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Dear Exhibitor,

Thank you for exhibiting in the **1ST US National Bonsai Exhibition** and sharing your bonsai with the world. The entire weekend event was a success and recently *Kinbon* (Japan's premier bonsai magazine) featured a two page illustrated article and wrote "There is no difference in the character of Japanese and American bonsai". That's quite a compliment coming from Japan and it is because you displayed your finest bonsai and supported the exhibition. Also I've received numerous positive comments from around the world for the historic event in which could not have been accomplished without your bonsai, support and my dedicated hard working crew. I hope you were pleased with the *Commemorative Bonsai Album* featuring color photos of every bonsai displayed. If you would like to order a signed framed print by the photographer, Frank Grillo, please use the attached form. A photo of the beautiful custom framed and signed print is also attached.

Now is the time to begin preparing for the **2ND US National Bonsai Exhibition** which will be held on June 12-13, 2010 in the same location. Last year the exhibition was held in autumn to highlight colorful foliage and fruit. June was selected this year so the beauty of your bonsai can be displayed in leaf, and hopefully flower (Satsuki) too. The entire three sections of the auditorium will be used for displaying your bonsai. Vendors will be in the room across the hallway with the demonstrations. Our Saturday evening Award Banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn Airport, which is also the recommended hotel. At the Award Banquet our three international judges, Kunio Kobayashi (Japan), Farrand Bloch, (Belgium) and David Easterbrook (Canada) will announce the winners and present the cash awards. Finally a benefit auction will complete the evening's event.

Kunio Kobayashi from Japan and Marco Invernizzi from Italy will be demonstrating their bonsai magic on two large junipers at the exhibition. Dr. Alice Chen will show her techniques for Oriental brush painting.

Now is the time to chose your finest bonsai for the selection process and send me a photo. Bonsai displayed in the **1ST US National Bonsai Exhibition** cannot be shown this year. It is important to show different masterpiece bonsai and I'm interested in displaying more clinging-to-a-rock style, cascade style and flowering bonsai to provide seasonal beauty and diversity. All displayed bonsai will be featured in the *Commemorative Bonsai Album*. There is a \$50 entry fee for each selected bonsai or shohin bonsai display composition, which will be collected after your bonsai has been selected. Please send your photos to me for the selection process. *The deadline for submitting photos is April 15th.* Studio photos are not necessary and digital photos are preferred. Once your bonsai has been selected additional information will be provided.

I'm trying to assist bonsai artists transport their bonsai across the country and seeking a few dedicated people, especially from the entire West Coast who might be willing to drive a small truck or van (provided and with all expenses paid) to safely bring and return bonsai. If you or know of a friend who might like to see our country and assist with the transportation, kindly let me know. Or, if you have any other ideas please let me know.

We need all the help we can get for promoting and advertising the **2ND US National Bonsai Exhibition**. Attached is a flyer and I have several thousand available for you to distribute. Please let me know how many you would like for your use or group. The National Bonsai Exhibitions are sponsored by dedicated people and businesses. We could not accomplish this without this special group who sincerely want to support the American bonsai community. As in the past, financial support in any amount will be most welcome and needed. Sponsor names will be included in all advertising, promoted at the exhibition and will have an advertisement in the upcoming *Commemorative Bonsai Album*.

If you would like to financially support the **2ND US National Bonsai Exhibition** the donation categories are:

Sponsors: \$1,000 plus **Patrons:** \$500 plus **Benefactors:** \$100 plus **Donors:** Any amount appreciated

Any assistance you could provide for the success of the **2ND US National Bonsai Exhibition** would be gratefully appreciated. As you will notice we have the support of major bonsai artists, suppliers as well as organizations from around the world. With your assistance I'm certain the world again will be impressed with the high level of bonsai in the United States. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or ideas to make this event a success.

With Best Regards,

William N. Valavanis



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