



Roy Nagatoshi January Demo

ROY NAGATOSHI WHOM MANY CONSIDER THE PREMIER BONSAI MASTER AND SENSEI IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILL BE OUR GUEST JANUARY 10.

A SUCCESSFUL AND FUN
AUCTION AND DINNER
below and page 2



SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - July 2017

by

Jack G. Reynolds

Here we are at the beginning of a new year and club elections. I have enjoyed my time a president but it is time to turn over the responsibility to new leadership. Perhaps new ideas can add strength and enjoyment to the club experience. We have a good slate of officers for this election. The nominating committee has beaten the bushes and rounded up a group of people who will do a good job I'm sure. They are: Hank Fawcett for president, Steve Riley membership VP, Michael Kelly program VP, Eric Percifield secretary ?, Grace Sy treasurer. These are the elected officers of the club and form the board of directors. Other appointed and voluntary jobs are Dan Kashinsky newsletter, Sonja Kobler, refreshments and Josh Miller benefit drawing.

At this meeting in January the membership will have an opportunity to nominate members to the board a well. The election will be at the February meeting as our bylaws dictate.

I would like to say something about the strength of this club. We are a small club compared to some other bonsai clubs but we are not weak.

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Presidents Message

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JACK REYNOLDS SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT

BY MARY TATRO

Our sitting President Jack Reynolds is retiring at the end of his term this year. He turned 80 years old on November 14. He has served three consecutive terms in his current tenure as president and has served SanSui-Kai in various roles for 30 years.

Jack joined the club in 1987, was president from 1991-1992, and also held board positions as secretary and VP for programs. He was several years on the board of the GSBF (Golden State Bonsai Federation). He teaches beginning bonsai classes for the past seven years through his community college near his home in Lake Isabella. Each year for the past three years, Jack brings together the SanSui-Kai Annual Show at the Japanese Garden, and teaches bonsai demonstrations, which last season gathered the most sizeable audience of show attendees, stimulating new membership. Jack writes the monthly Naka Notes column for the club newsletter, Kai Wire, for the past 17 years. Naka Notes is named for the club's founder, Bonsai Master John Naka and is based on his seminal book, Bonsai Techniques, combined with Jack's extensive experience.

Jack Reynolds has served SanSui-Kai with generosity, honesty and integrity for more than 30 years. He has managed and cared for donations others have given to the club collection, and consistently makes generous personal donations of his own bonsai trees, materials, and expertise to club auctions and raffles. He also promotes club initiatives furthering the SanSui-Kai mission which is dedicated to the learning, use and teaching of the horticulture techniques and artistic principles needed to grow, design and care for bonsai.

We have money and a dedicated core membership. In addition we have a patron of sorts in the Japanese Garden who will give us a secure meeting location at no cost as well as a show venue. Most other clubs have to pay for their facilities. We are in an excellent position to carry on our bonsai mission for the foreseeable future. I look forward to being a part of all that.

PARTY /AUCTION

Many items were worth bidding for and having and went for good prices. Jack is a wonderful auctioneer. The participants and the club benefitted thanks to Josh organizing, Grace doing the numbers with Steve and the member's generosity. A feel good event for sure.





Refreshments Grace, Dan Kash, Eric P, Sonja

All deciduous trees should be dormant by now. If you have not removed their leaves and fruit, do it this month. Japanese maples, Trident, and Chinese elms can have all leaves removed, including those that are still green (not Caitlin elms). Prune all of the twiggy tertiary growth having more than two nodes. Remove thick top branches leaving fine secondary and tertiary branches to form the crown and the top one third or one quarter of the tree. Open up the structure of the tree to allow better light penetration.

Pinch excess evergreen growth to create tight, colorful new spring growth.

Pull all moss off of the very base of the trunk and main roots and brush these.

Prepare supplies of potting soil mix, clean pots tools and screens to be ready for spring re potting. Label the trees that will require repotting in spring.

