



### Bob Pressler February 2018

Bob Pressler, past president of SSK and owner of Kimura Nursery will be our guest on February 14, 2018. He will report a tree he started work on for SSK in 2017 and will refine later in 2018 for the club auction.



Thanks to Roy Nagatoshi for an amazing demo on grafting . See the story and pics on page 2

### SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - July 2017

by

Jack G. Reynolds

This will be the last president's message I will write. The club records show that I joined Sansui Kai in 1987. I don't remember the month but I think it was late summer. I found the club through the annual show which was held in the Promenade Mall on Topanga Canyon Blvd. that year. I had purchased two or three store bonsai earlier and was struggling with keeping them alive and trying to maintain their style such as it was.

When I saw the show I stopped to talk to anyone who could help me. Dick Beltran was the first person I approached and he was the soul of enthusiastic help and club promotion.

He chatted me up and gave me a membership application and information on meeting time and place. A month or two later I went to my first meeting.

(see attachment for full text)

*Below- having some while learning*



“January is the time for grafting”. Roy discussed 2 trees he had previously grafted and demonstrated grafting on a third later given it to the club for raffle. One (middle left photo) belongs to Michael and is a California. It was grafted 10 years ago. The second (pictured below) was grafted 5 years ago with a single (yes a single!!) approach graft. Roy prefers the coloring and fine foliage of shimpaku grafts. “Before grafting, plant the tree one wants to graft and wait a year to ensure health. The tree should be strong and have interest”.

Roy learned his technique from his father. The tools he uses are simple. He uses 3 mm aluminum wire bent into a hook (photo bottom left) and plastic tubing, tweezers for loose bark and of course a knife (always know where your other the other hand is when using a knife). “The graft must be firmly touching the cambium of at least one side” Three ties are always used. The wire may be cut in 9 months and the graft 15 months.



*Above -A single graft 5 years ago made this mountain juniper bonsai possible*

*Left the approach graft done at the demo*

*Middle Michael's California grafted by Roy 10 years ago*





In general, February is much like January in terms of bonsai care. You will have to be aware of the dampness of your trees. Sometimes we say, "Let the rain do it" (what rain?). Then we may let the trees get too dry, especially in the wind.

If it gets too cold quickly bring your tropicals inside for 3 days at most. Find a balance of light and warmth. You can also bring your vulnerable trees near the house to absorb heat. There are commercial frost blankets that will protect you up to a sustained temperature of 28 degrees.

This is the month to spray DECIDUOUS trees with DILUTE lime sulfur to ward off leaf curl and other insect pests. Do this before the buds enlarge. Cover the soil. Read the directions before you spray. BE CAREFUL SPRAYING EVERGREENS AS YOUR FOLIAGE MAY SUFFER. Don't spray new tender growth or flowers that have opened with lime sulfur. Always wear EYE PROTECTION as pure lime, sulfur which is alkaline, can cause big time problems.

Any trees that were set in the shade to promote dormancy need to be watched. When they start new growth move them into the sun. If you leave them in the shade the growth will be spindly and weak.

Pruning of deciduous trees should be done this month. Prune to allow light inside the tree. Be aware that upper branches may be brittle. This is a good month to start cuttings. Grafting of deciduous trees and also conifers can be done this month.

Fertilizing will not be done this month except for conifers, which are not dormant. Get your soil mixtures made up and sharpen tools for the coming repotting season. It is a good time to apply soil amendments such as Ironite and gypsum.

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Get ready for SHOW TIME May 20th

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S'up

Bonsai-a-thon 2018

BAT

See attachment for info

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Bob Pressler at Sansui-kai

Wednesday

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SSK annual Show

See attachment

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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

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

## *Korean Hornbeam by Lindsay Shiba at Winter Silhouettes 2018*



### *Winter Silhouette*

*Left is a Beauty Berry by Mr. Shimazu*

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*The show was filled with many of the masters that have come to Sansui Kai to work and teach such as Jim Barrett, Kathy Benson, Cheryl Manning, Hank F., Tom Vuong, Al Nelson, Peter Macasieb and Frank Goya.*