



# BEN OKI JUNE 11TH

### SSK Demonstration Calender

JAN. 8th---- Kathy Benson

FEB. 12th----Roy Nagatoshi

March 12th Jim Barrett

APR. 9th---- Member's Workshop

**MAY.14th**---David Nguy

**JUN.11th**--- **Ben Oki**

JULY.9th----Herry Hirao

AUG.13th---Bob Pressler

SEP.10th---- Members Workshop

OCT. 8th----Frank Goya



Split trunk juniper  
by Ben Oki From his  
Website

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Jack Reynolds*

Of course the top priority for this month is the show coming up on June 14-15. (10 AM-5 PM) Please try to enter at least one of your best trees for the enjoyment of the people who will be attending the plant fair on that weekend. Set up will be Fri. afternoon between 1-5. If you cannot make that then bring it early Sat. morning. This is an unjudged. Call Eric Percifield (765-491-6729) the show chair and give him the info on your tree and delivery time.

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**Ben Oki** is a curator of the Bonsai Collections at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California.

Ben has been specializing in California Juniper. He is well known for his rugged, freeform style, fine detail work, fast wiring, and skillful tree-splitting techniques (see photo).

In 1989, Los Angeles Consul General of Japan Seki Hiromoto honored Ben with a prestigious recognition of his RYU NO MAI "Dancing Dragon", a collected California Juniper. In 1991, the tree became a part of the North American Collection at the National Bonsai and Penjung Museum, United States National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

In 2001, Ben Oki received the Ryokuhaku-Juyukosho (Green and White Achievement Award) from the Agricultural Society of Japan, and in 2003 he received the GSBF Circle of Sensei Award.



Jack Reynold's Quince *Pic by EYHO*  
See text below

### President's Message

*(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)*

One always wonders what to include in this message. Other than the club business. I think I will just ramble on about bonsai.

I had a minor tragedy this winter that did not reveal itself until spring. I have a small Chinese elm forest that I have been working on for about five years. It was getting better every year. It was sitting on a bench right next to my flowering quinces. Quinces are more thirsty than elms. Michael Hagedorn convinced me that I needed to water my quinces more often, at least twice a day and even three times if the temperatures went over 90 F. So all winter I watered at least once even in cold weather (above freezing) and often twice.

There was the elm forest six inches away from the quinces and it had nice moss and moss loves water so I watered it like the quinces. Everything was dormant with no leaves so damage did not show until spring when three quarters of the elms did not leaf out, dead! I drowned them. I love the quinces and also the elms. It was so easy to over water them because they were so close together. The lesson is that not everything needs the same water schedule and if you have a good program for a tree don't let the neighbor tree influence your proper care. Be well, Jack

## June Refreshments Sonja, Armando, Grace Mitch

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## Coming Events

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### SANSUI-KAI SHOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

June 14th and 15th with sales and  
demos and Auctions

Contact [Kaptankaiser@gmail.com](mailto:Kaptankaiser@gmail.com)

or check at

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

### DESCANSO BONSAI SOCIETY June 14th and 15th Sales and demos and Saturday night fiesta

Visit the Descanso web page



The first month of summer, trees will be leafed out and growing rapidly. It is important to ROTATE your trees every 2 weeks to insure even growth. Deciduous trees may be moved into PARTIAL SHADE. However too much shade will promote large leaves.

When WATERING, spray the foliage benches and ground to raise local humidity. MAPLES are sensitive to over watering, which can make their new leaves small and misshapen, and old leaves get brown tips. Check your pot drainage and tip the pot to one side with a stone if drainage is questionable.

It is easier to use GUY WIRES or directional pruning to shape the branches of deciduous trees than to wire the branches thick with leaves. Cut back the branches to one or two nodes. Fertilize with low nitrogen and high phosphorous on deciduous trees.

This is a good month to DEFOLIATE deciduous trees like ginkgos, elms and maples. Remove every leaf. You may WIRE after defoliation but be careful to prevent wire cuts. FERTILIZE everything this month. Be sparing on fruiting and flowering trees.

Candle pruning nursery stock can be started earlier than black pine that has been in a bonsai container for some time. For instance, nursery stock may have their candles pruned this month. The object is to produce shorter internodes and an abundance of branches (JB).

Bonsai black pine, depending again on maturity and health, may have the candle pruning program start as early as late May or as late as mid-July. The later you prune, the shorter the internodes (JB).

Cut back the branches to one or two nodes. Stock may have their candles pruned this month.

Needle plucking is a personal choice and, if done, should not be done on a weak, unhealthy tree (JB).

This is the month to TRANSPLANT Satsuki azaleas after they have flowered. Cut off the flower at the base cleanly. You can also transplant olives bougainvillea pomegranate, ficus, blue cedar atlas, willow and tamarack, maples if the growth has hardened and roots are not disturbed much.



Ben Oki from his web page



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 *By Mary Tatro*

In Japan, the black pine is coveted. There, the growers grow black pines expressly for bonsai. The material is brokered to bonsai masters and markets where a black pine tree in an antique pot can bring \$10,000.

In the United States, we have to create our own material. Black pines purchased here through landscape nurseries are not bonsai material, says David Nguy, San Sui Kai speaker and demonstrator for May.

David Nguy shared his secrets for the black pine bonsai, and he demonstrated with a tree he has grown using the methods he recommends.

David Nguy buys a landscape tree that is not bonsai material. He chops off the top in cold season to the first branch. (The tree dies if cut or root trimmed in summer.) David has more than 200 trees in the ground that have been similarly cut with a 90 percent survival rate. He fertilizes year-round, heavier in April because in June or July the tree will need to be hearty when he cuts the candles. He uses an organic slow release fertilizer. Liquid chemical fertilizers water out and result in smaller growth, he says. He uses four tablets until they are gone.

If the tips of the needles yellow, it is a watering issue. Black pine want to be watered once a day in a plastic pot, twice a day in a bonsai pot. Water twice a day for good nebari. In Japan, the most senior growers manage watering. Each black pine is different -- soils, pots, sizes, stages of development require good watering instincts. Sometimes, the tree needs to be soaked to be sure the roots are not dry.

If the needles yellow (and it is not needle cast or an insect) the roots need trimming and repotting. "Trim the roots as much as you can when you repot," he says, "it will make the feeder roots 100 percent healthier."

David Nguy recommends a potting mix of 60 percent black lava and 40 percent akadama. Black lava holds fertilizer even in the hottest weather and the roots love it, he says.

Candle trim and needle pull June through August. Make a straight cut. Cut the lower, weaker part first, wait ten days, cut the medium part, and ten more days before cutting the upper part. Little puffs form ten days after cutting. Balance the cutting schedule so the lower branches remain strong. Pluck long, older needles. You want to have one size needle, he says. Best time to wire and style is right after pruning. After pruning, new buds begin to form at the cut. This second phase of the growth cycle continues until November then growth slows during winter. In December/January choose which of the new buds to keep. Cut off strongest & the weakest buds, and save a healthy pair. Listen to the tree and watch for weakness. Cut cones, cut flowers. The tree is weak if it flowers. Fertilize year-round to make it healthier



David Nguy *from webpage*