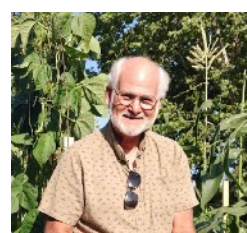
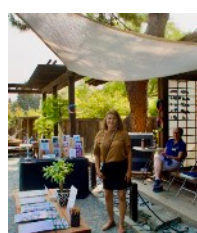


## LOOKING BACK: Beating the Summer Heat

July 4 to August 4	2024	2025
# of Days below 100°	5	25
# of 100° + = Days	26	7
# of 105° + Days	17	2
# of 110° + Days	7	0
100° + Days in a Row	15	5



One of the major challenges of being an outdoor museum is contending with the weather, especially the summer heat. Although we were blessed with a much cooler July than last year, we have now entered the long runs of 100 ° + days of August. So thanks go once again to Tom Bohigian, CBM Board Member, for donating the evaporative cooler which has cooled our docents through the hotter parts of the day for two summers now, and to docent Gigi DeMedeiros who donated a shade fly to go over the activity and gift shop benches. Thanks also go to Marc Stamper, ever-willing volunteer, Bonsai Class Instructor and CBM BOD chairman, for installing it.



# BONSAI TOMODACHI

## THE CLARK BONSAI MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

### Managing Curator's Message



This edition of the *Tomodachi* arrives at a time when change is in the air. In October, we will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of transferring the Clark Bonsai Collection from the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture to the Golden State Bonsai Federation and relocating to the Shinzen Friendship Gardens. As we look back on a decade of shared experiences, some small, some dramatic, some sad, some happy, they bring us together.

Recalling the familiar rhythms and the daily routine of maintaining a major Bonsai Museum, we recognize both the subtle and significant changes within ourselves and in our shared efforts. As a team, we exhibited resilience, creativity, resourcefulness and unity. We became a family.

During our ten-year journey, we transitioned from the Clark Bonsai Collection to the Clark Bonsai Museum, becoming a powerhouse of innovation, developing an unwavering commitment to stewardship of the historical, cultural and aesthetic significance of the art of Bonsai. We have established ourselves as a vibrant Community Benefit Organization where involvement is more than just a word—it's a living, breathing entity, created to captivate hearts, inform minds and inspire imaginations.

### EVENTS:

**Wild Thing! Exploring the Wild Side of Bonsai July 12-Oct 12**  
(See page 4-5 )  
[clarkbonsaimuseum.org/current-exhibition/](http://clarkbonsaimuseum.org/current-exhibition/)

**Hiroshima-Nakasaka Bombing Commemoration Aug 9 1030-12**

**Shinzen Toro Nagashi**  
**August 16 7-9pm**  
[shinzenjapanesegarden.org/event/toro-nagashi-2/](http://shinzenjapanesegarden.org/event/toro-nagashi-2/)

**Naka Memorial Bonsai Exhibit**  
**August 16-17**  
[nakamemorialexhibit.com](http://nakamemorialexhibit.com)

**10th Anniversary Celebration**  
**October 11 (See page 2 )**  
[clarkbonsaimuseum.org/10th-anniversary/](http://clarkbonsaimuseum.org/10th-anniversary/)

**GSBF Rendezvous Oct 24-26**  
**Santa Nella**  
[gsbfbonsai.org/rendezvous2025](http://gsbfbonsai.org/rendezvous2025)

**Four Seasons: An Exhibition of Deciduous Bonsai Nov-Mar**

Continued Page 2

## Managing Curator's Message from Page 1

While we remember where we've come from, we look toward our future. We see projects that will challenge us, ideas that invite us to reimagine what's possible, and opportunities that call us to tread where we have not gone before. It will be important to recruit new leadership that offers fresh perspectives and approaches. Developing a stronger organizational structure will help meet ongoing standards of excellence, and identifying a path to financial sustainability will ensure the organization's future. Our hope is that sharing our vision will ignite your imagination and encourage you to take part in the evolution of our museum.

The months and years ahead will bring us many challenges, but they also promise new adventures and possibilities. Often the most profound impact comes from those among us who quietly dedicate themselves to making a difference. Those actions, though often unnoticed, ripple through the organization in ways that lift us all. They remind us that progress resides in everyday acts, and that each of us has a role to play in weaving a more compassionate, dynamic and rewarding society. Let us continue to lift one another up, celebrate our achievements, and transform obstacles into opportunities.

Thank you all for the support, enthusiasm and generosity of spirit you have shared with me over the years. Here's to our future – may it be filled with laughter, learning, love and the simple joy of being together.

Bob



## Bonsai Garden Anniversary Activities

### Open to the Public

At no additional charge, but  
the Usual Shinzen Admission &  
Woodward Parking fees apply

**10am-3pm**

Interactive Activities

Art Making and More!

