



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

From Milton Huckaby
Past President

With the last two years being so dry and with virtually no rain this year we knew that it was coming. Fire needs three things: fuel, temperature and oxygen.

The resulting consequences and tragedies to mankind are just as devastating whether it was natural or man-made.

When fire is controlled it can be one of the most beneficial assets, but when out of control, it devours and lays waste to everything it comes into contact with until one of the three needed items is withdrawn.

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BONSAI WITH A TWIST OF LIME

by Dick Beltan

Wednesday evening, October 3rd Sansui Kai had the honor of hosting bonsai expert Peter Warren, originally from North Yorkshire, England.

Peter's outstanding credentials include a four-year apprenticeship under Japanese Bonsai Master Kunio Kobayashi.

He is currently on tour in the U.S. and is conducting several workshops in our neck of the woods.

The material chosen for the Sansui-Kai demonstration was a Prostrata juniper. It had a three-inch diameter base, two major sub-trunks emanating from a point four inches above the soil line, an overall height of twenty inches, and a spread of thirty-six inches.

The nursery specimen was growing in a five-gallon can where it had been for an appreciable amount of time. It was seriously overgrown.

To begin the demonstration, Peter's first action was to remove small dead twigs and roots to expose the lower portion of the trunk structure for examination. Demonstrator and audience consensus favored removal of the larger of the two sub-trunks because the smaller one had more dramatic movement and taper potential. The smaller trunk approximated a helix such as might be formed by winding a young sapling around a stake to create a multi-directional movement as the material matures.

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Bonsai With a Twist *Continued from Page 1*

Peter continued defining the proposed informal-upright shape by removing unnecessary branches and foliage from the selected trunk and shortening several oversized apical shoots to be jinned later.

Then he cleaned off all of the side branches from the larger trunk and left it to be treated later in the demonstration, when it's length would be reduced by 2/3 and the stub, along with a shorter, adjacent one, would be jinned.

Following the removal of all remaining superfluous branches and foliage from the selected trunk, Peter attacked the larger one, cutting the upper portion off 5-6 inches from the junction of the two.

He then cut through the bark around the base of that stub, and around the base of the shorter stub noted earlier, and peeled the bark from both. He continued the operation by repeatedly splitting the ends of the stubs and peeling the split ends to produce natural-appearing jin. Peter prefers this "split-and-peel" jinning method to the use of electrical tools.

Following completion of that process, he turned his attention back to the primary structure of the composition.

Again using the "split-and-peel" method, he jinned the apical stubs created earlier when removing all of the top growth.

He wired all remaining side branches to lower them and create interesting curves in each. He reduced the foliage masses at the branch ends, to encourage back budding.

The apex was created by turning up a small twig just below the front of the jinned top cluster of stubs.

Because of the overgrown nature of the original material, the "final" result was sparse, but showed the artistry of the demonstrator in the shape, styling, and technique apparent in the "final" product. Several seasons of growth-trimming cycles will be required to complete the basic design.

The demonstration piece was placed in the drawing where yours truly won it.

-Dick Beltran

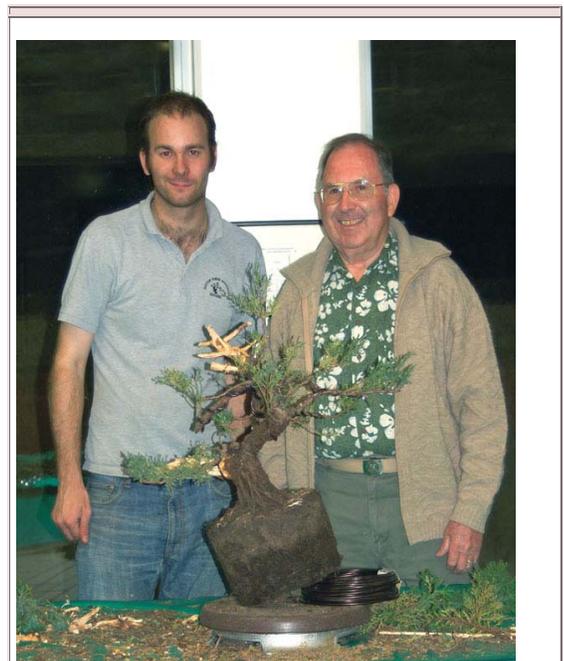


Photo by Michael Jonas

British Bonsai Artist Peter Warren, styled a Prostrata juniper October 3rd won by Dick Beltran following the demonstration.

