



# Grafting Demo by Hank Fawcett and Assistant Michael Jonas

Jack Reynolds and Dan Kashinsky

Many of you know Michael as past president of Sansui-kai and former editor of the Kai Wire. Hank was our VP of programs for a number of years. He is very valued member of the bonsai community.

Together they wanted to demonstrate a new simplified method of grafting that they have recently mastered.

Since this technique involves the use of a super sharp grafting knife, Hank emphasized safety using sharps with the free hand location behind the sharp side of the knife and cutting direction away from the body.

The scion graft involves imbedding a small cutting, the scion, into a cut made in a larger branch or even the trunk of the recipient tree. In cutting the scion one makes a flat diagonal cut through the twig. The cut must be flat. Hold the blade still and pull branch through to make the cut. The cuts

should form an asymmetrical wedge with a long and a short side. Cut off all but the 2 bottom sets of leaves. The wedge is pushed in to a cut made in the branch. The long side of the wedge goes next to the branch to insure cambium contact. The short side goes to the outside of the cut. Hank uses electrical splicing tape rather than grafting tape. Once the scion is securely wrapped with tape, the whole graft site is firmly clamped with plastic slip ties. Use tree seal at the graft junction. If more than one scion graft is to be done on the same branch start from the outside and work inwards. This is a little counter intuitive but Hank feels this is the best way not to compromise the prior grafts.

Each scion graft is the enclosed in a plastic bag or the whole tree may be "bagged" to provide humidity to keep the scions alive. Also some healthy foliage must be left on each grafted branch to insure sap flow. The plastic must be left on until new growth is seen in the scions. Bagged grafts cannot be in the direct sun as they will cook.

*See page 2*

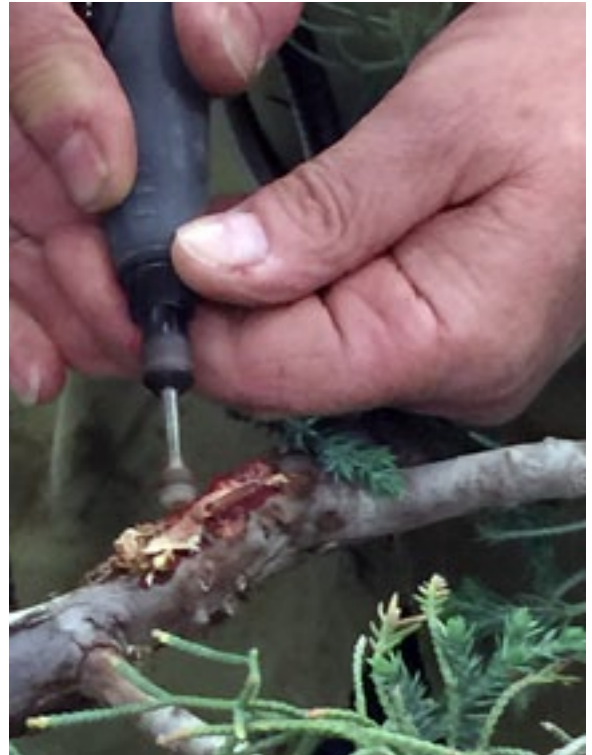
Hank in action below right scion grafts



**Hank' graft demo** *continued from page 1*

Approach grafts are done by grafting small seedling or well started cuttings (whips) in small pots (2-4 in.) The whip is laid into a groove cut into the branch or trunk. The whip will have a short slice taken from each side for an inch or so to expose the cambium. The groove in the receiving branch is made deep and wide enough to just receive the whip. Once pushed into the groove the graft is wrapped with tape and secured with slip ties. It is not necessary to bag approach grafts as the whip has its own root system in the small pot it is growing in. So water the small pots as well as the larger tree and in time the graft will take. The tree should receive at least three hours of sun a day.

The demo was well received. Attendees got a chance to make approach grafts and perhaps some are willing to continue to learn the craft. The fact that members were able to try the technique for themselves if they wanted made the demonstration much more educational than merely watching someone else do it from a distance.



Easy Right?



Shimpaku scion grafts above left. Setting the groove for the approach graft upper right.  
Photos by Dan K. and Gracie S.



