



## SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hank Fawcett

What an tremendous heat wave we had in July! The temperature jumped 20 degrees in one day. At my house in Reseda, the temperature on Saturday, July 8, was an incredible 117 degrees. Saturday followed with another scorcher at 115 degrees. All my bonsai were affected by the heat. But the worst damage was to my California junipers and it was devastating. There were dried branches on the California junipers almost immediately. It was the same fate for many of the trees of Michael Jonas, Al Rivera, Fuji Bonsai, The Huntington Gardens and at the estate sale conducted by Bob Pressler at the residence of David Bernstein. I spoke with Tom Vuong in Anaheim and his California junipers took a hit but his Rocky Mountain junipers and Utah junipers were unscathed. Curiously enough, my RMJ was also unaffected by the heat wave.

I spoke with Mauro Stemberger and his recommendation was to put a 30% to 40% shade cloth over the trees, do not overhead water during the day and reserve daily watering to the late afternoon.

So, now what? Are they going to recover? Obviously, time will tell but in the best-case scenario, the recovery will take years. My California junipers are definitely under tremendous stress. So, I decided that they might be prone to fungal attack and I began to spray them with a fungicide. Will it help? I am not sure but I need to do something and this approach seemed logical. I contacted Mauro again to determine if giving the California junipers a light treatment of B1 or Superthrive would be ok. He thought about it and agreed. I gave the bonsai a foliar spray (on the leaves) of 1/4 tsp per gallon as recommended on the Superthrive website. Time will tell if I get sufficient back budding.

Our auction and pot luck dinner is rapidly approaching. Thanks to the generous donations of David Bernstein, the club will be selling 3 bonsai. If you want a bald cypress forest, procumbens nana rock planting or a beautifully aged grape, now is your opportunity to have it. If you have bonsai or pots that you want to sell, search the back woods and under the benches and please bring them to the next club meeting.



Hank's California from Le Show earlier this year

# Alan Sugimura Demo

ALAN SUGIMURA JULY 2018

Mr. Sugimura showed up early with a large number of young pines he had grown from seeds. His process of germinating seeds is complex and involves finding the right seeds and using cooling and water to begin.

His demonstration was sophisticated on very basic techniques refined to the black pine. I was impressed by his attention to detail on grooming and keeping healthy so many black pine that he grows. I was also impressed by his generosity in sharing information and absorbing the experiences of the Sansui-kai members present. Here are just a few of his pearls.

His soil consists usually of akadama, perlite and black lava rock 6:2:1. He repots ideally in January but will also do so in November and December. He does not plant in the ground because the taproots become unmanageable. If he wants more trunk diameter he just increases pot size or uses a pot within a pot.

“Bend the trunk early before it gets to ½ inch size. Soak the trunk if larger and it will bend safely. Wire with , for instance, 2 number 1 wires as opposed to 1 number 2 for less chance of wire imbedding in the branch”.

His plant food is Milwaukee Sewerage (yes), combined with chicken manure and Treetone with micro-rhizia 1/3: 1/3: 1/3 to make a slurry. There is an odor but the pines don't seem to mind.

“Spider mites are the evil infestation of a warm summer”. Once a year he uses a systemic called Bayer Rose (Costco). Purified Neem Oil (Azamax) is useful and effective for spider mites but they have a short life cycle of 3 days that requires frequent spaying (5ml per gallon). Fungus can brown needles requiring a systemic.

I won the raffle tree. A black pine. I noticed that each needle was pristine, a good green and not a trace of yellow. As the days went on under my care that perfect look softened. It takes more than we think to be a lot better at black pines.





# Naka Notes

*Lessons from a Master*

by Jack Reynolds

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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 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 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.

Pinch (cut) trees to shape and contour and cut shoots back but avoid hard cutting, which will promote tender growth. Trees may be trimmed for shape, to remove dead leaves and unwanted (crossing) branches, but no drastic pruning should be done on most trees because it will promote new tender growth that will tend to either burn off in the heat or freeze off this winter.

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 and 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. Remove wire so the green layer (cambium) is not disturbed and the wire falls off.

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.

Cut pine candles 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 especially spider mites. See July Naka Notes for suggestions.

Next Meeting Wednesday August 8 6:30  
Bring food trees pots books wire  
for the auction  
Don't miss it

## *This and that*

FROM TED MATSON

To all members of the bonsai community...  
You're invited to the Nambu Kai Annual Bonsai Exhibition at Nisei Week.  
August 18-19, 2018  
10 am - 5 pm  
Japanese American Community Cultural Center  
244 South San Pedro St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
The exhibit will feature 30 masterpiece bonsai, with displays from long-time Nambu Kai members as well as a selection of fine bonsai from other accomplished artists and teachers in California. The exhibition is in the George J. Doizaki Gallery on the main floor of the JACCC, with trees shown "gallery style," with no tables or accents, but just bonsai on white pedestals against a white background. Please join us.

### THINK

Think about what you will bring food and auction items to the next meeting 6:30 August 8th. We would appreciate you bringing some food, either chips guac salsa etc., vege, salad or desert.

Bid for trees and pots collected from the club from donors and demos. Nonmembers are welcome. Of course it would be nice if nonmembers who wish to bid joined the club as well. No pressure. There will be some high end trees in the auction.

To view our video archives,  
please visit  
<https://m.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai/>

Don't miss the  
Nambu-kai show!!!

Below  
Pic of Alan Sugimura concentrating during his presentation.





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**

**Sonja Kobler  
Refreshment  
Chairperson**

**Gracie Sy  
Treasurer**

**Eric Percifield  
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**Mike Kelly  
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**Josh Miller  
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Kai Wire**

**Mel Carillo  
Technical Visual  
communication**

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

<https://m.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai/>



Final pics from Le show displayed over last 3 months in the Kai Wire. If anyone got left out I'm sorry and please let me know.