

# Potomac Bonsai Festival 2011

## Biographical Information on Featured Artists

Each year, the Potomac Bonsai Festival committee invites bonsai artists to attend and enrich the festival's activities. This year, we are fortunate to have three visiting guest artists, who have traveled here to share their talent, techniques, and style with us in workshops, demonstrations, and other programs.

### **Julian Adams**

Julian R. Adams, proprietor of Adams' Bonsai, has been active in bonsai since receiving a gift bonsai in 1971. Beyond improving his own bonsai skills, Julian's primary interest is to make bonsai plants and supplies conveniently available to bonsai enthusiasts and to spread the word about this great art form. To help facilitate this goal, he formed Adams' Bonsai in 1984 to provide supplies, trees, and knowledge to others. Julian writes extensively about bonsai in articles for English language bonsai publications and the Central Virginia Bonsai Society newsletter. He currently serves as a board member of the National Bonsai Foundation and is in demand as a lecturer, demonstrator, and teacher.

### **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 1950s 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 1981 he was awarded the "Ryoku Hakiju Yukosho" medal for his contributions to the art of bonsai in the United States. In addition to being active in many California bonsai organizations, he is also an honorary member of the National Bonsai Foundation. Not only is Harry a bonsai master he is equally known and respected for his knowledge and love of viewing stones. Selected trees and 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 94 this year and remains active in his passion for bonsai and viewing stones.

## **Chase Rosade**

Chase began his work with bonsai in the mid-1950s, and after years of travel, study, and practice, took an apprenticeship with Kyozo Yodshida in Nara, Japan. On his return to the United States, he began teaching and lecturing until 1970, when he opened the Rosade Bonsai Studio. He has also been a judge and major guest speaker at World and International Conventions; lectured in Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and North America; and participated in conventions in Indonesia, New Zealand, and India, as a judge and demonstrator. He has served as President and board member of many bonsai organizations and currently serves on the board of the National Bonsai Foundation. Bonsai is Chase's life: One might think he favors pines, junipers, maples, or azaleas, but he is quick to point out that his favorite tree is the one he is working on at the moment.

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