



# THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## As I See It

*From Milton Huckaby  
Past President*

Sansui-Kai has made an excellent start to the year 2008. All of the bonsai events, either local or statewide, have been enthusiastically supported by the members. This bodes well for remaining events and for the overall furthering of bonsai education and support.

Support for these events and their beneficial results show the well-being and continued growth of the bonsai community. I encourage this participation, so that more bonsai information reaches the people who need it.

*continued on page 3*

## MASTER'S TOUR: SATURDAY APRIL 5

*by Michael Jonas*

Sansui-Kai members are invited to tour the private collections of four bonsai masters in the West Los Angeles area.

We will visit the homes of Ed Partis, Ben Oki, Shig Miya and Frank Goya, who are honorary members of Sansui-Kai.

Each stop on the Master's Tour is close in location, and carpooling will make parking easier. We will spend about one hour with each master. Bring cameras and wear comfortable shoes. Since all of the homes are on the west side, we can expect mild weather.

We will meet at 9 AM, Saturday, April 5 at the home of Ed Partis. After viewing Ed's collection, we will visit Ben Oki, Shig Miya and Frank Goya. Michael Jonas will have maps and the schedule of the visits.

This is a rare opportunity to see the priceless collections of the most accomplished Bonsai Masters in the area. It is free and open to all Sansui-Kai members. Reservations are not required.

# NAKA NOTES

by Jack Reynolds

Spring has sprung, and it is time to do everything at once, or so it seems with bonsai.

Everything has sprouted and is growing well, so rotate trees to keep their growth even. Water is very important as always. Deciduous trees will be very thirsty as they put on new leaves. Naka recommends that pines be kept on the dry side to insure that needles are short and sturdy. You can even let them wilt a little before watering. This practice is recommended for mature trees that have achieved their desired growth.

New growth on deciduous trees can be trimmed but wait until it has hardened (gotten woody, then trim back to no more than three buds. If you are careful, you can direct the new growth by trimming a bud that is pointing in the direction that you would like the branch to grow.

This is the first month to candle prune older pines that have achieved their growth. Wait to prune candles on young trees until May or even June. This is a good month to create *jin*, because growth is vigorous and healing is rapid.

Almost anything can be transplanted this month. When transplanting pines be sure to take some of the old soil with the tree because it contains a fungus that is beneficial to the tree. In general these fungi increase the tree's ability to take up water and phosphate from the soil.

This is the first month to fertilize deciduous trees. Conifers can be fertilized all year in southern California because they do not go dormant in our warm climate. Fruiting and flowering trees should receive low nitrogen, high phosphate fertilizer that will promote flower and root growth. Bone meal or super phosphate is good. Most things will love Miracle Grow.

Watch for insects. Aphids can be bad, as can spider mites. Spraying with the hose can dislodge some of these pests but sometimes we must resort to insecticides. Malathion and Volk oil or Ultra-fine will get many pests. The safer soaps can be used on delicate things. Sometimes insecticides will burn leaves so be careful and follow directions.

-Jack Reynolds



**Frank Cuva's bougainvillea and Michael Jonas' Shimpaku juniper graced the Sansui-Kai Annual Dinner March 9. They were among the six trees exhibited at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills including Denny Roche's pomegranate, Jack Reynold's flowering quince, Eric Rogger's black pine and Dick Beltran's Chinese elm.**



*From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)*

Members have been gathering on Saturdays during March repotting and restoring the trees in the permanent collection at the Japanese Garden. There are still a few trees that need attention, but on the whole the major jobs are completed.

Under the skillful leadership of Denny Roche, the collection's curator, Sansui-Kai members are developing and maintaining the Japanese Garden bonsai trees and gaining valuable experience in process.

Denny will continue to oversee pruning and trimming to keep ahead of the summer growth. Bring your shears and lend a hand prior to our monthly meetings.

The annual dinner was well attended; in fact, it was the largest crowd that we have had in some time with 39 paid reservations.

All of the niches were outstanding trees and we thank Frank Cuva, Dick Beltran, Jack Reynolds, Eric Rogger, Michael Jonas, and Denny Roche for bringing them to thrill and amaze the evening's participants.

