



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

*From Milton Huckaby
Past President*

All members of Sansui-Kai are important to the success of the club. While some are more involved than others and play a more diverse role in the overall scheme of the large picture, everyone is needed to complete the whole unit.

Everything that is done at the club level is a benefit, education and satisfaction for the members.

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THE START OF SOMETHING BIG – PHASE II

by Dick Beltran

At the February 6 meeting, Sansui-Kai was honored to have as demonstrator, Ted Matson, newly elected president of The Golden State Bonsai Federation and accomplished, popular local bonsai sensei.

Ted returned to Sansui Kai in February to continue the ongoing bonsai development begun at last August's demonstration. Recall that Ted took the selected Prostrata juniper home from that meeting to continue caring for the tree, encouraging foliage growth on inner portions of the branching, and attaching guy wires to relocate several branches.

The plan for this meeting was to push back the foliage and branching and replot the tree in a training container.

Because of the new crotch growth and smaller sprouts gained during the tree's respite at his nursery, Ted was able to begin removing secondary branches to open up the canopy structure, removing bar branches and wheel branches in the process. He then shortened most branches to encourage better taper through new growth. He removed additional foliage, leaving clusters of foliage on each major secondary branch.

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Something Big *(Continued from Page 1)*

As he continued removing excess foliage and branches, one could see the tree canopy reducing in size (pushed back) and the foliage/branching opening up to allow sunlight into the interior of the tree.

At the beginning of the evening, the tree's canopy was about 36 inches wide by 24 inches tall above the base. At the end, the dimensions were 30 and 20 inches, respectively. Ted suggested the probability of further shortening of several longer, larger, major secondary branches, to provide for jinned ends on some. All this major trimming of the canopy was the necessary prelude to repotting as the second part of the demonstration.

Ted then removed the excess soil from the root ball. He reduced the 5-gallon size root ball to 3 inches deep by 11 inches in diameter.

He then added anchor wires to the previously selected 10 by 12 by 5-inch training pot and formed a hill/mound of potting mixture in the bottom of the container.

The potting mixture consisted of 1/3 Dry Stall, 1/3 red and black scoria, and 1/3 calidama (a crushed, San Joaquin Valley hard pan). He nestled the root ball into the mound of potting mixture and tied the tree into the pot using the wires previously attached. Adding more potting mixture to fill the container and using a large chopstick, Ted worked the mixture into the root ball, while at the same time loosening the edges of the root ball to encourage gradual melding of the root ball soil with the added potting mixture.

When the chopstick work was complete, He made a final tightening of the anchor wires to firmly anchor the tree into the container.

Part three of the ongoing process is scheduled for November of this year when the demonstration will include further foliage cleanup. Don't miss it!



Ted Matson embarks on stage two styling of the club's Prostrata juniper. He started work August 2007 with major preliminary shaping.

He continues February 6, 2008 with interior pruning and repotting. November 2008 is set for Ted's next demonstration of the tree's evolution.

Meantime, the tree will settle into its new training pot and recover from its dramatic entry into the realm of bonsai under Ted's watchful care.



Photos by Michael Jonas

-Dick Beltran

From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)

Extending this to the state level, so far this year we have had the bi-annual Shohin Conference and the Huntington Bonsai-a-thon. Sansui-Kai was well represented at both of these events.

At the Bonsai-a-thon at the Huntington, Denny Roche's workshop Ficus drew the largest bid at auction for any of the demonstration trees. Congratulations to Denny for his effort and contribution.

On the club level, our monthly attendance runs approximately 50 percent, which is about normal for any club activity. Michael Jonas reports that reservations for the annual dinner at the Odyssey March 9 is running at normal participation.

The board is urging you to contact Michael Jonas to reserve your place at this event. The March meeting is preempted as the dinner takes its place.

NAKA NOTES

by Jack Reynolds

In March many trees will break dormancy. This presents some problems because it is possible that we will get more frosty nights and it is also possible that we will get some warm spells as well. This means that you must be on top of things. Bring dormant trees out into sunny locations to stimulate the new growth, but be ready to move them back into protection if the weather should turn cold.

Handle watering carefully as well. Over watering will promote large leaves and long internodes.

Many flowering trees will be in bloom. When they have bloomed out eighty percent, remove the remaining buds and all of the bloom. This will prevent over stressing the tree. Leave a few blooms on fruiting trees so that a few fruits will develop for the fall. The same should be done with berries.

It is too early to use high nitrogen fertilizers but sulfur and iron can be added for good leaf color. Conifers can be fertilized with organic fertilizers such as cottonseed and bone meal. Very dilute liquid fertilizers can also be used such as one-half or one-quarter strength Miracle Grow.

March thru June is transplant time. There are two reasons to transplant: aesthetic, and the health of the tree. When transplanting into a new pot there will probably not be much of a size change and roots will not be disturbed too much. Some root pruning will undoubtedly be necessary. Remove large or unsightly roots but leave enough fine feeders to sustain the tree. Remember to remove some foliage if you remove significant rootage in order to maintain a water uptake and loss balance. Vigorous trees such as willows may have to be potted every year but in general the decision to change soil should be made when the tree is root bound or slowing growth.

Insects can be bad at this time of year particularly aphids and scale. Check early and often. Spray with Ultra Fine and Malathion or other insecticide as directed. It is better to use slightly dilute mixes due to the fact that trees in pots tend to be more sensitive to insecticides than those in the ground.

This is the perfect time to start deciduous cuttings, especially large ones. Grafting of deciduous trees can also be done but it is too late to graft junipers.

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., and tell him your entrée choice.

March 8-9

The 51st Annual California Bonsai Society Show is Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9 at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, Friends Hall, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. The Show features more than 100 specimens created by area bonsai masters. Traditional trees such as Japanese black pine and California juniper will be displayed alongside examples of non-traditional bonsai. The event is free and open to the public. Exhibits are open 10:30 am to 4:30 pm both days. Saturday night reception.

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What's Ahead

March 9

Annual Dinner

Odyssey Restaurant
 6 PM Cocktails, 7 PM Dinner

April 2

7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration by
 Uyen Troung
Refreshments: Mort Lowy, Don
 Berkus, Sonja Kobler
Niche: Jack Reynolds

May 7

7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration by
 Marcus Juniel

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.