



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

*From Russell Benson
President*

My thanks to everyone who participated in our Annual Spring Show. Great job! I offer special thanks to Co-chairs Jack Reynolds and Eric Rogger and the many volunteers for their good work.

The members who showed trees this year exhibited wonderful accomplishments! We had excellent examples of bonsai in all its shapes and forms from members at all levels of skill. To members who didn't show this year, I ask you to seriously consider showing a tree next year. We encourage all levels of capability - from novice (myself included) to accomplished senior bonsai artists.

Visitors were generous with their compliments of achievements in skill and art form. We inspired many potential bonsai-ers to leave their names to receive club and membership information.

One lyrical and poetic comment regarding a cascading plant was that it looked like it was "bowing to an unseen audience."

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Kudos for the Spring Show

by Jack Reynolds

The Sansui-Kai Annual Spring Show was, by all measures, a success.

Members entered twenty-nine trees for exhibit in the two-day show at Sepulveda Gardens in Encino in conjunction with the Los Angeles City Parks and Recreation Garden Fair.

The exhibited trees were the work of fourteen new and seasoned bonsaists: Russell Benson, Tony Castagna, Gloria Downey, Emma Janza, Michael Jonas, Dan Kashinsky, Sonia Kobler, Alan Lowman, Mort Lowy, Jack Reynolds, Denny Roche, Eric Rogger, Grace Sy and Mary Tatro.

We had more novice entries than any other show I can remember – a sign of the club's enthusiasm.

David Nguy, who studied with John Naka, Tak Shimazu, Enrie Kuo and most recently in Japan with Kimura, reviewed the exhibit and gave commentary on entries. We are grateful for his generous contribution of time and expertise.

Co-chair Eric Rogger oversaw reviewing, kept trees anonymous and took note of comments. Eric made a written list of David's comments for entrants' benefit. David selected three trees to receive distinguished bonsai ribbons: Eric Rogger's pomegranate, Grace Sy's procumbens nana juniper and Mary Tatro's ficus benjamina.

Thanks to all who made this show a success: Eric Rogger for co-chairing, and overseeing the weekend, and all who served as show hosts.

Photos on page four

A Taste of Citrus

by Mary Tatro

We hear about citrus as bonsai, but don't often see it. May demonstrator Cesareo Perez says it's a very interesting species. He styled an Australian Finger Lime, a citrus with ½ inch leaves, many thorns, dense branching habit, numerous small white flowers and edible fruit.

The demonstration tree was four to five years old and fairly tall, a feature Cesareo liked in his styling.

The tree blooms on the previous year's growth, so don't prune at the end of the season to preserve next year's blooms. The direction of the thorns is the direction of the buds. He recommends directional pruning and sealing cuts with tinted carpenters glue.

Repot in hot weather when actively growing – July and August –not in winter. Choose an organic cactus mix that is well draining but moist. Citrus needs more organic material than the usual bonsai mix.

The citrus is tender to frost, much like a ficus. It thrives in a semi-shaded area with enough sun for fruiting and flowering but not so much as to fry the foliage. The tree will leaf out in June. Protect it from hot winds.

He says the bark is thin, so wire carefully. Bend the wire using the strength of your fingers without stressing the branch.

The apex is rounded in nature and Cesareo favors a style that suggests a tree in nature.

Following the demonstration, Russell Benson won the tree in the club's monthly raffle.



Cesareo Perez styles an Australian finger lime



Russell Benson takes it home

Photos by Mary Tatro



Naka Notes by Jack G Reynolds

This first month of summer, trees will be leafed out and growing rapidly.

It is important to rotate every couple of weeks to insure even growth. Deciduous trees may be moved into part shade. We have ours under shade cloth, which keeps them from being sunburned. However, too much shade will promote large leaves, so strive for a balance.

When watering, spray the foliage, benches and ground under the benches to raise the humidity. Maples are sensitive to over watering. The new leaves get small and misshapen and old leaves get brown tips. If the trees are in plastic training pots, my remedy is to put a pebble under one side opposite a drain hole. I check before watering and allow trees to go a little longer before watering.

Tying down branches with guy wires can shape deciduous trees. It is hard to wrap wire around branches when they are fully leafed out and tender.

This is a good month to defoliate any deciduous tree that has leaves too large, like ginkgoes, 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 very large and ugly. Wire after defoliation if you wish, but remember to check often for wire cuts because growth will be rapid.

Fertilize everything this month. 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 the "Spartan training" of bonsai. All trees need sun, water, soil, air, and nutrients but if these are provided in excess trees will lack character and strength.

As I See It

From Russell Benson (continued from page 1)

I want to highlight some upcoming summer events. Mark your calendars for our Annual Summer Barbecue, which this year will be on Saturday, August 1 at the Encino home of Don and Ileene Berkus. Be sure to save the date, bring a friend and plan on bringing items for the donation auction.

Jack Reynolds has lined up a great list of demonstrators for the coming months, and two tree clinics, in October in December, when members workshop their own trees.

This month, Bob Hilvers will be demonstrating the art of microcarving California junipers at our Wednesday June 3rd meeting.

Here I am at the first 100 days (or there about) of my presidency. So where do we go from here? I have heard many suggestions and comments about improving the club. Bring me your problems but also bring me solutions, this will be one of our keys to success.

Events of Interest: Spring Show Gallery



Eric Rogger's Pomegranate



Grace Sy's Procumbens nana

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What's Ahead

**Wednesday
June 3**

7:30 PM MEETING

Presentation: Bob Hilvers
 Microcarving California Juniper
Refreshments: Russell
 Benson, Rafael Arroyo, Michael
 Jonas, Alan Loman
Niche: Frank Cuva Eric Rogger

**Wednesday
July 1**

7:30 PM MEETING

Presentation: Ray Blasingame

**Saturday
August 1**

4:00 PM

Annual Pot Luck
 Barbecue Benefit

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.