



*The*  
NATIONAL  
BONSAI  
FOUNDATION

*Annual Report* | 2018



## MISSION

The National Bonsai Foundation is a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1982 to sustain the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. It collaborates with the U.S. National Arboretum to offer financial support and counsel to the Museum.

This private/public collaboration between the Foundation and the Arboretum enables the Museum to promote the art of bonsai and penjing to visitors through masterpiece displays and educational programs while also fostering intercultural friendship and understanding.



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## *Dear Friends of the Museum,*

The year 2018 saw **Michael James'** well-deserved promotion to Curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, and heralded the initiation of the next two major capital improvements to the Museum. Also, with the election of Jack at last year's annual meeting, the two of us are honored and delighted to be working together as Co-Presidents of the National Bonsai Foundation.

Having provided most of the funding for the total reconstruction of the **Japanese Pavilion** completed in 2017, last year NBF turned attention to the **John Naka North American Pavilion** and the **Yee-sun Wu Chinese Pavilion**. We procured an engineering report revealing that the North American Pavilion needs significant renovations while the Chinese Pavilion will have to be completely rebuilt.

We thank **Dr. Milton Chang**, a long-time supporter of the Museum and NBF, for his pledge to underwrite the design phase of the project involving both pavilions. This enabled NBF to hire the landscape architects Reed Hilderbrand to develop plans for a renovated North American Pavilion and a new Chinese Pavilion.

In [May] of 2018 the Museum hosted the **Potomac Bonsai Association's** formal bonsai display exhibition. The highlight was a contemporary American interpretation of the traditional Japanese three-point display by **Bob Chilton** and **Todd Stewart** of Gardens Unlimited, which featured bonsai displayed in front of paintings on canvas with untraditional accents such as a skateboard and percussion instruments.

In March, the Museum opened the elegant exhibit, *Sakura Orihon: Diary of a Cherry Blossom Journey*, curated by **Assistant Curator Kathleen Emerson-Dell**, featuring the folding sketchbooks of landscape architect Ron Henderson celebrating the Japanese cherry blossom culture in Japan.

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In September at the 6th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY, we were proud to see the Museum's *Kokonoe* (Japanese white pine 'Koko-no-e') in a place of honor, applauded for its beauty and good health by **Mrs. Naemi Iwasaki** whose late husband Daizo Iwasaki donated this magnificent bonsai to the Museum.

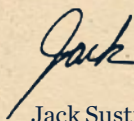
Our therapeutic initiative to develop programming that resonates with the bonsai setting expanded during 2018 to include: "*Bask in the Beauty of Bonsai: Forest Bathing in the Collections*"; *Drawing on Bonsai: Sketching in the National Collections*; and *Tai Chi* classes, all of which were well received! These efforts bring new audiences into the realm of bonsai beauty and make the Museum a destination to be coveted. This was borne out when the Washington City paper named the Museum as the "**Best Place in the City to Take an Out-of-town Visitor!**"

Finally, at the end of 2018 we were pleased to announce the launch of NBF's new website: [bonsai-nbf.org](http://bonsai-nbf.org). It is easy to navigate and filled with wonderful information about the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, *your* Museum.

Thank you for supporting the National Bonsai Foundation and the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum during 2018, and we both look forward to seeing you in 2019!



Felix Laughlin, President  
*NBF Co-President*



Jack Sustic  
*NBF Co-President*

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# NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION BOARD & STAFF

It is the work of the National Bonsai Foundation Board and the Executive Director to promote the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum across the United States and around the world.

The National Bonsai Foundation Board of Directors comprises 29 representatives from diverse regions of the United States. The Board is served and supported by one fulltime staff person. Adhering to the Mission of the Foundation, the Board and Executive Director are dedicated to promoting the Museum and the art of bonsai throughout this country and to fostering friendship and understanding between nations by commending “peace through bonsai.”

