

Potomac Bonsai Festival

May 3 – 5, 2013

Biographical Information on Featured Artists

Harry Hirao

Known as ‘Mr. California Juniper’, Harry Hirao is a master in the art of bonsai. His love for bonsai began in the late 1950’s when he studied with another famous master, John Naka. He earned his title ‘Mr. California Juniper’ by collecting and creating masterpiece juniper bonsai, two of which can be seen in the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. In addition to being active in many California bonsai organizations, he is also an honorary member of the National Bonsai Foundation. Selected trees and viewing stones of Harry’s are on permanent display at the National Arboretum, the Golden State Bonsai Collection, and the Huntington Library and Botanical Garden. His kind and giving spirit makes Harry a friend to all who meet him. Harry Hirao turns 96 this year and remains active in his passion for bonsai and viewing stones.

Mr. David Kreutz

David Kreutz graduated from the prestigious three-year-long *Satsuki Care and Culture* classes taught by Tatemori Gondo of Osaka, Japan. He was certified as a first level instructor by Gondo-san, and has been a continuing student of bonsai for over 20 years. He lectures and teaches for clubs, conventions, and private students nation-wide. His philosophy is to give the student the information they need to develop their tree over a long period of time. Mr. Kreutz specializes in satsuki azalea bonsai, which are known for their brilliant floral display. The name Satsuki (pronounced sat'ski) means “fifth moon” of the oriental lunar calendar, which is the time that the satsuki azaleas bloom. Mr. Kreutz imports satsuki plant materials through his business, Satsuki Bonsai-en, located near Chesterfield, Missouri.