



# THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## As I See It

*From Milton Huckaby  
Past President*

Fall is definitely here. Everything that points to a slow down is in evidence. Cool breezes, lower temperatures, less sunlight mean less time is needed to keep the trees healthy. However, this is the time to get ready for what is to come next year. More time can be spent observing, allowing the life cycle to unfold, and planning, as the trees get older. This is somewhat like the cycle of our own lives.

As we get older, fewer changes are needed to maintain our needs. Except for our ears, almost all parts of our bodies stop growing, expanding girth not withstanding. Brain function is the single most important quality of our body.

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## CALIFORNIA JUNIPER: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

*by Dick Beltran*

Jack Reynolds on October 1<sup>st</sup> treated Sansui Kai members and guests to an enlightening demonstration of the techniques and procedures for enhancing and improving an aged California Juniper pre-bonsai.

The demonstration piece was approximately 18 inches tall with a base diameter of 2 1/2 inches, and planted in a 50-percent scoria and pumice mix in a cut-down 5-gallon nursery can.

There were 3 or 4 stubs of dead branches located at the lower 1/4 point on one side of the mostly deadwood trunk, and live foliage and several small dead stubs emanating from the upper 3/4 point of the trunk lifeline on the opposite side.

Senior Member Jack Reynolds supplied the demonstration piece from his own collection, and made a few comments regarding his acquisition and preliminary training of the tree before stating his plan for the evening demonstration.

His plan was to trim the foliage slightly, strip the dead bark from the trunk, expose/define the lifeline, and jin some or all of the dead stubs.

Per his plan, Jack started removing downward growing shoots, leaving horizontally directed shoots to be wired later into semi-flat pads.

He noted that this season is the time for juniper trimming/styling.

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## Up Close and Personal *(Continued from Page 1)*

Jack made the general statement that the lifeline should be visible from the front of the tree.

Using a branch cutter, he reduced the lower stubs, breaking them off to produce a natural appearance. He then used a dremel tool to refine/define the stubs and grooves and other interesting features of the trunk.

Jack generously donated the tree to the raffle, recommending the winner of the tree allow the foliage to grow out to increase the final size of the limbs. He also suggested planting the tree in a training pot for the first year, and finally in a 2-inch deep, 12-inch diameter drum pot.

A delighted Gloria Downie won the demonstration piece.



### Jack's Juniper

*Jack Reynolds styles his California Juniper in his October 1 demonstration for Sansui-Kai members. Following the demonstration, the tree was awarded to Gloria Downie, whose name was drawn in the club's monthly raffle.*

*Photo by Michael Jonas*



***Jack rips Juniper jin, while Dick Beltran gets up close and personal***



***Foliage growth, training and a move to a pot are in the future of the demonstration tree***

*Photos by Michael Jonas*



## *Naka Notes*

*by Jack G Reynolds*

Many trees will go dormant this month, but the unseasonable warmth we have been having may require we still pay close attention.

Put deciduous trees into shade and strip leaves if they have not fallen naturally by now.

Conifers will not be dormant and will need attention. Pines should be candle pruned this month if they were not done last month. All old growth needles should be removed as well as any long unsightly needles. Cut back to three to five bundles of needles. Leave fewer on the top branches and more on the bottom ones. Junipers can be pinched as always.

Frost is a good possibility in some locations so be sure that tropical trees are protected by placing them under a bench or under a shade tree. If necessary, be prepared to bring them indoors on cold nights.

Water less. Dormant trees do not need as much water because they have no leaves or the leaves they do have are transpiring less.

It is all right to fertilize conifers this month but a waste of time on the deciduous trees. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer such as cottonseed meal with a little bone meal added or something about 5-5-5. Keep in mind the old nurseryman's truth that any fertilizer is better than no fertilizer.

Do not transplant anything this month. October is the last safe month for that. Wiring can be done on conifers but deciduous trees will be too brittle.

Native trees can be collected this month.

### *As I See It*

*From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)*

As we get older, we retire and the normal activities slow down. It is not necessary to keep the constant fight of raising a family, paying bills, and saving for the future. We relax and let the world go on its way. WRONG.

This is the time to take on new projects to replace the old ones that have sustained you. Each person has his idea of what is important. The future will vary for each one, but these activities, whatever they are, are critical.

Get involved with something and put as much effort into it as you did when you were "making a living."

Wake up in the morning with more to do than you can possibly get done. Look to the future with enthusiasm. A good model to follow is the bonsai master still planting seeds in his 90's.

See you on your 100th birthday.

## Events of Interest

### Ted Matson's Next Move

Ted Matson will continue his staged development of the club's Prostrata juniper in his demonstration at the club's regular monthly meeting November 5.

In August 2007, Ted began the tree's evolution with preliminary shaping in its nursery pot. He repotted the tree in February 2008 and progressed with interior pruning. On November 5, Ted will demonstrate his next phase in the three-year plan for the tree's basic development.

### Italian Master Returns

Events Director Hank Fawcett has put in a bid to attract Marco Invernizzi, Europe's youngest bonsai master, to a December Sansui-Kai demonstration and workshop.

The young master's California tour schedule still is in process. Hank is aiming for a December date. Ideally, that would be the club's regular meeting date or a special meeting. Last year, Marco Invernizzi donated his demonstration tree and it sold at a Club auction for \$850.

### Jack's Truly Excellent Vacation

While visiting China in August for the Olympics, Jack Reynolds explored the country's bonsai collections. What he found is that although the Chinese originated the art form, it is markedly different than Japanese process. The Nature of Bonsai in China is a photo presentation Jack is preparing for Sansui-Kai members for a future date.

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### WEBSITE

[www.sansui-kai.com](http://www.sansui-kai.com)

## What's Ahead

**Wednesday  
November 5**

### 7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration Ted Matson  
 Third Stage Prostrata Juniper  
*Refreshments: Mort Lowy,  
 Grace Sy, Michael Jonas,  
 Victor Wong*  
 Niche: Grace Sy

**Wednesday  
December 3**

### 7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration TBA

### 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.*