



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

From Russell Benson

As We storm into April, all of our rain is hopefully behind us. This past month, I have been repotting both raw nursery stock and some of my bonsai trees, I moved over 30 plants. I have an enormous feeling of accomplishment as well as pride in my potting abilities. I always have a little voice in my head whispering to me, "Be careful, remember you killed the first tree you repotted".

If you have not seen the Saturday March 20 issue of the LA Times there is an article about the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant entitled, "Van Nuys' 'best-kept secret'". This is a lovingly written piece on Gene Greene's commitment to the Japanese Gardens. Click the below link to read the article:

[LA Times Article on Tillman](#)

I WANT EVERYONE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE SANSUI-KAI SPRING SHOW MAY 15 AND 16 HELD DURING THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER PLANT FAIR. Plan on showing at least one tree, and helping out at the weekend show.

Lastly, I want to thank the 25 club members and their families who showed up at the Annual Brunch this month. We had a great meal and we as well recognized past and future club board members, a wonderful raffle and several well developed personal bonsai trees on display.

ODYSSEY BRUNCH

By Dan and Deborah Kashinsky

March 7th was a clear valley day. Green hills white cumulous clouds composed a dynamite view from the Odyssey. Michael Jonas and friends had worked very hard to put the event together. Gloria assembled the raffle and Russell did the talking.

Frank Cuva displayed his ornamental plum tree, Elliot Farkus an oak, Jack Reynolds, brought the quince he showed at the Huntington Bonsai-athon, Russell a solanum, Michael Jonas an juniper that is very handsome and Dan Kashinsky a juniper, crabapple and newly acquired quince from Jim Gremel at Deer Meadow.

The raffle had several nice items including a large redwood from Summer and a very nice pomegranate.

The officers for 2010 were presented. Russell has honored us with a second year as president. How about 2 more years Russell? Russell's 2010 plans for SSK are to broaden the leadership from our newer members. To that end Summer and Eric have joined the board as raffle co- chairman with Gloria and Eric as membership chairman. Also SSK will continue bonsai outreach in the community with demonstrations at nurseries and parks as well as the Japanese Gardens. Frank Cuva has taken the lead here.

Russell remembered Mort Lowry as a faithful SSK member and bonsai artist. He was especially adept with the azalea, a difficult source for bonsai.

We ought all to tell Russell how much we appreciate his work.

It was a mellow day shared by those with a common interest. Thanks to Michael Jonas for his efforts. Those of you who missed it make it next year and partake in the chocolate waterfall. Participation will keep the club healthy socially and financially.

APRIL TREE CLINIC APRIL 7

Jack Reynolds

This is a reminder to all members to bring trees to work on at the April meeting. Now is the time to give a final tune up to your entry trees for the club show, which is May 15-16 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. Junipers need to be plucked and wired. Deciduous trees should be clipped so that their new growth comes in in time to be at its best for the show. Pots can be cleaned and moss planted so that it is well established by show time.

PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE TREE, TOOLS AND WIRE AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WILL NEED TO THE NEXT MEETING.

The May meeting will be on accent plants and proper showing of trees.

BONSAI DISPLAY AT THE ODYSSEY BRUNCH



PHOTO BY MARY TATRO

CLUB OFFICERS



PHOTO BY MARY TATRO



Naka Notes by Jack G Reynolds

Ahh... spring has sprung, and it is time to do everything at once. First, general care; everything has sprouted and is growing well so remember to rotate trees to keep their growth even. Water is very important as always. Make sure that everything is getting enough. 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. If you are courageous 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) before doing so, 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 go. This is the first month that you can candle prune older pines that have achieved their growth. You should 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 called mycorrhiza, increase the tree's ability to take up water and phosphate from the soil.

Speaking of phosphate, 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 used at half strength.

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.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE GETTING TREES READY FOR THE CLUB SHOW MAY 16-17, AT THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER. SO DO THAT FINAL PINCHING ON JUNIPERS AND THE CAREFUL CLIPPING OF ELMS AND MAPLES ETC. TO GET JUST THE RIGHT BALANCE OF FOLIAGE AND WOODY SKELETON TO SHOW OFF THE TREE TO BEST ADVANTAGE. ALSO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A STAND AND ACCENT PLANT FOR EACH TREE.

BONSAI-A-THON AT THE HUNTINGTON

By Elliott Farkus

On February 27th and 28th, the XIV 2010 bonsai-a-thon fundraiser for the G.S.B.F. south collection at the Huntington library was held. I was there both days as were several members of Sansui- Kai and we had an awesome time. Both Jack and Michael of Sansui- Kai displayed bonsai in the formal exhibit.

On Saturday the early morning started sunny after a week of storms, but unfortunately, by mid morning it started pouring all over again. I was really amazed at how many people still showed up to enjoy the show! I think it says a lot for how bonsai is starting to be taken very seriously here. Everywhere there was a huge buzz of activity. The vendors were doing a brisk business. I picked up several new pieces of material including a flowering crab apple, a pomegranate and an ancient oak. I wasn't the only one spending my retirement. I saw Hank Fawcett with a very nice black pine.

Jim Folsome, the director held a dedication and tour of the new Huntington bonsai court. We are lucky to have the Huntington Library. Walking through the beautifully planted grounds with ancient trees was as inspiring as the new bonsai courtyard itself.

On sat there were round robin demos going on downstairs which included Kathy Benson, Harry Hirao, Tak Shimazu, and Cesario Perez.

On Sunday, the demos were by Ray Blasingame, Ken Teh, David Nguy, and Mel Ikeda. The trees from both days demos were auctioned and they sold for a decent chunk of change. The trees on display were top quality and an inspiration to us up'n comers on the bonsai scene.

A check for \$10,000 was handed to Jim Folsome, the director from the GSBF to the Huntington Endowment Fund. Altogether, aprox \$12,000 was raised!! See you there next year.

Events of Interest

MAY CLUB SHOW AT THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER

May 16th & 17th

A festive occasion with food, reasonably good live sounds, a variety of sales including the Iris club Native Plant Society and more, more, more! Plus a chance to show your trees.

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What's Ahead

APRIL 7TH

REMINDERS:

CLUB MEETING 7:30

Bring your trees to work on, some tools and wire. Have fun preparing for the May Show!

REFRESHMENTS:

Karen Decker
Michael Jonas
Hank Fawcett
Maria Atkinson

IMPORTANT NOTE:

**PLEASE PAY
YOUR DUES!**

Web site: www.sansui-kai.com

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.