



TED MATSON BLACK PINE MAGIC

Ted Matson teaching the finer aspects of soil composition for Black Pines.

Photos by Dan Kashinsky

by Dan Kashinsky
Editor in Chief

Ted Matson has benefited the SSK Club and its members by doing several workshops on the same tree to teach different bonsai. After styling a black pine he is back for repotting. For black pine transplant time is at the onset of bud swelling and ends as the buds start to resemble small pineapples.

This particular Black pine is embedded in DG, which he felt explained, its lack of back budding after light was allowed in through needle reduction. DG is helpful

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Ted Matson

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in smaller amounts for Cal juniper but is inert and helps little if at all for other trees and Ted feels it is best to use a more porous combination of scoria (lava) and pumice (Drystall) which absorbs and releases water most effectively and akadama which allows for storage and release of nutrients. He adds diatomaceous earth (Napa Auto) which stores and releases potassium (the fertilizer big three are nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous). Fertilizer can burn tender roots and is not added.



Once out of the plastic container the roots were seen to be thick. White fine roots were few. No fungus was apparent. Thus the plants health was marginal and no root cutback was wanted. So the tree was repotted with the roots intact. He usually uses a drainage layer, which is bigger rock,

but its real purpose is to separate the roots from the bottom of the pot. Wire tie in is a must for Ted. He stressed removing air spaces and especially spaces between the bottom of the root ball and the new soil.

For pruning the usual time is end of summer. Ted prefers to allow the tree to grow until October – November after 3 months of feeding before pruning. Select 2 buds of the same size adjacent to form a v rather than separate buds which forms a pitchfork shape.

For this tree leave candles alone this year to allow the tree to strengthen. Keep in half shade and away from wind for 6 weeks with no fertilizer.

Who will get this bonsai at the club auction?



CBS Show at the Huntington - Our Teacher's Show

Photos and text by Dan Kashinsky
Editor in Chief

The show as always was quite interesting. I came on Sunday to see the show and got to see Al Nelson doing a grand sakei. It was different than the one he did at SSK. With repetition I am starting to get the sakei principles of tray, muck, tree, soil, akadama dust and ground cover with tiny ferns and moss. Al's oak graced the entrance to the show. SSK Club members Rick Nabor and Al Espinoza were going over each bonsai. Lindsay Shiba took an audience around for a critique of the show. Ted Matson was available for questions. The local bonsai masters hung out and talked. Nice scene.



*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



Ahh... spring has sprung, and it is time to do everything at once. First, general care; everything has sprouted and is growing well so remember to rotate trees to keep their growth even. Water is very important as always. Make sure that everything is getting enough but not too much (tilt your trees when raining heavily to promote drainage). Deciduous trees will be very thirsty as they put on new leaves. Naka recommends that pines be kept on the dry side to insure that needles are short and sturdy. If you are courageous you can even let them wilt a little before watering. This practice is recommended for mature trees that have achieved their desired growth. New growth on deciduous trees can be trimmed but wait until it has hardened (gotten woody) before doing so, then trim back to no more than three buds. If you are careful, you can direct the new growth by trimming a bud that is pointing in the direction that you would like the branch to go. This is the first month that you can candle prune older pines that have achieved their growth. You should wait to prune candles on young trees until May or even June. This is a

good month to create jin, because growth is vigorous and healing is rapid.

Almost anything can be transplanted this month. When transplanting pines be sure to take some of the old soil with the tree because it contains a fungus that is beneficial to the tree. In general these fungi called mycorrhiza, increase the tree's ability to take up water and phosphate from the soil. Speaking of phosphate, this is the first month to fertilize deciduous trees. Conifers can be fertilized all year in southern California because they do not go dormant in our warm climate. Fruiting and flowering trees should receive low nitrogen, high phosphate fertilizer that will promote flower and root growth. Bone meal or super phosphate is good. Most things will love Miracle Grow used at half strength.

