

## DENNIS MAKISHIMA

My tree work combines horticultural science, bonsai aesthetics, communication with clients and creative interpretation of small trees in urban situations. To date, I've successfully pruned over 10,000 trees, conducted 200 pruning projects and taught 500 workshops and classes across the United States and abroad. I've consulted at arboretums, large public gardens and significant private estates. Most rewarding of all, I've apprenticed over 50 professional aesthetic tree pruners since 1989. I cherish my role as a teacher to others.

My interest in pruning started in 1980, when I practiced on a friend's tree. Since there were few pruning books available, I used trees in natural settings and attractive material in urban gardens as my models. Within a few years I generated enough pruning accounts to work part time. In 1984 I quit my job as a produce manager to work full time as an ornamental tree pruner.

Having worked on thousands of trees over the years helped me understand trees as the living entities they are, to be cared for and respected. Though basically self taught, my training was enhanced by my association with Merritt College in Oakland, California. I first attended Merritt College as a student and later became an instructor in the Horticulture Department.

Also, to better understand tree aesthetics, I took my first bonsai lesson in 1982. I had the wonderful opportunity to learn from bonsai pioneers in California. Their teachings combined the styling and caring of trees with the traditions and philosophy of the bonsai art form. Always emphasized was the respect for nature, the trees on which we work and the creative process of fellow practitioners. To date, my bonsai collection numbers over 500 trees, many of which are featured in the 2002 edition of the Sunset Publications Bonsai Book.

The following are career achievements:

- Created the Merritt College aesthetic tree pruning program
- Served as president of the Golden State Bonsai Federation
- Organized a professional aesthetic pruners network
- Authored the Bonsai Teacher Development Guide and Bonsai Basics packet, both in use nationally
- Trained for 1 ½ years as a bonsai apprentice in Toyohashi, Japan under the tutelage of Bonsai Master Yasuo Mitsuya
- Received Horticulture Certificate from Merritt College in 2001

The following career highlights are for your records. Use any part of it for your needs.

- 09/26/85     Featured in West County Times newspaper article on tree pruning.
- 02/06/86     Initiated first fee based aesthetic pruning class as Merritt College in Oakland, CA. The subject was bonsai.
- 02/28/87     Founded the Merritt College Bonsai Club.
- 06/13/87     Founded the Merritt College Pruning Club.
- 01/07/88     Started tree restoration project at Oakland's Lakeside Park Japanese Garden at the request of then Vice Mayor Frank Ogawa. This project was the first volunteer effort by the Merritt College Pruning Club.
- 07/17/88     Conducted my first Kid's Bonsai Workshop in Richmond, CA.
- 11/02/89     Instructed at the Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention in Los Angeles, CA. I have since presented at 10 other GSBF conventions.
- 01/14/90     Began a 1 ½ year professional bonsai apprenticeship in Toyohashi, Japan under bonsai Master Yasuo Mitsuya.
- 04/27/91     From 1991-1997 participated on a Golden State Bonsai Federation Feasibility Committee for the creation of a permanent northern California bonsai display garden.
- 04/10/92     Featured in East Bay Express newspaper article on bonsai.
- 01/01/93     Chaired the Golden State Bonsai Federation Grants and Scholarship Committee.
- 02/20/93     Created and instructed aesthetic tree pruning series at Merritt College.
- 09/17/93     Headlined at Pacific Northwest Bonsai convention in Seattle, WA.
- 01/01/94     Chaired Golden State Bonsai Federation Education Committee's project on Teacher Development.
- 03/24/94     Featured in San Francisco Chronicle newspaper article on tree pruning.
- 05/01/95     Authored Golden State Bonsai Federation Teacher's Guide, currently used by bonsai organizations throughout the United States.
- 08/11/95     Headlined at Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention in Portland, OR.
- 05/25/96     Headlined at Brussels Bonsai Nursery Spring Rendezvous in Olive Branch, MS.

- 06/12/97 Headlined at American Bonsai Association Convention in Denver, CO.
- 08/31/97 Headlined at Hawaii Bonsai Association 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Honolulu, HI.
- 07/14/98 Supervised landscape construction of the Golden Gate Bonsai Federation permanent display garden in Oakland, CA. Grand opening held 11/06/99.
- 11/24/98 Headlined at Potomac Bonsai Association Fall Symposium at the Washington, D.C. National Arboretum.
- 01/01/99 Began term as Second Vice President of Golden State Bonsai Federation.
- 02/08/99 Co-chaired \$25,000 fundraising effort to build and dedicate entry way gate at the Golden State Bonsai Collection North in honor of Mas Imazumi.
- 03/23/99 Featured in San Francisco Examiner newspaper article on tree pruning.
- 05/22/99 Headlined at European Bonsai Association Convention in Toledo, Spain.
- 09/10/99 Headlined at International Bonsai Arboretum Fall Symposium in Rochester, New York.
- 11/06/99 Officiated as Master of Ceremony at opening of Golden State Bonsai Federation Collection North bonsai display garden in Oakland, CA.
- 01/01/00 Began term as Golden State Bonsai Federation First Vice President.
- 02/13/00 Chaired Golden State Bonsai Federation History Project.
- 03/18/00 Lectured on tree pruning at Flower and Garden Show in San Francisco, CA. Also lectured at same event on 03/24/02.
- 03/18/00 Lectured on tree pruning on KRON television program, Henry's Garden.
- 08/26/00 Conducted first Merritt College Pruning Club seminar. Also conducted second seminar on 08/18/01.
- 09/25/00 Headlined at Lone Star Bonsai Association fall lecture and workshop tour in 9 Texas cities.
- 04/12/01 Headlined at American Bonsai Association Convention in New Orleans, LA.
- 05/25/01 Received Horticulture Certificate from Merritt College, Oakland, CA.
- 06/02/01 Featured in San Francisco Chronicle newspaper article on tree pruning.

- 09/04/01 Received Certificate of Recognition from City of El Cerrito, CA for tree pruning projects.
- 10/17/01 Headlined at Bonsai Clubs International Caribbean Convention on cruise ship Majesty of the Seas.
- 01/01/02 Began 2 year term as President of the Golden State Bonsai Federation.
- 02/25/02 Chaired Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai Basics Committee.
- 04/22/02 Organized Golden State Bonsai Federation archives at Huntington Gardens in San Marino, CA.
- 10/16/02 Authored Golden State Bonsai Federation history project report.
- 10/16/02 Chaired Golden State Bonsai Federation Circle of Sensei committee.
- 10/16/02 Chaired Golden State Bonsai Federation 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- 11/15/02 Headlined at Lonestar Bonsai Association Convention in New Braunfels, TX.
- 11/15/02 Featured artist and consultant for Sunset Publications new edition of Bonsai book, completed this date.
- 02/01/03 to 03/09/03 Conducted Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai Basics forums in Sacramento, Oakland, Los Banos, Los Angeles and San Diego, CA.
- 08/28/03 Headlined at Kauai Bonsai Club county fair show in Lihue, HI.
- 08/21/04 Lectured at Hawaii Bonsai Association Convention in Honolulu, HI.
- 02/05/05 Chaired first Professional Aesthetic Pruners Forum in Oakland, CA.
- 02/05/05 Created California Professional Aesthetic Pruners network, directory and calendar of pruning events.
- 04/45/05 Featured in Kauai Times newspaper article on bonsai.
- 06/01/05 Created the Professional Aesthetic Pruners summer internship program.
- 07/01/05 Featured in Journal of Japanese Gardening magazine article about the 10 most respected names in the world of Sukiya Living.