



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

From Milton Huckaby

This month we are starting a new venture. Mary Tatro has agreed to take over the responsibility of publishing the KAI WIRE. Mary is new to Sansui-Kai, so be helpful in any way you can to make the transition as easy as possible. She is versed in computers and publishing but needs information to keep you up to date on the workings of the club. So be generous with your information, help, and support. Contact her at emteechicago@yahoo.com with any ideas, suggestions or contributions to *Kai Wire*.

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Peter Warren Workshop October 3, 9am-6pm

European Bonsai Artist Peter Warren is making Sansui-Kai one of his stops on his first US tour. He is doing a daylong workshop at the Granada Hills home of Member Denny Roche from 9 am to 6 pm Wednesday, October 3.

The daytime workshop fee is \$25. Contact Michael Jonas at (818) 776-0813 to reserve a place.

Following the workshop, Warren will demonstrate his talents at the club's monthly meeting at The Japanese Garden.

Peter Warren apprenticed full time over four years with Japan's most noted Bonsai Master, Kunio Kobayashi at his renowned Shunkaen Garden.

“As a bonsai artist I want to create trees that look natural. For me the ideal is to attain “the artless art.”” Warren also is a collector of antique bonsai pots which he believes are elemental to the art.

To learn more, visit his website at www.saruyama.co.uk

THE START OF SOMETHING BIG!

The Sansui Kai meeting September 5, 2007 featured something a little different from the usual demonstration, wherein an “instant bonsai” is produced, or at least roughed out, by the demonstrator in the few hours available in one evening.

Program Chair Hank Fawcett and Michael Jonas, in collaboration with local well-known and respected bonsai sensei, Ted Matson, planned a program designed to produce a larger, more finished bonsai over a longer period of time.

The presentation focused on the selection and preparation of raw bonsai stock. Ted reviewed each of five specimen candidates’ characteristics

The first specimen was a Prostrata juniper. It reflected earlier training in the informal upright style. Because of the girth of trunk and branches, little could be done to change/improve the basic shape of this specimen, although stripping bark from the branches and trunk could create dramatic flowing jin and shari.

The next specimen was an Itoigawa Shimpaku juniper graft. The straight mid-section of the trunk would preclude a clean bonsai design and the high graft point would allow new sprouts from below the graft different from the grafted material.

Number three specimen was a European Olive, with a straight trunk, a base diameter of about 2.5 inches. This specimen came from a Golden State Bonsai Federation workshop/dig and would require an estimated five years to become a reasonable bonsai.

The fourth specimen, estimated 40-50 years old, was a Prostrata juniper with a 2 inch diameter base, a very dramatic curvature of the trunk, secondary and tertiary branches forming a low-profile envelope about 18 inches high and 36 inches wide.

Number five specimen was a Tamarisk, 24 inches tall suitable for designing a weeping style bonsai.

A show of hands selected the fourth specimen, the old Prostrata juniper.



Ted Matson, a 30-year California bonsai artist, teacher and author began work Sept. 5 on a 50-year old Prostrata juniper acquired by Sansui-Kai as a three-year demonstration project for the club’s membership.

Photo by Michael Jonas

Ted began by removing obvious shoots, unwanted crotch growth, and bottom growth, using tweezers. He thinned out upward growing sprouts and other coarse branching not contributing to the foliage pads/layers.

Because of the age-induced hardness/brittleness of the branching, Ted planned on using guy wires to relocate selected branches. He stressed a natural appearance, proposing a “tortoise shell” envelope for the final design shape.

Ted will be working on the tree at home and will see that it is returned to Sansui-Kai for the December 2007 meeting with suggestions for continued work. Stay tuned!

-Dick Beltran

From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)

The dog days of summer are just about over and the nights are starting to cool down. The air conditioner hasn't been on in three days as we have security screens and open the doors at night to cool the house down. The trees also are reflecting the shorter days and cooler nights as they no longer are growing like weeds. None of the trees have started to turn color, but I expect it to happen soon.

The GSBF Convention is October 31 thru November 4. I sent my registration in as soon as I got the information in the mail and was rewarded by getting both workshops I requested. There are still workshops available but you will need to act soon to get your picks.

Hank Fawcett and the board have developed a program of outstanding daylong master workshops plus demonstrations for the monthly meetings that are piquing the interest of even our most seasoned members.

In talking to Denny Roche, he stated that he was very pleased with the turn out to help in maintaining the trees at the Japanese Garden pavilion.

New memberships are increasing during this year. However, we still need to fill two positions on the board to have a full complement.

Master Workshop November 19

Sansui-Kai is sponsoring a workshop with European Bonsai Master Marco Invernizzi **Monday, November 19, 2007.** The daylong workshop will be held at the Granada Hills home of Sansui-Kai Member and Curator of The Los Angeles Japanese Garden bonsai collection, Denny Roche.

Marco Invernizzi is regarded Europe's youngest bonsai master.

The Italian-born artist has been studying bonsai since 1991 and apprenticed in Japan with Bonsai Master Masahiko Kimura.

Marco Invernizzi is associated with the Willowbog Bonsai Center and the Marco Invernizzi Bonsai School in Northumberland England.

Register now by contacting Michael Jonas at 818-776-0813. Or ask him at the next meeting to save you a space. Workshop price will be based on the number of participants, so register early!

Naka Notes by Jack Reynolds

This is the month to begin the fall work on pines and other conifers.

For the pines remove all the old dead needles and cut back new candles to only a few needle bundles (three at the top of the tree and up to five at the bottom). Do not cut weak branches.

How many candles you leave is determined by your design goals for the tree, and whether the new growth is on the outer limits of the tree or interior. New or fresh needles should remain until December or January. Leaving these new healthy needles on through the fall should keep the tree at it's best.

Any deciduous trees that have lost their foliage may be trimmed to shape and have their branches wired, but remember that branches are stiffer in the fall than in the spring so be careful.

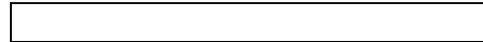
Fruits and berries should be removed from trees. A few may be left for enjoyment.

Fertilize for dormancy with low nitrogen fertilizers such as cottonseed meal, bone meal, or fertilizer that is 0-10-10 or 0-5-5.

Start choosing trees for next spring's show.

Repotting and potting from nursery container to bonsai pot can be safely done at this time for black pines and junipers. Repotting flowering and fruiting bonsai from bonsai pot to bonsai pot can be done, providing the root ball is not drastically disturbed and the tree is reasonably healthy.

Don't let the plants get too wet as this will promote root rot since the tree is not actively growing. Watch for fungus, spider mites, and scale.



SANSUI-KAI Administration

PRESIDENT: *(position open)*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT:

Hank Fawcett (818) 705-1272

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Michael Jonas (818) 776-0813

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October Niche: Mort Lowy

What's Ahead

October

3- Peter Warren Workshop

**3- Monthly Meeting
Peter Warren Demo**

November

**7- Monthly Meeting
Cesario Perez Demo**

19- Marco Invernizzi Workshop

December

**5- Monthly Meeting
Bob Pressler Demo**