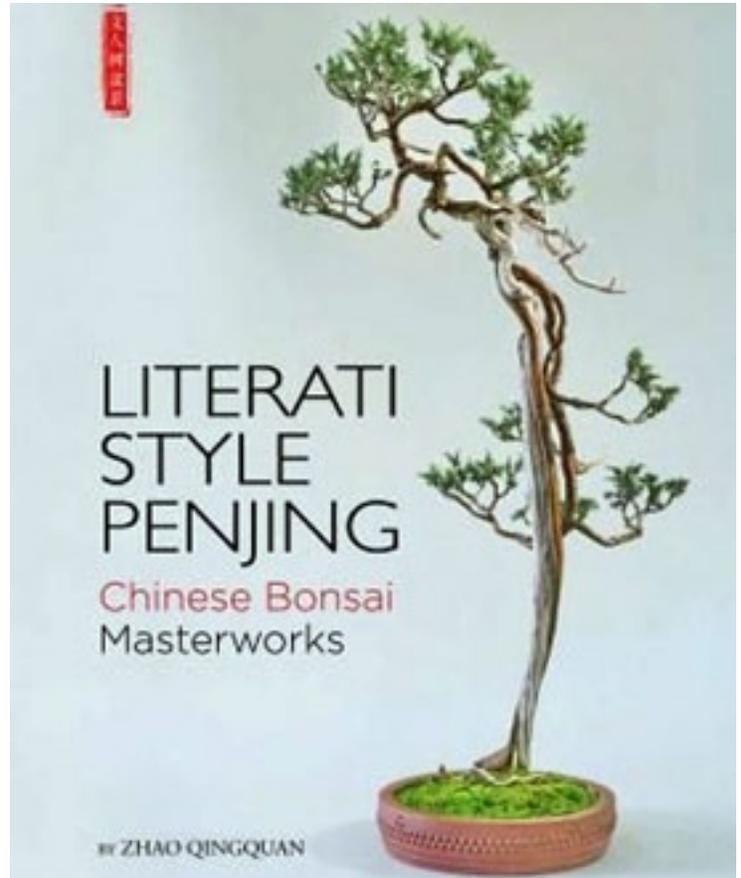


Kai Wire For July 2015

Here Gloria accepts the raffle prize, a fine miniature leaf olive that Jack generously donated after his demonstration. Below book cover Jack referenced.



President's Message from Jack Reynolds

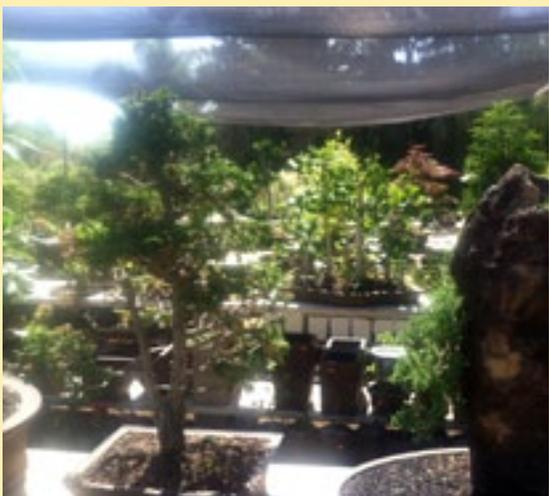
ately I have been thinking about bonsai as a fine art. We spend so much time and energy just getting the horticulture right that we tend to forget that the goal is a beautiful tree. I recently joined the Kern River Valley Art Association. Yes, they let me in. Associating with artists is helping me fill in my vocabulary of artistic ways of thinking and giving me a language to use.

Continued on Page 2





Travis Goldstein's Bonsai Nursery (below) will care for your trees on vacation. Classes and great trees.



If you have any comments or info for the Kai Wire, please send them to Daniel Kashinsky at kaptankaiser@gmail.com



Left Jack coaxing the tree into submission, Above David Nguy at the Descanso show where many Sansui-kai members showed and won prizes especially in novice.

Photos by EYHO

S'UP

July 10 meeting -Bring in a tree and discuss your progress with Jack or other fine bonsai enthusiasts in attendance.

