

The most important item to mention for this month's meeting is THE BBQ AUCTION! The 2nd Wednesday September 9th at the Sepuveda Gardens. Everyone should bring a dish to feed 6 people to the meeting. The club will furnish chicken and soft drinks.

Don't forget to bring auction items and money to buy the good stuff that will be auctioned off such as the tree David Nguy did at the August meeting. There will be a couple of Dick Ryerson hand thrown pots as well.

This is a good time to purchase future masterpiece bonsai material. The club gets 100% of the money. This is our big fund raiser for the year so be generous.

The club president had a little scare concerning the auction. I tried to call Don Berkus to discuss using his home as we have done for many years and when my cell phone dialed I got a "phone out of service" message. Lacking any more to go on I thought that something may have happened to the Berkus' and decided that we would have to use our regular meeting room for the BBQ-Auction. However there is a happy ending. Sonja Kobler went up to the Berkus' home and found that they are both ok but tiring easily and that is why they have not been to meetings regularly. I had the wrong number in my phone. Next year we hope to be back at their home for our regular BBQ-Auction.

Jack Reynolds was the auctioneer in 2014





Bonsai is work,
Above David and June Nguy- left finished for now

*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

September is pretty much like August as far as bonsai care is concerned. It is generally hot, particularly in the first part of the month so care must be taken in watering but since most trees have finished their branch growth they will not require as much water as in the spring. Strike a balance between the amount of water given and the needs of the tree in the heat. One way to do this is to check the top quarter or half inch of soil, if it is damp a quarter to half an inch down then you don't need to water if it is dry then water until water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Very small trees (shohin) may need to be checked twice a day. Look at the drainage holes for cobwebs and other obstruction and clean with a bristle brush.

Trees that may become sunburned should be placed in the shade. This will start the tree into dormancy and inhibit sprouting of new growth too late in the year; such late growth usually freezes off or burns off in the fall and winter winds. Trimming should be reduced at this time of year. Don't remove growth until it has matured. If in doubt leave it for spring pruning. Reduce shimpaku only a little and with discrete scissor cutting not plucking or mowing.

Light feeding, particularly of trees that are still showing new growth is permitted at this season. Deciduous flowering and fruiting species may benefit from a low nitrogen high phosphorous high potassium fertilizer (0-10-10 such as Liquinox Bloom) to promote fruit development and strong roots.

Some things may be transplanted this month, particularly toward the end of the month. These would be pines and junipers. No severe root pruning should be done however so you should only be moving trees from one pot to another of about equal or larger size. If the weather remains hot, wait until October to re pot. Willows, tamarix, olive and bougainvillea can be re potted or even started as cuttings at this season.

Pine candles and needle plucking can begin now for directional branch growth and ramification and needle reduction; but done under the guidance of an experienced bonsai artist.

S'up

Sansui-kai BBQ-Auction Wednesday September 9th Sepulveda Gardens. Bring it.

Sansui-kai October 14 Roy Nagatoshi

<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org> gsbf website for John Throne

GSBF October 29 - November 1 Riverside

Conejo October 3,4 2015 Gardens of the World 2001 Thousand Oaks Blvd

Kofu Bonsai Kai September 23-27 John M. Lee Court Santa Ana





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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David Nguy

Go with the right way.

A good turn out for David and June who brought one of his California Juniper beauties to gaze upon and a prostrata to work upon.

“Here in the USA bonsai we are obsessed with pinching. The Japanese way is the right way. Since the plant energy goes to the tip of the branch the branch should be cut and not pinched”. He demonstrated shortening the branch by clipping larger ramifying branches rather than pinching back the whole. “Do not worry about leggy branches. The back growth behind the tip if present many times is not healthy. Keep working to make the tips healthy by receiving the energy of the plant and use wire to place tip foliage in the proper places to fill the visual holes”.

“Wiring is of first importance. Wire correctly moving the branch left to right and not so much up and down”. David showed us the wiring method of using the index finger to push down and the thumb to push up. This way the wire “walks rather than skips.

He likes the strength of the prostrata especially the Japanese prostrata which is more compact and tends to produce less juvenile growth.

He played with the audience helping to design the tree. “I don’t know what to do” (HAHA). People shouted out which branches should go. It was good fun. “The more branches I cut off the less I have to wire”. The tree should have roots trimmed and re pot in the fall.

His bonsai creation will be saved for the auction in September so show up and make your bid. Also bring in your own material for the club to auction and some side dishes or desserts to enjoy.

Mel Ikeda President of Nanpu Kai at the 2015 Show

