



September Program

Jim and Buzz will relate further behind-the-scenes twists, bumps, pot holes and detours **On the Road to Portland**, culminating with the final installation of the **Ice and Stone** exhibit at the Portland Japanese Garden. **Come on the 25th.** Next month there will likely be a



limited report on this program so if you are interested, and you should be, please attend. (See pg 6 for part 1.)



We will also discuss the hands-on program for children which will require our participation (see page 4).

Stone of the Month



Autumn is the theme for the month's stone. A mum stone is an obvious choice... or a fall color stone (think orange, red, yellow, brown, but not green) ...or a pattern stone with birds flying south. Peter Bloomer's "1000 Cranes"... suggests a typical autumn occurrence.

6.5 x 8 x 4

Suiseki in California

[The following was published in Aiseki Magazine in September 2013.]

Elmer Uchida, Pioneer of American Viewing Stones

Elmer M. Uchida, did more than any other one person or club in Southern California to promote the art of viewing stones to the general public by displaying his collection at more than 100 locations in Los Angeles County as early as 1960.

We first met Elmer at one of these events where he was exhibiting some of his stones. Prior to that meeting, I had seen his displays at the 1982 Nisei Week celebration and on more than one occasion at the Baiko-en Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Show at the LA Arboretum. The 1983 Baiko-en Show was just prior to our first meeting and I believe it was there that he learned of our plan to form a club – California Aiseki Kai. He was in the crowd during the heated exchanges about the meaning of “suiseki” that launched our club that first night. Elmer was a very gentle man. He quietly injected his opinions into the debate but when challenged, he held his ground, like a rock.

Elmer presented the program for our club in August 1983 and introduced his viewpoints on stones. He had become interested in viewing stones prior to 1960 and began weekend trips to search for stones. He was particularly fond of the Kern River, the Eel River and the desert near Death Valley. Although, he never made the claim, he was one of the first to recognize the natural beauty of desert ventifacts, those stones shaped by the wind and sands (see Aiseki, April, 2013). By 1983 he had amassed an incredible collection from California deserts and rivers.

My fondest memory of Elmer is a moment in 1996. The National Bonsai Foundation had made a request for donations of stones to establish a North American Viewing Stone Collection to be housed in the U.S. Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Less than fifty collectors offered anything while Elmer offered two of his best stones. My responsibility was to transport some of the stones to D.C. When I rendezvoused with Elmer to get the stones I learned these were not just two of his best stones, they were his **two best stones.**

continued on page 5

August Meeting Notes

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We are set for the Yuha trip. Please see page 5 for details.

We discussed the best date for set up for our Huntington Exhibit.

Jack introduced his friend, Dave. Welcome Dave!

Stone of the Month: Shelter stones (other than Nina's, all stones are from a desert).

Measurements are in inches, w x h x d

Stone of the month discussion:

We talked about the distinction between a shelter stone and a cave stone. A cave stone is more likely to exhibit a deep cavity (with sides) and its interior may turn such that the back wall cannot be seen. A shelter stone may be deep or shallow without sides. David Melitz suggested that it is the difference between a carport and a garage.



Larry Ragle: 5 x 3.5 x 3 Yuha



Jack Levy: 6 x 3 x 4 Yuha



Jesse Krong: 8 x 3 x 8



Don Kruger: 9 x 3.5 x 6.5



John Mortensen: 7 x 5 x 4 Garnet Hill



Richard Aguirre: 9.5 x 4 x 5

The 1 inch wide inner margins are designed for use with a 3 hole punch.





