

calendar of events

2001–2002

Sep 8–9, 2001	SCNF Seminar	Feb, 2002	NCNF Seminar San Jose State University
Oct 13–14, 2001	NCNF Championship San Jose State University	Mar, 2002	USNF Promotional Test USNF Board Meeting USNF General Meeting USNF Dan Examination San Jose State University
Nov, 2001	ECNF Seminar	Jun/Jul 2002	USNF Championship (Washington, D.C.) USNF Board Meeting USNF General Meeting USNF Dan Examination
Jan 20–23, 2002	Possible Tendo-ryu Seminar Assilomar, California		

naginata q&a

Here is a question you could be asked on a *dan* exam (English translation by Tanaka Sensei and Kurt Schmucker): Explain the concept of *kogishin* as it is used in Naginata.

Unlike Western culture in which the fox is considered a symbol of cunning and clever strategy, in Japanese culture, the fox's character is full of doubt. *Kogishin* 狐疑心 is literally, the doubt 疑心 of the fox 狐.

In Naginata, *kogishin* refers to the idea of conscious or reflective doubt. "If I try to hit my opponent's men, then my *sune* will be hit. Therefore, I shouldn't even try." This type of conscious doubt can forestall your own success and further development.

For non-Japanese, learning the concept of *kogishin* is one small example of how the study of Naginata can open one's eyes to cultures other than your own.

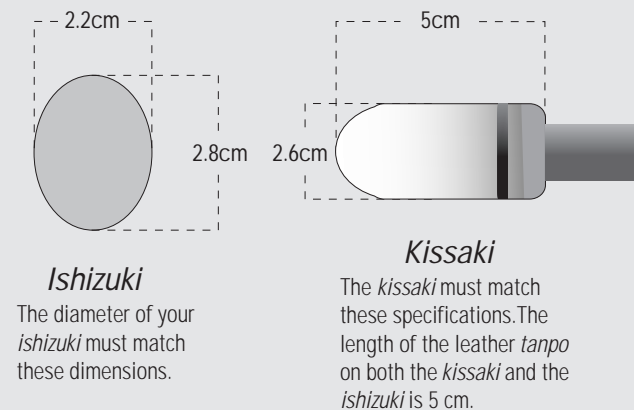
Feb, 2002
NCNF Seminar
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USNF Championship (Washington, D.C.)
USNF Board Meeting
USNF General Meeting
USNF Dan Examination

new regulation!

The INF has instituted new measurement standards for naginata. Beginning April 1, 2002, the *kissaki* and *ishizuki* of your practice weapon must conform to the following standards (NOTE: drawings are not to scale).



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Newsletter



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UNITED STATES NAGINATA FEDERATION, INC.

No. 5, August 10, 2001

inf seminar

The International Naginata Federation (INF) held three days of seminars June 29–July 1 at San Jose State University, San Jose, California. One full day of referee training was held for students holding the rank of *sandan* and above. One and a half days of training were held for students of all ranks. The INF conducted a *dan* test in the afternoon of July 1. The United States Naginata Federation (USNF) held a *kyu* test the same afternoon.

INF Referee Seminar

The first day of the INF seminar, lead by Funahara Sensei (*hanshi*), was dedicated to *shinpan* training. Students attending this day of training learned the correct way to perform basic cuts, then practiced judging each other's performance. Later in the day, lower-ranking students practiced *shiai* matches so that participants could practice referee skills. For some participants, this was their first time refereeing matches. While they still have much to learn, this day of practice was an invaluable experience for them.



Funahara Sensei (front) and Kimura Sensei.

