

The KAI WIRE



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SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SANSUI KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - APRIL 2016

WE HAVE A SHOW LOCATION AND DATE!!!! Mark your calendar and start getting trees cleaned up and ready to go. Our show will be at the Japanese Garden on Woodley Ave. on May 23rd and 24th. We will have the main building and space for about 35 trees. There will be a shaded area at the entrance for sale tables where we can sell the trees we created in February as well as other bonsai related material that members want to sell. We will need volunteers to man the sale table as well as watch the trees in the show.

This spring has been jammed with life and death. My nephew Dan Burke, loved wood and the things it could make. He custom milled big trees, walnut, maple, fir, oak and pine and sold the wood to furniture makers and builders. The Lark Restaurant in Santa Barbara has a twenty-two foot long table made from a single slab of wood he milled. Most of the wood in the place is from Dan. He died on Mar. 14, age 61, loved by all who knew him.

But bonsai is about the life of miniature big trees. They are virtually bursting out of themselves with enthusiasm compelled by sun, water and fertilizer. I hope you are all spending lots of time contemplating the peace and tranquility of trees in pots. My trees and greenhouse are my sanctuary. One cannot be pessimistic while meditating over a tree or for that matter any small attractive planting.

Last month's non-meeting was brought about by a failure of memory. When we set the schedule of meeting days with the garden center in December, they said that we could not have the second Wed. in March, but could have Thurs. the 10th. The board, me included, simply forgot about the change. We need to make out a calendar for the year as was done in the past. That will be done by this meeting. I remain your humble ("outstanding wonderful"-comments from editor and chorus) President. Jack



Above and upper right
photos from last years show
Bottom right -don't stay at
home
Photos EYHO





Ahh... spring has sprung, and it is time to do everything at once. First, general care; everything has sprouted and is growing well so remember to rotate trees to keep their growth even.

WATER

Water is very important as always. Make sure that everything is getting enough but not too much (tilt your trees when raining heavily to promote drainage). Deciduous trees will be very thirsty as they put on new leaves. Naka recommends that pines be kept on the dry side to insure that needles are short and sturdy. If you are courageous you can even let them wilt a little before watering. This practice is recommended for mature trees that have achieved their desired growth.

TRIMMING

New growth on deciduous trees can be trimmed but wait until it has hardened (gotten woody) before doing so, then trim back to no more than three buds. If you are careful, you can direct the new growth by trimming a bud that is pointing in the direction that you would like the branch to go.

PINES

This is the first month that you can candle prune older pines that have achieved their growth. You should wait to prune candles on young trees until May or even and June.

Healing is rapid because growth is vigorous. This is a good month to create jin.

TRANSPLANTING

Almost anything can be transplanted this month. When transplanting pines be sure to take some of the old soil with the tree because it contains a fungus that is beneficial to the tree. In general these fungi called mycorrhiza, increase the tree's ability to take up water and phosphate from the soil. Speaking of phosphate, this is the first month to fertilize deciduous trees.

FOOD

Conifers can be fertilized all year in southern California because they do not go dormant in our warm climate.

Fruiting and flowering trees should receive low nitrogen, high phosphate fertilizer. Super phosphate is good. Most things will love Miracle Grow used at half strength.

BUGS

Watch for insects. Aphids can be bad, as can spider mites. Spraying with the hose can dislodge some of these pests, but sometimes we must resort to insecticides. Malathion and Volk oil or Ultra- fine will get many pests. The Safer Soaps can be used on delicate things. Sometimes insecticides will burn so be careful and follow directions.



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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S'UP

April 13th Wednesday Sansui-kai meeting and workshop. Bring in your trees for work and consult from Jack and other experienced artists

May 11th SSK features Kathy Benson. Don't miss her demo

May 23rd and 24th is the Sansui-kai Annual Show at the Japanese Garden

April 16th and 17th Koen-nai no fundraiser for the GSBF Clark Bonsai Collection featuring Kenji Miyata David Nguy and sales and exhibit

April 23rd and 24th San Diego Bonsai Club Spring Bonsai Exhibition

May 14th and 15th Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai show and demonstration featuring Frank Goya

Descanso annual Show Dates to follow

Catch Kathy Benson's demo in May at Sansui-kai