But the fate of the first public bonsai museum in the world rests on generous funding from the private sector to augment declining federal funding. Therefore, the priority for the Board and staff is to raise funds on behalf of the Museum so that its rich history is preserved, its peerless legacy is protected, and a future is prepared for a new generation to appreciate the gift and art of a small tree in a pot.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Felix B. Laughlin, NC  
*Co-President*

Mr. Jack Sustic, MI  
*Co-President*

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*Vice-President*

Dr. Carl Morimoto, CA  
*Vice-President*

Mr. Daniel Angelucci, MI  
*Secretary*

Mr. James Brant, PA  
*Treasurer*

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Dr. Johann F. Klodzen

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Mrs. Janice Vitale, VA  
Mr. Stephen Voss, DC  
Mr. Jack Wells, FL  
Mrs. Jane Yamashiroya, HI

## NATIONAL ARBORETUM & MUSEUM STAFF

In addition to caring for the invaluable collections and preparing educational programs, the staff represents the Museum to the public. At all levels they are the immediate face of this Museum, and the success of the relationship between the Museum and the visitor rests in their hands.



### Dr. Richard T. Olsen

#### DIRECTOR

Dr. Olsen is the seventh Director of the U.S. National Arboretum and assumed this position in 2015. He has a degree in landscape design from North Carolina State University, an M.A. in horticulture from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in horticultural science from North Carolina State University. In 2017 he presided over the reopening of the Japanese Pavilion and was host to distinguished visitors from Japan who came to Washington for the occasion.

*“The Museum is a magnet for visitors to the National Arboretum and it is the most visited collection on the grounds.”*

— Dr. Richard Olsen





## Mr. Michael James

### CURATOR

I see it as a great honor and responsibility to have been offered the position as Curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in 2018. I will strive to preserve the individual visions of those that have trained these trees in the past, maintaining their health and beauty for those who will shape them after me.



## Mrs. Kathleen Emerson-Dell

### MUSEUM SPECIALIST

I curated, designed and installed the exhibit Sakura Orihon: Diary of a Cherry Blossom Journey and created two seasonally thematic exhibits: Falling into Winter and Spring into Summer with stones from the American Viewing Stone Resource Center at the Huntington. Also I continued working on the Museum archives, organizing previous construction documents and scanning old slides.



## Ms. Erin Holden

### MUSEUM GARDENER

In 2018 I attended the Waza to Kokoro: Hands & Heart Japanese garden seminar in Portland, Oregon, where I learned about the cultural aspects that influenced Japanese garden design and the techniques that are used to create those gardens. Back at the Museum I started the process of redesigning beds to both align with traditional Japanese garden design and to visually unify different areas of the garden. This year I'll begin to implement the new design plans, which include refreshing plant selections and the construction of bamboo fencing.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

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### OUR VOLUNTEERS

The constant care and training of the many bonsai and penjing in the Museum make the work of skilled and dedicated volunteers of utmost importance. We are fortunate to have so many volunteers who are proficient in the art of bonsai and gardening. Working closely with the staff, they shape the National Collection for today and future generations.

Jennifer Amundsen  
Young Choe  
Olivia Cook  
Charles Croft  
Le Ann Duling  
Sachiko Furlan  
Pierre Gerber

Joseph Gutierrez  
Richard Hammerschlag  
Stephanie Mark  
David Lieu  
Theodore Pickett, Jr.  
Mike Rainwater  
Akiko Sprague

Lori Sullivan  
Steve Smith  
Janice Vitale  
Alexander Voorhies  
Richard Winchester

## APPRENTICESHIP

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The First Curator's Apprenticeship supports the Museum and also cultivates the next generation of bonsai leadership.

The Apprenticeship was established in 2011 to honor Robert Drechsler, the first curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. The apprenticeship is financed by a grant from *Toyota North America*.

The 2018 First Curator's Apprenticeship was held by David Rizwan.



*"I am very grateful to the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum for the opportunity to develop my skills using some of the best and most prominent bonsai in the country, and I appreciate the support that Toyota offered to the National Bonsai Foundation to finance this wonderful apprenticeship."*

David now resides in San Antonio where he is developing his own bonsai studio and business.



*In Season*



## WINTER AT THE MUSEUM

We encourage our visitors not to let the winter months deter them from a trip to the museum. The snow interacts harmoniously with the bonsai and offers a distinct experience from the other seasons of the year.







*Et lam veliquas pro blabo.*

Dellicia delitio dolorehendae non  
rem facest.

## IN BLOOM

Every year, the flowering bonsai grace us with an array of color and character as their blooms take over the collection. The Foundation and the Museum hope that our museum visitors will delight in this occasion.



*Et lam veliquas pro blabo.*

Dellicia delitio dolorehendae non rem facest.





*Lorem. Ditis magnien daeperum sedi*

Denihil mossit ra parit que nulla plia dem es estrum  
faccum sae num evendignis ernatqu assunt.