INF Seminar

The rest of the INF seminar (Jun 30–Jul 1) was devoted to overall training for all levels. Instructors for this seminar were: Funahara Sensei (*hanshi*), Kimura Sensei, (*kyoshi*), Yoshida Sensei, (*kyoshi*), and Yaginuma Sensei, (*kyoshi*). Instruction was given in basic techniques, *shikake-oji*, training in *bogu* and for advanced students (*sandan* and above), training in *zen nihon kata*. This seminar attracted students from all over the United States. One participant traveled from Sweden to attend the seminar. A small contingent of students

accompanied the Japanese sensei and INF officials. In all, 57 people attended this seminar.

Promotional Tests

At the conclusion of training, promotional tests were held for both *dangai* and *yudansha* ranks. The USNF administered the *dangai* exams, while the INF administered testing up to *sandan* (see chart inside for results of promotions).

usnf seminar

The United States Naginata Federation (USNF) held its annual seminar June 27–28 at San Jose State University, San Jose, California. Holding its seminar immediately prior to the INF Seminar was a deliberate decision designed to give students the chance to attend a full week of Naginata training at once. The USNF's research had determined that students preferred to attend longer events to minimize travel costs and time away from work or school. Naginata students in the U.S. often live thousands of miles apart from each other and travel expenses can be formidable.

The seminar lasted one and one-half days and focused on teaching Naginata basics. Seminar instructors were: Tanaka Sensei (*kyoshi*), Yamauchi Sensei (*kyoshi*), Nakano Sensei (*renshi*), and Chiu Sensei (*renshi*). Training lasted until 5 or 6 p.m. every day. The gymnasiums were also available each evening until 10 p.m. for free practice. A special thanks goes out to Curt Sennewald (NCNF) who made all the facility arrangements for both seminars and provided logistic and security services for the group.



INF Seminar: June 30. Participants and instructors line up for the closing ceremony of the first day of the INF Seminar. photo: Karen Schmucker



UNITED STATES NAGINATA FEDERATION, INC.

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referee seminar photo gallery



INF Referee Seminar: Opening Ceremony for the INF Seminar. (left to right) Tanaka Sensei (*kyoshi*), Mrs. Kawamori (*INF Standing Director*), Funahara Sensei (*hanshi*), Kimura Sensei (*kyoshi*), Yoshida Sensei (*kyoshi*) and Yaginuma Sensei (*kyoshi*). **Photo:** John Prough



Classwork: Advanced students learn new regulations at the INF Seminar. **Photo:** John Prough



Lineup: Students prepare to begin the INF Referee Seminar. **Photo:** John Prough



Instruction: Students listen as Funahara Sensei explains a point. **Photo:** John Prough



Shiai Practice Judging: Intermediate students practice *shiai* at the INF Referee Seminar. Advanced students act as referees. **Photo:** John Prough

Students participating in
referee seminars
learn more than how to
assess **points**. In order
to correctly judge **strikes**
a referee must be able to
perform the
strike correctly.

seminar experiences

Yoursr Khalil, East Coast Naginata Federation

It is the greatest thing when the small details fall together and I can start to see the big picture. And that is exactly how I felt after the seminar in San Jose. These were my first USNF/INF seminars and compared to the regional seminars that I have attended, I know I learned a lot from those four days. I started training in Naginata in September 2000 and have developed my fair share of bad habits. I am not sure whether it was practicing 12 hours a day for four straight days, or the great feedback I got from everyone, but my attendance at the seminar apparently did the trick. My first time doing *jigeiko* and *kakarigeiko* was literally breathtaking. I was out of breath and panting; I wanted to be fast like everyone else around me, and managed to miss every other strike. The frustration I felt every time I was hit made me more determined to have at least one good strike.

Training with the Japanese sensei was a fascinating experience. The answers to my questions were simple and very effective and the satisfaction of getting an answer that actually fixed some of my problems is beyond description. I was finally able to look like I knew what I was doing; my movements were much easier to perform. Meeting everyone was great fun and a good experience.

Raquel Willey, Northern California Naginata Federation

I was fortunate to experience the June Naginata seminar for the first time. The first thing that struck me was how the spirit of all the sensei permeated the practice by the participants. I was impressed by everyone's commitment to excellence and I observed marked progress not just by me but by my comrades as well.

