



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

From the Editor

By Mary Tatro

It is a blessing to know that so much creativity, experience and generosity is available to me in the editing of Kai Wire.

Michael Jonas lived up to his angelic name this month and helped resurrect my computer from a hard drive crash that delayed this issue of Kai Wire. And Michael has over the past months lent on-going support with his knowledge and insight into club affairs.

And now, Dan Kashinsky has generously offered to lend a hand printing and mailing copies of Kai Wire to those members who do not receive their issues of Kai Wire on line. It is good reassurance that I can rely on help when needed, as I did in July.

Those members who still receive their newsletters by mail did not receive July's issue. Dan's good help will get those snail mail recipients their Kai Wire come snow or sleet or dark of night or the editor's unavailability.

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Potluck for Dinner and Auction

by Michael Jonas

On Saturday evening August 2nd, Sansui-Kai members and guests assembled at the beautiful Northridge home of Frank and Karen Cuva to enjoy the annual Potluck Dinner and Auction, the most important fundraising event of the club year.

Members and guests dined and visited on a shaded patio surrounded by manicured lawns and Frank Cuva's bonsai and succulent garden collection. And the auction following our picnic dinner was a success.

Due to everyone's support and commitment to the event, the club was able to add about \$1,200.00 to the treasury. This support promises another year of quality programming.

My thanks to Rita Ractliffe who kept account of the bidding while I played my annual role as auctioneer.

We were happy to see long-time friends Bruce and Yaeko Hisayasu, Milton Huckaby, and Esther and Marvin Smith again.

Bruce and Yaeko donated many fine bonsai pots for our auction. Milt Huckaby not only purchased a number of bonsai and pre-bonsai trees, but also made a generous cash donation to the club. We are grateful for their continuing support.

Thanks to Eric Rogger's generous cash donation we were able to purchase for auction two very nice Japanese bonsai pots, one a Tokaname Japanese pot, and a beautiful Kishu shimpaku juniper bonsai nearly ready for showing in a Japanese pot.

Ed Lawrence, who donated many fine bonsai pots to the club when he moved away last year, was there in spirit and so was one of his donated pots.

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Potluck Auction *(Continued from Page 1)*

Marc Colburn donated six boxes of new and used bonsai pots to the club. Unfortunately, he was unable to stay for the barbecue due to previous commitments. The club is very grateful for his generosity and we will be using the pots for future raffles.

The success of the event could not have been possible without the additional help of Jack Reynolds, who drove in from Lake Isabella, and brought beverages for the party.

Karyen Cavanagh brought wine and we may see some of the bottles show up in upcoming raffles. Sonja Kobler brought the plates and plastic ware. I brought coffee, tea, creamer, lights, pots, plants and tables.

And each of our members skilled in the culinary arts brought their creations for the dinner table, to accompany the grill-roasted chicken.

A good time was had by all.

-Michael Jonas

JAPANESE GARDEN BONSAI COLLECTION REVISITED

By Dick Beltran

The Sansui Kai meeting on July 2nd was an unusual soiree into the world of mature bonsai. Senior member Denny Roche, curator of the Japanese Garden's bonsai collection, selected several trees from the collection for evaluation and treatment to correct problems, trim new growth, or otherwise improve grooming.

Crewmembers were assigned, with Denny's oversight, to the care of each tree. Yours truly was assigned to one of the California junipers, to help with trimming, wiring or kibitzing, as appropriate, to correct several problems in form.

The evening was educational and provided a great deal of beneficial care for the Japanese Garden's permanent bonsai collection.



Annual Barbecue and Benefit Auction

Sansui Kai members and guests enjoyed food, camaraderie and a benefit auction August 2 at the home of Karen and Frank Cuva.

Joan Roche and Karyen Cavanagh (top photo); Jack Reynolds, June Matthews, Dan Kashinsky and Joan Roche (middle); the club's host Frank Cuva (bottom).

Photos by Michael Jonas

From **The Editor** (continued from page 1)

More than 60 percent of our members now receive Kai Wire on line, saving our treasury printing and mailing costs, Mother Nature a few trees, and valuable time.

We have a stable of fine contributors to the newsletter. Dick Beltran shares his extensive knowledge and experience in articulately putting forth the demonstration story each month. With each newsletter, his stories are gathering into an impressive archive of bonsai technique of the most talented bonsai artists in our region and beyond.

Hank Fawcett has used his extensive experience to invite and attract to Sansui-Kai those artists and masters now contributing to the advancement of the bonsai art form. Dick's stories share their work with our own club and beyond by way of the newsletter's publication on the website.

Jack Reynolds' offers his earthy practical wisdom each month together with John Naka's techniques in Naka Notes. His column is an ongoing horticultural calendar of care to keep our bonsai collections healthy during their creative journey to higher and higher planes of evolvement.

Seen together, Jack's columns are a valuable primer of Naka's methods to soothe Mother Nature into a perfect survival rate.

And our beloved Milton Huckaby, (now on hiatus caring for his wife, Marilyn) brings his generous spirit and long-term friendships with many far and wide to his musings in "As I See It," his front-page column.

It is great good fortune to be in the midst of those who are generously willing to share their wisdom, talents and good help. The remarkable joining of energies that made the August 2 benefit barbecue a success gives strength to Sansui-Kai's future. And it gives confident claim to the club mission to further "the learning, use and teaching of the horticultural techniques and artistic principles needed to grow, design and care for bonsai."

I am happy to be a part of this work and richly benefiting from its result.

-Mary Tatro

Naka Notes by Jack Reynolds

The hot grip of summer has fully enclosed us. The bonsai are in their summer slump.

By now most of their growth has slowed or stopped completely. What should we be doing? Be very water vigilant. Check everything at least once a day and make sure that nothing is going too dry.

Try to water in the morning and spray everything -- trees, benches and surrounding walls and ground. The humidity is good for the trees.

Check again about sunset and water anything that looks too dry. If you have nerve enough to go on a vacation make sure that someone reliable will take over the watering.

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Naka Notes by Jack Reynolds (continued from page 3)

The expense of a drip system should be considered but even that will require checking daily to see if there are any clogged drippers or if the cat has knocked any out of a pot. Even on a drip system it is sometimes necessary to supplement on very hot days. John Naka says that automatic sprinklers are not completely accurate because there is a tendency to over water, plus every tree does not require the same amount of water. He is correct in saying this but there are ways to compensate. Someday I will do an article on my experience with installing drip irrigation at our house.

Rotate trees regularly every two or three weeks to prevent one-sided growth.

Trees may be trimmed but no drastic pruning should be done on most things because it will promote new tender growth that will tend to either burn off in the heat or freeze off this winter. Exceptions would be olives, pomegranates and bougainvilleas, which love the heat. Wiring can also be done.

Don't transplant or repot anything at this season. Possible exceptions would be the heat loving things mentioned above. Fertilize as usual. Why fertilize if growth has stopped? The answer is that it hasn't really stopped. Everything is pushing its root growth now and also there is the matter of fruits that may be growing on some trees.

-Jack Reynolds

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www.sansui-kai.com

What's Ahead

**Wednesday
September 3**

7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration TBA

Refreshments: Dan Kashinsky, Karen Decker, Maria Atkinson

Niche: Frank Cuva

**Wednesday
October 1**

7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration TBA

**Wednesday
November 5**

7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration With Ted Matson

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.