*Paribus derchit voluptio.*

Ebitium simus ut reperat iaspienti ulparias doloriam  
aceaquid et untotat.



IN TRAINING  
Stephen Voss

*In Training*  
Photography Monograph  
Stephen Voss

## PUBLICATIONS

19

PUBLICATIONS | NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION 2018

The Foundation is proud to have worked closely with three authors of recently published books about the Museum.

Each book covers a different aspect of the Museum and its trees. The three authors have collaboratively developed a panel presentation about the books, which is attracting new and diverse audiences to the Museum, while conveying the importance of the Foundation as the sustaining organization for the Museum.



*The Peace Tree  
from Hiroshima*  
A Little Bonsai With A Big Story  
*Sandra Moore & Kazumi Wilds*



*Bonsai and Penjing*  
Ambassadors of Peace & Beauty  
*Ann McClellan*

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### PURCHASE THE BOOKS

All three books are available from Stone Lantern, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. They can also be purchased from the Arbor House Gift Shop on the grounds of the U.S. National Arboretum.

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## EXHIBITS & PROGRAMS

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It is through the changing exhibits and programs that the Foundation and the Museum reach diverse audiences.

The National Bonsai Foundation financially supports the exhibits that are displayed in the Mary E. Mrose Exhibits Gallery as well as events and programs held elsewhere in the Museum. The Foundation also issues press releases about exhibit openings and publicizes events on the Foundation website and social media, including through *Museum Messages*, a monthly electronic bulletin about events in the Museum.

### *Falling Into Winter*

Viewing Stone Exhibit

*Stones from the Greaves Collection  
at the Huntington Library, Art  
Collection And Botanical Garden*

NOV 4, 2017- MAR 4, 2018

### *Sakura Orihon:*

Diary of a Cherry Blossom Journey

*Landscape architect Ron Henderson  
recorded his experience in folding  
sketchbooks called: orihon. His work  
celebrates the Cherry Blossom  
culture in Japan.*

MAR 10 – APR 8, 2018

### *Will It Be a Bonsai or a Big Tree?*

Children's Workshop

FEB 17, 2018

### *Spring into Summer*

Viewing Stone Exhibit

*Stones from the Greaves Collection  
At the Huntington Library, Art  
Collection And Botanical Garden*

APR 7, 2018 – SEPT 30, 2018

## *Ikebana International Exhibit*

Spring flowers with  
a Japanese twist!

APR 13 - 22, 2018

## *Bask in the Beauty of Bonsai*

Forest Bathing in the Collections

MAY 3, SEPT 27  
& OCT 18, 2018

## *World Bonsai Day*

MAY 12, 2018

## *Satsuki Bonsai Exhibit*

Azaleas of Old Japan

MAY 27 - JUNE 3, 2018

## *Potomac Bonsai Association Festival*

JUNE 8 - 10, 2018

## *Drawing on Bonsai*

Sketching in the  
National Collections

JUNE 15, 2018

## *Yoga & Bonsai*

JUNE 16 & 23,  
JULY 7 & 21,  
SEPT 8 & 22,  
OCT 6 & 13, 2018

## *Potomac Viewing Stone Group*

Classic to Contemporary:  
Viewing Stones of the World

AUG 5 - SEPT 30, 2018

## *Tai Chi and Bonsai*

SEPT 30 & OCT 14, 2018

## *Beautiful Transitions:*

Autumn Bonsai Exhibit

NOV 3 - 11, 2018

## DONORS

Thank you for your gift and we look forward to working with you in 2018.

Without donations to the Foundation, the Museum could not make claim to be one of the finest museums in the world for this art form. These are all of the donors who gave so generously to the Foundation in support of the Museum in 2017.

