

INTERVIEW PROOF ONLY

PETER MACASIEB A Lesson in Scion Grafting Juniper

Peter Macasieb intently prepares a Juniper for a graft.

Photos by Jack Reynolds

by Steve Riley
Contributing Editor

Peter Macasieb is one of the up and coming Bonsai Artists in California. He has studied under Boon Manakitivipart and worked with Harry Hirao (an impressive resume). At our January meeting, we were treated to a lesson in “Scion Grafting” using the Itoigawa species of shimpaku juniper as the scion and grafting on to larger juniper stock. Peter believes that grafting can produce a show ready tree in about 4 years. The club members showed great interest as most of

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Peter Macasieb

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them gathered around Peter to get a close up view of the grafting procedure.

Peter first talked about two types of grafting: "Approach Grafting" and "Scion Grafting". He explained that in "Approach Grafting," the cambium of two rooted trees are joined. The cuts on both trees must be the same size and the cambium of each tree must touch. The cambiums will fuse in about two months but you must wait about one year before cutting off the roots to the donor tree.



Scion Grafting

A scion is a small branch or twig cut from a donor plant (in tonight's case an itoigawa juniper).

Peter likes to use Itoigawa juniper because he believes that it is much faster growing than other shimpaku stock (about 3 to 1).

Peter cut back the tree to be grafted in preparation for grafting, leaving some foliage on each branch. He then prepared the scions. On each scion, two angled cuts were made on opposite sides of the branch with one at a slightly steeper angle. The steeper angled side will face outward from the tree while the shallower (longer side) fits snugly against the trunk. At the graft site, a shallow, angled cut is

made into the bark through the cambium and slightly into the xylem of the tree.

(Note: Peter uses a chisel either to cut hard to access areas or on larger branches or trunks for a narrower cut). (Peter also said that the chisel or knife must always be disinfected prior to use).

The scion is then snugly inserted into the cut and the cambium layers are matched, Peter then wraps the scion to the tree using grafting tape. He then secures it with copper wire so that the scion cannot move.

Cut paste is then liberally applied to seal the grafting site from moisture. Peter said that extra scions could be placed as "insurance" in case all of the scions don't take.

After care involves keeping the scion moist by misting and/or placing the tree in a plastic tent to maintain humidity.

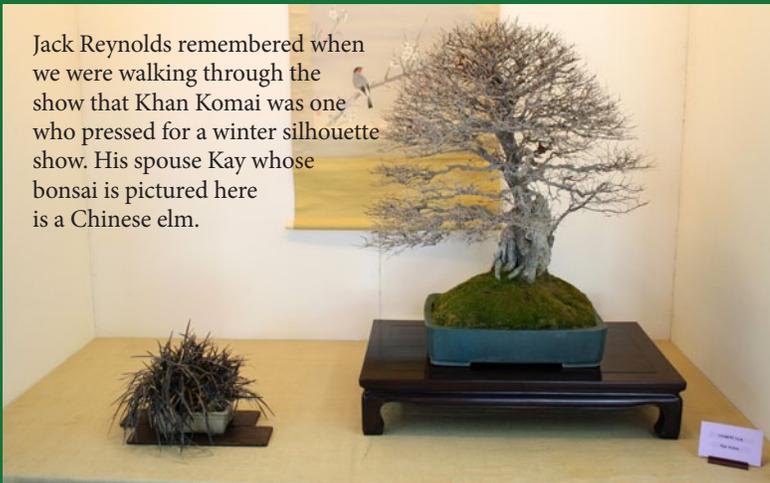
Elliott Farkas was the lucky winner of the demo tree and a plastic tent made by Peter to keep it in. Peter donated two other smaller grafted junipers that were also raffled off to two lucky club members.



Winter Silhouettes 2013

pictures and text by Dan Kashinsky
Editor in Chief

Jack Reynolds remembered when we were walking through the show that Khan Komai was one who pressed for a winter silhouette show. His spouse Kay whose bonsai is pictured here is a Chinese elm.



This show had many different tree varieties and a white winter backdrop for each tree. Pots were colorful and tended to complement the color of the barks.

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*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



In general, February is much like January in terms of bonsai care. You will have to be aware of the dampness of your trees. Sometimes we say, "Let the rain do it". Then we may let the trees get too dry, especially in the wind. If it gets too cold quickly bring your tropicals inside for 3 days at most. Find a balance of light and warmth. You can also bring your vulnerable trees near the house to absorb heat. There are commercial frost blankets that will protect you up to a sustained temperature of 28 degrees.