A Rising Star

The first Peter Warren workshop October 3rd, held at Denny Roche's home, was attended by Michael Jonas, Hank Fawcett, Frank Cuva, Gloria Downey, Russell Benson, Joe Pando and Nat Stein, of Conejo Valley and Descanso Bonsai Societies. A lot of redesign work was accomplished by Peter and the attendees.

The first workshop was such a success, a second Peter Warren workshop was held at Karen Cavanagh's home October 17. Peter helped Mort Lowy, Russell Benson, Mary Tatro, Gloria Downey, Al Espinosa, Rita Ractliffe and Karen Cavanagh to style their trees. Peter's teaching style allowed each to gain some insight into their own trees and to be able to visualize a plan for their continuing growth.

-Michael Jonas

From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)

This will probably be the largest and most devastating fire that Southern California has ever experienced.

I am sure that a number of our bonsai friends will have been adversely affected and we feel for their losses and hope that they can recover from whatever misfortune that may have arisen.

Most of you know that my wife Marilyn has been quite ill for some time.

We are in the process of correcting the problem and for the time being I will only be attending functions when the opportunity is such that it is proper for me to do so.

Marilyn has good days and bad days with either being present at any given time. Being that the situation can change at a moments notice, I cannot plan any activities in advance.

Marco Invernizzi Workshop and Demonstration November 19

A daytime workshop 9 AM to 6PM with European Bonsai Master Marco Invernizzi is scheduled for Monday, November 19 at Denny Roche's Granada Hills home. Registration is \$60. **Register now by contacting Michael Jonas at (818) 776-0813.**

A second Sansui-Kai meeting is set for November 19 at 7:30 PM, at which Invernizzi will do a demonstration for club membership. To learn more about Marco Invernizzi, go to www.marcoinvernizzi.com and click on the horse.

Newsletter Content, Format Open for Suggestions

The GSBF Convention will no doubt be an interesting story for *Kai Wire* readers who could not attend. Make note of your most brilliant observations for the next issue and become a published author! Just contact me, **Kai Wire Editor Mary Tatro at the next meeting, or call me at (818) 885-0180 or e-mail at emteechicago@yahoo.com.** Your contributions are invited and eagerly anticipated.

As Milton Huckaby is scaling back his information column each month, I am in need of eyes experienced in the bonsai community to give advance (yes, a whole month in advance) notice of news of interest to *Kai Wire* readers. Many of you are involved, informed, know folks, and hear the news first hand. Please make note of your information and use *Kai Wire* as a vehicle to share the word with others.

Give **Dick Beltran** a handshake (or a hug, if he'll let you) for his articulate and knowledgeable summations of the monthly demonstrations. His articles make *Kai*

Wire a "keeper" not only for members but others who have an interest in bonsai. Dick is a jewel in our crown – himself a keeper!

Thank you for your comments on the new *Kai Wire* look. It is a work in progress, and I appreciate all ideas and suggestions. With your help, we will improve our newsletter with every issue. My newness to the area means I am more reliant on y'all and that's a good thing.

One suggestion of interest is that the newsletter be e-mailed to members. It would save the time, money and energy involved in mailing. **Send me your e-mail address, if that is an option for you.** Understandably, some may want to continue receiving hard copy, in which case, we would keep the "snail mail" option. Bring your thoughts and comments to the **next meeting November 7** and share them, call or e-mail!

-Mary Tatro

Naka Notes by Jack Reynolds

Many trees will go dormant this month but with unseasonably warm weather, some may need help.

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

Conifers will not be dormant and will need attention. Pines should be candled this month if they were not done last month. All old 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 tropicals are protected by placing them under a bench or 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.

Native trees can be collected this month, but do not transplant anything -- October is the last month for that. Wiring can be done on conifers but deciduous will be too brittle.

SANSUI-KAI Administration

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PAST PRESIDENT: Milton Huckaby

REFRESHMENTS: Sonja Kobler

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.

What's Ahead

November 7 7:30 PM MEETING
Cesario Perez
Demonstration

November 19 9 AM-6 PM WORKSHOP
Marco Invernizzi

7:30 PM Special Meeting
Marco Invernizzi
Demonstration

December 5 7:30 PM MEETING
Bob Pressler
Demonstration

NOVEMBER REFRESHMENTS: *Don Berkus,*
Frank Cuva, Elsie Stenson, Sonja Kobler

NOVEMBER NICH: *Denny Roche*

MEETINGS: *Sansui-Kai meets at 7:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month at the Japanese Garden, 6100 Woodley Ave. in Van Nuys. Everyone is welcome.*