a hands-on experience with soil, tools, and trees. We are hoping to engage people in new ways and have workshops added to the event in the future. As we look to expand the scope of our display, we will be adding a stand-alone Suiseki display to add depth and dimension to our current collection in 2025.

The Lynden Sculpture Garden bonsai collection in Milwaukee, Wisconsin also has a World Bonsai Day celebration in our region.

The regional clubs have been pretty quiet over the winter, however the Prairie Sate Bonsai Society had their annual bonsai silhouette show at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Chicago Botanic Garden has displayed in and supported this show in the past and will continue to do so.

Here are some photos of the Chicago Botanic Garden overwintering spaces:

Min Heat House 34-38 F.

Mediterranean House 38-42 F.

Tropical House 75-85

F.



### **Daniel LePage – Canada East Region**

The Eastern Canada section is composed of 5 main Societies: the Montreal Bonsai and Penjing Society (SBPM) with more than 530 members, the Toronto Bonsai Society (TBS) with more than 495 members, the Groupe Bonsai Québec (GBQ) with about 60 members, the Ottawa Bonsai Society (OBS) with about 40 members and the Bois-Francs Bonsai Society with about 60 members.

Each Society is very dynamic and organizes several activities for its members and the public including conferences to improve knowledge of the art of Bonsai and Penjing to the public. In addition, each Society organizes annual exhibitions to make Bonsai better known to the general public

For several years, we have been making connections for better collaboration between the various Societies.

For my part, I am President of the SBPM. Our Society is very dynamic with more than 110 days of activities per year. We also offer free conferences (8 per year) open to the public.

We also offer all partner Societies videoconferences (David's Seasons) with a world-renowned expert, Mr. David Easterbrook, who explains in detail each month, the actions to take to maintain healthy trees and to make it accessible and demystify the art of Bonsai and Penjing.

The SBPM also offers courses of different levels to its members as well as introductory courses to more than 70 people in order to guide them in their discovery of the world of Bonsai. Our annual exhibition in September, open to the public, attracts on average more than 2,500 visitors.

With our close collaboration with the Montreal Botanical Garden, we offer free, for the general public, introductory workshops for children and recently for adults via theme days to introduce the art of Bonsai and oriental cultures in general. Among others during the Festi-Asie in March, horticultural days in May and recently during the Citizen Springs in April.

We also offer free demonstrations to visitors to the Montreal Botanical Garden and its 5 Bonsai collections. It should be remembered that The Montreal Botanical Garden has one of the most renowned bonsai and penjing collections in North America, comprising of over 350 trees, some dating back to the 17th century, a total of five collections of miniature trees in total, mainly from international donations (Japan, Northern China, Southern China, Vietnam and North America).

Our new website is **[www.bonsaimontreal.com](http://www.bonsaimontreal.com)**

**Les Allen – Northeast Region Director**

Black Butte Lake near Orleans, in Northern California is known as a recreation area for fishing, boating and camping. For collectors of viewing stones and Suiseki in the United States, it is a favorite spot for the availability of viewing stones of red and yellow jaspers. The jaspers found in this area suggest the Suiseki from Japan's Sado Island.

The first magnificent Black Butte stone was collected by the late Mas Nakajima. He also crafted the daiza. Mas's stone was recently exhibited in the 2025 Tokyo Japan 62 Meihinten Exhibition by his wife Janet Roth.

The second stone is one I collected at Black Butte years ago. It is what is called a Doha(plateau) stone. The daiza and stand were crafted by Sean Smith. Lastly, a photo from Black Butte.



## Kurt Smith – Director at Large

Last year as vendors my wife and I attended...

Mid Atlantic Bonsai society show in Harrisburg Pa, Michigan All State Show in conjunction with American Bonsai Society, the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society's annual show in Ann Arbor Michigan and the Mid-American Bonsai show and sale in Chicago ill. I was the Ann Arbor show chair for the past 10 years. We were presenters and lead workshops at many of these events.

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society held an exhibition for the first time at the Detroit Zoo, Detroit, Michigan. A great outreach project. I did 2 beginner workshops. This exhibit was very well received and helped to introduce many people to the art of bonsai.

We also went on a Bonsai tour with 10 other people to South Korea led by Jack Sustic



## Jonas Dupuich – West Region

Excitement for bonsai is high in the Western Region! Here are some of last year's highlights.