## *Cali-Adama is Here!*

*by Jack Reynolds*

At a recent Sansui Kai meeting, Ted Matson mentioned that he was using a soil mix that was one part each of pumice, scoria (crushed lava rock) and *Cali-Adama*.

I am using this same mix myself and so far I like it very much. It drains well and promotes good roots.

Several members indicated that they would like to try *Cali-Adama* in their mix and asked me to get some for them. Glenn VanWinkle, who produces *Cali-Adama* in the Fresno area, delivered fifteen bags to me at the last meeting of the Hanford Bonsai Society.

I will be bringing ten bags to the next meeting of Sansui Kai on April 8. Seven bags are committed to members who have ordered them (you know who you are), and there will be an additional three bags available. Each bag is \$22.00.

*Cali-Adama* is crushed hardpan, which is clay in a mineral matrix. It forms in the bottom of valleys in dry regions where rain evaporates near the surface. Over time, minerals accumulate and trap fine clay particles. It forms an impermeable rocky layer.

In the San Joaquin Valley, tractors pull teeth through it to break it up so that water and roots can penetrate the soil. The crushed particles are very hard and do not breakdown as rapidly as the *Akadama* that we get from Japan.

*Cali-Adama* holds less water than scoria or pumice, based on the color change one can see as a particle goes from moist to dry. It promotes aeration in the soil mix.

Ted Matson thinks that tiny pores in the surface of the particles hold water and release nutrients, attract roots and promote root branching.

# Events of Interest

## Saturday April 5

Master's Tour of four collections in the West Los Angeles area hosted by Sansui-Kai Honorary Members Ed Partis, Ben Oki, Shig Miya and Frank Goya.

Tour begins at 9 AM at the home of Ed Partis. A rare opportunity to see the work of the most accomplished Bonsai Masters in the area. Event is free and open to all Sansui-Kai members. Reservations are not required.

## Saturday April 26 & Sunday April 27

San Diego Bonsai Club Annual Bonsai and Sui-Seki Exhibit, Balboa Park, San Diego, Casa del Prado Room 101.

43d Annual Spring event includes Demonstrations, sales, and more. Exhibit opens at 10 AM, and Closes at 5 PM both days. For more information, go to [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai is taking a bus to the San Diego show on April 26. Bus leaves from the LA Arboretum at 2 PM and returns by 11 pm. Reservations required (\$30) by April 11. Contact Martha Bailey (626)358-2640.

