

The KAI WIRE

山水會

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SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jim Barrett July 13 7:30 PM

Jim Barrett's highly prized
foemina shown here at
Descanso 2016 *Photo EYHO*



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Workshop June 2016 Meeting



Above Bonsai Albert incognito at work and Grace explaining to the olive how the trunk movement will look



Above and Left
New bonsai fanatics get the feel of things from Marshall at the SSK meeting.

All Pictures by EYHO





July

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.

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. 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. 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. 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 two 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.**

Emma Descanso 2016





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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SANSUI KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JUNE

by Jack G. Reynolds

Hi all. It has been a trying month for me. I have had to deal with some family issues that don't need to be discussed here and then there was the Erskine Fire which blew right through Squirrel Valley where I live. In about ten minutes it came over the top of Cook Peak which is about a mile from my house and ten minutes later it was in my back yard. I had only about fifteen minutes warning. Just time enough to through the photo albums in the car and some valuables and then grab a shovel and a couple of buckets and turn the hoses on.

I never thought seriously of leaving. Just throw water on the flames in front of you and move on to the next hot spot. Fortunately I had whacked my weeds short so flames stayed low and burned more slowly. The house, animals and bonsai came through all undamaged. I just had a sore throat for a couple of days from smoke inhalation. The back and side yards are pretty ugly and will remain so until we get a little rain, if it ever rains again. No power, internet or cell phone service for a week. Fortunately I have a back up generator so had electricity in the house.

Then on last Friday I get an email from Don Berkus' daughter and Ileene Berkus has passed away that day. Don and Ileene are a devoted couple who have kindly allowed Sansui Kai to have our annual BBQ auction at their home. In recent years Ileene would accompany Don to meetings but lately ill health has kept them both at home. It is always sad to loose a friend. Be well, Jack



Ileene Berkus' Passing

Don and Ileene Berkus are very important to Sansui-Kai. Here is Ileene hosting our 2014 auction and potluck. Generosity and warmth were clearly communicated in their wonderful home yearly since before I joined the club.

THANK YOU