### *Guardian of the Future*

#### **Over \$50,000**

Milton & Rosalind Chang, CA  
Barbara Hall Marshall, MO

### *Legacy Steward*

#### **\$10,000 – \$50,000**

Marybel Balendonck, CA  
Edward & Lynn Fabian, FL  
The Hill Foundation  
Deborah Rose, MD  
Toyota of North America

### *Preservation Ambassador*

#### **\$5,000 – \$9,999**

James Coriden, DC  
Felix Laughlin, NC

### *Capital Director*

#### **\$1,000 – \$4,999**

Joseph & Sophia  
Abeles Foundation  
Daniel Angelucci, MI  
Richard Berk & Susan Sorenson, PA  
Julie Crudele, MD  
Robert Drechsler, MD  
In Memory and Honor of H. William Merritt  
Peter Drewliner, HI  
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David English, CA  
Daphne Kwok, VA  
Hideko Metaxas, CA  
Larry & Nina Ragle, CA  
Errol Reese, FL  
Leland Vanderpool, FL  
Janice Vitale, VA

### *Benefactor, \$500 – \$999*

Brandywine Bonsai Society  
In Memory of Henri Vermeulen  
James & Linda Brant, PA  
California Bonsai Society  
Claire DeGroot, VA  
In Memory of H. William Merritt  
Joe Graviss, KY  
Joseph Gutierrez, VA  
Karen Harkaway, NJ  
Jim Hughes, MD  
In Memory of Fay Sharer  
George Hutson, FL  
Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society  
The Owens Children.  
In Memory of Cheryl Owens  
Pierre Ruffieux, MD  
Alan Walker, LA  
Roy & Jane Yamashiroya, HI

### *Patron, \$250 – \$499*

Thomas Armitage, VA  
Blue Ridge Bonsai Society  
Paula Chiplis, MD  
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Alexander Hoffman, CT  
Larry Jackel, CO  
Richard Kahn, VA  
Peter & Clare Kearney, VA  
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Ann McClellan, DC  
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Charlie & Lavanya Muller, NY  
Betsy Nakanishi, HI  
Glenn Reusch, VA  
Rosade Bonsai Studio, PA  
Jack Rubenstein, VA

Steven Schrum, NC  
Jack Sustic, MI  
Stephen Voss, DC  
Warren Yamamoto, HI  
William Valavanis, NY

***Sponsor, \$100 – \$249***

Moses Agosto-Rosario, MD  
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Kenneth Azuma, CA  
Patricia Babcock, GA  
    In Memory of Fay Sharer  
Bonsai Society of Greater New Haven  
Norman Brenbridge, VA  
Richard Buck, VA  
Kenneth & Joyce Buechele, NC  
William Burd, IL  
Joe Buriel, MD  
John Castiglia, NY  
Melanie Choukas-Bradley, MD  
Ross Clark, KY  
Stephen Colley, CA  
Michael Colibraro, PA  
Jack Douthitt, WI  
Mark Fields, IN  
Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan  
    In Memory of Georgine Corbeille  
Stephen Fuji, HI  
Richard Gardner, WA  
Donetta George, DC  
Cyril Grum, MI  
Richard & Freddi Hammerschlag, MD  
Frederick & Joan Harris, HI  
Helen Hasselriis, NY  
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Warren Hill, TN  
David Hockstein, MD  
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Lighthouse Bonsai Society, FL  
Rex Looney, VA  
Margareta Limburg, NY  
Helene Magruder, IA  
Kathi & Frank Maisano, FL  
Sei-ichi Matsui, VA  
Michael Mazza, IL  
Mary Elizabeth McClellan, NH  
May McNey, CA  
Nancy Morgan, WV  
Arschel Morell, MD  
Thekla Morris, FL  
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Reginald Rose, MS  
Rita Rosenberg, FL  
Paul Savage, UT  
Della & Seijo Shiba, CA  
Karin Simmat, PA  
Bradley Smith, DC  
Akiko Sprague, DC  
Marilyn Stevenson, CA  
James Stopfer, NY  
Godfrey Trammel, MD  
James Urhausen, CA  
Kiyoko Yoneda, CA  
Michaelene Walker, NC  
Lisa Wood, VA  
    In Memory of Carroll P. Hickman