## SANSUI-KAI Administration

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Position Open

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(818)784-8765

LIBRARIAN: Alan Loman

BENEFIT DRAWING: Gloria Downie

## What's Ahead

April 2

### 7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration by  
Marcus Juniel

**Refreshments:** Mort Lowy, Don Berkus, Sonja Kobler

**Niche:** Jack Reynolds

April 5

### 9AM MASTER'S TOUR

Hosted by Ed Partis, Ben Oki,  
Shig Miya and Frank Goya

May 7

### 7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration by  
Uyen Troung

May 17&18

### Sansui-Kai Spring Show

Sepulveda Garden Center

### 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.*

# SANSUI KAI 2008 SHOW RULES

1. Sansui Kai of Southern California and its individual members accept no responsibility and assume no liability either for loss or damage to any display or portion of any display of any exhibitor or for injuries to any person. The exhibit of a display and its components by an exhibitor shall constitute acceptance of this condition. In practice, Sansui Kai will exercise caution to provide care and handling of exhibit material and ensure security protection.
2. All trees must be owned and cared for by the exhibitor for a minimum of one year prior to the exhibit.
3. Each member is invited to exhibit two trees. One additional provisional tree may also be submitted which will be exhibited depending on space limitations. The show chairman's decision regarding the inclusion of provisional trees is final.
4. Exhibit form (bottom of page) must be completed and returned to the show chairman no later than May 9, 2008.
5. Each exhibit shall be physically identified as to owner and tree species and delivered to the show site by 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning May 17. Trees may be delivered to the site as early as Friday May 16.
6. Trees should be on stands and accompanied by an accent plant.
7. The show chairman shall make all final decisions regarding the elimination of unsuitable or diseased exhibits and all other matters incidental to the show.
8. The show will consist of judged and non-judged exhibits trees. Categories include non-judged "For Exhibit Only" and "Novice", and judged "Distinguished Bonsai Entry" and "John Naka Entry". A tree may be entered in the non-judged "Novice" category, but be considered for the "John Naka Junior Award", if an application is submitted by the owner.
9. The Sansui Kai John Naka Awards and Distinguished Bonsai Awards will be conferred at the decision of the appointed judge. Eligibility requirements for entry in the John Naka competition are contained in a special entry application. Entry for awards is voluntary.
10. All exhibits must be removed after the show closes on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Sansui Kai assumes no responsibility for exhibits, so be on hand, or have someone on hand, to remove your exhibits.

Detach and mail completed form to a show chairman by May 12th

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Exhibitor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

First Choice Tree Species:

Second Choice Tree Species:

Provisional Tree Species:

Show Chairs:

Dick Beltran  
19270 Ludlow St.  
Northridge, CA 91326  
(818) 360-9751

Hank Fawcett  
7053 White Oak  
Reseda, CA 91335  
(818) 609-9682

**Entry application  
for the  
SANSUI-KAI JOHN NAKA AWARD**

This award is presented (one in each category, junior and senior) at the annual Sansui-Kai Bonsai Show to the exhibitor who has, as determined by the judge(s), created an outstanding example of bonsai art by himself/herself from raw stock.

The eligibility requirements for this award are as follows.

1. The exhibitor must be a paid up member of Sansui-Kai.
2. The bonsai entry must be owned by the exhibitor and must have been created from untrained stock solely by the exhibitor. The exhibitor must have done all work.
3. A tree may be entered in the junior category if the exhibitor has not won the junior Naka Award before.
4. Each exhibitor may enter one tree each year for this award.
5. A tree entered in competition for this award is also eligible for entry in the regular show competition.
6. An exhibitor may enter the same tree each year in his/her category, if it has not already won in that category.
7. Only an exhibitor who has previously won this award as a junior is eligible to enter the same tree, or another tree, into the senior category.
8. If no trees are considered by the judge(s) to be outstanding enough for the Naka Award, no award will be given.
9. Members can win only one Naka Award in each category.

(Please print)

Exhibitor's name \_\_\_\_\_

Common name of tree \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate age of tree \_\_\_\_\_ Years in training \_\_\_\_\_

Category: Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and I understand and accept the conditions of eligibility to compete for the Sansui-Kai John Naka Award.

Exhibitor' s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Sansui Kai Annual Show 2008**

### **General Information**

The Sepulveda Garden Center Show is a two-day event for showing the trees, and we will be setting up on Friday May 16th starting at 10:00 am. Trees may be delivered prior to the Saturday show judging, which will occur around 9:00 am. We will be using the new building as the show place. The counters will be used for the tree display so the set up should be simple.

Members who wish to exhibit will be allowed to submit two trees plus one additional provisional tree, in the event that there is space available. This issue of the Kai Wire includes applications for submission of trees for the show and for the John Naka Awards. All applications must be submitted to the show chairmen no later than May 9th.

Each tree must be exhibited on a stand, be accompanied by an accent plant and a nameplate with your name on it. Members needing nameplates may order them through Ed Partis any time prior to the May 1st deadline at (310) 475-1541. Each nameplate costs \$ .50 plus \$ .15 per letter. The show will be judged and non-judged as outlined in the accompanying "SANSUI-KAI SHOW RULES."

As in the past years we will be selling trees to the general public that have come from Hiro's Bonsai Nursery. Members, who have items for sale, should bring them Friday. Have all items marked with your name and price. Sansui-Kai will receive 20% of the value price. Sansui-Kai offers trees for sale basically to interest people in bonsai and to join our club. It is not for making money so take this into consideration when pricing your trees.

For additional information please contact  
Hank Fawcett (818) 609-9682 or Dick Beltran (818) 360-9751