Gift Shop & Vendors

Special Exhibition of our most  
Artistically and Historically  
Significant Bonsai

Exhibition Tours by the Curator

Bonsai Demonstrations 10-2pm

Julian Tsai, Professional Advisor

Todd Schlafer, Visiting Bonsai Master

With bonsai auction to follow

## SUSHI AND SAKÉ

### PRIVATE EVENT

### RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Apply at [clarkbonsaimuseum.org/  
10th-landing-page/#](https://clarkbonsaimuseum.org/10th-landing-page/#)

**4-7pm**

### Opening Reception 4 - 5pm

Beverages & Munchies

Served in the bonsai garden

Curator's tour of the Exhibition

### 430 pm Guided Saké Tasting

**5:30 - 7pm Sushi & More**

Japanese Cuisine from Hino Oishi

Music:: Jazz Band Koto Player

### 6:30 Closing Remarks

Clark Bonsai Museum Today  
& in the Future

Honoring Special Guests

Sponsor Recognition

**BONSAI OF THE MONTH:****CBCS 037**

**LEGACY COLLECTION:** Bonsai within the Collection created by Japanese immigrants and/or Japanese Americans and maintained in the style of the original artist in so far as that is possible to provide an historical spectrum in keeping with the mission of a bonsai museum.

**YAMADORI:** means “collecting plants in the mountains” but is loosely translated into gathering plants from the wild. The plant is then carefully and skillfully trained into bonsai works of art. Yamadori is the most coveted type of bonsai because of its unique characteristics.

Artist/ Maker: Katsumi Kinoshita

Common Name: Monterey Cypress

Botanical Name: *Cupressus macrocarpa*

Date Acquired: 5/3/25

Age: Est 75-100 years. In Training since 1970

Evergreen Conifer

Style: **Moyogi / Informal upright** The informal upright style is common in both nature and in the art of Bonsai. The trunk and branches incorporate visible curves, but the apex, or tip, of the tree is located directly above the trunk's entry into the soil line.

Donor: Katsumi Kinoshita

This Monterey Cypress was collected by Katsumi Kinoshita in 1970 on the Monterey Peninsula not long after immigrating from Japan. It was featured in



his first place prize winning composition at the international t o k o - k a z a r i competition at the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in 2002. It's style is reminiscent of the iconic “Lone Cypress” which has stood atop a granite headland overlooking Carmel Bay in Pebble Beach, California at least since the 18th century. Kinoshita has been a masterful bonsai artist for over 60 years, serving as a sensei (teacher) for the Monterey Bonsai Society and many other bonsai groups. The Clark Bonsai Collection is honored to include several of his bonsai—three on display in the current exhibition—including this signature bonsai donated on World Bonsai Day 2025.



On World Bonsai Day, Mr. Kinoshita received a plaque which will be a permanent fixture on a chosen pedestal in the bonsai garden honoring him for his many contributions to the art of bonsai and to the Clark Bonsai Museum.

**You can support the Clark Bonsai Collection and its many world class bonsai such as this one currently on exhibit in the bonsai garden by becoming a sponsor. Please visit [www.gsbfcclarkbonsaicollection.org/adopt-a-tree.html](http://www.gsbfcclarkbonsaicollection.org/adopt-a-tree.html) to find out about the benefits of becoming a bonsai sponsor.**





The Clark Bonsai Museum announces ***Wild Thing!*** – ***Exploring the Wild Side of Bonsai***, an exhibition that features bonsai created from plant specimens collected in the wild, including some estimated to be over 1,000 years old.

Who created the first bonsai, or when, has been lost in the mists of distant time. How the first bonsai were created is less of a mystery. Trees exhibiting naturally stunted growth and distinctive characteristics were sourced from natural environments and maintained in containers. To this day the most revered and valuable bonsai, known as *Yamadori* (dug from the mountains), are those created from collected wild trees.

In ancient Japan, men with the specialized skills necessary to cling to steep cliffs and the ability to appease the mountain gods for disturbing the spirit of nature, collected wild trees for cultivation as bonsai. Here in California, it was Japanese immigrants, with knowledge passed down to them from their fathers and grandfathers, that began collecting native Junipers from the high deserts and creating bonsai.



A modern day bonsai collector removing a tree from a challenging rock face.

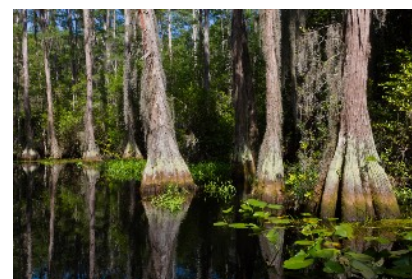
The “***Wild Thing***” Exhibition honors the contributions of Japanese American pioneers to California Bonsai art.



