

# The KAI WIRE

山水會

SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JULY 2013



**July 10th Wednesday  
7:30 Travis Goldstein  
carving technique  
demo**

**August 14th Wednesday  
7:30 Ted Matson  
will lead a workshop.  
Bring in tools and a  
tree to work on**

**August 25th Sunday  
BBQ and Auction.  
Donations requested**



MR GOYA'S ASSISTANT JAIME CHAVARRIA, TV CAM SCOTT AND MATSON *photo Dave Williams*

Saikei is a bonsai art form of trees in a landscape usually with a water feature. It does not contain buildings or representations of people. We have had two excellent saikei demonstrations in the recent past. One was by Jim Barrett and the other Al Nelson and company.

## FRANK GOYA SAIKEI

Mr Goya was trained by Mr. Naka to carry on his principles of bonsai in California. Frank resides in West LA and teaches among many other places at Yamaguchi's Nursery. The nursery is still run by the family even though Mister Yamaguch, an excellent bonsai artist, has passed on.

Mr. Goya brought his assistant of 1 year Jaime and Jaime's family came along. Mr. Goya said he liked saikei because it is a very fast demonstration. No time for boredom watching a demonstrator wire. However the trees were already prepared, wired and trimmed. The earth secured in a Gardena Nursery was ready as was the "muck" necessary to stabilize the rocks and plants. The Muck was made from muddy clay and peat moss. All this took time beforehand. The slab was prepared and the trees placed. Moss was applied and small groundcover and grasses planted.

The saikei was admired and then raffled. He brought a second saikei for the auction in August. Thanks to Yoko.

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# FRANK GOYA

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What makes his saikei so outstanding? Like most bonsai it is a developed taste. But one likes what he sees right away. There is a wow factor. For me the trees were prepared so that the foliage was tight and as small as possible. The tree styles were slanting and the branch distribution followed Mr. Naka's recommendations to create a spiral from the straighter branches on the leaning side to the down pointing branches on the other. The composition was sophisticated and precise.

## REFRESHMENTS

Josh Miller  
Mary Tatro  
Al Loman  
Sonja Koebler  
W. Puck



FRANK GOYA'S SAIKEI PIC BY DAVE WILLIAMS

## As I See It

by Eric Percifield  
SSK President

Happy Independence Day! Fireworks and BBQ's kick off July with festive celebration. This month we will be joined by Travis Goldstein, who will be leading a demonstration on carving techniques. This will be a very informative demo with lots of useful information that will help us refine and develop the detail on our trees. The demo material will be in the July raffle! Please note that this month and for the rest of 2013, our meetings will be held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month at 7:30 at the Sepulveda Garden Center (July meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10th).. Please update your calendars accordingly so you don't miss out on upcoming demos!

June was eventful for Sansui-Kai, as we hosted our annual bonsai show in conjunction with the Los Angeles Cacti and Succulent Society. The show extended over two days, and had a great turnout! There were many plant related sale tables, raffles, auction, and lectures. I would like to extend a special thanks to Eric Rogger, Dan Kashinsky, Steve Riley, Yoko and Walter Zipusch, Sonja Kobler, Emma Janza, Josh Miler, Alan Loman, Mary Tatro, Dave Williams, Al Espinoza, Jack Reynolds, Rick Naber, and Eric Percifield for their donation of volunteer time, sale material, or show trees to help make our show special. I would also like to thank Cesario Perez and Mel Ikeda for their excellent demos during the show, and also Artie Chavez and LACSS for allowing us to be a part of their great event!

Legendary John Naka student Frank Goya hosted our June demo with a Seikei, or natural landscape planting, using Juniper and other plants and stones. The beautiful piece that Frank created was put in the raffle, and lucky member Dan Kashinsky went home with an excellent bonsai. Congratulations Dan! Frank also donated a smaller Seikei planting that will be sold in our August BBQ/Auction.

