



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

*From Michael Jonas
Treasurer*

January is the time we call for nominations for election to the five club officer positions: President, Vice-President, 2d Vice-President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. The officers and chairpersons make up the Board, which meets before the regular club meetings and handles all of the club business. At the January meeting we will ask for nominations or volunteers for these positions from the membership and we will vote on them at the February 4 meeting.

If you are interested in showing a deciduous tree that is in its no-leaf winter condition at Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai's Winter Silhouettes Exhibition, please bring it to the January 7 meeting when we'll decide who gets the honor of representing the club. A dead tree, no matter how elegant, is not eligible.

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Marco Invernizzi Visits

by Dick Beltran

On December 3, 2008, Sansui Kai hosted world-renowned bonsai artist, Marco Invernizzi, of Italy.

His demonstration piece was a mature prostrata juniper 30-inches tall, with a base diameter of about 4-inches and little taper to the top of the trunk.

The piece appears to have been wrapped around a stake when younger, thus creating a helical shaped trunk with branches emanating from the outside of each major curve.

Marco discussed shari, the bark-free areas on a tree's trunk or major branches, and jin, bark-free secondary or tertiary branches, and the tree's life lines.

The locations of lifelines are suggested by swellings on the trunk. Areas of "trenches" between lifeline swellings are where shari may be created.

Marco emphasized the necessity of creating natural-looking jin by splitting the short branches instead of scraping them bare. He cautioned that jinned branches must dry out thoroughly before applying lime sulphur.

Marco removed the tree from a 20-gallon nursery pot and raked the soil surface to expose nebari or rootage, and to establish the true height of the tree. He found the major rootage approximately 4-inches below the original soil level.

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Marco Invernizzi Visit

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Marco noted that earlier pre-bonsai shaping did not thwart the juniper's natural tendency toward vigorous top growth. Thus, the apex structure was as broad as the rest of the tree's envelope. Excessive top growth prevented development of significant base-to-apex taper in the trunk.

Marco gave a tutorial on options for selecting the tree's front, and solicited extensive input from members.

He discussed options for styling each major branch, and removed much of the existing apex branching.

Member Michael Jonas assisted by sawing off a large section of the apex structure. Some remaining apex branches were too dry and brittle, so he left further work on the area for later.

He then shortened or removed sections of each lower branch, leaving secondary twigging to encourage new growth of the branches in the desired directions.

Finally Marco applied one guy wire to pull a limb down in position.

Michael Jonas took the tree home to care for it until Marco returns to Sansui Kai.

-Dick Beltran

Invernizzi Workshop

Marco Invernizzi also led a day-long workshop December 3 at the Encino home of Sansui Kai member Joe Pando.

Marco guided more than 12 bonsai artists from various local clubs in the artistic development of bonsai trees from their personal collections.



Joe Pando assists Marco Invernizzi in removing topsoil and exposing nebari. The major roots are revealed four inches below the original soil level.



Club members join in the choice of options for the tree's front.



First stage of development complete.

Photos by Michael Jonas



Naka Notes

by Jack G Reynolds

January is a good month to study the structure and style of your deciduous trees and in nature. I have learned a lot from studying the local deciduous oaks around my home in Lake Isabella. They are very old and have wonderful drooping branches with interesting curves. Whenever I am out among the trees, I take note of the best ones to see what it is that makes them attractive.

We've had some rain (or in my case snow) so most of the trees are damp. Do not rely completely on the rains however. Watch carefully to keep your trees damp, but not wet. Don't water pots that are frozen. Too much overhead watering of pines can promote the dreaded needle cast fungus so I would not do it at this season. Be sure to keep your tropical trees under some protection from frost. You can even put them in your garage for a few days during particularly cold periods. Bringing them into the house for more than a week or two is risky because the warmth may stimulate them to put on new buds that will freeze off when the trees are put out.

The only trees that need fertilizer at this season are conifers, which do not go completely dormant in southern California, a slow release 5-5-5 or some such should be good. Soil amendments such as gypsum can be applied now to loosen compact soils. Now is the time to do your first application of lime sulfur dormant spray to all your dormant deciduous trees. A second one will be done in February. The purpose of lime sulfur dormant spray is to kill leaf curl disease as well as the eggs of many parasitic insects that may have been deposited on the bark.

Wiring, particularly of deciduous trees may be done this month but be careful of the brittle branches. Drastic shaping should be left for the spring.

Do not transplant anything at this season. Wait another month or two. One can get soil mixes made up and sharpen tools etc. This is a good month to collect native trees.

As I See It

From Michael Jonas (continued from page 1)

Dues are now payable. Please see Member Chair, Russell Benson at the meeting, or mail your payment to him at 1947 Mount Olympus Dr, Los Angeles 90046. Dues remain \$22 Regular, \$27 Family, and \$7 Corresponding Membership.

Let us know your ideas for the Annual Dinner April 1. We are looking at a return to the Odyssey, or a change of venue; luncheon buffet, or the traditional catered dinner.

California Bonsai Society is offering a free program at the Huntington Gardens on Saturday January 24, featuring Kathy Shaner. See the website for more information.

GSBF Golden Statements is holding a subscription drive. This magazine is a great way to keep up with bonsai in California, the GSBF Conventions and Collections, and it is rapidly becoming a beautiful, collectable magazine.

Events of Interest

Winter Silhouettes

The 45th Annual Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Exhibition presented by Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai is Saturday and Sunday January 17 and 18 from 10 am to 4:30 pm at the Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles Arboretum, 310 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

This annual exhibition will include a tree representing Sansui-Kai, and members are encouraged to bring a deciduous tree to the January 7 meeting. The membership will vote to decide which tree will represent the club.

The event features a reception Saturday evening from 6:30 to 9 pm, demonstrations, sales, food, raffles, and this year, a special tribute to deceased bonsai master, Kaz Yoneda.

Bonsai-A-Thon

The Golden State Bonsai Federation will present its annual Bonsai-A-Thon February 28 through March 1 (Saturday and Sunday) 10:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

The event includes demonstrations by internationally recognized bonsai masters, exhibition, sales, workshops, and a live auction. For information, call 626-405-2128.

Kaz Murai Grafting

On February 4 Hank Fawcett is calling on Kaz Murai to do a grafting demonstration on a cascade juniper for the meeting on the 4th.

SANSUI-KAI Administration

PRESIDENT

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1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Position Open

TREASURER:

Michael Jonas (818) 776-0813
mjonas48@hotmail.com

SECRETARY:

Karyen Cavanagh
karyenc@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Russell Benson (323) 633-3461
rb2step@aol.com

KAI WIRE EDITOR:

Mary Tatro (818) 885-0180
emteechicago@yahoo.com

SUNSHINE GUY:

Frank Cuva (818) 363-1344
cuvafitness@sbcglobal.net

PAST PRESIDENT: Milton Huckaby

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WEBSITE

www.sansui-kai.com

What's Ahead

Wednesday January 7

7:30 PM MEETING

Presentation: Jack Reynolds' Bonsai in China
Refreshments: June Matthews, Jack Reynolds, Mary Tatro
Niche: Michael Jonas

Wednesday February 4

7:30 PM MEETING

Kaz Murai
Grafting Demonstration

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. Family membership is \$27. Corresponding membership is \$7 limited to any previous club member now living outside a 50-mile radius of the meeting place.