This California juniper was collected by John Naka, considered the “Father of American Bonsai” with Howard Latimer from Sand Canyon/Tehachapi



This Monterey Cypress was collected by Katsumi Kinoshita from the Monterey coast. Another of his cypress bonsai is the featured Bonsai of the Month.



Not all of the trees featured in this exhibition are from California. This Bald Cypress was collected from a swamp in Florida.

Continued on page 5

**Wild Thing! Intro Continued from page 4**

In this exhibition, you will also discover a few bonsai that are what is termed “urban Yamadori,” a twentieth century term for trees collected from yards, parking lots, deserted drive-ins and construction sites. They have many of the same characteristics of trees collected in the wild, but some of those traits were created through the techniques of the bonsai artist rather than the forces of nature.

This juniper was collected from a garden in Sacramento by



Vincent Owyong in 1991. Over 30 years of technical and artistic skill have turned this backyard juniper into a bonsai that looks as if it came

from some wild, windswept shore. It is an example of how art can imitate nature and nature become art.

Despite its ancient, weathered appearance, this juniper is only about 75 years old. It was collected from long abandoned drive-in



movie theater landscaping, Incredibly surviving the harsh Valley summer conditions. Almost 25 years ago, this and two others were dug up and converted to bonsai.

It is offered as an example of how Bonsai artists use various techniques to replicate the ravages of time and the elements to create the appearance of an ancient “wild” tree.

Come to the Clark Bonsai Museum to take a walk on the wild side of bonsai.

**MEET VOLUNTEER MARK THOMPSON**

**By Judith Swick, Volunteer Coordinator**

Mark Thompson has always been curious about bonsai, but it took retirement to finally turn his attention to creating his first bonsai from a pomegranate tree he purchased at his local nursery. Knowing a lot about growing plants from his background in horticulture, but nothing about the art of bonsai, Mark sought out Bob Hilvers for advice. With the advice, Bob included an invitation to join the curatorial team at the Clark Bonsai Museum (CBM). That was in April of 2022 and Mark has continued to volunteer weekly, unless out of town enjoying the benefits of retirement.

Mark's attraction to volunteering at CBM he states is, “The knowledge I have gained is the key reason I return each week. Reading about bonsai is one thing, but to see and hear how it is done is much more powerful.” Mark appreciates putting his new knowledge into practice “Everyone is willing to respond to my many questions and advises me on strategies and practices to design attractive ‘miniature trees’.”



Mark grew up in the Central Valley of California. He participated in FFA in high school and took all the horticulture classes his school had to offer. While in high school he grew a crop of Pittosporum to sell at the local nursery. He attended Cal Poly, SLO and graduated with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Mark began his working career in a flower shop in Lompoc. After college he and his wife Kathy worked in a shop in Visalia, before opening their own shop called *CLASSICS IN FLOWERS* in Exeter, which they operated for the next twenty years. He and Kathy have three children: Melissa, Meganne, and Marshall. After selling their flower shop, Mark taught at the local junior high school for an additional twenty years. Mark continues to work part time mentoring new teachers for the local credential program. He is also part of the leadership program for seniors at his church and has been an avid cyclist for over twenty years.

Mark volunteers with the curatorial team, as garden guardian and as a docent. His knowledge, gentle nature and integrity are all part of what makes Mark a valued volunteer. Mark states, “I enjoy talking with people, and my role as a docent is all about helping people better understand the Art of Bonsai. The greatest benefit to me is being a part of an amazing Bonsai collection that the public is growing to appreciate.”



## SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY



Docent Lorena Bolling and Bonsai Baby Cecilia on a visit to the garden.



Docents Lynn Gustafsen & Maria Ontiveros-Kidd are ready for visitors to arrive.



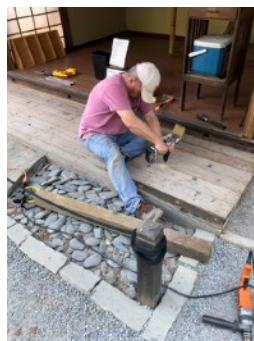
On World Bonsai Day, visitors gather for Bob Hilvers' Curator's tour of the exhibition.



Even a bit of rain doesn't stop our visitors from enjoying the garden.



Pat Smith puts out the bonsai sales cart after carefully selecting and pricing the bonsai on offer that day.



Thanks go to Brian Brandley & Marc Stamper (above) who replaced the rotting joists of the sagging deck in front of the "tea house"



New volunteer Scott Mears is excited to make his first bonsai.



Maria is not only a docent, she has been working as a member of the curatorial team since 2021. If you follow the Clark Collection on Facebook, you will have noticed the increase in frequency and variety of postings. This year as a member of the Marketing team, she has been creating clever designs to promote the volunteer program, exhibitions, and events. Follow us on Facebook to see what she comes up with next. <https://www.facebook.com/cbcsgsbf>