Phil Chang: 9 x 3.5 x 7.5



Linda Gill: 10 x 3 x 8



Jack Levy: 9 x 4.5 x 7.5 Yuha



Buzz Barry: 5 x 2 x 3



Hanne Povlsen: 7 x 3 x 6



Hanne Povlsen: 5 x 2.5 x 3



Janet Shimizu: 9.5 x 4.5 x 7



Nina Ragle: 5.5 x 3.5 x 5 Japan

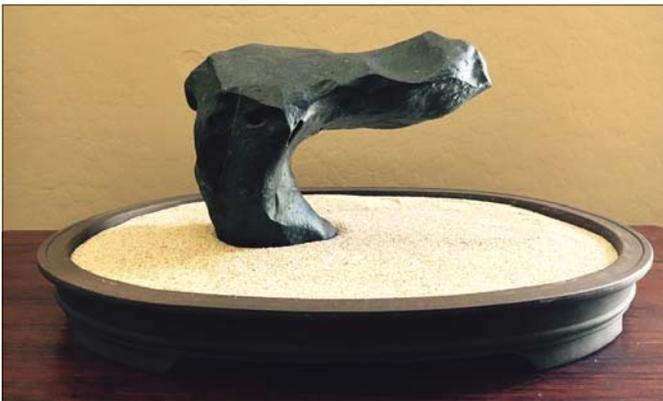




Richard Aguirre: 4.5 x 2 x 3



Carol Mortensen: 4 x 2 x 1 Yuha



Lisa and Phat Vo: 9.5 x 6.5 x 6



Peter Bloomer: 6 x 3.5 x 2



Butch Buddingh: 6.5 x 2 x 4



Butch Buddingh: 6.75 x 4 x 4.5

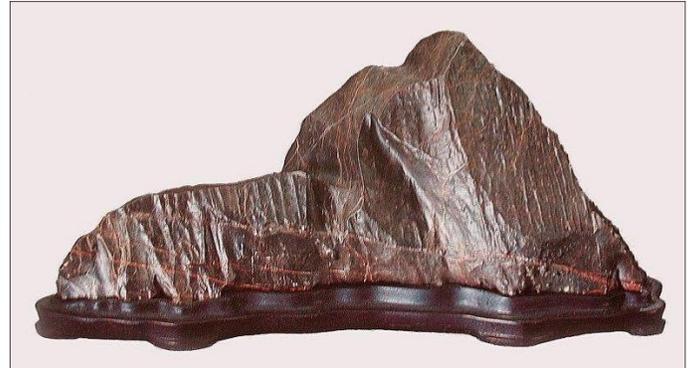
From Tiger Stripes to Mindless Cloud: Celebrating 50 Years of Stone Appreciation at The Huntington

In addition to our 30th exhibition, the American Viewing Stone Resource Center will present a complementary display, *"From Tiger Stripes to Mindless Cloud: Celebrating 50 Years of Stone Appreciation at The Huntington."* For the first time, the shows will include hands-on activities to introduce children of all ages to the appreciation and display of natural stones. (We will participate. Details at the September meeting.)

Suiseki in California continued from page 1

Elmer Uchida: Eel River, 7 x 4 x 4

[These are the two stones Elmer Uchida sent to the North American Viewing Stone Collection in Washington, D.C.]



Elmer Uchida: California Desert, 8 x 3.5 x 4

For a moment he had tears in his eyes when he said goodbye to the stones like a father sending his child off to college. Elmer passed away in December of 2004.

~Larry Ragle

Yuha Desert Trip ~ November 2-3, 2019

We are headed out to the Yuha for another wonderful weekend of adventure. Our leader, **Marty Hagbery**, can field your questions. The most important things to remember are to **be on time, drive an all WD or 4WD vehicle with good clearance, let Kyra know** that you are coming, **pack water**, bring paper (or socks or diapers!) to wrap your stones, wear sturdy shoes, have something to carry your stones, a bucket or a backpack work nicely. Wear a hat and bring sunscreen. You will want to bring a lunch from home.

Some of us will meet at the Golden Acorn Casino (Hwy 8 at Exit 61, Crestwood) where one can have breakfast. There are no facilities in the desert so be prepared. We will follow up with a potluck at the motel Saturday evening and although the club will provide pizza and some wine, please bring something else to share.

ACCOMMODATIONS: El Centro, The Quality Inn, 1455 Ocotillo Dr., 760.352.5152. **Call and say "rock club" for the \$59 rate.**

Please re read March 2010 newsletter, pg 3

Seriously, you must call or email Kyra if you are coming. Plans change? Tell her! Either Call

626-584-1688 or email: kyrahaussler@gmail.com

not later than Friday 9AM November 1. Make sure **Kyra** knows if you will be at the Golden Acorn or at Dunaway on Hwy 8. We will leave from the Golden Acorn parking lot at 8:45 on Saturday morning. We all line up and caravan to Dunaway! The casino parking lot is 45 minutes east of San Diego. If you are coming from the east and you wish to meet us at Dunaway, be there by 9:30. (Most will caravan from El Centro.) We will not wait for you. Please call **Marty** if you have any questions: 909-257-9559.

PLEASE Read the Yuha articles: Feb 2008 Newsletter on page 3 and March 2009, page 5.

Our newsletters are available on our website, aisekikai.com.

August Program Notes

Pairing Photos by Jim Greaves

On the Road to Portland presented a behind the scenes look at challenges encountered when mounting the two-month loan from the AVSRC Collections at The Huntington to the Portland Japanese Garden. Buzz and I touched on too many issues for Newsletter coverage, but we include this discussion of the complementary matching of stones with Michael Kenna’s photographs taken during the winter in Hokkaido; hence, their working title of **Ice & Stone**. Mr. Kenna explained that he was inspired by Japanese aesthetics, particularly ink painting. (Note that the photographs themselves were only 8”.)

Portland sent 20 photographs from which they intended to select 14; beyond that, there were no guidelines as to what they would consider to be a good match.

Most of the Michael Kenna photographs had little direct relationship to available stones because several of the best American ‘winter’ stones were already on loan to the **Falling Into Winter** exhibit at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washinton, DC, and the AVSRC has only one suiseki that might be marginally ‘snow’ related.

