



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

From Russell Benson

I hope everyone enjoyed the April Club Workshop, it was very well attended and everyone seemed to really get into the spirit of offering positive suggestions and ideas for improving member's trees. It was a great way to prepare a tree for the Sansui-Kai Show May 15 & 16 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. More experienced members (including Jack, Denny, Hank and Michael) freely gave their thoughts, suggestions and years of experience.

One thing I have found is that if I ask 10 people their opinions I tend to get 10 different answers. I find it crucial that I listen with an open mind, a willing heart and in the end take the information I have been offered and find what works best for myself. While I certainly have made some choices with my bonsai that were less than desirable, I learned invaluable lessons in the process. I believe that is the key; don't be afraid to take a chance, nothing can be learned in a vacuum.

APRIL TREE CLINIC AT SANSUI KAI

By Jack G. Reynolds

This month was the month when members should be thinking about the **club show in May (15-16)**. Many members brought trees but not all were for the show as these workshops are for the member's convenience and for **any** tree they need help with.

There were several junipers that showed signs of **spider mite infestation**. The signs are weak growth and a sort of gray-green color to the foliage. Spider mites spin little webs among the needles. If you suspect spider mites hold a piece of white paper under a branch and run your hand across the branch. Look for very tiny reddish-brown specks smaller than the period at the end of this sentence. If the specks move or yield a reddish smear when you squish them, you have spider mites. The cure is to spray with an oil spray such as Volk Oil, Ultra Fine or Neem Oil. Mix it according to the directions on the bottle. You should spray weekly for about three weeks to make sure you get them all. Don't spray in direct sunlight or you may burn the foliage. Malathion may be added for particularly persistent problems. Safer Soap will work but may take longer and in my experience is less effective. Try making a nicotine extract by tearing up a cigarette in a cup of water and soaking it over night. The brown liquid can be added to any oil or soap at the rate of a tablespoon to a quart.

This is an important time to pinch and wire junipers. It is necessary to pinch off the first new needle buds that appear on junipers in order to encourage compact interior growth. If pinching is not done the branches will get leggy and lose the appearance of being a miniature tree. Wiring is necessary to guide branches in the direction needed. It is best to wire two branches at the same time. **(continued on page 3)**

April Workshop with Jack, Denny, Michael and Hank as the Main Mentors



A Bonsai Show in Quito, Ecuador



PHOTOS BY DAN KASHINSKY



Naka Notes

by Jack G. Reynolds

Venturing into summer, it is important to be vigilant with watering. Check pots daily and water when the first quarter inch of soil is dry. Check drainage holes for root plugging. Mature trees need less water.

Trees should be turned every two weeks to keep growth even. Broad leaf trees may burn in afternoon sun.

Cut candles on your pines at the end of April. Some experts however wait until June. One method is to start at the bottom branches and remove the smallest candles. Two weeks later remove the candles at the top and the longest candles last. Cut the candles perpendicular to the base. This process should hopefully keep needles short and pine foliage compact. Pine needles may be cut to 1-1/2 inches for further compactness.

Trees may be wired now. Check old wire that may be cutting into bark.

Every plant can be fertilized this month. Apply at least once a month during the warm growing season.

Transplanting of conifers can be done but it is late for early bloomers such as apples and plums. Pomegranate, cotoneaster, olives and pyracantha are good for transplant now.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE GETTING TREES READY FOR THE CLUB SHOW MAY 16-17 AT THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER. DO THAT FINAL PINCHING ON JUNIPERS AND THE CAREFULL 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 AN ACCENT PLANT FOR EACH TREE. SHOW HOURS ARE 10 - 4 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. SET UP IS ON FRIDAY BETWEEN 1-4PM. JUDGING BEGINS AT 10 AM SHARP SATURDAY SO YOU MAY BRING PLANTS IN FOR JUDGING BETWEEN 8-10 AM. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR TREE JUDGED FILL OUT AN ACCOMPANYING FORM. IF NOT JUST BRING YOUR TREES BEFORE 10 AM.

APRIL TREE CLINIC AT SANSUI KAI

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To do this one wraps the wire around the trunk or primary branch at least one complete wrap and then on to the branches to be wired. Choose a wire that is stiff enough to control the branch. It is better to use a wire that is over sized than one that is too small.

Deciduous trees often go wild at this season and must be cut back. Maples that have run out new twigs several inches with six or seven pairs of leaves should be cut back to a single pair of leaves on each twig. This will reduce the size of the next generation of leaves and also shorten the internode length.

Elms should be cut back to one or two leaves on each twig. Leave the last leaf pointing in the direction you want the new growth to go. This is called directional pruning and may substitute for some wiring.

WE WILL TAKE UP DISPLAY OF TREES AT THE NEXT MEETING INCLUDING STANDS AND ACCENT PLANTS.

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.

Sign up sheets are attached if you wish your trees judged.
Or just bring some trees, stands and accent plants Friday 1PM-4PM or Saturday 8AM to 10 PM.

Volunteer to help out. You can tell the attendants that you are dropping off trees and they will let you drive to the show.

Come to the May meeting and Jack Reynolds will discuss how to get your tree ready for the show.

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What's Ahead

MAY 5TH

WEDNESDAY CLUB MEETING 7:30

Jack on accents and stands.

REMINDERS:

For sure.

REFRESHMENTS:

Emma Janzo
Frank Cuva
Ron Brown
Jamie Bates

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.