



# THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## As I See It

*From Milton Huckaby  
Past President*

More than twenty trees styled by Sansui Kai members were exhibited May 17 and 18 at the club's Annual Show at Sepulveda Gardens. It was an unseasonably hot weekend and maybe for that reason the air-conditioned exhibit arena had a lot of traffic over the course of the two-day show. The Show's Guests saw some pretty extraordinary trees.

Eight of our members were awarded "distinguished bonsai" ribbons by Show Judges Dick Beltran and Denny Roche. Frank Cuva's Pomegranate, Mort Lowy's Satsuki azalea, and Eric Rogger's Pomegranate won the judges notice; Michael Jonas' informal upright San Jose juniper and Shimpaku juniper; Jack Reynolds' Japanese maple and Hank Fawcett's Chinese Elm moyogi; and Mort Lowy's Saikei Procumbens Nana.

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## WHEN UYEN CAME TO TOWN

*by Dick Beltran*

At the Sansui Kai May 7, 2008 meeting, members and guests were treated to the artistry of Uyen (pronounced wen) Troung demonstrating the design of a moyogi style Prostrata juniper bonsai. While his demonstration was the main focus that evening, Uyen's presentation was much, much more.

He began by delivering a brief, but comprehensive, treatise on bonsai basics, including such topics as styles, history, and container selection. He stressed the importance of jin (stripped branches) and shari (stripped trunk bark) to create the illusion of age in a bonsai. He continued by reviewing the creation of a bunjin style bonsai using a Procumbens Nana juniper's long, slender trunk, and leaving very sparse foliage at the apex.

Throughout the evening, whenever appropriate, Uyen illustrated his comments by

demonstrating his talent for sketching trees or parts of trees, during his principal program focus.

Uyen's demonstration involved a 10-15 year old Prostrata juniper with a base diameter and height of 2-inches and 24-inches, respectively. The juniper was growing in a 7-gallon nursery pot and exhibited some previous preliminary training. The earlier training had included topping of the dramatically curved trunk at about the 20-inch level.

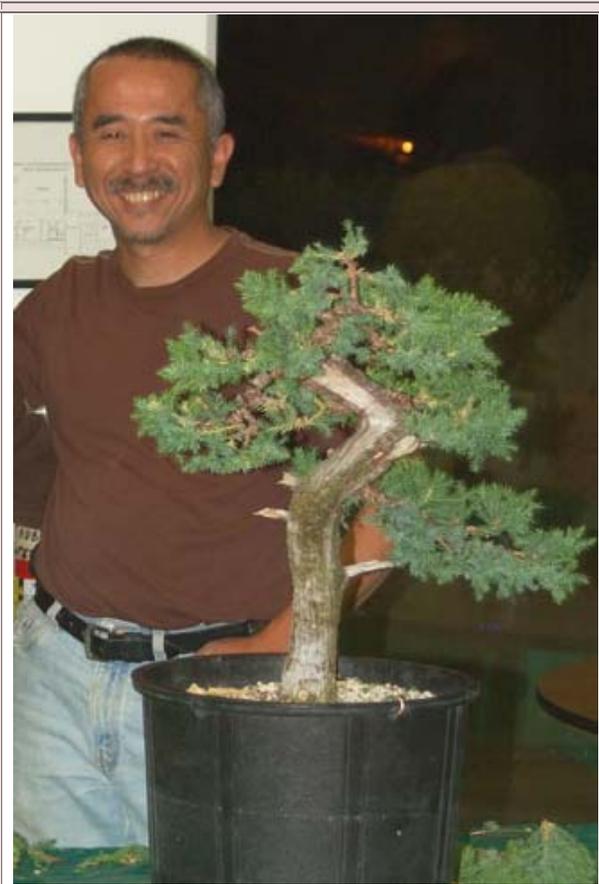
Uyen plucked excess foliage to expose the basic branch structure. He wired the branches, starting at the top since he had already planned the tree shape/style beforehand. (If there is no previous planning of the branch structure, developing the foliage pads begins at the bottom and proceeds to the apex.)