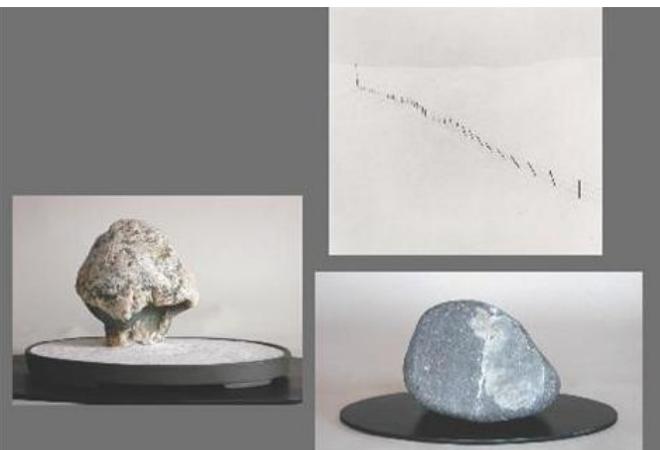
Here are four examples: If one were presenting a stone with a Japanese scroll painting, the usual desire is to have the stone and painting complement one another through association rather than a repetitive, direct pairing of subject. Among his photographs there was a series of compositions featuring only a fence line against pure white snow; this seemed heavenly sent to pair with my familiar “...Miles to Go” grouping:



The pairing of an abandoned boat with derelict pilings more directly established an actual theme suggesting a melancholy mood.



Because we considered many of the photos to be too vague to make such an indirect complementary pairing, we were forced to consider the non-Japanese approach by seeking an obvious match by using a stone that would visually repeat an element within a given photograph. As an example, after considering each of these photographs of branching trees and also the possibility of using multiple tree-pattern stones, we forwarded this possibility – that we thought would also serve to break-up the postage stamp arrangement as initially proposed in Portland’s computer rendition:



Another composition with indirect complements included an old couple cozily bundled while outside, there is a soft, steady snowfall, each suggesting a sense of place and ‘hush’ in the world.



In Our Mailbox....



We have missed our friend Cliff Johnson... but he is alive and well and enjoying life in New Mexico. Here he is with his dog, Molly, about 10 years ago. We think he wanted to share the stone of the month with us.... Shelter stones! Look familiar? See the August newsletter, page 7

Generosity Abounds

Earlier this summer, Ron and Jo Ann Maggio were in Taiwan celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, Ron Maggio III. No matter where they travel, Ron always asks about the availability of seeing and/or buying suiseki. On this trip they were happy to spend time with Mr. Liu who naturally enjoyed talking about and sharing his sizable collection with them and who was also kind enough to present this doha as a gift. Mrs. Liu gave Jo Ann a stone, too.



Ron Maggio: 7.5 x 2.5 x 3.25 Tainan, Taiwan



IMPORTANT: You should be preparing for the December exhibit. If you have a stone(s) about which you are on the fence, please bring it/them to the September meeting for some helpful feedback.

California Aiseki Kai meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Nakaoka Community Center located at 1670 W. 162nd St, Gardena, CA. Second floor. We do not meet in Nov-Dec.

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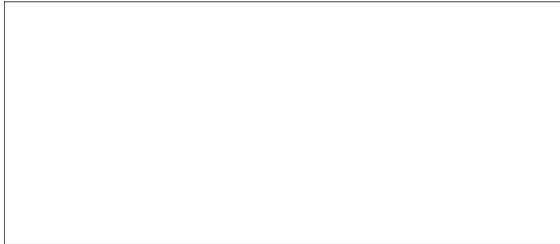
We hope you will participate. Please send any submissions to ragle@cox.net no more than 10 days following our monthly meeting. Thank you!

Ragle
P.O. Box 4975
Laguna Beach CA 92652

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Leaves no stone unturned



See our website:

aisekikai.com

Coming Events

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB

54th Annual Fall Bonsai Show, Sept 28-29,
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101,
San Diego. 10-5. Sales Area
Info: sandiegobonsaiclub.com



GSBF CONVENTION 42

“Bonsai Forever” October 24-27. Marriott
Riverside Convention Center, 3400 Market St.
Featuring Taiga Urushibata (Japan), Enrique
Castano (Mexico) and Ryan Bell (USA).
For more information: caryme@yahoo.com or:
<http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/Articles.asp?ID=286>



CALIFORNIA AISEKI KAI

Tanseki in the Yuha November 2-3.
Members only. See page 5 for details.



CALIFORNIA AISEKI KAI

30th Annual Exhibition at The
Huntington, December 26-30, 10-5.
Set-up on Dec 21. Save the dates!



Freeman Wang 626-524-5021

Stuiseki-Viewing Stone Sale
stores.ebay.com/thestoneking

Stone Sales Ken McLeod

209-605-9386 or 209 586-2881
suisekistones.com

Refreshments



Thank you **Linda Gill, Jack Levy** and the
Ragles for the August appetite appeasers.

September snacks will be provided by **Wanda
Matjas, Phil Chang** and **Jesse Krong**. If you sign up and
can't make it, please let Janet know! Thanks.



Always check Golden Statements Magazine
Calendar section for additional coming events