



### Chicago, Here Comes NAOTA

With several months to go, NAOTA is happy to announce that the registration for the 2010 conference has exceeded expectations. Chairman Kazuko Ernst and assistant chairman E-Ling Lou are very excited about this. A great meeting will be held October 25-29 in Chicago at the Congress Plaza Hotel.

If you are one of those who has been placed on the waiting list, please be sure to fill out the questionnaire that was sent recently. The information requested is needed for plans to move ahead. The professors in charge, as well as HQ are working diligently to make sure everything will work out. There will be extra places for the conference and there may be a change in the containers that will be used. Mrs. Lou says all will be contacted with further details.

Present plans include having Professor Siki, Assistant Professor Nishi, Tosiko Tatsumi, Wakako Ohara, and the new Headmaster, Hiroko Ohara, in Chicago for the ninth NAOTA conference.

### Changes at Ohara HQ

Changes in the responsibilities at headquarters in Japan have been announced. Effective March 31 Miss Ohara began serving as the Executive Officer and Hiroki Ohara has taken up his duties as fifth Headmaster of Ohara School.

We wish both of them much success and look forward to offering our congratulations in Chicago.

### Message from the President....

Dear Members of NAOTA,

I am very pleased to have been selected by Headmistress Wakako Ohara to serve as your president during the next two years. I am honored and look forward to continuing the development of this national group of Ohara teachers. It is a pleasure for me to commend Judy Hansen for serving as president during the last two years and before that as treasurer and vice president. She has provided valuable continuity over the years. Our founder, Ingrid Lüders, shepherded NAOTA in its first years and was followed by Ronell Douglass and Judy Hansen. The ladies who served as board members during the past years have helped them to sustain a strong organization. It is a great feeling to be able to join such an active and creative group.

As your new president I would like to introduce myself. I have studied Ohara School ikebana since 1985 and am affiliated with the Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter in existence since 1974. Southeastern has members from North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, and Texas. The chapter generally holds two three-day seminars a year - usually in July and September. Last May we sponsored the NAOTA Conference at Clemson University. That was a wonderful experience for us.

Having attended many NAOTA conferences and having helped to organize one, I recognize the real strength of NAOTA is its members. They support us in all we do, attend conferences, and bring in new members. Also contributing to support NAOTA is the headquarters of our school. They not only send us the teachers we need for NAOTA conferences but also help with many of the arrangements and make it possible for us to increase our understanding of the wonderful ikebana of the school.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our coming conferences. Till then I would love to hear from you. You may contact me at [jmlton@clemson.edu](mailto:jmlton@clemson.edu) or write me at 750 Braewick Road - Tryon, NC 28782.

As your new board begins its work we would certainly welcome your ideas. Our first change is the format for the Newsletter. Please let us know if you like it and what else you would like to see in it.

Best regards,  
*Judy Melton*  
Judy Melton

## Message from the Past President. . . .

Dear Members of NAOTA,

As you know, March 1 marked the beginning of a change in officers for NAOTA. As immediate past president of NAOTA I would like to take this opportunity to thank my officers, board of directors, committee chairmen, Ohara Headquarters, and the NAOTA membership.

A special thank you to the retiring board for its service and dedication to NAOTA - Mitsuko Maryuma, Marie-Eve Coupal, Linda Brinkmann, Pat Schneider, and Ronell Douglass. Not only did you make my job pleasurable and fulfilling, the NAOTA business could not have been done without you. Special thanks go to Ingrid Lüders for stepping in at the last minute for invaluable assistance to Assistant Professor Nishi at the eighth annual NAOTA Conference in Clemson, NC.

Thanks also go to our committee chairmen, Mary Rawlings and Christine Norman. Their commitment and contributions were greatly appreciated.

Those at Ohara Headquarters were a wonderful source of encouragement and information for NAOTA. My thanks to Ms. Ohara, Ms. Arai, Ms. Aiba, and others of the International Division who have helped us along the way. Their continued help, generosity, and guidance are valued by all.

Congratulations and best wishes to the new board. We look forward to being with them for the next two years.

Sincerely,  
*Judy Hansen*  
Judy Hansen

## Chapter Gives Classes for Youth

One of the NAOTA chapters has recently given classes for young people.

The **Finger Lakes Study Group** prepared and taught 60 children in three hours at Brighton High School. They stepped in to take over for someone who was ill. In one night they prepared, cut stems (already ordered plant material) and stayed within the PTA's price limit of \$3 per child on expenses. Quite an accomplishment.