This is the month to spray DECIDUOUS trees with lime sulfur to ward off leaf curl and other insect pests. Do this before the buds enlarge. Cover the soil. Read the directions before you spray. Not everything likes lime sulfur. Don't spray new tender growth or flowers that have opened with lime sulfur. Any trees that were set in the shade to promote dormancy need to be watched. When they start new growth move them into the sun. If you leave them in the shade the growth will be spindly and weak.

Pruning of deciduous trees should be done

this month. Prune to allow light inside the tree. Be aware that upper branches may be brittle. This is a good month to start cuttings. Grafting of deciduous trees and also conifers can be done this month.

Repotting is favorable in February and March. Ted Matson says that this is a good month to repot California junipers. Get soil ready. Repot conifers first deciduous trees second and fruit bearing bonsai trees last in later spring. Think of tree and pot harmony. Assess your tree for health, drainage, and soil elevation in the pot and soil coarseness. Alter the aggressiveness of repotting with these and other factors in consideration. We all need to get ourselves organized for this part of bonsai.

Fertilizing will not be done this month except for conifers, which are not dormant. It is a good time to apply soil amendments such as Ironite, gypsum and sulfur.

Get your soil mixtures made up and sharpen tools for the coming repotting season.



Steve Riley's incredible Chinese elm represented SSK quite nicely. He had good company.



Silhouettes continued

Harry Hiraio and a helper designing a tree for the raffle. Denny Roche used to tell me that this is where bonsai is really happening.



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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What's Coming Up

by **Elliot Farkas**

Vice President

Sansui-kai is fortunate that Al Nelson and his crew are coming in from Orange County for the February demonstration. He will do a group planting.

Al is famous for his Saikei plantings and they are always awesome. I have one that is often the favorite thing in my yard when I get visitors. Please see his Winter Silhouette pomegranate below as an example of his work.

Ted Matson will do our March demo. He will replot the black pine project tree he started last summer. By the August potluck BBQ in 2014, the pine will be a sweet little tree!

I think March takes me to the end of my term. The next Vice President in charge of demonstration arrangements should have Ted out again in July for candle pruning.



*Al Nelson's beautifully styled Pomegranate
photo by ??*

As I See It

by **Eric Percifield**

SSK President

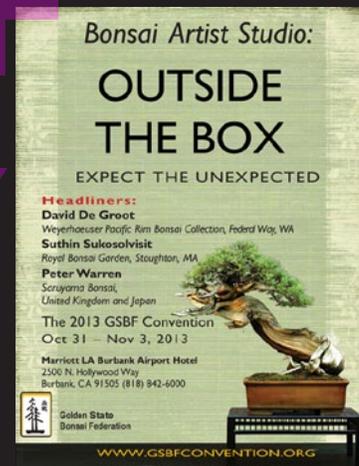
Peter Makashieb kicked off the New Year with an excellent demo on grafting Juniper. Peter showed us the proper way to prepare the scions and root stock material for grafting, and also how to properly align the scion with the graft branch. Peter also explained how important it is to align the cambium layer of both the scion and graft branch to ensure the graft will take. Grafting tape and sealer are used to seal the fresh graft from water. The demo material was raffled off and won by Elliott Farkas. Congratulations to Elliott and thanks to Peter for a very informative demo!

The February demonstration will be led by Al Nelson, who has led demos for us in the past. Al will be showing us how to make a group planting and the appropriate way to display multiple trees in one container. Al did a similar demonstration two years ago for Sansui-Kai and the finished product turned out very nice and was very well received. Don't miss it!

We will be having our annual Officer elections this month, so if you would like to help Sansui-Kai with day to day operations, please see Eric Percifield or Elliott Farkas. We could not operation the club without volunteers, so please do what you can to help! All current positions are open for 2013. and the finished product turned out very nice and was very well received. Don't miss it!

February Refreshments

Thank you for your generous contributions:
Dan Kashinsky, Dan Kahn,
Al Loman, Rick Naber.



Mark Your Calendars!

2013 GSBF Convention

Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2013

Marriott LA Burbank Airport Hotel

For more information

please visit

www.gsbfcconvention.org