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## Uyen Came To Town *(Continued from Page 1)*

While continuing to trim, Uyen explained the concept of directional pruning used to create curves in an individual branch/twig. After completing extensive wiring and foliage thinning, he presented the finished demonstration tree, a beautiful example of a classical moyogi or informal upright style bonsai. The tree was placed in the raffle and first-time guest Rafael Arroyo won it.

*-Dick Beltran*



**Artist Uyen Troung styled a Postrata juniper May 7 in his demonstration for Sansui-Kai members**

*Photo by Michael Jonas*



**Bonsai Displayed at the Sansui-Kai Annual Show at the Sepulveda Garden Center May 17 and 18. Members exhibited more than 20 trees.**

*Photos by Mary Tatro*

*From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)*

Annual dues became due in April. If you intend to renew, please get your payments to Membership Chair Russell Benson soon so we may plan our budget.

And please remember to mark your calendars for Saturday, August 2 when Don and Eileen Burkus will again host our annual potluck dinner at their beautiful home. Plan to bring a dish and something for the auction.

I am sad to mention that I am now at that point in my life where I must make a change. Upon arriving in Mexico for our planned month-long vacation, Marilyn had an extreme physical and mental set back.

She weathered the problems for one week due to some outstanding doctors. However, her condition deteriorated and it was necessary to fly home where the medical care could be administered more easily.

I must withdraw from all outside activities to care for her until her condition improves. I will continue to be a member of Sansui Kai and follow your activities with great interest. I will be with you in spirit and thoughts throughout the coming period however long or short that may be.

Goodbye dear friends and God bless, until we meet again.

## *Naka Notes* by Jack Reynolds

As summer arrives, all trees will be leafed out and growing rapidly. It is important to rotate trees every couple of weeks to insure even growth. Move deciduous trees into part shade for this season or use shade cloth to keep them from sunburn. Remember that too much shade will promote large leaves. Strive for a balance.

When watering, spray the foliage, benches and ground under the benches to raise the humidity, but don't spray foliage that is in full sun. It is hard to over water in this season.

This is a good month to defoliate deciduous trees that have leaves that are too large. Trees that benefit from this are ginkgos, olives, elms and maples. When defoliating, be sure to remove every leaf. If you don't, the ones that are left will tend to get large and ugly. You can wire after defoliation but remember to check often for wire cuts because growth will be rapid.

You can shape foliated deciduous trees with guy wires. It is too hard to wrap wire around branches when they are leafed out and tender.

Everything can be fertilized this month. Deciduous trees will especially need it. Be sparing on fruiting and flowering trees.

This is the month to transplant Satsuki azaleas after they have flowered. Other things that can be transplanted include olives, bougainvillea, pomegranate, willow and tamarack. Cuttings of these species can also be taken and started this month and on into the summer.

In this month Naka reminds us of "spartan training." Trees need sun, water, soil, air, and nutrients, but if these are provided in excess, trees will lack character and strength.

## Events of Interest

### Friday, Saturday & Sunday June 13, 14, 15

The Descanso Bonsai Society's 38th annual Bonsai Show and Sale. One of the largest of its kind in Southern California. The juried show will display all levels of expertise from novice to masters. It will feature a sale, raffle and auction.

Sale and exhibits are open 9 am to 4 pm each day. Reception Saturday begins at 6:30 pm and will feature the auctioning of a demo tree styled last year by European Bonsai Master Marco Invernizzi.

The event is free with garden admission. Visit the website at [www.descanso-bonsai.com](http://www.descanso-bonsai.com) Or call for information at (818) 776-0813.

Van de Camp Hall, Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge, CA.

**Membership Reminder: Renew your membership and keep your Kai Wire coming! Send your renewal to Membership Chairman Russell Benson, 1947 Mount Olympus Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90046 or visit Russell at the next meeting Wednesday, June 4.**

### SANSUI-KAI Administration

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### What's Ahead

**Wednesday  
June 4**      **7:30 PM MEETING**  
Demonstration by  
Denny Roche  
**Refreshments:** Dick Beltran,  
Dan Kashinsky, Mary Tatro  
**Niche:** Mort Lowy

**Wednesday  
July 2**      **7:30 PM MEETING**  
Demonstration  
TBA

**Saturday  
August 2**      **4:00 PM**  
Annual Pot Luck Benefit  
Barbecue

### 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.*