\* The Pacific Bonsai Expo, now operating as a non-profit organization, took place in Oakland, California. The event featured 75 bonsai displays, 55 vendors, more than 2000 visitors from around North America, and featured presentations by prominent bonsai professionals. As at the inaugural event, awards were determined by the exhibitors after scoring every display in the exhibit. The biannual event was a huge success and plans are now underway for the third event to be held in January, 2027.

\* The Pacific Bonsai Museum staged "Skating the Edge: Exhibitions from Pacific Bonsai Museum's First Ten Years"

\* California's public bonsai gardens, under the auspices of The Golden State Bonsai Federation, hosted annual fundraisers including the Mammoth Auction & Sale at the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt and the Bonsai-A-Thon at the Huntington.

\* The Golden State Bonsai Federation hosted quarterly "Golden Zoom" bonsai lectures featuring Caz Scott, Yannick Kiggen, Mike Lane, and Jason Chan. The presentations are available for free on YouTube.

Here are some photos from the Pacific Bonsai Expo.



## Joey McCoy – South Central Region

Bonsai in Texas is going strong. There are 7 official state clubs: Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, Corpus Christi which meet monthly. All are part of the Lone Star Bonsai Federation (LSBF), but there are at least 5 other unofficial (unchartered) clubs or groups throughout the state. Within the last few years LSBF has also allowed clubs in neighboring states to join, which allows them to share in the yearly visiting artists program and conventions. In addition, we have the Shohin Society of Texas which meets quarterly in the Austin area. There are two non-profit Bonsai collections: The Texas State Bonsai Exhibit (TTSBE) at Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin, and The Bonsai Collection (TBC) at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. The Texas clubs have an active membership with yearly digs, visiting artists, shows, sales and learning activities.

In April, the 2024 LSBF state Bonsai convention “Bonsai on the Bayou” took place in Houston and was co-hosted by BCI (Bonsai Clubs International). It was a large event with main artists Bjorn Bjorholm, Min Hsuan Lo and Sergio Cuan, many other featured artists as well as a contingent from China led by BCI President Chen Chang. In November, TTSBE hosted the 29th Bonsai Learning Seminar in Austin with guest artist Suthin Sukosolvisit, previously headed by artist Kathy Shaner. Our Bonsai community seems to be growing, with new members showing up at every meeting. Mostly these are younger people, but the memberships have people from their teens to their 90s. Most state clubs try to keep up social media presence on various platforms to encourage people to stop by. Engagement of these new visitors is so important to make people feel welcome and appreciated.



### THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - AVAILABILITY UPDATE

#### OUR HEADLINE ARTISTS --

 <b>Bjorn Bjorholm</b> Bring Your Own Tree SOLD Small Group Demonstration Araucaria SOLD Exhibit Critique Landscape Demonstration SOLD	 <b>Sergio Cuan</b> Spectem Color Elm SOLD Bring Your Own Tree Sweet Gum SOLD Trident Maple Exhibit Critique Serissa Clump	 <b>Min Hsuan Lo</b> Japanese Rowan Tiger Bark Ficus SOLD Exhibit Critique Small Group Demonstration Bring Your Own Tree Workshop Hong Kong Kumquat SOLD	 <b>Sean Smith</b> Exhibit Critique Satsuki Collection, Selection & Evaluation Seminar
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#### MORE OUTSTANDING EXPERT PRESENTERS --

 <b>Scott Barboza</b> Sisters of Bonsai Soil Seminar	 <b>Randy Bennett</b> Bald Cypress Workshop Styling Bald Cypress Seminar	 <b>Enrique Castalle</b> Nephrolepis Arise (David Judd) Workshop SOLD	 <b>Angela Chandler</b> Ozaki Bonsai Care Methods Seminar	 <b>Seoncheng Cheah</b> Creating Keisakume Workshop
 <b>David Krezitz</b> Tsubaki Azuma Workshop SOLD	 <b>Mike Lane</b> Drafting Sea Hibiscus Workshop	 <b>Alex Leung</b> Lobby Pine Workshop SOLD	 <b>Joey McCoy</b> Texas Native Species For Bonsai Seminar	 <b>Frank Mihalik</b> Wax Tendril Workshop Bonsai For Kids Workshop
 <b>Pedro Morales</b> Smokey "Honey's Black" Workshop	 <b>Evan Pardee</b> Climax Water Elm Workshop	 <b>Alan Raymond</b> Air Layering Seminar	 <b>Carlos Santiago</b> Bald Over Black Trident Maple Workshop	

## **Eli Akins – Southeast Region & Chris Pazoles – Director at Large**

-After 50 plus years in the art, Atlanta bonsai legend Rodney Clemons of Allgood Bonsai put in his final public demonstration outside of Atlanta at the 12th annual Winter Silhouette Bonsai Exhibition in Kannapolis, NC.

