



## SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hank Fawcett

It's July and the beginning of another hot season. This week is expected to reach a high of 108 in the valley. Hot and dry is the perfect weather for those pesky spider mites that will multiply like mad and suck the life out of so many of your bonsai especially conifers. Look for the mites by tapping foliage against a white paper, and then looking for tiny red specks on the paper. If my eyesight isn't finding them, I will swipe my hand against the paper and look for reddish streaks. If I find spider mites, I will spray every week with Malathion Insect Spray concentrate at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon. If I don't find spider mites, I will spray every other week as a preventative. I spray the junipers, especially the kishu and procumbens. From time to time, I will also spray the California junipers and my pines for mites. I may spray for fungi with Clearly 3336, on the pines and junipers.

On very hot days, I will give my trees a quick watering and spray early in the morning and save the daily watering for the late afternoon. I think the most important thing to do is to pay attention to your bonsai and to stay on top of their needs. Enjoy your bonsai. They rely on you.



*President Hank Fawcett brought an elm as a display tree for the June meeting. This will be a monthly feature of the meetings*

*For our July meeting will feature I just confirmed Alan Sugimura. He will bring Japanese Black Pines in various stages of development. He will also bring a piece of material for our raffle. Mel*

# JASON CHAN

JASON CHAN IS A WAVE OF ACTION.

He presented us with the choice of two trees for him to work on. Throughout his presentation he kept alluding to bonsai basics. Once one tree was chosen, he explained that the beginning evaluation of the tree for bonsai is first the root base, trunk taper and then movement. “Design the tree from the bottom up. The tree will then reveals itself. Lay out the branch structures and later trim to shape and remove excess branches that are unnecessary, unattractive, crossing or redundant. Be very careful to wire and protect small branches that might be necessary for the future design of the project. Wire out the branches with wire 1/3 the diameter of the branch unless the branch needs major bending”.

He applied raffia then demonstrated small half cuts to allow bending in the horizontal and vertical plane. He felt bending to curve the branch in horizontal and vertical plane is very important for interest. His technique is to bend the branch to the position desired and then apply wire and suggested that wiring the branch secondary structure should go from the outside in.

Mr. Chan encouraged turntables to make tree turning easier. He discouraged excessive fertilizer in an effort to make a tree healthier without the basic problem treated. He likes soap for spider mites.

Mike won the tree demo and seemed very pleased. See the photo page 5







# Naka Notes

*Lessons from a Master*

by Jack Reynolds

Fertilize as usual. Why fertilize if growth has stopped? The answer is that growth hasn't really stopped. Everything is pushing its root growth now. And fruits may be growing on the fruiting varieties. To be safe and not "burn the roots" use dilute low nitrogen fertilizer

If you have already cut pine candles they may now be having shoots, which can be limited to two for branch ramification. Those at the top may have the verticals saved.

Be on the alert for infestations. See this month's President's message for suggestions.

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. Water in the morning and spray everything including trees, benches and surrounding walls and ground beneath them. The humidity is good for the trees. Keep your pots from getting hot by covering with shade cloth and perhaps New Zealand moss. 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. Organize your plants in groups to make it easier for the person to water correctly. Ask them to come before you leave to demonstrate competence.

Consider a drip system, but even that needs to be checked daily to see if there are any clogged drippers or if the cat has knocked it out of a pot. John Naka says that automatic sprinklers are not completely accurate because there is a tendency

to over-water. In addition, every tree requires different watering.

Shape trees for contour and cut shoots back but avoid hard cutting, which will promote tender growth. Trim trees to remove dead leaves and unwanted branches, but no drastic pruning should be done on most trees. Rotate trees regularly every two to three weeks to prevent one-sided growth.

Don't transplant or repot anything at this season. Possible exceptions would be olives, pomegranates, bougainvilleas, bamboo and ficus that love the heat. Bougainvillea should be cut back hard after the bloom but do not over water them.

Wiring can also be done. Look for ingrown wire. Cut off the wire so the green layer (cambium) is not disturbed and the wire falls off. Do not unwind to save wire. Mistake.

Next Meeting  
Refreshments Reminder

Steve Riley, Emma, Grace  
Rick

# MORE FROM LE SHOW



*And more from le show next month*





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.

**Hank Fawcett  
President**

**Jack Reynolds  
Past President**

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[www.Sansui-Kai.org](http://www.Sansui-Kai.org)

## SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

by  
Jack G. Reynolds

Our Mary Tatro has moved on. What started as a disagreement with her landlord escalated into a major life change. The result is that Mary has moved to near Ashville North Carolina. She has joined an intentional community there called Earthhaven Ecovillage.

I have known for several years that she was interested in such endeavors so it was not a complete surprise when she told me of her decision. She entrusted her bonsai collection to me and I will be parcelling it out to the club some things as donations and others to be sold at auctions. Mary was a good friend over the years and a wise council when I needed it. We did not always agree but were always able to talk constructively together. She was club secretary for the entire time I was club president and made my job easier with her organization ability. I will miss her friendship and her smile. *(me too Ed.)*



*Ending  
on  
a  
happy  
note  
Mike  
Takes  
it  
home*