Nathan's Sale- Don't miss it. July 11 9-3

Japanese American Cultural Center Downtown. Date and time to be posted. Usually great show with critique Saturday AM

Barbecue- Will there be a SSK barbecue and auction this year? Opinion?

Russell Benson's sale of his personal bonsai collection

*Naka Notes - Lessons from a Master is Jack Reynolds's collection of guidelines primarily from Sansui-Kai founder and master John Naka's texts, **Bonsai Techniques I and II** monthly care of your bonsai.*

Naka Notes

Lessons from a Master

by Jack Reynolds
Contributing Editor



Your main concern this time of year should be to carefully tend your trees during the heat. Rotate them every week or two. Hot pots can cook roots so protect the pot by covering it with sphagnum moss or burlap or place a board over the surface of the pot to shade the soil and the side toward the sun. Set trees on the damp ground in the shade.

Put up shade cloth on an overhead frame. Water overhead in the morning so as to dampen the benches and surrounding ground. The higher humidity is good for the trees except for pines. Something I have learned from the scientific literature on needle cast disease in pines is that high humidity promotes it so I spray my pines infrequently. Junipers and deciduous trees all seem to like a good wash off which is especially good for pests.

Your main concern this time of year should be to carefully tend your trees during the heat. Rotate them every week or two.

Fertilize everything. Remember frequent dilute fertilizing is better than infrequent heavy applications. Also read about the argument for organics.

Trees can be defoliated this month but not later. Remember to remove all leaves and set the tree in a shady place for a couple of weeks until the new leaves are just beginning to pop. You should cut down on the water also because without leaves there is little transpiration and

the soil will remain too wet. These would include, Ficus, olives, Bougainvillea, pomegranate, maples, elms and Ginkgo. This is usually done to reduce leaf size but sometimes is done to make a late transplanting possible. It should only be done on **healthy** trees. When defoliating remove all the leaves leaving a short stub of the leaf stem (petiole). Set the tree in the shade and keep it there until the new leaves start to sprout, then move to full sun gradually.

Flowering trees should have any remaining buds removed and most of the fruit. Leave a few for fall enjoyment but don't leave all the fruit on one branch. If you left fruit on the tree last year it might be a good idea to strip it all off this year. Fruits are very taxing to the tree.

Don't transplant this month. Exceptions are pomegranates, olives, bougainvilleas, willow, and tamaris. Consider keeping the last three in water during the heat.

Shaping of trees can go on as for June but you should have already done your candle pruning on pines.

Air layering can be done this month. Check for insect pests. Woolly aphids might show up in any apple relative. Spider mites are always a potential problem in junipers. Mealy bugs are always a problem at our house. Spray with a combination of malathion and Volk oil or malathion and Ultrafine. **Be careful not to mix too strong an oil mixture. Spray according to directions or weaker. It is possible to burn trees with a combination of malathion and Volk oil or malathion and Ultrafine. Wait till sunset**





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.

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President's Message *continued from 1*

One thing that it has done is to help refine my view of what it is that I like about a tree. Which is to say that I prefer sparse more open trees over dense ones. I like to see the “bones” of the tree because to me they tell the story of the tree more than the foliage can. This is why I love the Winter Silhouettes show so much. I like dead wood on conifers. They grow in the mountains and are subjected to harsh conditions and should have scars to prove it.

I recently got a book on literati style penjing (Chinese bonsai) by Zhao Qingquan. It blew my mind. I want to work on trees in this way. Many of the rules of proportion that we learn for traditional Japanese bonsai do not apply. When you think about it Japanese style bonsai is all we are exposed to here in the US, yet China and Southeast Asia have long had their own bonsai or penjing traditions. After all it was the Chinese who introduced Korea and Japan to penjing which became bonsai in Japan. There is much to learn from these other traditions as well. More on that later.

Francois Jeker who writes about bonsai aesthetics, tells a story about John Naka. He asked John once if he ever talked to his trees. John replied, “are you crazy? I don't talk to my trees but they do talk to me”. We all need to spend time listening to our trees.