-The Blue Ridge Bonsai Society held its 2024 Bonsai Exhibition on September 7 and 8 at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC. The club's 2025 Bonsai Exhibition will be held on June 7 and 8, again at the NC Arboretum, and will include an expanded vendor area and a guest bonsai artist — Chris Baker, Bonsai Curator at the Chicago Botanical Garden.

-Southern bonsai potters trio Rob Wallace (Wallace Woods Pottery Columbia, NC) Preston Tolbert (Preston Tolbert Ceramics/Warehouse Arts Statesville, NC) and Eli Akins (Waldo Street Pottery Atlanta, GA), known as Third Wheel are planning a summer excursion to be artists in residency at Ryan Neil's Bonsai Mirai in Portland, OR.

-Famed American bonsai ceramicist Ron Lang is now acting president of the Cape Fear Bonsai Society on the North Carolina coast.

-The Nashville Bonsai Society (NBS) will celebrate their 50th year this May with a Regional Show at the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, TN with over 70 displays from seven different clubs from the southeast. Lee Cheatle, from BSOP, Portland, Oregon will judge and also do a demonstration & workshop as well as Brussel Martin from Brussel's Bonsai Nursery. In March an exhibit is to be held for the Japanese Emperor's birthday, alongside the Japanese Consulate of Nashville. NBS will have (2) Japanese trained apprentices Kaya Mooney and Seth Nelson on hand as well as John Eads, who trained with Michael Hagedorn. Later in the year the club will host visiting artists Jim Doyle, John Walker and Andrew Robson. The Cherry Blossom Festival and a novice show are also on the calendar.

-Japanese apprentice Tyler Sherrod began bonsai intensive courses at his Dogwood Studios in Hickory, NC



## Angelica Ramirez – Director at Large

Since joining the NABF in December 2024, I have been dedicated to organizing the 2025 North American Bonsai Pottery Competition on behalf of the American Bonsai Society. This premier international juried ceramics exhibition will take place on September 13, 2025, during the ABS Learning Seminars, in association with the 9th National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, New York.

The competition marks the 10th anniversary since the 3rd National Juried Bonsai Pot Exhibition, which was last held in 2015 in Washington, D.C. The competition aims to honor the diversity of bonsai pottery across North America by showcasing the beauty, craftsmanship, and functionality of bonsai containers. The goal is to not only highlight the finest examples of North American bonsai pottery, but also to foster the growth and development of this vital aspect of the bonsai artform, connecting the broader bonsai community with North America's best bonsai pottery artists.

In the process of organizing this competition, I also developed a comprehensive 120+ page event planner. This guide is designed to serve as a replicable framework for the creation, management, and judging of bonsai pottery events, providing a foundation that can be refined and enhanced with each future iteration. Additionally, I created the official event website, providing an accessible platform for participants and the public to learn more about the competition, view guidelines, and stay updated on important information regarding the event. My goal is to continue collaborating with the American Bonsai Society to permanently incorporate a bonsai ceramics exhibition into future ABS Learning Seminars and events, ensuring long-term support and growth for bonsai ceramic artists in North America.

I also had the privilege of attending the Trophy by Bonsai Association Belgium, where I had the honor of meeting our WBFF Chairman, Mr. Sae Won Kim. It was my first time attending this prestigious event, and I seized the opportunity to engage with members of the European bonsai community. Additionally, I observed the operation of their bonsai pottery exhibit, which provided valuable insights that will contribute to the planning and execution of the 2025 North American Bonsai Pottery Competition.



## International Consultant's Report

### Thomas S. Elias – North American International Consultant

The annual exhibition of bonsai and viewing stones staged by the Southern Breeze Tree and Stone Society is now held in association with the Lunar New Year's Festival at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. This weekend event is a major attraction in southern California limited to 10,000 visitors. This allows the Society to reach a much larger and diverse audience than staging a separate exhibition.



