



THE KAI WIRE



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As I See It

By Milton Huckaby

The position of Sansui-Kai president remains open.

It's been close to a year now since I've stepped down and opened the way for new leadership.

Some other past presidents such as Dick Beltran, Frank Cuva, Jack Reynolds, Eric Rogger, and Michael Jonas still are active and involved in the club and/or on the board, and we all want to encourage members to consider if they are willing to make a greater commitment.

We have many outstanding volunteers and willing participants who come together for the various club activities and events. The club needs oversight to bring it all together in an orderly way.

The president's role is to oversee the orderly process of our board and financial management, programming, communications, future development and planning.

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Permanent Collection Connection

by Mary Tatro

Sansui-Kai's September 3 meeting will focus on the care and development of the Bonsai Collection of the Japanese Garden.

Denny Roche, curator of the Collection is designating the trees and styling to be accomplished by members during the meeting and will oversee the work. Members will get hands-on experience with mature prized trees under Denny's guidance.

Sansui-Kai is in a collaborative relationship with the Japanese Garden, a 6.5 acre hidden oasis in the San Fernando Valley, which is listed among the top ten Japanese Gardens in the nation.

The relationship started some 20 years ago when Denny Roche and the late Duane Peterson, then docents giving tours at the garden, proposed the idea of a permanent bonsai collection to Gene Greene, the Japanese Garden's administrator.

The City of Los Angeles and the Bureau of Sanitation and Board of Public Works, under whose auspices the Garden is managed, approved of the idea. The Bonsai exhibit area was constructed by the city in the Japanese style at the Garden's entrance.

At the same time, Ed Lawrence and then president, Michael Jonas, approached Gene Greene and arranged for Sansui-Kai to move its club meeting site to the Japanese Garden community building, where it meets the first Wednesday of each month, and for special meetings throughout the year.

Denny Roche and late Sansui-Kai members Sam Goffman, Duane Peterson, and Pete Semerenko donated the original trees of the permanent Bonsai Collection to the Japanese Garden together with trees from Jerry McNey and Melba Tucker. Many of the original donated trees remain in the collection today.

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Collection Connection *(Continued from Page 1)*

One of them is a 40-year old black pine. It is in need of fine wiring, which more advanced members will begin at Wednesday's meeting.

Another tree is a Hollywood Juniper in need of major wiring and some light pruning. Denny says he does not prune junipers too drastically in the heat.

A 200-year-old California Juniper in the collection will get some fine wiring. And two Procumbens Nana purchased for the collection by the Japanese Garden will have their crotches tweezed and cleaned.

"We are very proud of our collaboration with the club," says Gene Greene, Japanese Garden administrator, "and grateful for the contribution the club is making to the beauty of the Garden."

The Japanese Garden Bonsai Collection currently has 21 trees.

Denny Roche and a regular retinue of club members gather prior to club meetings and at critical times, such as spring potting, to manage the trees throughout the year.

All members are invited and welcome to assist in the ongoing work to maintain and build the Japanese Garden Bonsai Collection.

For further details about the Japanese Garden permanent Bonsai Collection, contact Denny Roche at d.v.roche-san@worldnet.att.net

-Mary Tatro



A gem of the collection is an extremely healthy 40 year old Shimpaku Juniper in the semi-cascade style.



Japanese Garden Bonsai Collection

A black pine ready for wiring (top photo) will be one of the trees Sansui-Kai members will style during the regular September meeting.

Other trees in the Japanese Garden permanent Bonsai Collection include a 30-year-old Chinese Elm in the forest style on a Mexican lace rock donated by the late Melba Tucker (middle photo), and a 40-year-old Boxwood Denny Roche found in his neighborhood, styled, and donated to the Collection.

Photos by Mary Tatro

From Milton Huckaby (continued from page 1)

I have spoken to several members who I know have the ideas and creative potential to take on this role. I again ask for a committed member to step forward and be our new president.

It has been a trying summer, but the worst seems to be past. After a number of set backs, my wife, Marilyn is in physical therapy and her foot is gaining strength each week. I am looking forward to joining again in club work.

Bonsai -wise we are entering the slow season and can enjoy the colorful part of bonsai.

John Thompson's workshop and demonstration September 17 is a must for the serious bonsai artist. He is one of the better-versed demonstrators on oaks. I took a class from him at the last shohin convention and my small oak is performing just as he said that it would.

Naka Notes by Jack Reynolds

September is pretty much like August as far as bonsai care is concerned.

It is generally hot, particularly in the first part of the month, so care must be taken in watering. But since most trees have finished their branch growth, they will not require as much water as in the spring.

Strike a balance between the amount of water given and the needs of the tree in the heat. One way to do this is to check the top quarter or half inch of soil, if it is damp a quarter to half an inch down then you don't need to water. If it is dry, then water until water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Small trees may need to be checked twice a day.

Trees that may become sunburned should be placed in the shade. This will start the tree into dormancy and inhibit sprouting of new growth too late in the year. Such late growth usually freezes off or burns off in the fall and winter winds.

Trimming should be reduced at this time of year. Don't remove growth until it has matured. If in doubt leave it for spring pruning.

Light feeding, particularly of trees that are still showing new growth is permitted at this season. Deciduous fruiting species may benefit from a low nitrogen high phosphorous high potassium fertilizer (4-10-10 or such) to promote fruit development and strong roots.

Some things may be transplanted this month, particularly toward the end of the month. These would be pines and junipers. No sever root pruning should be done, however, so you should only be moving trees from one pot to another of about equal or larger size. Wait until October to repot if the weather remains hot.

Willows, tamarix, olive and bougainvillea can be repotted or even started as cuttings at this season.

Events of Interest

Bonsai Artist John Thompson will lead a day-long workshop on Oak Trees Wednesday, September 17, and do an evening demo.

John Thompson is a recognized authority on the development of bonsai techniques for Native Oaks. He is especially practiced in collecting specimens of Oak, Juniper, and Boxwood.

He collects material from the wild as well as from his neighborhood and maintains an interesting collection of pre-bonsai trees. "JT" honors the natural form and unique characteristics of the tree in his styling technique.

Members who are interested in either a half or full day workshop with John Thompson may contact Hank Fawcett at hankf@playboy.com

The daytime workshop will be limited to ten participants, half or full day. Full day is \$45; half day is \$25.

Participants in the workshop can either bring their own trees or John Thompson has a limited number of oaks with one-inch or two-inch diameter trunks for sale at \$75 to \$100 each, or another at \$200. Pre-arrange tree purchases with Hank Fawcett. Hank also is seeking a donor for the demonstration oak.

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Position Open

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WEBSITE

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What's Ahead

**Wednesday
September 3**

7:30 PM MEETING

Demonstration
Japanese Garden Collection
With Denny Roche
Refreshments: Dan
Kashinsky, Karen Decker.
Maria Atkinson
Niche: Frank Cuva

**Wednesday
September 17**

**All Day John Thompson
Oak Tree Workshop
7:30 PM John Thompson
Demonstration**

**Wednesday
October 1**

**7:30 PM MEETING
Demonstration TBA**

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.