## News from Other Chapters

Many of the chapters have been participating in various activities to show their commitment to studying, learning, and practicing the different arrangements of the Ohara School. Those who contacted us include **La Jolla**, **Ottawa-Carlton**, **San Diego** and **Seattle**. We are happy to report what they are doing.

The **La Jolla Chapter** included a New Year's luncheon and a celebration at the San Diego Botanical Garden's Asian Arts Festival. **Ottawa-Carlton** included a workshop by Grace Furuya and placing 20 arrangements in the Ikebana International Exhibit. **San Diego** presented 70 arrangements at the annual flower show in Balboa Park and is planning on participating in the Children's Matsuri in May.

**Seattle** celebrated its 50th anniversary this year and also exhibited at art venues at Seattle Art Museum and the Portland Art Museum. They also participated in activities at the Portland Japanese Garden. This month they are participating in the Children's Matsuri, displaying and demonstrating ikebana for children.

Please let us know what your chapter is doing so we may share it with NAOTA members.



**USE** the internet and the various websites that are available to you. Both of these pictures are from websites you know. Do you know where they were found? (Answer is on page 4.)



## Pictures from NAOTA Chapters

The 50th anniversary of Seattle Chapter, the first one outside of Japan, was marked in November. It was celebrated with a luncheon, two workshops, and a demonstration with Reiko Kawamura of the Los Angeles Chapter and a Grand Master of Ohara School as the featured Demonstrator. Ms. Kawamura has also demonstrated for the Washington, D.C. Chapter's 40th anniversary.



**Reiko Kawamura** of Los Angeles Chapter as she completed a five row color scheme arrangement for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Seattle Chapter.



**Joyce Lounsberry** created this inclining form for the 2010 exhibit held March 20-21 at the Portland Japanese Garden. She used flowering cherry branches, camellia, and pieris japonica.



**Ruby Warren**, another exhibitor at the Portland Study Group 2010 Show, in the Pavillion at the Portland Botanical Garden, used flowering currant, camellias, bamboo, and helleborus to create this rimpa.,

## ***Favorite Ikebana Plants ~ Spring Budding Branches***

By Judith Melton

After the unusual winter we have had, I know that all ikebana students are welcoming the glorious colors of spring. The early blooming shrubs, such as quince or flowering almond, let us know that spring is on its way. In ikebana, the budding branches on such shrubs and on other flowering trees, such as apricot, plum, and cherry, create delicate and beautiful materials for our arrangements. Even though such trees have already bloomed in the South, other areas of the country may be surrounded with their beauty.

Because the qualities of budding branches can be so diverse, they lend themselves to a great variety of different perspectives. The angularity of a blooming quince, for example, makes a very different impression than that of the supple and flowing branches of forsythia. A budding branch with lichen on it is highly prized in Bunjin. The weeping variety of cherry can add even more drama to arrangements.

Examining a few examples of budding branch arrangements can remind us how wonderful their beauty is.

Our first example is shown to the right.



*In this landscape, the angularity of the bright-colored quince creates a striking subject for the arrangement. The carefully selected strong branches provide a lovely vision of a quince. Strong and sturdy branches support the slighter ones and create an interesting effect. The small purple flowers contrast with the bright pink of the few quince blossoms and the dark green of the ground-cover.*



*To the left you see an example of shohinka. Here the more delicate quince branches that are the focal point of the arrangement create a wonderful framework for the beautifully placed green strap leaves. These interesting leaves make you see the wind flowing through the arrangement. Again, the bright colors of the quince stand out against the blue-green of the traditional vase and the bright green of the leaves.*

Now we bring you an example of Bunjin. This beautiful spring arrangement in a celadon Chinese vase conveys the very essence of early Spring.

*The budding magnolia provides the arrangement with a beautifully branched structure that balances the more airy flowering branch that flows through the arrangement. The striking peonies with their delicate leaves anchor and complete the arrangement*



These spring arrangements show so well the beauty and versatility of budding branches that we hope you have been given the impetus to create your own.

*continued from page 2*

### ***Did you find them on the web?***

*Left hand arrangement is on the website of Southeastern Ohara US Chapter, **The Southeastern US Ohara Chapter Website.***

*Right hand arrangement is on the website of Ohara School of Ikebana, **Ohara School of Ikebana.***

*Type them in your search bar and you should get right to the site.*