Watch for insects. Aphids can be bad, as can spider mites. Spraying with the hose can dislodge some of these pests but sometimes we must resort to insecticides. Malathion and Volk oil or Ultra-fine will get many pests. The Safer Soaps can be used on delicate things. Sometimes insecticides will burn leaves so be careful and follow directions.



CBS Show

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As I See It

by Eric Percifield
SSK President

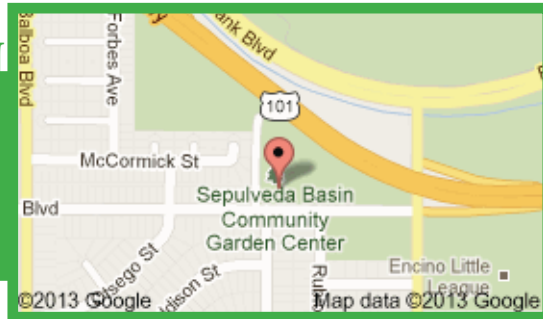
New Meeting Location

As you all know, the Japanese Garden where we regularly conduct our meetings is undergoing construction for the next several months, so we have been relocated temporarily. For the April and upcoming meetings, we will be holding our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at the Sepulveda Garden Center from 7:30 – 9:30. The Sepulveda Garden Center is

located at: 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91406; (818) 784-5180 (see map). This will be our new meeting time and location through December of 2013 unless another option becomes available before then. Be sure to check the Kai Wire and Sansui-Kai Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>) for updated information.

NEW DATE | NEW LOCATION

*First Tuesday of the Month
The Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91406*



April Bonsai Sale!

The April meeting will also be a member auction where members can bring in plants and bonsai related material to sell. Members will receive the full sale amount less 20% that will go to the club as a donation. Join us and bring cash and any bonsai related materials that you would like to sell and make some extra money from! We will also have our raffle table set up as well. I hope to see everyone there!



April Recap

Sansui-Kai welcomed Ted Matson back for another great demonstration with a black pine that was donated to the club last



year. Earlier in 2012, Ted styled the tree for the basic structure and form for future development. Last month, Ted showed us how to trim and prune the tree as it enters the active growing season. He was also able to repot the tree in a nice training pot. The tree is developing very nicely, and with the recent repot into better quality soil, it will continue to grow and vigorously. We will have Ted back for future demonstrations with this great piece bonsai material. We will have the tree available for Sansui-Kai members to purchase in a future BBQ auction, so be sure to join us as we continue to develop this tree into a magnificent bonsai!



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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Officer Installation at ZEN

by Dan Kashinsky
Editor in Chief

Nice place with good service, plentiful and interesting food, and good feelings and conversation. Eric, Yoko and Walter were the main movers for this event with a tip of the hat to Jason. Approx 30 members and friends rose to the occasion. Jack Reynolds, Steve Riley, and Dan Kashinsky displayed bonsai. The club purchased juniper bonsai from club member Elliot Martin's bonsai nursery in Topanga as a small gift to the officers. The raffle was very nice with member's contributions and club purchases.

The new officers are the old officers except for Elliott Farkas who stepped down as 1st VP in charge of demonstrations. He did a great job and the club had some of the finest artists available in Southern Cal.

Eric mentioned our club show would be in concert with the LACSS. Club member Artie Chavez is president of the LACSS. The show will be held at the Sepulveda Garden Center and not the Japanese Gardens as last year. Our meetings will be moved to Sepulveda Garden Center as well and the date changed for now to the first Tuesday at 7:30.

Eric announced that the April meeting would be a sale of member's bonsai items with a split of 80:20 for the member and the club. Jack Reynolds is bringing some major bonsai for sale.

Like Us On Facebook!

Sansui-Kai is now on Facebook.
Please like our club page at

<http://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>

This is the place to get club updates, news as well as to share, techniques, pictures, experiences and more!



Web Site Changes

Due to technical issues, our current web site www.sansui-kai.com is no longer available. We will be launching a new and improved web presence at our new address at <http://www.sansui-kai.org>. In the meantime, please visit and like our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>.



APRIL
Refreshments

Gracie, Jack Reynolds, Mary Tatro, Dan Kashinsky.