



## SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hank Fawcett

The election is over and I am proud to be the new president for the Sansui- kai bonsai club. This should be a wonderful and exciting time for the club as we have a number of new and innovative board members.

Mel took a video of Bob Pressler's February demonstration. Thank you, Mel. The video is excellent! He promises to document our meetings each month for the benefit of our existing and growing club membership.

On February 28th, some of the board members (Steve, Eric and Mike) met at my house to discuss new ideas for the club. Of course, we had the necessary treats (wine and snacks) to enhance a productive meeting . We discussed our monthly schedule for the workshops and guest demonstrators. By March, the schedule for the entire year will appear on website.

The March meeting will consist of a "bring your own tree workshop". Under the masterful guidance of Roy Nagatochi, club members will design or improve their trees. If you don't have a tree, the club will supply one however, your work on the club tree will remain with the club until our yearly auction. As I write the President's message, we are receiving a much-needed rain. Free water. Don't you just love it?

March is a great time to do some work on your bonsai. If you haven't done it in a while, now is a great time to repot. If the buds haven't opened on the deciduous trees, trim the branches to obtain the best ramification. And, of course, if you are as frugal as I am, now is a great time to start cuttings. Whatever your desire, work on your trees. They will appreciate it.

### ROY NAGATOSHI ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 14

Bring a tree for Roy's advice on styling  
health and refinement

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*Below the work of Sansui-kai's new President  
Hank Fawcett shown at the GSBF Convention 2017*



*photo by Eyho*

# BOB PRESSLER DEMONSTRATION

by Mary Tatro



Demonstrator Bob Pressler returned for the stage two design of a 20 year old Procumbens Juniper. He focused on further establishing primary branches and secondary branches, wiring all branches, making an apex, and repotting.

He started work last June trimming, pruning and making design decisions that he nourished in the eight month interim. During that time the tree had a chance to recover from a case of mites and his initial cuts

This February, he continued further design work before repotting. "Allow strong growing tips on the Juniper, he said. Do not pinch tips -- an erroneous practice until recently. Instead, cut growth from the stem – one tiny cut."

"This juniper's primary branches are established. New growth is developing in the interior due to the initial pruning in June, which opened up growth opportunity for what will become stronger secondary and tertiary branch development and back-budding.

He assumes the tree was in its pot 15 years, in a clay soil and thus does not have very strong roots. He determines a two-year wait before repotting again after this initial repot which will be done in two stages.

"Have all of your materials ready. Screen pot drainage holes; position wires from four directions to tie the tree into the new pot, which will keep the roots from moving around and being damaged". He is ready with a caladama, pumice and scoria soil mix. He wacks the top of the old pot and let's the tree drop away from it. Never pull the tree out of the pot he warns. He uses a drywall saw to cut away dead roots, and carefully saves a root ball with enough of its old soil to transition into its new environment. He uses his tools to incorporate new soil mix into the root ball. "The type of soil used determines how the tree is watered," he said. "In clay soil, watering every day will kill the tree. A good soil may be a mixture of commercial potting mix and bonsai soil to hold and release nutrients and moisture. How you water matters for what soil mix you use". At his nursery, he groups plants according to their watering needs. Consistent soil and watering makes a bonsai collection easier to take care of.

By December, Pressler expects that the tree will have a canopy. He will come back then when he will focus on designing shari and lifelines into the composition; and finer wiring of secondary and tertiary growth.





# Naka Notes

*Lessons from a Master*

by Jack Reynolds

In this odd year some trees have broken dormancy. This presents some problems. We may later get more frosty nights. Bring trees coming out of dormancy into sunny locations to stimulate the new growth but be ready to move them back into protection if the weather should turn cold.

## WATER

Watering needs to be handled carefully as well. Over watering will promote large leaves or leaves with browning at the tips.

## BLOOMERS

Some flowering trees will be in bloom. When they have bloomed out eighty percent of their flowers, remove the remaining buds and all of the bloom. This will prevent stressing the tree. Leave a few blooms on fruiting trees so that a few fruits will develop for the fall. The same should be done with berries.

## FERTILIZER

It is not too early to use high nitrogen fertilizers and magnesium, sulfur and iron can be added for good leaf color. Conifers can also be fertilized with organic fertilizers. Liquid fertilizers can be used such at one half or one-quarter strength Miracle Grow.

## TRANSPLANTING

From March until June is the time to transplant. There are two reasons to transplant. The first is that the tree needs to be moved to another pot for aesthetic reasons; second is for reasons of health of the tree. When transplanting into a new pot there will probably not be much of a size change and roots will not be disturbed too much. Some root pruning will undoubtedly be necessary. Remove large unsightly roots but leave enough

white fine feeders to sustain the tree. Remember to remove some foliage if you remove a significant number of roots in order to maintain a balance between water uptake and water loss.

Trees that are vigorous such as willows may have to be potted every year but in general the decision to change soil should be made when the tree shows signs of slowing down in growth or signs of being root bound.

## BUGS

Insects can be bad at this time of year particularly aphids and scale. Check early and often. Spray with Ultra Fine and Malathion or other insecticide as directed. It is better to use slightly dilute mixes due to the fact that trees in pots tend to be more sensitive to insecticides than those in the ground. A second spraying with lime sulfur can be done now if you did not do it in Feb. Do not spray lime sulfur on new growth or flowers unless you are willing to suffer some damage to same.

## CUTTINGS

This is the perfect time to start deciduous cuttings, especially large ones. Grafting of deciduous trees can also be done but it is too late for junipers.

Next Meeting  
Refreshments Reminder  
**Grace Emma, Ron Brown**

# ADDED TECHNOLOGY FOR COMMUNICATING BONSAI

Mel Carrillo leveraged technology and introduced the innovation of live streaming Robert Pressler's demo onto our Sansui-kai Facebook page. Mel had help and mentoring from Jason Saito, who brought audio-visual equipment, including a speaker system with wireless lapel microphone, which helped improve our audiences' experience.

During the live stream, Mel filmed video using a tripod mounted iPhone with a wide angle lens and broadcasted video to anyone that is associated with our Sansui-Kai Facebook page. Viewers have the ability to view what Mel was filming while having the option to type in comments and questions in real-time, making it an interactive experience. Some members that were physically at our meeting joined the live stream on their cellphones to take advantage of the various close up camera angles. Other members and bonsai enthusiasts from other local bonsai clubs joined our live stream virtually.

Mel submitted a formal proposal to the Board to support purchasing Audio-Visual equipment and accessories among other ideas, which is being considered. After the live stream video ended, Mel uploaded the video file to our Facebook page, which archives the video for viewing on-demand. The next day, the recorded live stream had reached over 380 people in our virtual and local bonsai community. How cool is that!

Live streaming with a speaker system brings added value to our Sansui-kai members and to our prospective members while promoting Sansui-kai's mission of being dedicated to the learning, use and teaching of the horticultural techniques and artistic principles needed to grow, design and care for bonsai.

Follow our Sansui-kai Bonsai Club page on Facebook and see what all the buzz is about.

Thanks Mel



lights, camera, action

# GSBF 2018 HUNTINGTON



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

Hank Fawcett  
President

Jack Reynolds  
Past President

Sonja Kobler  
Refreshment  
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Gracie Sy  
Treasurer

Eric Percifield  
Secretary

Mike Kelley  
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Steve Riley  
Vice President for  
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Website Editor

Librarian  
David Lim

Dan Kashinsky  
Editor  
Kai Wire

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



*Bob Hilvers project included his secret muck formula (what is that Bob?)*



*Club members Josh, Rick and Mitch mentoring the new folks interested in bonsai visiting BAT show*