Linking our exhibition with an important annual event is helping this club recover from the effects of the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

The Viewing Stone Association of North America (VSANA) is an online educational effort to inform and educate viewers about the ancient Asian art of stone appreciation. It provides accurate information about long-standing Chinese, Japanese, and Korean practices, and about emerging viewing stones practices in other countries. The number of visitors to the VSANA website, [www.vsana.org](http://www.vsana.org), has about 20,000 viewers monthly. In addition, VSANA produces a series of hourly seminars and shorter videos on stone appreciation. Many of the videos are published on the tomelias8358 channel on YouTube and have been viewed over 100,000 times.



## **Bill Valavanis – North American International Consultant**

The art of bonsai is thriving in North America. Most large cities and metropolitan areas have at least one bonsai society, plus smaller special interest study groups like suiseki and shohin bonsai. There are many larger more regional groups and federations throughout the United States cooperating with each other to present bonsai shows, share traveling expenses for distant bonsai teachers plus the fact that many regions use the same plant material and have similar climates and horticultural topics.

### **2024 Pacific Bonsai Expo—An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai** Oakland, California October 2024

A serious small group of individuals formed a not-for-profit corporation so they could sponsor an exhibition, more easily with donated funds. This high-quality exhibition features about 70 masterpieces from primarily the west coast, plus others across the country. To maintain the high quality, plus designing a well-balanced variety of species and styles for display, several well-known bonsai artists individually select trees from approximately 200 submitted photos. The organization then selects the top 70 bonsai considering the entire exhibition. On the evening before the opening each artist judges all the bonsai. After reviewing the points allocated to each tree awards are presented to similar species and sizes. Having the exhibitors select the final winners is an excellent idea because they know what is necessary to grow, shape and how display. Like most shows this one includes a sales area, educational programs, critiques and demonstrations.

### **Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention** Santa Nella, California October 2024

A group of individual bonsai societies combined their efforts to arrange a bonsai display, sales area, workshops, programs and benefit raffles and auctions for financing the state-wide federation activities plus three major state bonsai Collections.

### **Shohin Bonsai Seminar** Santa Nella, California February 2025

There are a lot of bonsai in California. Those who fancy shohin bonsai gather every other year to celebrate small trees. The venue was selected because it is kind of in the center of the state so people can easily travel. This is a fun seminar, primarily consisting of numerous workshops, display, sales area and raffles. The registration cost is quite low, only to pay for a few meals. Every teacher donates their time and expenses so many people can attend. It is usually sold out.

### **Midwest Bonsai Show** Chicago Botanic Garden Chicago, Illinois August 2024

This show has a long history, nearly 50 years. Hobbyists and professional bonsai artists bring some of their finest bonsai for display. Workshops, three sales areas, critiques,

# WBFF Cooperation Center's Reports

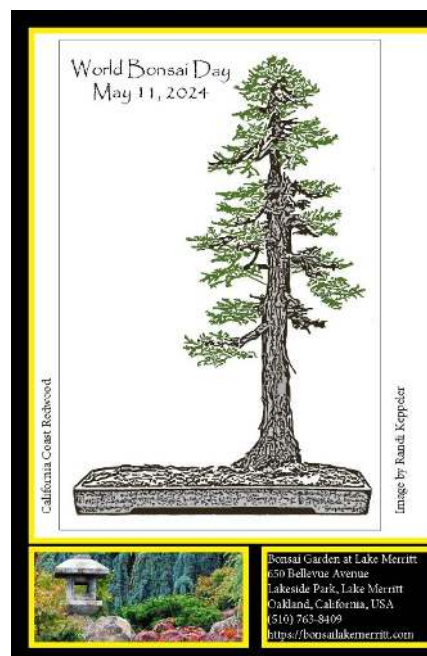
Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF)  
Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt (BGLM)



## 2024 Milestone Events



Mammoth Auction and Sale, February 17 and 18, 2024, the annual fundraiser event with all proceeds going to fund yearly operational costs for the bonsai garden. On Saturday, a live auction of nearly 100 bonsai trees and related items. On Sunday, bargain sales of bonsai trees, pots, books, and art. In addition, local bonsai vendors participated in the fundraiser event.