I've also observed differences between those who have practiced Naginata for a short while and those who have done it for a long time. It wasn't the kind or amount of correction each person received. What was different was the attitude of the ones who have practiced Naginata for a long time. I got the sense that they have taken their corrections in stride. They seem to take Naginata as a process, a way of growing and maturing without end. It was wonderful to see how practice of the art goes hand in hand with the virtues that this practice cultivates — patience, perseverance and intensity. It's the passion for Naginata that leads to real understanding of what living is all about.

Leslee Williams, Southern California Naginata Federation

The recent INF Seminar in San Jose was a wonderful opportunity to meet and, more importantly, train with two wonderful instructors: Funahara Sensei and Kimura Sensei. Under the keen eyes of these two wonderful sensei, I learned the importance of basics and the commitment to reinforcing good techniques. Funahara Sensei brought new insights to the subtleties of basic movements and reinforced the concept that foundation in body position and

footwork (*ashi sabaki*) results in success or failure of the technique. Kimura Sensei's coaching in *shikake-oji* brought greater understanding on how *harai* (parry) and *makiotoshi* (wrapping parry) are to be done. The subtlety of those movements still amazes me!

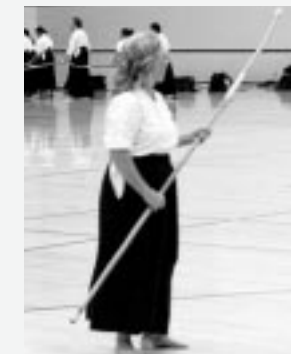
I returned to Florida having met some marvelous instructors, shared time with old friends and made new ones, enjoyed late night conversations, and ventured out late one evening to Ben and Jerry's for Cherry Garcia ice cream. What more could one ask for!



Yoursr Khalil. **Photo:** Ken Miyaki



Raquel Willey. **Photo:** Ken Miyaki



Leslee Williams **Photo:** Karen Schmucker



Jakob Ryngen **Photo:** Marcia Toyohara

Jakob Ryngen, Swedish Budo Federation

The first day of training made me aware of how much I really needed this seminar and how much I had to learn and relearn. Many sensei were very keen on commenting and teaching me, so I soon found myself practicing with one hand and writing down every new thing with the other (the pen can indeed be mightier than the sword and almost equal to a naginata). Just when I started to think I was getting a grip on what I was doing, it was time for the International seminar. Being the only one from Europe, I got a lot of attention and found notes and corrections in my notebook increasing at double speed. I had a very nice time and learned much more than I could write down. I would like to thank you all who helped me and especially Tanaka Sensei who did so much for all of us.

seminar photo gallery



USNF Seminar: The seminar begins with instruction in basic technique. Front: Kevin Tanner (RMNF) **Photo:** John Prough



Bogu Practice: Intermediate students practice strikes, June 30, 2001. **Photo:** Karen Schmucker



Shikake-oji: Jakob Ryngen (Sweden) and Nathan Scott (SCNF) practice at the INF Seminar, June 30, 2001. **Photo:** Karen Schmucker



Jigeiko: Stephanie Hoppe (NCNF) and Yoko Fujita (SCNF) practice June 30, 2001. **Photo:** Karen Schmucker



Shikake-oji: Ian Ono (SCNF) and Stephanie Hoppe (NCNF), June 30, 2001 **Photo:** Karen Schmucker



USNF Seminar: Tanaka Sensei instructs students in proper form. **Photo:** Ken Miyaki



Jigeiko: Maureen Hawk (NCNF) and Curt Sennewald (NCNF) practice June 30, 2001. **Photo:** Karen Schmucker



INF Seminar
Attendees, instructors and INF officials pose for a group photo following the closing ceremony. **Photo:** Ken Miyaki



Bogu Instruction: Intermediate students (*shodan-nidan*) receive instruction from Funahara Sensei at the INF Seminar. **Photo:** Karen Schmucker

usnf board meeting

The USNF Board of Directors met in San Jose on the evening of June 30, 2001. Discussions were held regarding both national and international events to take place over the next two years. A summary of those discussions follows.

