



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

*From Michael Jonas
Treasurer and Past President*

As we enter winter this month, I bundle up at night to walk the dog and protect my trees from Jack Frost, it's a good time for a look back at 2007.

Some of the highlights this year include the hands-on Jim Gremel Yamadori Shimpaku workshop, the start of Ted Matson's 3-4 year development of a Prostrata juniper bonsai, two workshops with Peter Warren and a workshop with Marco Invernizzi. We found time to celebrate at our annual dinner at the Odyssey Restaurant and to hold our annual show at the Sepulveda Garden Center, which Denny Roche judged.

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A FERRARI FROM DOMESTIC STOCK

by Michael Jonas

At a special November 19 meeting we were fortunate to have as guest demonstrator Marco Invernizzi, Europe's youngest bonsai master.

Sporting a Ferrari shirt and his own line of designer shoes and clothing, Marco created a beautifully designed Prostrata juniper from stock purchased from House of Bonsai.

The stock lent itself to an informal upright style, featuring good taper and a trunk with a diameter of about four inches at the base.

The tree had been field grown and was placed into a 15-gallon nursery container in February of this year. At that time, the lower branches were lopped off, leaving three large and many small blunt cut branches.

Marco began trimming all vertical and hanging foliage, while deciding which branches were to be kept and which were to be turned into jin, all the while explaining his thinking process to us. First he asked, "What gives a juniper the look of great age?" The answer was the jin and shari on the tree.

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Creating a Ferarri *(Continued from Page 1)*

Marco then invited us to come up and view the tree as he worked on creating jin.

He didn't use power tools. He prefers to use a root cutter to bite into the branch, pulling several layers of woody tissue away, to reveal the natural grain pattern. His object is to give the illusion of great age to the branch, while eliminating tool marks from the tree.

After ripping several rugged jinned branches, Marco used a knife to define the outline of a teardrop shape around each jin. He peeled the bark inside the teardrop shape creating a die back area under the now dead branch to mimic what one would see in nature.

He carved shari on the trunk, making sure that he left substantial lifelines of healthy tissue to support the remaining living branches.

Marco styled the upper branches by wiring and bending them downward to fill spaces that would eventually become the canopy of the tree.

On some branches, he used guy wires after he bent the branch into position. He also guy wired some of the jinned branches so that when they dried, they would hold the correct aspect for his design.

The completed tree had a grace and beauty rarely found in a recently styled tree. One could readily see this tree becoming a masterpiece and showable in four to five years.

Interestingly enough, Marco himself won the tree, after picking his own ticket. He then generously donated the tree back to the club.

This spectacular Marco Invernizzi-styled tree will be auctioned off at the December 5 meeting. Initial offers have been received from two individuals and so the beginning price of the bidding for the tree has been established at \$500. If this tree had been created at the recent GSBF convention in Anaheim, and then auctioned, I believe it would easily receive bids in the thousands of dollars.

-Michael Jonas



Photo by Michael Jonas

A Christmas Gift From Bonsai Master Invernizzi

Italian Bonsai Master Marco Invernizzi styled a Prostrata juniper at a special Sansui-Kai Club demonstration November 19.

Following his demonstration, Invernizzi bought tickets in the club raffle for the tree, and drew his own name. He donated the tree for auction at Sansui-Kai's December 5, 2007 meeting.

The opening auction bid on the tree will be \$500.

From Michael Jonas (continued from page 1)

Last month we had two meetings; one featured a demonstration by Cesareo Perez working on a boxwood and a special one featured Marco Invernizzi. We also held a workshop with Marco at Denny Roche's house that was attended by Sansui-Kai members and bonsaiists from several other clubs.

Much of our success this year is due to Hank Fawcett, who arranged for a great slate of demonstrations and workshops. He also chaired the annual show with Dick Beltran.

Some of our other unsung heroes include Milton Huckaby, who stepped down as president of the club, but remains the active leader; Sonja Kobler, who takes care of the refreshments for our meetings; Alan Loman, who manages the club library; Mary Tatro, who is doing a great job as editor of the Kai Wire; and board members

Vienna Castellaw, Russell Benson, Tony Castagna, Gloria Downey and myself who contribute to the work of the club.

Bob Pressler is doing our December demonstration and it looks like another great year ahead with Roy Nagatoshi demonstrating his techniques for approach grafting in January. In February Hank Fawcett and I will be doing a hands-on grafting workshop.

I'm anticipating that 2008 will hold much new inspiration in the development of our Bonsai art. I'm happy to be with all of you in that mission.

NAKA NOTES by Jack Reynolds

All deciduous trees should be dormant by now. If you haven't removed their leaves and fruit, do so now. Now is also a good time to look closely at all of your deciduous trees for any wire that might have been accidentally left when the leaves blocked your view. Be sure to protect any semi-tropical such as Ficus and Bouganvillea trees by placing them under a bench or shade cloth.

Be sure not to over water at this time of season as dormant trees use very little water, but don't let them dry out completely either. I cut our daily drip cycle down to four minutes and everything seems to be plenty damp.

Conifers are not dormant in Southern California because it doesn't get cold enough in Los Angeles area to put them into dormancy. Trimming and wiring can be done at this season but remember that branches are more brittle so be careful.

You should be through with your Black Pine candling and branch pruning. Trimming and pinching of conifers can be done this month but deciduous trees are better left alone lest they break dormancy in response. Any new growth would likely freeze in the coming months. It is possible to fertilize conifers but don't waste good fertilizer on dormant trees.

If a tree freezes, do not water until it thaws out.

This is 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.

Also, this is a good month to dig native trees.

**DECEMBER 5 MEETING
GUEST DEMONSTRATION
BOB PRESSLER**

Bonsai artist, teacher and owner of Kimura Bonsai and Landscape Nursery, Bob Pressler is scheduled to present a demonstration at the December Sansui-Kai Meeting. Pressler has practiced the Bonsai art for more than 32 years, and, as owner of his Northridge Bonsai nursery, owns and styles more than 2,000 Bonsai trees.

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.

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.

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What's Ahead

December 5 **7:30 PM MEETING**
Bob Pressler Demonstration

REFRESHMENTS:
*Emma Janza, Dan Kashinsky,
Marshall Winer*

NICH:
Eric Rogger

January 2 **7:30 PM MEETING**
Roy Nagatoshi Demonstration

February 6 **7:30 PM MEETING**
Demonstration by
Hank Fawcett & Michael Jonas