World Bonsai Day on May 11, 2024 at the BGLM, 25th greeted visitors with a 11x17 inch color poster for the first 100 guests in celebration of the annual event.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Bonsai Expo was held at the Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts in Oakland, California on October 26 and 27, 2024. The venue is located next door to the Oakland Museum on the shores of Lake Merritt, just across the lake from the BGLM. BGLM participated by exhibiting a Sierra Juniper (*Juniperus grandis*) from its collection.

**PACIFIC BONSAI EXPO**  
**An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai**

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024



PACIFICBONSAIEXPO.ORG

A juried exhibition featuring 75 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors.

NEW! Friday evening reception + weekend talks and demonstrations

"Best Show in the U.S.A!" - 2022 participant

Visit our site:



The 2024 Expo will be held at the Henry J. Kaiser Center, 10 10th St, Oakland, CA 94607.

*Sierra Juniper (Juniperus grandis) BGLM #466 29" Twin Trunk*

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BGLM was celebrated on November 9, 2024. At 1:00 p.m., the sounds of Japanese taiko drums were heard throughout the Gardens at Lake Merritt and beyond, performed by six members of Sonoma County Taiko. The crowd of invited guests and the general public gathered around the entrance gate to the BGLM. Gordon Deeg, Director of the BGLM, spoke to the occasion and informed those in attendance of the past and present efforts of bonsai enthusiasts who created and cared for the BGLM. He honored a list of individuals who were instrumentally responsible for establishing the BGLM.

Director Gordon Deeg has been there since the beginning, serving as director twice. He introduced Ms. Mayu Hagiwara, Consul and Director of the Japan Information and Cultural Center, Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco.

Ms. Mayu Hagiwara spoke to those in attendance and was delighted to see how the ancient Japanese art form of bonsai was so popular and continued on to present day. She spoke of growing up in Japan and of being impressed with bonsai miniature trees. She spent time touring the BGLM bonsai and suiseki collection.

A commemorative book was published for the BGLM to honor the donors, supporters and volunteers (more than 1,700 individuals), record the past 25 years and showcase the bonsai and suiseki viewing stones in the collection.



*Ms. Mayu Hagiwara, Consul and Director of the Japan Information and Cultural Center, Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco receiving commemorative book*



*Members of the Sonoma County Taiko entertained the guests*

## Pacific Bonsai Museum – Aarin Packard Curator

Over the past year, the Pacific Bonsai Museum welcomed nearly 55,000 visitors and has continued to engage the public with innovative exhibitions, educational programs, and special events. A key highlight is our annual **BonsaiFEST** weekend, held during **World Bonsai Day** and **Mother’s Day**, where 5,400 visitors took a closer look at the global traditions of bonsai. Guided tours, live demonstrations, and the annual **Puget Sound Bonsai Association Spring Show** provided visitors with a wide range of opportunities to explore and engage with the art of bonsai.

One of the biggest highlights of **World Bonsai Day** was the opening of our marquee exhibition, **Small Talk**, which is designed to make bonsai fun, engaging, and accessible—especially for younger audiences. *Small Talk* invites visitors to interact with bonsai in a playful way. The trees themselves “answer” frequently asked questions, helping visitors understand why they are wired, how often they are watered, and what makes bonsai unique.



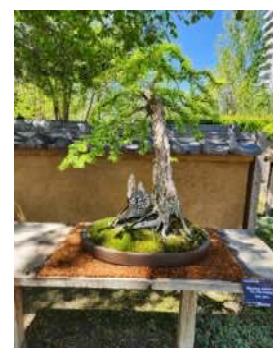
## Denver Botanic Garden - Larry Jackel Curator

In the summer of 2023, Denver Botanic Gardens was the site of ABS23, the American Bonsai Societies annual learning symposium cosponsored with the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society and the Denver Botanic Gardens. Considered by all approximately 150 individuals participated with programs featuring native collected plants from the Rocky Mountains.

This coming summer the Denver Botanic Gardens will host the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) annual conference. The conference will feature tours at DBG including tours of the Bill Hosokawa bonsai Pavilion.



Winter image in the Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion  
Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion



Summer display, a Pond Cypress  
*Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricarium*

## National Bonsai & Penjing Museum – Michael James Curator

This past year was filled with growth, connection, and creativity—all made possible through the unwavering support of our staff, volunteers, donors, supporters, and visitors.



[World Bonsai Day](#) brought together enthusiasts around the globe in a celebration of art and nature, and featured a Mayoral proclamation, exhibits and workshops from the Potomac Bonsai Association Festival, special guest artists, and fun activities. The energy from this event reminded us of bonsai's power to unite us across cultures and continents.

