



# THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## As I See It

*From Milton Huckaby  
Past President*

The Winter Silhouette was a wonderful way to start 2008, as the event perfectly depicts this time of year. The deciduous trees are bare of leaves and show all of the branches for inspection and future refinement. Sansui-Kai was well represented at the show with 20 members in attendance. We need to get our newest members involved in the various bonsai events, as they will be the ones who will carry on in the future.

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## NAGATOSHI APPROACH TO GRAFTING

*by Dick Beltran*

Sansui Kai's January 2 meeting featured Bonsai Master and owner of Fuji Bonsai Nursery, Roy Nagatoshi demonstrating his technique for approach grafting shimpaku scion onto varieties of juniper under-stock.

His examples were 20-24 inch tall slant or informal upright bonsai, growing in 4-5 inch deep bonsai containers.

The first example was a 15-25 year old Prostrata juniper with a three-year-old graft. What started as a dramatically curved trunk with a single multi-twigged shimpaku whip approach-grafted to a side limb, is evolving into a handsome informal-upright style.

The second example was a California juniper with 5 or 6 shimpaku scions grafted February 2002. The beautiful fresh greenery of the shimpaku grafts dramatically enhanced the rugged, aged juniper trunk.

His third example was a Prostrata juniper base having only a single shimpaku graft. The simplicity of this example contrasted with the heavier foliage of the first two. During his discussion, Roy pointed out the improvements in appearance due to the finer shimpaku foliage over that of the base material and to the typical bulking of the rootage from grafting.

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## **Approach to Grafting** *(Continued from Page 1)*

For demonstration material, Roy selected a San Jose juniper in a 2-gallon nursery pot, started as a cutting about 20 years ago by yours truly. Its seriously overgrown canopy was about 30 inches high and 35 inches wide with a trunk base diameter from 1-½ to 1-¾ inches. The trunk had a helical shape created by winding a young whip around a stake when young and had one major branch emanating from an outside curve in the trunk about 7 inches above the base.

Roy began by removing all the foliage at the top of the main trunk, leaving 3 or 4 stubs to be jinned later. The fan-shaped foliage on the end of the secondary branch was trimmed slightly in preparation for grafting. Roy anchored the quart liner pot containing twin 24-inch shimpaku whips to the 2-gallon pot and to the trunk using aluminum wire, thus anchoring the scion material and aligning one whip with the branch.

Using a sharp grafting knife, Roy removed a 2-inch strip from adjacent sides of both the branch and the scion whip, cutting through the bark and cambium layer and into the heartwood of both. He then aligned the cambium layer of the scion with that of the branch and "clamped" them together using 4 or 5 millimeter aluminum wire twisted around the graft area in several places.

Grafting is done this time of the year because the bark and cambium are solidly bonded. In contrast, in warmer, non-dormant seasons, the bark slips more, and clamping squashes the bark and may kill the graft. To retain the moisture and exclude air, Roy coated the graft area with a thick commercial tree seal.

Roy recommended restricting both scion and base foliage from overgrowing, watering both scion pot and base the same, and keeping in full sun. In March, cutting shoots in half must start to prevent shading. About October, clamp wires must be cut to permit growth of the graft area. The scion may be cut loose from its base one year from grafting.

A second demonstration piece was a California juniper having a trunk with fewer curves than the first one but having a side branch similar to that of the first one. This piece was larger than the first one, being contained in a 15-gallon nursery pot. The grafting treatment and after care was the same as that of the first demonstration piece.

The two pieces were placed in the raffle where yours truly won the first, and Uncle Milty won the second. Jack Reynolds won the large bonsai container.

-Dick Beltran



*Photo by Michael Jonas*

### **Winter Silhouette**

**A privet in winter was on exhibit January 19-20 at the Winter Silhouettes show hosted by Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai at the Los Angeles Arboretum. The dwarf variegated privet has been in training under the artful care of Bonsai Artist and Teacher Ted Matson for more than 20 years. Matson returns to Sansui-Kai February 6 to continue his five-year plan for styling the club's 50 year-old Prostrata juniper. He will demonstrate potting the juniper into a bonsai container.**

*From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)*

The first weekend in February was the California Shohin Seminar at Santa Nella and several members have scheduled workshops for the event. There has been a concerted effort to keep the biennial event small, but the past few years have seen it grow to a point where the controlling board will have to do some rethinking to accommodate its popularity.

The next major Southern California bonsai event is the Huntington Bonsai-a-Thon on February 23-24. People come from San Diego to San Luis Obispo for this event, and there is virtually everything that a bonsai supporter would want to see or need.

I encourage all members to attend and support this very important event.

Michael Jonas has booked our annual dinner at the Odyssey restaurant for Sunday, March 9, 2008. The board is keeping the cost at \$25, a very reasonable amount.

We are asking for early registration and payment as the restaurant needs to know in advance how any dinners they will need to make. Fill out the flier enclosed with your newsletter and send it in to Michael Jonas to reserve your place.

## NAKA NOTES

*by Jack Reynolds*

February is much like January in terms of bonsai care. We have had some rain so you will have to be aware of the dampness of your trees. Sometimes we say, "Let the rain do it". Then we may let the trees get too dry. On the other hand we may continue to water when we don't need to, and over water as a result.

This is the month to spray deciduous trees with lime sulfur to ward off leaf curl and other insect pests. Read the directions before you spray. Not everything likes lime sulfur. Don't spray new tender growth or flowers that have opened with lime sulfur, as it will damage them.

Any trees that are in the shade to promote dormancy need to be watched. When they start new growth move them into the sun. If you leave them in the shade, the growth will be spindly and weak.

