



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

*From Milton Huckaby
Past President*

So far this year the members of Sansui-Kai have been very supportive and participated in the various bonsai events throughout California. This support needs to be continued for the various activities that will be happening in the club and that will be taking place in the next three or four months.

First, the annual dues became due in April. This might not seem important, but your payment in a prompt manner is valuable so that the budget may be completed.

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HANDLING THE BENDS

by Dick Beltran

Sansui Kai members were treated to another excellent demonstration at their April meeting. The demonstration focused upon the process of bending large diameter tree branches using wrappings of jute rope and large diameter aluminum wire in order to prevent breakage.

Demonstrator Marcus Juniel, Program Chairman for Descanso Bonsai Society, studied under a sensei who specialized in techniques for creating sharp bends in tree branches and trunks.

Marcus's demo piece was a Prostrata juniper.

It was growing in a 10-gallon "root bag", a semi-porous, felt-like-material container used in place of a plastic nursery pot. The porous character of the bag promotes vigorous root growth by insulating roots from solar heating and encourages aeration of the root zone. It measures 24 inches in diameter and has cloth handles to transport a developing specimen.

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The Bends (Continued from Page 1)

The juniper had a S-shaped trunk with a base diameter of 2.5 inches and height of approximately 24 inches, with numerous side branches starting at the two-thirds point of the trunk.

Marcus likes to leave branches long to give more options, and prefers wrapping with wire instead of raffia, as the spring-like nature of the wire works to distribute bending forces and prevent breaking of the branch. He noted that wiring direction should produce a tightening effect when the branch is bent.

His stated bonsai design emphasis is on simplicity; that is, sparseness versus fullness. He recommended withholding water from the plant material for several days before trying to bend the branches, since dry branches are more flexible.

After wrapping major bend sites with jute rope, Marcus wired all branches with 6 mm aluminum wire. He then bent each branch to the desired location and shape.

One of his “secret tricks” was to tightly wrap jute rope around the branch and wire at the junction of the branch with the trunk. This compresses the wire against the branch giving maximum force to bend and hold limb shape and location.

One branch at the top was deemed too large. But instead of removing it, he used jute rope to compress and to guy, bending the branch upward, with plans to jin it at a later point in the demo.

Marcus continued trimming foliage to further define the overall shape. Then he cut the previously upward bent branch to three inches and peeled it from the end to make a more natural jin. He continued trimming and removing foliage to produce appropriate sparseness.

He finished by stating that the tree would need further attention to refine the location of branches and the shape of foliage pads.

-Dick Beltran



Marcus Juniel's demonstration Prostrata juniper “boughed” deeply April 2 for Sansui-Kai members gathered at the Japanese Garden during the club's monthly meeting and bonsai demonstration. Club Member Dan Kashinsky (left) had the winning raffle ticket and took home the grand prize tree. This will be a test of Dan's skills of refinement.

This month, the multi-talented Uyen Troung will demonstrate his Bonsai arts Wednesday, May 7. Uyen studied bonsai with Harry Hirao, and Tak Shimazu. He is practiced in oil painting, sumi-e drawing, prints and sculptures. Uyen invites everyone to bring their trees for critique and he will sketch them, ink on rice paper.

Watch for future demonstrations by Jim Gremel, Ted Matson, Denny Roche, and John Thompson as Sansui-Kai Program Director and Vice President Hank Fawcett each month identifies and arranges important demonstrations for club meetings.

Photo by Michael Jonas

From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)

Please send in your dues so that the new membership roster reflects current members and future planning may be accomplished.

Sansui-Kai members were on hand to demonstrate Bonsai care, to answer questions from the public and to share information about Sansui-Kai at the Japanese Garden Spring show on Sunday April 27. It is a great source of new members. Curator of the Japanese Garden Bonsai Collection, Denny Roche, reports that guests were particularly interested in the club, so we may be seeing some new faces. Denny also invites members to join him before the May 7 meeting at 6:15 pm for on-going work on the trees in the collection.

Sansui-Kai's Annual Bonsai Show at the Sepulveda Garden Center is May 17 and 18. This is in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles. Numerous other vendors display their wares. Some of us have already started to get our trees ready for the show, but more are required. Show rules and applications have been issued in the Kai Wire for your participation. Direct any questions to Hank Fawcett or Dick Beltran.