USNF Seminar and Tournament 2002

The East Coast Naginata Federation (ECNF) will host the 2002 USNF Championship at George Mason University in Virginia (near Washington, D.C.). June 22–23 have tentatively been reserved for the event. ECNF will see if additional dates are available so that a four-day event can be held. More detailed information will be provided to the Board by Labor Day, 2001.

USNF Tryouts for 2003 *Taikai*

The tryout event will last one or two days, most likely over a weekend. Proposals for venues were requested. The slots to be filled are: Engi: 2 pair; Team matches (two teams): 3 men, 3 women per team; Individuals: 3 men, 3 women; and Rhythm naginata.

INF 2003 Third World Championship

The proposed sites for this event have been narrowed to two venues: San Jose State University or Hayward State University.

Kurt Schmucker reported the following things from the INF Board Meeting: the date for the *taikai* will be late June to mid-July 2003. The events will cover seven days and will include the championship tournament (1-day), a goodwill tournament (1-day), a multi-day seminar, referee seminar and *dan* testing up to *yondan*.

Naginata website update

Kurt Schmucker reported that the USNF website is once again up and running at www.naginata.org. It has been updated to include the last several USNF Board Meeting minutes, hundreds of new photos, newsletters and information on upcoming events.



Example of new photos on USNF Website.

Bogu requirement for *nikyu* dropped

Beginning April 1, 2002, the *bogu* portion of the test for *nikyu* will no longer be required. It was determined that it has not always been a requirement for that rank and that in the United States, beginning students do not have easy access to *bogu*, which makes test preparation difficult.

Payment of annual dues tied to regional representation

The Board discussed how regional representatives are chosen (one representative for every 10 members of a region). USNF By-laws further state that regions are allocated representatives based on the number of members in good standing at the start of each fiscal year (April 1). This means that regions that have not paid dues for their membership by April 1 are not legally entitled to representation on the Board. The Board voted to begin to strictly enforce this regulation beginning in 2002. **It will be vital that all dues are paid in full by April 1, 2002** or regions will lose their right to representation for the next twelve months.

Standardization of USNF Logo and Business System

Karen Schmucker made a presentation on the current state of USNF artwork. As a result of decisions following her presentation, the USNF logo has been modified and a new logotype has been created. Karen is setting up a new layout for the USNF business system based on the new artwork and creating templates for Board officers to use to create digital stationery.

From now on, this is the only official artwork sanctioned for printed or digital use. If you have an application needing the USNF logo or logotype, please contact Karen for the artwork and precise printing specifications (including color information). In future, an official copy of the artwork will reside with the USNF Executive Secretary.



UNITED STATES NAGINATA FEDERATION, INC.

New USNF Logo and Logotype (large version)



UNITED STATES NAGINATA FEDERATION, INC.

New USNF Logo and Logotype (small version)

inf promotions july 2001

Sandan

Yoko Fujita (SCNF)
Ian Ono (SCNF)
Jakob Ryngen (Sweden)

Nidan

Ray Sosnowski (ECNF)

Shodan

Chris Phelps (ECNF)
John Prough (ECNF)
Margaret Welsh (ECNF)

usnf promotions july 2001

3 kyu

Sophia Custodia (NCNF)
Yousr Khalil (ECNF)
Robert Hondrick (SCNF)
Erin Monroe (ECNF)

Masako Onishi (SCNF)
Julie Peterson (NCNF)
Don Zimmerman (SCNF)

regional events

Long Island Seminar and demo

On June 1–2, 2001, the ECNF hosted a Naginata seminar in Patchogue, New York. Miyako Tanaka Price and Satchiko Yamauchi Prough were the instructors. Ten students participated in this event, which included a *kyu* exam. On June 3, Tanaka Sensei and Yamauchi Sensei gave a demonstration of *Zen nihon kata* and *Tendo-ryu* Naginata at a karate tournament held nearby at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue City.

