



# IVAN WATTERS

Bonsai Artist  
Teacher & Author

Consulting

Collection Development

Buying Services

Private & Class Instruction

Workshops

Demonstrations



**BONSAI: A PATIENT ART**  
published November 2012

## STUDY

Began study of bonsai in 1960. Began serious study in 1975 with Harold Lenz, Chicago, and Toshio Saburomaru, California. Continued advanced studies with Susumu Nakamura in Yokohama, Japan, beginning in 1987. Travels to Japan twice yearly for study and cultural enrichment.

## TEACHING

Began teaching in 1979. Teaches all levels of bonsai, and has been an instructor at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Morton Arboretum, Field Museum, Buddhist Temple of Chicago, Yasukunai Bonsai Garden & School, and several garden centers in the Chicagoland area. Sensei to Grand Rapids, Michigan, study group from 2006 to date, as well as Yasuragi Bonsai Society, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 2007 to date.

## SPECIALTIES

Works with all types and sizes of bonsai. Specializes in Bunjin, Pines, and Shohin. Is known to kill *Serissa* by just being in the general vicinity.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG)

- Curator of bonsai collection, 2007-2014; Bonsai Consultant, 2006
- Author of *Bonsai: A Patient Art*, Yale University Press, featuring the CBG bonsai collection, published November 2012
- Collaborated with CBG Staff to produce the annual *Three Friends of Winter Bonsai Silhouette and Suiseki Exhibit*, January 2009-2014.
- Exhibited 12 bonsai for CBG at the *Chicago Flower and Garden Show*, March 2010.
- Attracted numerous donations of bonsai, containers, books, and tools
- Exhibited two CBG bonsai at the 2nd *U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition*, June 2010.
- Selected, trained, and managed staff of 20 volunteers
- Conducted numerous tours of the CBG bonsai collection, the Regenstein Center, and bonsai production area.

### Judging & Affiliations

- Guest Master and Judge *Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit*, August 2015.
- Guest Master and Judge *Michigan All State Bonsai Show*, 2008
- Judge *Milwaukee Bonsai Society Annual Show*, October 2010.
- Three-time Judge for *Milwaukee Bonsai Society State Fair Exhibit*
- Prairie State Bonsai Society (originally known as Triton Bonsai Society, which became Morton Arboretum Bonsai Society) - Founding member; Served three terms as President; Director of the society, 1979-1996.
- Midwest Bonsai Society - since 1984, served numerous terms as Officer or Director; currently Director At Large
- Bonsai Clubs International - Past Director and Recording Secretary.
- Yasukunai Bonsai Garden (YBG), Morton Grove, Illinois - Owner, 1996-2005.

## AWARDS & AWARD-WINNING BONSAI

### Cultural Achievement Award 2015

- The Japan America Society of Chicago

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## AWARDS & AWARD-WINNING BONSAI

### Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit

- Best of Show - 1990, 1991, 1998.
- First Place Professional Category - 1999, 2000
- Second Place Professional Category - 2000, 2002, 2006

### Mid America Bonsai Alliance (MABA)

- Best of Show - Des Moines
- First Place - Milwaukee and St. Louis.

### Students' Achievements

- Students of Ivan Watters (Yasukunai Bonsai Garden School and Regenstein School at CBG) have won numerous awards, including 17 Best of Show and 3 Professional Category awards at the *Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit*.

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