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum staff, with support from the National Bonsai Foundation, played a role in welcoming **distinguished visitors** to Washington, DC throughout the year. Most prominently, they prepared an awe-inspiring display of bonsai for the state visit of [Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida](#), including many renowned masterpieces that were past gifts from Japanese artists and heads of state. These visits further elevate bonsai's global stature and highlight the ways that the art of bonsai can cross cultural boundaries and strengthen diplomatic connections.

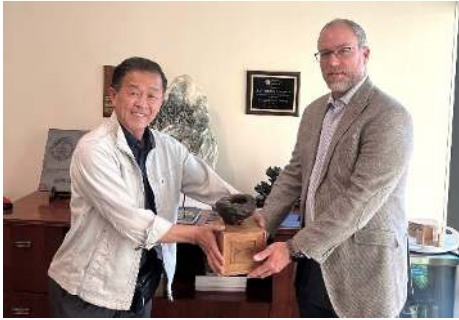


The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum proudly hosted the **National Bonsai Apprentice**, [Isiah White](#), sponsored by the National Bonsai Foundation (NBF). This annual training program ensures the traditions and techniques of bonsai are passed on to the next generation. Each Apprentice receives immersive education with expert curators and caretakers, hands-on experience with America's national bonsai and penjing collections

The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum preserves three historically significant collections—Japanese, Chinese, and North American—while continually seeking new specimens that reflect the diversity and evolution of bonsai. In 2024, they focused on North American collectors, highlighting the role of American art and representation of American culture within this ancient art form.

The museum introduced four new additions: A Western Hemlock, created by innovative artist Nick Lenz; a Crepe Myrtle from McNeal McDonnell, styled by Bjorn Bjorholm; a beautiful Blue Spruce by ABS President Karen Harkaway; and a striking Douglas Fir, collected by Richard Le and cultivated by Bjorn Bjorholm.





Another acquisition supported by the NBF, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum received a waterstone suiseki, nicknamed the “horseshoe” stone. Seiji Morimae previously owned this stone which was then acquired by the late Ronald Maggio. Morimae presented the captivating piece to the museum on behalf of the Maggio family.



The *Washington City Paper's* **Best of DC** recognized The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum as "[Best Place to Take an Out-of-Towner](#)" for the sixth year in a row. The Museum also won “Best Place to Mediate” and was a finalist for “Best City Escape”, which was won by the U.S. National Arboretum as a whole. The NBF also earned "Best Arts and Culture Nonprofit" for 2024. These accolades reflect the growing recognition of bonsai as an important art form in the nation's capital.



## Morikami Museum & Japanese Garden – Vlad Forsa Curator

In May of 2024 we celebrated World Bonsai Day at the Morikami Bonsai Collection. The event was very well received. Boon Manakitivipart was our guest speaker.



## The North Carolina Arboretum – Arthur Joura Curator

Bonsai at The North Carolina Arboretum had a very successful year in 2024. The collection came through the winter in good shape and had an excellent growing season. The Bonsai Exhibition Garden, where a portion of the Arboretum bonsai collection is on display from World Bonsai Day through the end of November, remains a top attraction for our institution. A team of volunteer docents is stationed in the garden every weekend to help guests enjoy a more informative visit. World Bonsai Day was celebrated with the help of the Blue Ridge Bonsai Society, who were set up in the garden doing demonstrations and answering visitor questions. The club returned in June with a show of members work that attracted a large crowd.

Unfortunately, Asheville, North Carolina was a scene of disaster at the end of September. Hurricane Helene made landfall on the Gulf Coast of Florida, then tore its way northward wreaking damage all the way with heavy rain and high wind. The Arboretum suffered from flooding and the blowdown of over two thousand landscape trees. Amazingly, the bonsai garden and all the trees in the collection came through entirely intact. The Arboretum was closed to the public for the month of October, but upon reopening the bonsai garden served as a haven for people seeking a sense of normalcy in the aftermath of the storm.



# North American Bonsai Federation

## Board

February 2025

### President

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### Vice-President

Vacant

### Treasurer

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### Pacific Region

Vacant

### South Central Region

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### South Western Region

Vacant

### Canada – East Region

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### Canada – West Region

Vacant

## Directors at Large

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