

## World Bonsai Friendship Federation, Inc

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## Taiga Urushibata

Taiga Urushibata, born in 1979 in Shizuoka City, Japan, is a distinguished bonsai artist and the second-generation head of Taisho-en Bonsai Garden. At the age of 20, he began a six-year apprenticeship under the legendary Mr. Masahiko Kimura, one of Japan's most influential bonsai masters.

After completing his training, Taiga returned to Taisho-en, the family garden founded and managed by his father, Mr. Nobuichi Urushibata. Since then, he has continued to innovate within the bonsai world, developing new styles of expression while honoring traditional techniques. His artistry and leadership have earned him international recognition, including a live demonstration at the 8th World Bonsai Convention in Saitama in 2017.

Taiga has been invited to conduct workshops and demonstrations at bonsai events across the globe. He currently serves as Director and Certified Instructor for both the Nippon Bonsai Association and the All Japan Shohin Bonsai Cooperative, and acts as Japan International Consultant for the World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF).

His work has been honored with several prestigious awards, including the Prime Minister's Award at the 45th Japan Bonsai Exhibition, the Minister of the Environment Award at the 49th, and the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award at the 51st Japan Bonsai Exhibition.

He is the head of Taisho-en Bonsai Garden located in Shizuoka, Japan, at the foot of Mt. Fuji.