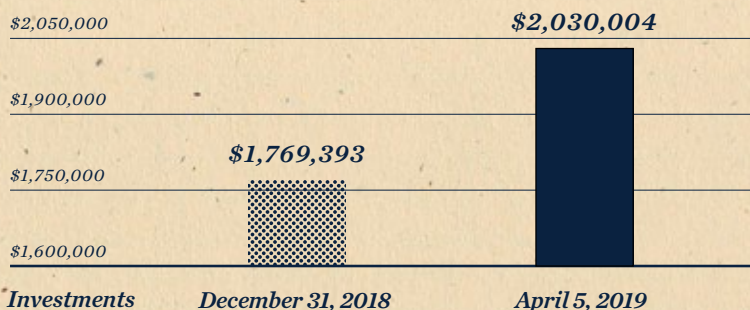
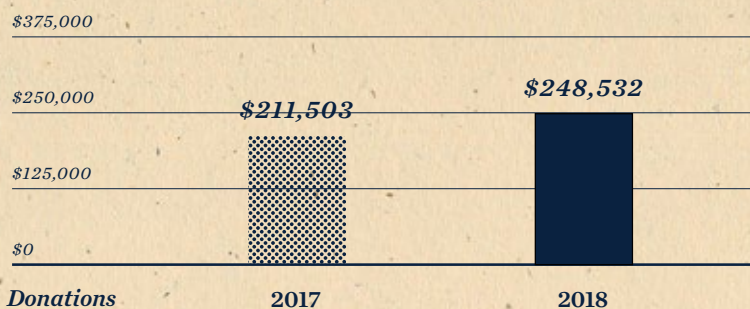
***Friend, \$35 – \$99***

John & Kathleen Adams, KY  
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Isobel Christensen, CA  
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Greg Filter, MD  
Eric Gibber, MA  
Philip & Erma Gibber, VA  
James Gillespie, PA  
Otto Goode, CA  
Margaret Hultgren, CA  
Dennis Hoffman, WI  
Sherrill Houghton, DC  
Jane Johnston, NJ  
    In Memory of Fay Sharer  
Paul Keough, NY  
Steve Koebecke,  
    In Memory of Tony Calvano  
Long Island Bonsai Society  
John Malorcca, IL  
Steven Meyer, IL  
Harry Miller, NM  
Mohawk Valley Bonsai Club  
Al Nelson, CA  
Barbara Page, MI  
Julie Pascu, MD  
Roger & Margaret Pezzuti, ME  
Potomac Viewing Stone Group  
Ryan Sajot, MD  
Judy Schmidt, WI  
Leonard, Schwartz, NJ  
Louis Springer, MI  
Larry Stephan, IL  
Marian Taylor, KY  
Lloyd Timblin, CO  
Alison Westfall, DC  
Elaine White, TX,

## FINANCIALS 2018

NBF strives for the best possible stewardship of your gifts. In 2018, donations to NBF increased significantly, and our expenses stayed virtually level with 2017.

### INCOME OVERVIEW



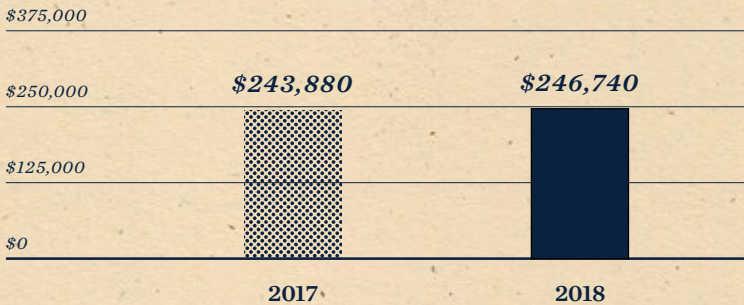
The value of NBF's investments have rebounded strongly from the market downturn at year end 2018, and now stands at over \$2,000,000. Performance YTD 2019: +8.93%



## MUSEUM OUTREACH: BY THE NUMBERS

<i>Platform</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>% increase</i>
<i>Facebook Followers</i>	5,895	7,218	<b>22%</b>
<i>Instagram Followers</i>	456	1,295	<b>184%</b>
<i>Email Subscribers to Museum Messages</i>	3,111	5,574	<b>15%</b>
<i>Bonsai Circle Group Members</i>	1,366	1,468	<b>7.5%</b>

## EXPENSES OVERVIEW



*PRESERVING  
A HISTORY.*

*PROTECTING  
A LEGACY.*

*PREPARING  
A FUTURE.*

Stay with us on our journey to  
safeguard the National Bonsai &  
Penjing Museum — your Museum.



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*Visit the Museum*

3501 New York Avenue NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
*Free: 10:00 – 4:00 daily*

*Connect*

[www.bonsai-nbf.org](http://www.bonsai-nbf.org)  
[@NBFbonsai](https://twitter.com/NBFbonsai)

*Photography*  
Stephen Voss

*Design*  
Polygraph

*Printer*  
Mosaic





*Sustaining and advocating for the  
National Bonsai & Penjing Museum  
at the U.S. National Arboretum*

