



Mrs. Saburo (Yayoi) Kato

Yayoi Kato, the wife of the late Saburo Kato, died on April 24, 2011

Mrs. Kato had been active in the work at Mansei-en in Omiya Village, Japan, from 1946, when it passed to the care of Mr. Saburo Kato, until the summer of 2010. In August of last year Mrs. Kato fell ill and was hospitalized until her death in April.

She accompanied her husband on his trips to the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum and last visited here during the World Bonsai Convention in 2005. She was also present at the dedication of the Museum's *Kato Family Stroll Garden* in 2002.



Mr. & Mrs. Saburo Kato in the Kato Family Stroll Garden during the 5th World Bonsai Convention in 2005.

In February 2010 **Ted and Fuku Tsukiyama, Roy and Jane Yamashiroya** and **Felix Laughlin** visited her at Mansei-en. On that occasion she escorted them into a special room dedicated to the memory of her husband and each guest lit incense as a tribute to Mr. Kato. Mrs. Kato then personally served tea to her guests as they reminisced about their times together.

In a letter of condolence to **Hatsuji Kato**, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Kato, Mr. Laughlin thanked the family for "all the contributions that this family had made to the art of bonsai and world peace."

Daizo Iwasaki, 1916–2011

NBF Honorary Director and long-time Museum benefactor, **Daizo Iwasaki**, died on May 15, 2011 at his home, *Takasago-en Bonsai Garden*, in Ehime, Japan.

In 1976, as part of the original donation of trees from Japan to the people of the United States of America for the celebration of the American Bicentennial, Mr. Iwasaki sent a magnificent Japanese white pine, *Pinus parviflora*, which has been on display in the Museum's Japanese Pavilion for 35 years.

Mr. Iwasaki and his wife **Naemi**, accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Kato to the Museum for the dedication of the *Kato Family Stroll Garden* in 2002. On that occasion, at the request of Mr. Kato, Mr. Iwasaki became Vice-Chairman of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation.

As part of his continuing support of the Museum's Japanese Collection, Mr. Iwasaki donated two additional pines in 2004: another *Pinus parviflora*, this one



Chase Rosade, Ted and Fuku Tsukiyama, Solita Rosade, Betty Gayle and Felix Laughlin with Mr. & Mrs. Daizo Iwasaki in the International Pavilion during the 2005 World Bonsai Convention.

in the slant style, and a *Pinus parviflora* 'Kokonoe' in the formal upright style. During the 5th World Bonsai Convention in Washington D.C. in 2005, these two trees, although still in quarantine, received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be displayed at the convention.

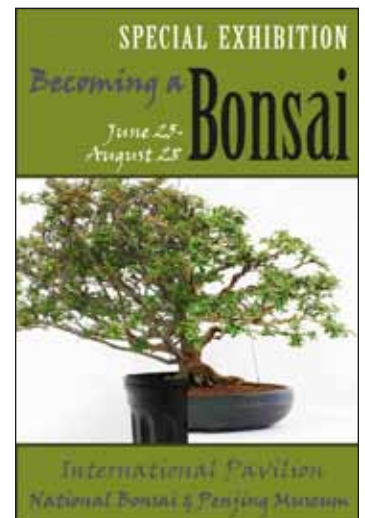
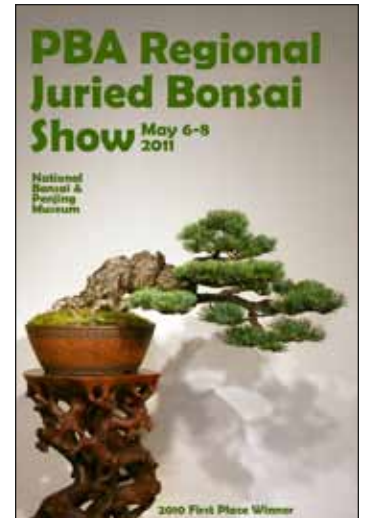
In 2009, on behalf of NBF, Felix Laughlin sent birthday wishes to Mr. Iwasaki telling him:

Thank you for your steadfast support of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum over the last four decades and thank you for your friendship. You exemplify for me and for so many others the boundless spirit of bonsai — with your generous heart, your impeccable appreciation for the beauty of nature, and your deep understanding of the power of bonsai to create immeasurable goodwill in the world. It is our hope and prayer that this spirit will live forever here at the Museum.



With the parting of these two fine friends of bonsai and the Museum, **Ted Tsukiyama** spoke for many when he said: "the world bonsai community is getting emptier and lonelier".

These are the posters that have been used to advertise the Museum exhibits thus far in 2011. They were designed by Assistant Curator Kathleen Emerson-Dell.



Virginia E. Bird (1922–2011)

Once again the Museum has lost two ardent supporters.

Virginia E. Bird (Ginnie) and her husband, the late Charles (Chuck) Bird, were connoisseurs of Kingsville boxwood and cultivated them as bonsai. They were also bonsai potters and long-time members of the Potomac Bonsai Association. Ginny was a Museum volunteer and worked with John Naka during his visits to the Museum.



Virginia E. Bird.

Pat Lucke Morris (1939–2011)

A member of the Brandywine Bonsai Society and the Delaware Bonsai Study Group, **Pat Lucke Morris** was also active in Bonsai Clubs International and volunteered in the bonsai collection at Longwood Gardens. A frequent visitor to the Museum, Pat was in attendance when the Yamaki pine was repotted in the Spring of 2010.



Pat Lucke Morris.

The presence of Ginnie and Pat will be greatly missed in the bonsai community.