Prune deciduous trees this month. And February is also a good month to start cuttings. So when you are pruning, keep the best twigs for use in that enterprise.

Grafting of deciduous trees and conifers can be done this month. And Ted Matson says that this is a good month to repot California junipers so their roots have adequate time to regrow before summer dormancy sets in.

Fertilize only conifers this month, which are not dormant. It is a good time to apply soil amendments such as Ironite, gypsum and sulfur.

Get your soil mixtures made up and sharpen tools for the coming repotting season.

## Events of Interest

### Sunday, March 9, 2008

Annual Sansui-Kai Banquet Dinner at the Odyssey Restaurant, 15600 Odyssey Drive, Granada Hills. No host bar from 6 PM with dinner to follow at 7 PM.

Dinner choices are roast prime rib, baked salmon or vegetarian entree.

To reserve, write a check for \$25 each to Michael Jonas, 7059 White Oak Av., before March 1, 2008 and tell him your entrée choice.

### February 23-24

Annual Bonsai-A-Thon fundraiser for the GSBF Collection at the Huntington Gardens. Event is held at the Huntington Library and Botanical Garden, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. The event runs from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM on both days. Of special interest are demonstrations, bonsai display, silent and verbal auctions, raffle and large vendor's area. Breakfast and lunch are cooked by volunteers, and very reasonably priced. This is the main fundraising event for the Golden State Bonsai Federation's southern collection.

### SANSUI-KAI Administration

#### 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:

Hank Fawcett (818) 705-1272  
[hankf@playboy.com](mailto:hankf@playboy.com)

#### TREASURER:

Michael Jonas (818) 776-0813  
[mjonas48@hotmail.com](mailto:mjonas48@hotmail.com)

#### SECRETARY:

Vienna Castellaw (818) 368-7418  
[vienna@cashinusa.com](mailto:vienna@cashinusa.com)

#### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Russell Benson (323) 633-3461  
[rb2step@aol.com](mailto:rb2step@aol.com)

#### KAI WIRE EDITOR:

Mary Tatro (818) 885-0180  
[emteechicago@yahoo.com](mailto:emteechicago@yahoo.com)

PAST PRESIDENT: Milton Huckaby  
 (661) 942-2351

REFRESHMENTS: Sonja Kobler  
 (818) 784-8765

LIBRARIAN: Alan Loman

BENEFIT DRAWING: Gloria Downie

### What's Ahead

#### February 6

#### 7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration by  
 Ted Matson

#### REFRESHMENTS:

Karyen Cavanagh, Dan  
 Kashinsky, Tony Castagna

NICHE: Eric Rogger

#### Sunday March 9

#### Annual Dinner

Odyssey Restaurant  
 6 PM Cocktails  
 7 PM Dinner

#### April 2

#### 7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration by  
 Uyen Troung

#### 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.*

*Make Your Reservations for the*  
**SANSUI-KAI**  
**ANNUAL BANQUET DINNER**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2008**

# The Odyssey

15600 Odyssey Drive  
Granada Hills

**Directions:**

405 - NORTH: Pass 118 fwy & exit on Rinaldi. Turn LEFT at the bottom of ramp. Go to Sepulveda & turn LEFT. At the first light (Rinaldi) turn LEFT. Go 1/2 block (under fwy) to Blucher & turn RIGHT. Follow the signs to top of hill.

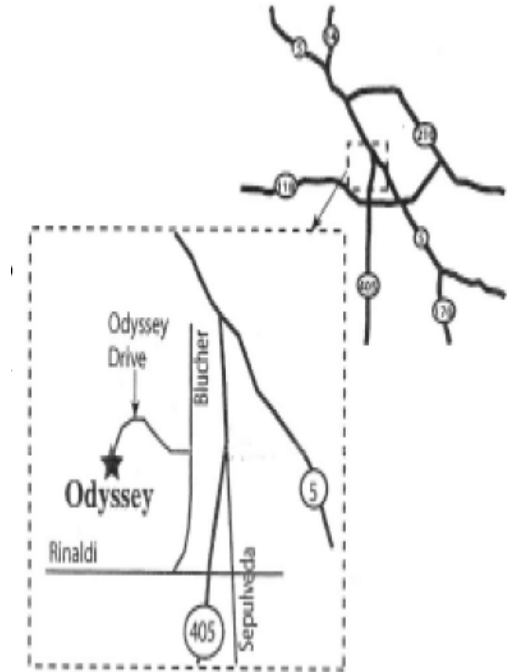
405 - SOUTH: Exit Rinaldi & turn RIGHT. RIGHT again at Blucher and follow signs to top of hill.

210 - PASADENA: Take 118 west & exit Sepulveda NORTH. Go to Rinaldi & turn RIGHT. Go to Blucher, turn RIGHT & follow the signs.

118 - SIMI VALLEY: Exit Sepulveda NORTH to Rinaldi & turn LEFT. Go to Blucher, turn RIGHT & follow the signs.

5 SOUTH to 405 - Follow directions for 405 - SOUTH.

5 NORTH to 118 WEST: Follow directions for 210 - PASADENA.



Remember Raffle Donations

Cocktails at 6:00 pm ~ Dinner at 7:00 pm ~ Benefit Drawing  
\$25.00 per person ~ No host bar

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for the Sansui-Kai Annual Dinner

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

Choice of Entrée: Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate one choice for each member of your party*

Please Confirm by March 1. Mail your check to:

*Michael Jonas*  
*7059 White Oak Ave.*  
*Reseda, CA 91335*  
*Phone: (818) 776-0813*