



SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hank Fawcett



BAT

Below a tree displayed at BAT. Thanks to club member Ellen Keneshea curator.

April's demo features a very generous and talented grafter, Tom Vuong. He will be grafting pine trees as well as junipers. Yes, we have had other grafting demos in the past. They are sometimes difficult to see and therefore difficult to appreciate due to the mechanics of grafting which entails observing the close proximity of the artist's hands, the knife, the scion and the branches. **Tom's demo will, however, be more interactive. Please bring a tree that requires one to two grafts and Tom will help you with a graft onto your tree. His demo will become a more personal approach to grafting and hopefully a more rewarding experience to you as an enthusiast.** (continued on page 5)

Cheryl Manning and Demo Winner
Mike Kelly



Cheryl Manning at Sansui Kai

Cheryl is a trained bonsai artist both by John Naka in the states and Master bonsai artist in Japan. She arrived early to the meeting and took time to review Jack's cypress and Dan's niche cascade juniper.

The demo consisted of two slide shows and brief work on a nice olive which was donated to the raffle. The first slide show covered individual bonsai progress over time and how a bonsai can be reframed to be different and exciting by simplying deveopment of the trunk as the main source of artistic merit and excitment and the foliage as support. The second presentation called "Showtime" underlined her views as to how show trees are to be developed and displayed.

It was a happy, interested and more informed crowd.

The vision



Naka Notes

Lessons from a Master

by Jack Reynolds

Naka Notes April 2019



Jack giving demo at yearly show

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. 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.



Naka San photo from Cheryl Manning

ELSA BOUDOURI



“You don’t take up bonsai, bonsai calls you.” This one tree is a challenge for Elsa Boudouri who is CBS visiting artist from Italy and Greece and Sansui-kai’s February guest.





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.



Michael Jonas' March Niche

Do you have a favorite bonsai information page on the web? Lets share these web sites for club members.

If you are tired of misunderstanding and eventually harming your black pine check out Ryan Neal on Pine parts 1 and 2 on Utube. He gives a very rational explanation for approach to these difficult trees.

What's your favorite site?

President's Message from page 1

For me, it is the perfect weather to open my greenhouse, take the bags off the grafted junipers, hydrate the scions and check for their growth. It is very rewarding to observe the transformation of a San Jose juniper or prostrata juniper into a Kishu grafted pre-bonsai. As one would expect, the plants grafted in January are doing exceptionally well and the plants grafted in March are progressing nicely. I have mentioned it before so now should be no exception. Every bonsai enthusiast should know how to graft. That ability simply provides more opportunity to create a better finished tree.

My pine trees are finally re-potted and fertilized. I would have waited to fertilize but Bob Pressler, Kimura Nursery, advised me to just go ahead and do it. It has been 3 weeks and they are doing great. Thanks, Bob, for the advice.

Since the weather is cooperating nicely, I am continuing to re-pot my trees. All of the cork oak have been re-potted, defoliated and styled. It has been 3 years since the last re-pot and they have grown very vigorously. I probably trimmed three fourths of the root ball which consisted mostly of heavier roots that in nature would be beneficial for anchoring the tree but are totally unnecessary in a bonsai. The remainder of the roots were fine fibrous ones. In less than 2 weeks' time, the buds swelled and are pushing the new growth. I truly enjoy the flush of new growth. It is a spring thing and so beautiful. Enjoy your bonsai.

Hank Fawcett
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