San Francisco Naginata Workshop

In early April 2001, the NCNF conducted a two-day workshop in Naginata as part of an inter-session enrichment class at Lick-Wilmerding High School in San Francisco, California. Miyako Tanaka Price and Marcia Toyohara were the instructors for this event in which sixteen Japanese language students enthusiastically participated in learning Naginata basics. The first day of the workshop was held in Tanaka Sensei's El Cerrito *dojo* and consisted of learning basic strikes, footwork and commands. The group had lunch together at a Japanese restaurant. Day two of the workshop took place in San Francisco, in the students' school gym. Tanaka Sensei continued to teach basics as well as *uchi-kaeshi*. The NCNF is looking forward to participating in this event again next year.

Berkeley, California Demonstration

On Sunday, May 29, 2001, the NCNF gave a demonstration at the Annual Satsuki Arts Festival and Bazaar at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple. Miyako Tanaka Price lead the group in a demonstration of *happo-buri*, followed by a demonstration of *shikake-oji*, *zen nihon kata* and *Tendo-ryu* Naginata. A short demonstration of *shiai* techniques was also conducted. Participants included: Miyako Tanaka Price, Malyne Chiu, Marcia Toyohara and Maureen Hawk. This is an annual event for the Northern California group.

Nakayoshi Gakko demonstration

On July 2, 2001, members of the Rocky Mountain and East Coast Naginata Federations joined members of the Northern California Naginata Federation in a 45-minute demonstration for the *Nakayoshi Gakko* (Friendship School) at the Buddhist Temple in Mountain View, California. The *Nakayoshi Gakko* is an annual event, which consists of a week of classes and demonstrations in various aspects of Japanese culture and art. Nearly 100 schoolchildren enthusiastically attended the naginata demo with nearly a third of the children participating in a hands-on portion. Kurt Schmucker (NCNF) narrated the demonstration and showed basic techniques. Diana and Steven Payne (RMNF), Fran Vall (ECNF), Stephanie Hoppe, Marcia Toyohara and Karen Schmucker (NCNF) performed *happo buri*, *shikake-oji*, and basics in *bogu* for the children.

international contacts

USNF Member visits Australia

Dan Garrett (NCNF) recently had the opportunity to travel to Australia on official business (Dan was named "Sailor of the Year" in the Navy Reserves) and was able to fit in a Naginata practice in Sydney. Dan's own account of his visit follows.

"I met with members of a local *dojo* (Dean Hawthorne, Ross, Simon Larsen, Tony Wilson, Sensei Masako Strenger, and Sensei Daniel Strenger) who practice the martial art of Naginata, some of whom I'd met in Paris in 1999 at an international tournament. Sensei Denny Strenger and I practiced *zen nihon kata* with the solid oak weapons in the practice hall adjoining their house. This practice was really thrilling to me as it gave me the opportunity to foster a spirit of international cooperation for both my military Reserve community and my extended Naginata 'family'."

"The *dojo* we practiced in was a recent addition to the Strenger's house and it is huge. There was a nice turnout for practice, which was arranged specifically for my visit. They were very nice to adapt to my everchanging military schedule. As it was, I was an hour late getting off the train from Canberra that morning, getting my *keikogi* and *hakama*, and getting another train to North Sydney. We had a pleasant practice with plenty of *shiai* practice."



Dan Garrett with his Australian Friends: (from left) Dean Hawthorne, Ross, Simon Larsen, Dan Garrett, Tony Wilson, Sensei Masako Strenger, and Sensei Daniel Strenger) Photo: courtesy of Dan Garrett.