

The KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



As I See It...

By Eric Percifield

November welcomed us with beautiful fall color, a refreshing chill in the air, and a great demo by relatively new bonsai master Peter Macasieb. Peter showed us the proper techniques for working with and styling natural California Juniper in the Bunjin style. Bunjin is an informal style, typically with slender trunked trees with few lower branches. Bunjin style alludes to an extremely harsh growing environment and is very visually interesting and minimalistic. Peter's demo tree was raffled off at the end of the meeting, and lucky raffle winner Gloria Downey took home a great tree to add to her collection; congratulations Gloria!

As many of you know, we are planning a Yamadori dig with world-class bonsai master Harry Hirao. Sansui-Kai is proud to coordinate this once in a lifetime opportunity to learn from a nationally recognized bonsai artist about how to prepare, obtain, and care for material collected from a natural setting. More details about the trip will be announced at the December meeting. If you are interested in participating, please see me sometime during the December meeting to be added to the list, if you haven't done so already. Also please let me know if you have a truck, van or SUV and would be able to carpool and help transport material. Harry will also lead our December demo, see the article by Show Chair Elliott Farkas for details.

Harry Hirao Visits SSK In December



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Roy Nagatoshi knocking everyone out with his GSBF demo
(photo by DK)

December Refreshments

- Dan Kashinsky
- Gloria Grace
- Al

December Niche

- Michael Jonas

November Presentation Peter Macasieb Creating a California Juniper Bunjin



Gloria seems pleased winning the raffle tree. (Photos by DK)

Bunjin is a “stick in the pot”. The trunk need not be big in fact tall and slender for easy bending is the best. Most foliage should be at the top and overall foliage should be sparse. The tree he brought to work on is a California juniper. Peter has been collecting California juniper with the bonsai icon Harry Hario for many years. He spoke of Harry’s generosity as a teacher. Harry taught that bonsai knowledge must be shared. Last year Peter collected over 100 trees. He sometimes looks for branches that have sprung some roots and cuts the branch off leaving the rest of the California juniper in the ground. These California cuttings have a good rate of taking.

He leaves the California in a pot for 5-6 years and when repotting never takes more than 1/2 the root ball. Bare rooting is when you lose the tree.

Peter usually uses raffia for 360-degree trunk bends to prevent bark cracking in making a bunjin.

He prefers Green King fertilizer from the House of Bonsai. He has experienced Osmocote breaking down in heat and burning the roots.

Peter recommends we always show the movement of the live vein in the bunjin. My impression of Peter is that he is gracious and generous man, glad for his opportunity to learn and share what he knows and to create beauty. Thanks to Elliott Farkas for arranging his visit to SSK.

Lucky Gloria won the tree in raffle.

GSBF RECAP by Karyen Cavanagh

Presented as an attachment to your email



Naka Notes

All deciduous trees should be dormant by now. If you haven't removed their leaves and fruit, do it this month.

Conifers are not dormant in southern California because it doesn't get cold enough in the Los Angeles area to put them into dormancy.

Be sure to protect any semi-tropicals such as Ficus and Bougainvillea trees by placing them under a bench or a shade tree or under shade cloth.

Be sure not to over water at this season. Dormant trees use very little water but don't let them dry out completely either. If a tree freezes do not water it until it thaws out. It is better to thaw the tree in an environment that is only a few degrees above freezing.

Evergreen trees can be given fertilizer that is high in potassium and phosphorous but low in nitrogen. Do not fertilize deciduous trees.

Trimming and wiring can be done at this season but remember that branches are more brittle. Trimming and pinching of conifers should be done this month. Clean out the interior growth to allow for light so back budding will occur. Deciduous trees are better left alone lest they break dormancy. Any new growth would likely freeze in the coming months. Do clean out the pots of trash and weeds. This debris is a source of insect growth. Consider winter dormant spray such as lime sulfur in dilute form with the roots covered with cloth. Avoid using lime sulfur on acid loving plants such as camellia and azalea.

This a good month to graft conifers so if you have some Shimpaku juniper stock that you want to graft to a California juniper now is the time to do it.

This is also a good month to dig native trees.



Can you guess this GSBF show bonsai creator (free ticket)?
(photo by DK)



Eric Club President
in repose
(photo by DK)



Sonja, Karyen and Dan
Winners a GSBF Raffle
(photo by MJ)

Photos From The SSK Meeting And From GSBF



Elliot's pyracantha blooms for the SSK niche display
(photo by DK)



Mitch at Jim Barrett's black pine workshop at GSBF
(photo by DK)



Familiar faces and backs working on the district D styling contest for GSBF

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What's Ahead

NICHE DECEMBER Michael Jonas	Winter Silhouettes January 13,14 15 Arboretum
REFRESHMENTS Dan, Gloria, Grace & Al	DEC 27 - JAN 1 Viewing Stones Huntington
FEBRUARY 25-26 Bonsai-a-Thon Huntington	FEBRUARY 3 - 5 California Shohin Considered One of the Best

Membership

Sansui-Kai is dedicated to the learning, use and teaching of the horticulture techniques and artistic principles needed to grow, design and care for bonsai.

Regular membership is \$22.

www.sansui-kai.com

Michael Jonas Webmaster