The annual Potluck Dinner is scheduled this year at the home of Don and Eileen Burkus Saturday, August 2. This is a major fund raiser for the club in which members bring bonsai related items for auction. An insert will accompany the Kai Wire prior to the event. Mark your calendars!

Naka Notes by Jack Reynolds

This month will generally be the beginning of summer in southern California, so be careful to water accordingly. Check pots daily and water when they are dry on top quarter inch or so of soil. Be careful not to over water mature trees because it will promote large leaves and long internodes. Check pot drain holes for roots that may plug them.

Trees should be rotated every couple of weeks at this season to keep development even. Broad-leaved trees may sunburn easily on hot days, so think about moving them in to semi-shade or to a place where they get morning sun and afternoon shade.

Anything can be pruned or plucked this season. Cut back deciduous trees to two or three leaves on hardened twigs. Leave the last leaf pointing in the direction you want the next twig to grow. Junipers can be pinched back also. Pluck with fingers or tweezers but do not cut. The cut ends will turn brown and look bad.

Toward the end of this month, pines can be decandled. Take off the shortest candles on the lower branches first, then in about two weeks take off the candles near the top of the tree (because it is the strongest part of the tree). The longest candles (over two inches) can be taken last, in about two more weeks. The purpose of this is to make the new candles short and with short needles. By decandling the strongest part of the tree last, the new candles have less time to grow and thus will not be as large.

Most things can be wired now but watch for wires that may cut into the bark. Everything can be fertilized this month. Transplanting of conifers can be done but it is a little late for early sprouters like apples and plums. It is a good time for pomegranate, cotoneaster, olives and pyracantha to be transplanted. Try to fertilize at least once a month during the warm growing season.

Events of Interest

Saturday and Sunday May 17 and 18

Sansui-Kai Annual Bonsai Show at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 9 am to 5 pm. Event includes Sansui-Kai members' exhibition, demonstrations, raw bonsai materials, bonsai trees and pots for sale.

Rules and application forms are in this issue of Kai-Wire or on line at www.sansui-kai.com. Exhibition entry deadline is May 12. All members in good standing are invited to exhibit.

Please be sure to order nameplates for each exhibit tree entered. Contact Dick Beltran at (818) 360-9751 or Hank Fawcett at (818) 705-1272 for more information.

Members are invited to help Hank and Dick set up on May 16 prior to the opening of the public event. And remember to pot up a few small trees or accent plants to donate for the sale.

Memorial Day Weekend May 24, 25 and 26

Santa Anita 46th Annual Bonsai Show, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Av, Arcadia 9 am to 4:30 pm. each day.

SANSUI-KAI Administration

WEBSITE

www.sansui-kai.com

PRESIDENT

Position Open

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Hank Fawcett (818) 705-1272

hankf@playboy.com

TREASURER:

Michael Jonas (818) 776-0813

mjonas48@hotmail.com

SECRETARY:

Position Open

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Russell Benson (323) 633-3461

rb2step@aol.com

KAI WIRE EDITOR:

Mary Tatro (818) 885-0180

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

May 7

7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration by
Uyen Troung

Refreshments: Karyen
Cavanagh, Art Davis, Gloria
Downie, Michael Jonas

Niche: Eric Rogger

May 17&18

Sansui-Kai Spring Show

Sepulveda Garden Center

June 4

7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration by
Denny Roche

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 Annual Show 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 15% 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) 349-0508

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

Exhibitor Name: _____ Phone: _____

First Choice Tree Species:

Second Choice Tree Species:

Provisional Tree Species:

Show Chairs:

Dick Beltran
(818) 349-0508

Hank Fawcett
(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 him/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 only 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. An exhibitor who has previously won this award as a junior is eligible to enter the same tree, or another tree, in the senior category.
8. If no trees are considered by the judge(s) to be outstanding enough for the Naka Award, none 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

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

L.A. CITY PARKS AND RECREATION GARDEN FAIR

SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD.
ENCINO, CA

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MAY 17-18
9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

JUST WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE 405 AND 101
FREEWAYS
SOUTH OF THE VENTURA FREEWAY AT THE BALBOA BLVD.
OFFRAMP

**FREE ADMISSION
AMPLE PARKING**

BONSAI EXHIBITION

DEMONSTRATIONS

**RAW BONSAI MATERIALS,
BONSAI TREES AND POTS FOR SALE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
HANK FAWCETT
(818) 609-9682

DICK BELTRAN
(818) 349-0508