## Announcements

January is a good month to study structure and style of your deciduous trees. You can also study deciduous trees in nature. I have learned a lot from studying the local deciduous oaks because they are often very old and have wonderful drooping branches with interesting curves. Whenever you are out among trees take note of the best ones and try to see what it is that makes them attractive. For your deciduous trees remove crossing branches and unnecessary heavy up going unsightly straight branches. For evergreen study trunk taper. Open the tree so light can reach the insides and negative spaces can develop. Remove old needles from black pine leaving most on the bottom and least on top. Watch your trees carefully for the first sign of needing water. Keep your trees damp but not wet. Elevate the edge of your pot about an inch to keep water from pooling if it should rain. Don't water pots that are frozen. Warm these pots slowly. Too much overhead watering can promote the dreaded needle cast fungus in pines so I would not do it at this season.

Be sure to keep your tropical trees under some protection from frost. You can even put them in your garage for several days during particularly cold periods. Bringing them into the house for more than a week or two is risky because the warmth may stimulate new buds that will freeze when the dormant plants are put out. pots that are frozen. Warm these pots slowly. Too much overhead watering can promote the dreaded needle castfungus in pines so I would not do it at this season.

Fertilize your conifers in Southern California. A slow release 5-5-5 should be good. Soil amendments such as gypsum can be used to soften compact soils.

Now is the time to do an application of lime sulfur dormant spray (diluted) to all your dormant deciduous trees. A second will be done in February. The purpose of lime sulfur spray is to kill fungus leaf curl as well as the eggs of many parasitic insects that have been deposited on the bark. Others mix lime sulfur (diluted) with Volkoil as an insecticide. Protect your soil (cover it) even when using diluted lime sulfur.

Remove debris and weeds from the pot. Some replace the first half inch of top soil with new soil mix. Wiring, particularly of deciduous trees may be done this month but be careful of brittle branches. Drastic shaping should be left for the spring. Be very careful to remove old wire that is cutting into branches. You have to look!

Do not transplant (can to pot) anything at this season. Wait another month or two. An exception is California Juniper which may be transplanted in January and February. Hardy black pine and juniper may be repotted (pot to pot) without much root ball disturbance.

Get your pots and soil ready for repotting and get your best ready for SHOW TIME.

## S'UP

BONSAI-A-THON XX FEBRUARY, 2016  
HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

8AM TO 4PM

THE ANNUAL FUND RAISER FOR THE  
GSBF COLLECTION

\*\*\*\*

VOLUNTEER AT THE HUNTINGTON BONSAI  
COLLECTION CONTACT TED MATSON

## REFRESHMENTS

E.J. WEINER, MARY T. JOSH M.



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.

### Administration

**Jack Reynolds**  
President

**Albert Espinoza**  
1st Vice President for Programs

**Mary Tatro**  
Secretary

**Gracie Sy**  
Treasurer

**Sonja Kobler**  
Refreshment Committee

**Josh Miller**  
2nd Vice President for Membership and Benefit Drawing

**Open**  
Librarian

**Dan Kashinsky**  
Editor  
Kai Wire

www.Sansui-Kai.org  
P.O. Box 571492 Tarzana,  
CA. 91357

## SANSUI KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Feb. 2016

Jack G. Reynolds

At last some rain and for me a little snow! Spring promises to be very good for our trees. I am already potting up some quinces which are the first of my trees to break dormancy.

This month's meeting will be another **POTTING WORKSHOP**. We will be producing some small bonsai for sale at our show. Mark your calendars. **OUR SHOW IS ON MAY 21-22** at the Japanese Garden as before. We are hoping to have about 30 small bonsai available for sale as well as other trees and pots brought in by members wishing to sell as private parties. The club will take 20% of such sales as before.

We also need to have our **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** at this meeting. Anyone who wants to nominate a member or self nominate should do so at this meeting. I believe that the current board has agreed to serve yet another year at my request. Please understand that it is beneficial to the club if board members do not become too entrenched in office. Old stagnant boards tend to become rigid and unimaginative so I would welcome any fresh members who want to serve in some capacity. Any new board member will have the help of the older members in learning the ropes. Do not be afraid.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. Jack



WINTER SILHOUETTES

