



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

*From Russell Benson
President*

First off, I wish to express my appreciation for your support and encouragement by electing me president of the Sansui-Kai of Southern California. I will try to live up to the tradition of excellence established by previous office holders.

Already, there have been many good ideas proposed to me by club members, and I plan to bring up these issues to the board. In the meantime I ask all Sansui-Kai members to consider what each of you can do to support the club. I know your suggestions will be both creative and constructive.

By the way, if you were not among the 30 or so members who attended the club luncheon at the Odyssey on March 8th, you missed a wonderful opportunity to socialize, enjoy great food, win wonderful raffle prizes, and see some stunning bonsai examples from personal collections.

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New Board Installed

by Mary Tatro

After more than a year, Sansui-Kai again has a president. Russell Benson was installed Sunday, March 8 at the club's annual meeting and luncheon at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills.

Also installed after a vote by the members are Dan Kashinsky, 2d vice president and membership chair, Michael Jonas, Treasurer, and Karyen Cavanagh, recording secretary.

Jack Reynolds presented and installed the board for 2009. Reynolds also agreed to stand in as program chair until the position is filled.

More than 30 members and family attended this first annual buffet luncheon and annual meeting. Members voted in February to opt for the luncheon instead of the traditional Sunday evening dinner meeting. The Odyssey Sunday Brunch was a veritable feast.



2009 Sansui-Kai board

From left: Michael Jonas, treasurer; Karyen Cavanagh, secretary; Dan Kashinsky 2d VP and membership chair, Russell Benson, president, and Jack Reynolds, acting program chair.

New Board Installed *continued from Page 1*

Seven members presented their trees for exhibit at the luncheon. Jack Reynolds brought his flowering quince, Michael Jonas brought his informal upright prostrata juniper, Eric Rogger brought his pomegranate, Dan Kashinsky brought his informal upright juniper, Hank Fawcett brought his Chinese elm, Frank Cuva brought his bougainvillea, and Denny Roche brought his ficus macrophylla.

The trees presented at the event represent the remarkable talents of the senior Sansui-Kai members, including four past presidents.

Michael Jonas created centerpieces for each of the luncheon tables of accent grass in small bonsai pots. A lucky winner at each table took one home. The feast, installation, acknowledgements and presentations were followed by an abundant raffle made up of member donations and club contributions.

-Mary Tatro

Annual Show May 16-17

Now is the time to get trees ready for the Club Show scheduled for Saturday May 16 and Sunday May 17 at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

Pinch your junipers and clip your elms and maples to get just the right balance of foliage and woody skeleton to show off the tree to best advantage.

annual show continued ...

Make sure you have a stand and accent plant for each tree.

Look for all the entry forms in this issue of Kai Wire. Contact me with any questions and register early, especially if it is the first time you are entering a tree and will need nameplates.

-Jack Reynolds



Frank Cuva's bougainvillea



Hank Fawcett's Chinese elm



Denny Roche's ficus macrophylla

Photos by MaryTatro



Naka Notes

by Jack G Reynolds

Aaah, spring has sprung, and it is time to do everything at once. Or so it seems with bonsai.

First, general care: everything has sprouted and is growing well so remember to rotate trees to keep their growth even. Make sure that everything is getting enough water. 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.

New growth on deciduous trees can be trimmed but wait until it is hardened and woody, then trim back to no more than three buds. 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. You should wait to prune candles on young trees until May or 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, use some of the old soil because it contains a fungus that is beneficial to the tree. In general these mycorrhiza fungi increase the tree's ability to take up water and phosphate.

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. Fertilize fruiting and flowering trees with low nitrogen, high phosphate to 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.

As I See It

From Russell Benson (continued from page 1)

It was also a day to take care of club business, so to the past board members, much gratitude for all your hard work; to those continuing on in the new term, I look forward to our continued efforts. I especially wish to thank Dan Kashinsky, the new membership chair, and Jack Reynolds who replaces Hank Fawcett as the new program chair.

Speaking of club positions, we have new co-chairs for our Annual Bonsai Show. Dick Beltran and Hank Fawcett, to whom much recognition is due, are stepping down after their long tenures as co-chairs. Jack Reynolds and Eric Rogger will co-chair this year, and will be looking for volunteers to lend a helping hand.

Meanwhile, I strongly encourage all members to display a tree at the show this year; I plan on adding one myself.

If I may close on a personal note: When it was initially suggested that I throw my hat in the ring I was at a point where I felt pulled in opposing directions: one, to take a sabbatical from my on-and-off attempts at bonsai, or two, to make a sustained commitment toward expanding my bonsai knowledge and skills. I believe I have taken the better path and I am eager to grow my bonsai abilities while helping the club assume its rightful place in the Southern California bonsai community.

Tree Clinic Proposal *by Jack Reynolds*

As some of you know, I have volunteered to take over the task of program vice president after Hank dislocated my shoulder. In that capacity I want to propose a change in the club program format for certain meetings. Specifically I want to propose that we have bonsai clinics when each member brings one of their own trees to work on and the more senior members help with advice and counsel.

One of the most important things I have learned as a bonsai student is that it is a "hands on" process. One can watch any number of demonstrations but you are not really doing bonsai until you are sitting in front of a tree that needs something done to it and then doing it. I belong to the Hanford Bonsai Society where all meetings are of this type.

What I would like to do is have three clinic meetings during the year; an October or November clinic where junipers and pines would be clipped and needle plucked. A second clinic could be in February, deciduous trees could be shaped and junipers could receive a second plucking. A third clinic could be in May, just before the show so that final preparations could be completed in producing a nice show worthy tree.

I am suggesting this now because I want the members to have adequate advance notice and so if there are significant objections or suggestions they can be aired.

--Jack Reynolds

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WEBSITE

www.sansui-kai.com

What's Ahead

Wednesday
APRIL 1

7:30 PM MEETING

Presentation: David Nguy
Black Pine Demonstration
Refreshments: Frank Cuva,
Mort Lowy, Hank Fawcett,
Alex Momcilovic
Niche: Hank Fawcett

Wednesday
May 8

7:30 PM MEETING

Presentation: Cesareo Perez

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.