



### SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jack G. Reynolds

I'm sorry that I missed the last meeting. I got my flu immunization the old fashioned way by getting the disease. I probably caught it at the Golden State Bonsai Federation convention. Hanging out in large crowds in enclosed spaces is a natural incubator for such things. I am well now and ready for what comes.

This month is our annual Christmas potluck and auction so I hope all of you will come with money and some good things to auction. THIS IS A CHANCE TO SELL OFF TREES THAT YOU NEED TO PASS ON TO OTHER HOMES. The club purchased four small leafed olives which will be sold. I styled three of them. If you want an olive for your collection these will be nice. *Cotinued*



**AUCTION AND POTLUCK  
DECEMBER 14 AT THE USUAL  
PLACE AT 7 PM**

**BRING ITEMS TO SELL. THE  
SPLIT IS 80% FOR YOU AND  
20 % FOR THE CLUB**

**BELOW AND LEFT ARE 1 OF  
2 SAIKEI PREPARED BY MR.  
GOYA FOR AUCTION AND DO-  
NATED TO THE CLUB.**

**PRESIDENT JACK REYNOLDS  
HAS PREPARED SOME LARGE  
SMALL LEAF OLIVES FOR  
AUCTION**

**MANY POTS FROM WILL BE  
AVAILABLE DONATED BY  
DON B.**

**BRING SIDE DISH OR DESERT**

**PAY YOUR CLUB DUES-NICE  
BUT NOT MANDATORY**

**GET A HOLIDAY GIFT FOR  
THAT FRIEND OR LOVED ONE**

**LEFT ONE OF TWO SAIKEI FOR  
AUCTION ON LEFT PHOTO BY EYHO**

It was the night after election. The turnout was small for master Frank Goya. My theory is that people were still hungover either from celebrating or from drowning their sorrows. There was also a virus.

Frank Goya is a small quiet man as you know. He comes from a time when everything was less abundant than now. He explained that nature as represented in saikei is rock, tree and water. The rock to Japanese is “more than rock”. God may dwell inside it. He remembered a place near Kyoto where people would go to stand near certain rocks in hopes of meeting a mate or sorting out their lives or purging sorrows.

We all watched quietly and respectfully as he and Jaime Rivera put together the saikei pictured and donated a second work to the club both of which will be auctioned December 14th at the Sansui-kai annual auction and dinner. Below and right are the technical details of saikei.



### Master Goya's Saikei Recipe

The rocks are tufa with colors from purple to gray. They are always in threes and different sizes. He sets the rocks first, sometimes right in sandy loam and sometimes on muck placed on the loam. The muck which is clay from deeper construction sites (4 feet down) and mulch or mulch and akadama dust. The trees are nana he raises from cuttings and develops over 4-5 years. The trees are of different sizes and are set to form triangle patterns. Soil is sandy loam, which Mr. Goya gets from a building supply in Torrence (B.D. white Topsoil). Erodium plants are used because they stay small and flower. Water is simulated with number 12 sand (larger particles). The rest is experience, intuition and aesthetics.

Now are you ready? One problem is keeping these delicate constructions alive in LA. weather especially the valley weather. Art Galindo says he uses plastic beads, which absorb and release water slowly. His nursery has much of what you need for saikei.





All deciduous trees should be dormant now. If you have not removed their leaves and fruit, do it this month. Japanese maples, Trident, and Chinese elms can have all leaves removed, including those that are still green (not Caitlin elms). Prune all of the twiggy tertiary growth having more than two nodes. Remove thick top branches leaving fine secondary and tertiary branches to form the crown and the top one third or one quarter of the tree. Open up the structure of the tree to allow better light penetration.

Pinch or cut excess evergreen growth to create tight, colorful new spring growth. Pull all moss off of the very base of the trunk and main roots and brush these.

Prepare supplies of potting soil mix, clean pots tools and screens to be ready for spring repotting. Label the trees that will require repotting.

When trees are bare, a VERY dilute dormant spray of lime sulfur may be used as a fungicide. To avoid root damage cover the surface of the pot with plastic to prevent run-off or drip of the spray. A light mist of DILUTE lime sulfur on the top and bottom of the foliage and woody branches is quite effective. Some will not use lime sulfur as a fungicide on conifers. Do not use lime sulfur on azalea and camellia. Volk oil is also an effective non-toxic insecticide but not for buttonwoods. Volk oil can be used on conifers instead of lime sulfur.

For bleaching and to prevent rot apply lime sulfur at half strength on wet, aged deadwood such as jin and shari. A few drops of black ink or black acrylic tones down the usual orange color. Cover the soil to protect the roots.

Be sure to protect any semitropical such as ficus and bougainvillea by placing them under a bench or inside. Over watering can easily damage all but especially bougainvillea. Dormant trees use very little water but do not let them dry out. If a tree freezes do not water it until it thaws out. It is better to thaw the tree in an environment that is only a few degrees above freezing.

Evergreen trees can be given fertilizer that is high in potassium and phosphorous but low in nitrogen. Bone meal and blood meal and cottonseed may not decompose fast enough to be effective. Slow release 5-5-5 is an effective fertilizer for winter.

Branches are brittle and can easily break. Start your wiring with the lowest branches, proceed to the top, but only wire those branches that need to be repositioned. Strive for a delicate graceful appearance with Japanese maples and a more rugged ramification on trident maples. Hide the cuts by making them slanted to the back, making sure they are concave. Seal all raw scars over 1/4 inch diameter.

This a good month to graft conifers with Shimpaku.



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.

### Administration

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www.Sansui-Kai.  
org

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE *continued from page 1*

I also am bringing a grapefruit bonsai grown from seed so there is no graft scar to worry about. It is already in a pot and almost show ready. It has a two inch base and is about eighteen inches high. Think about what it would look like with fruit. I can't keep it up here. If it bloomed there are no other citrus trees around to pollinate it. So it needs to go to a home where it can live a more normal life than in my greenhouse.

WE HAVE A SHOW DATE FOR THE CLUB ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE. IT IS JUNE 3-4 AT THE JAPANESE GARDEN . Mark your calendars and start thinking about which trees you want to put in. I think we will have room for about twenty-five trees.

## A FEW COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT ON TREE CARE

**Dilute** lime sulfur is a good dormant spray for **deciduous** trees and should be sprayed two or three times while they are leafless. I would not use it on evergreens (conifers, olives, Ficus). Volk oil is safer on them. No dormant spray should be used in full sun.

It is a waste of fertilizer to fertilize dormant trees. Organic fertilizers need warm weather for the decay process to release the nutrients so inorganic fertilizers are better in cold weather but they should be low nitrogen (0-10-10 Bloom is what I use at about one quarter strength). I generally switch to it at the end of Sept. and if I fertilize anything at all during the winter I use that until about March when I switch to an organic (Gardener and Bloom general purpose 4-4-4).

## COMING EVENTS

SANSUI-KAI AUCTION AND POTLUCK DECEMBER 14

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SANSUI-KAI ANNUAL SHOW JUNE 3-4 2017 JAPANESE GARDENS

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California Aiseki Kai Viewing Stone Exhibition December 26-30 Huntington

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Winter Silhouette Date TBA in January 2017 Arboretum. Not to be missed.

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Bonsai-a-thon February 25-6 2017

Huntington. Huge sales area and great demos - extensive auction material