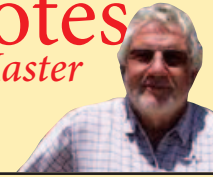
**Be sure to check the club's Facebook page Steve Riley and Jason have been updating for the pics of the trees from the show. <https://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>**

*Naka Notes - Lessons from a Master is Jack Reynolds's collection of guidelines primarily from Sansui-Kai founder and master John Naka's texts, **Bonsai Techniques I and II** monthly care of your bonsai.*

# Naka Notes

## Lessons from a Master

by Jack Reynolds  
Contributing Editor



Your main concern this time of year should be to carefully tend your trees during the heat. Rotate them every week or two. Hot pots can cook roots so protect the pot by covering it with sphagnum moss or burlap or place a board over the surface of the pot to shade the soil and the side toward the sun. Set trees on the damp ground in the shade. Put up shade cloth on an overhead frame. Water overhead in the morning so as to dampen the benches and surrounding ground. The higher humidity is good for the trees except for pines. Something I have learned from the scientific literature on needle cast disease in pines is that high humidity promotes it so I spray my pines infrequently. Junipers and deciduous trees all seem to like a good wash off though. Fertilize everything. Remember frequent dilute fertilizing is better than infrequent heavy applications. Trees can be defoliated this month but not later. Remember to remove all leaves and set the tree in a shady place for a couple of weeks until the new leaves are just beginning to pop. You

should cut down on the water also because without leaves there is little transpiration and the soil will remain too wet. Flowering trees should have any remaining buds removed and most of the fruit. Leave a few for fall enjoyment but don't leave all the fruit on one branch. If you left fruit on the tree last year it might be a good idea to strip it all off this year. Fruits are very taxing to the tree. Don't transplant this month. Exceptions are pomegranates, olives, bougainvilleas, willow, and tamaris. Shaping of trees can go on as for June but you should have already done your candle pruning on pines. Air and groundlayering can be done this month. Check for insect pests. Woolly aphids might show up in any apple relative. Spider mites are always a potential problem in junipers. Mealy bugs are always a problem at our house. Spray with a combination of malathion and Volk oil or malathion and Ultrafine. Be careful to mix the spray according to directions or weaker. It is possible to burn trees with too strong an oil mixture. Don't spray anything in the sun. Wait till sunset or move the tree into shade.

LE SHOW BONSAI ON FACEBOOK  
SEE YOUR TREES

<https://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>





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 & \$27 for Families.

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# LE SHOW

by Dan Kashinsky

Mr. Mel Ikeda visited the Sepulveda Garden Center on an excellent June Sunday for our yearly show. His tree was a simple curved San Jose juniper that he had recently found in a nursery. He had wired the branches before coming so as to make the demo move along nicely.

Mr. Ikeda has been in training first with his father Mr. Masayuki Ikeda who owned a bonsai nursery. This gave him the unique experience of growing up around Harry Hirao, Khan Komai and John Naka. He presently gives lessons in Gardena with Leila Kusumi.

He stresses taper in the trunk, the branches and the roots as a base for aesthetic design. He prefers cutting off a larger non-tapering branch or jinning it and awaiting a more slender shoot off the branch to mature so taper is created. This is the ability to see the tree in the future. He believes that it is difficult to live with a branch or trunk that does not taper and will always be an eyesore. He stressed that the branches diameter and length must be in concordance with the size of the trunk so as not to diminish the trunk visually.

The branches were set up beautifully with an apex to the branch and foliage going out to a point. He wanted the trunk exposed as much as possible to see the taper. Mr. Ikeda repotted the tree removing about half the root ball. He found an area just under the trunk that was not allowing water in and loosened and replaced the soil.

The bonsai will be auctioned in August at the BBQ. Mr. Ikeda's competence and generosity were much appreciated as he took time to look over the trees in the show for suggestions on improvement. Thanks to yoko for arranging the demo.

MEL

## MEL IKEDA SHOW