When trees are bare, a VERY dilute dormant spray of lime sulfur may be used as a fungicide. To avoid root damage cover the surface of the pot with plastic to prevent run-off or drip of the spray. A light mist of DILUTE lime sulfur on the top and bottom of the foliage and woody branches is quite effective. Some will not use lime sulfur as an insecticide on conifers. Do not use lime sulfur on azalea and camellia. Volk oil is also an effective non-toxic insecticide but not for buttonwoods. Volk oil can be used on conifers instead of lime sulfur.

Apply lime sulfur at half strength on wet, aged deadwood such as jin and shari. A few

drops of black ink or black acrylic tones down the usual orange color. Cover the soil to protect the roots. Be sure to protect any semitropical such as ficus and bougainvillea by placing them under a bench or inside.

Over watering can easily damage all but especially bougainvillea. Dormant trees use very little water but do not let them dry out. If a tree freezes do not water it until it thaws out. It is better to thaw the tree in an environment that is only a few degrees above freezing. Evergreen trees can be given fertilizer that is high in potassium and phosphorous but low in nitrogen. Bone meal and blood meal and cottonseed may not decompose fast enough to be effective.

Branches are brittle and can easily break. Start your wiring with the lowest branches, proceed to the top, but only wire those branches that need to be repositioned. Strive for a delicate graceful appearance with Japanese maples and a more rugged ramification on trident maples. Hide the cuts by making them slanted to the back, making sure they are concave. Seal all raw scars over 1/4 inch diameter.

This a good month to graft conifers with Shimpaku.

DON'T OVER WATER

WATCH THOSE WIRES

DECIDUOUS CLEAN UP

LOW OR NO NITROGEN FERTILIZER



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

Sonja Kobler
Refreshment
Chairperson

Gracie Sy
Treasurer

Mary Tatro
Secretary

Josh Miller
Vice President for
Programs

Open
Vice President for
Benefit Drawing

Steve Riley
Vice President for
Membership
and Website Editor

Librarian
Open

Dan Kashinsky
Editor
Kai Wire

www.Sansui-Kai.
org

WHY JOIN A BONSAI CLUB

by
Jack G. Reynolds

I once muttered something about how I thought that the internet was killing bonsai clubs. One of the other board members later took me to task for making such a statement as negative and defeatist. That resulted in a deeper conversation on the issue. Over the intervening time I have put together some thoughts that I would like to share on the reasons to belong to a bonsai club. They might apply to almost any club.

First, people are social animals they like to form into groups where the members share a common interest. It could be bonsai, birds or antique tractors. There will be a club where people will gather to talk about their passion for a particular subject. The members offer moral support to each other. Long lasting friendships can be formed.

Second, bonsai is a hands on experience. Club workshops and demonstrations allow one to see close up how a thing is done and a chance to do it under the supervision of an experienced guide. Questions can be asked and answered on the spot eye to eye. Internet demos are remote and may be done by people working thousands of miles away in a different microclimate sometimes on a species that will not grow here. Many of their answers will have to be adjusted to your situation and unless you are experienced you may not know how to make that adjustment.

Third, being a club member gives you an opportunity to gather materiel cheaply in the form of raffle prizes or auctions. It also gives one a better opportunity to learn where the best local sources of materials are. Where one can buy pots, growing media, tools etc. It may also give one the chance to go out and dig a tree in the wild with someone who can help you with advice on how to keep it alive after you have it out of the ground.

Fourth, a club gives the membership an opportunity to show their art. We have an annual show where members bring their best trees and let the public see what they have done. It is a chance to show off a little to your friends, other club members and the general public. Look at that. I did that! Let me tell you how I did that!

Fifth, bonsai is one of the fine arts and is becoming recognized as such. It compels one to step into a world and culture different from ours and participate in it at some level. One becomes more meditative and mindful of the discipline and patience necessary create a bonsai work of art. The effort changes us and improves our understanding of a wider world. Membership in a club reinforces that.