

AUGUST 2013

# The KAI WIRE



**SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**August 14th Wednesday**

**7:30 Ted Matson will lead a workshop. Bring in tools and a tree to work on**

**August 25th Sunday**

**BBQ and Auction. Donations requested**

**GSBF Oct 31-**

**Nov 3, Burbank**



TRAVIS GOLDSTEIN AND RAFFLE WINNER MEMBER SANG LE

The lifelines were a powerful bulge “like a freeway of juice flowing”.

To begin clean out enough to see the front of the tree and major branches. As a bonsai artist, he does not plan the carving in advance but finds interest in what is “given” within the layers as he works.

Carving tools can be hand tools principally for peeling (“thread carving” on juniper and pine), power tools such as Dremel XPR for finer and Makita with ¼-inch bit for grosser machine work. An advantage of hand tools is the more natural look. Of course the power tools do the bigger jobs, but safety rules must be followed.

Jin is a dead branch or stub where the bark has been stripped.

Shari describes a dead area of the tree trunk with the bark peeled usually to the base of a dead branch.

Uro are hollowed out areas mainly on yew, pine and deciduous trees that show rot in nature.

Chops are areas on the trunk where a large branch is cut off. Chops that are large can be turned into hollows or jin. Do not allow a situation where water will pool.

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LEFT Emma at Descanso  
ABOVE Emma at Sansui-kai  
See your show trees <https://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonstreesai>

## As I See It

by Eric Percifield  
SSK President

Thanks to Travis Goldstein for an excellent carving demo.

Our August meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14th, and we will be having a critique workshop led by Ted Matson. Members are invited to bring material to work on, and Ted will spend a few minutes with each member to assist with styling and offer advice and a hands-on critique. Since everyone will want to work with Ted on their trees, members will be limited to one or two trees or about 10 minutes with Ted, so choose your material accordingly! Be sure to take advantage of this great opportunity to work on your own material with a very informative and knowledgeable teacher!

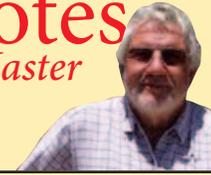
August will also be the month for our annual BBQ/Auction, hosted again this year by long time members Don and Ilene Berkus. This year's BBQ will be held on Sunday, August 25th at 4:00. The club will provide chicken as the main course, and members are asked to bring a dish to share according to the first letter of the last name. Last name A – F bring a dessert, last name G – N bring a side dish (casserole, veggies, pasta dish, deviled eggs, etc.), M – Z bring a salad (green, potato, pasta, etc.). Additional food and beverage items would also be welcome. The club has some great items for this year's auction. Members are also encouraged to bring items to donate to the auction as well. The auction will begin between 5:30 – 6:00 after dinner. This is one of the clubs main fundraisers for the year, and events like this make it possible for us to enjoy informative demos by talented artists and host events like this and our annual show. We will also have a mini-affle during the auction. Be sure to bring your extra cash and don't miss out on this fun event and get some new material for your collection! The address to Don and Ilene's home will be available at the August meeting. Contact any club officer for more information.

*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



The bonsai are in their summer slump. By now most of their growth has slowed or stopped completely. What should we be doing? Be very water vigilant. Check everything at least once day and make sure that nothing is going too dry. Water in the morning and spray everything including trees, benches and surrounding walls and ground beneath them. The humidity is good for the trees. Keep your pots from getting hot by covering with shade cloth and perhaps moss. Check again about sunset and water anything that looks too dry.

If you have nerve enough to go on a vacation, make sure that someone reliable will take over the watering. Organize your plants in groups to make it easier for the person to water correctly. Ask them to come before you leave to demonstrate competence. Consider a drip system, but even that needs to be checked daily to see if there are any clogged drippers or if the cat has knocked it out of a pot. And it is sometimes necessary to supplement on very hot days. John Naka says that automatic sprinklers are not completely accurate because there is a tendency to over-water. In addition, every tree requires different watering.

Pinch trees to shape and contour and cut

shoots back but avoid hard cutting, which will promote tender growth. Trees may be trimmed for shape, to remove dead leaves and unwanted (crossing) branches, but no drastic pruning should be done on most trees.

Rotate trees regularly every two to three weeks to prevent one-sided growth.

Don't transplant or repot anything at this season. Possible exceptions would be olives, pomegranates and bougainvilleas, bamboo and ficus that love the heat. Bougainvillea should be cut back hard after the bloom but do not over water them. Wiring can also be done. Look for ingrown wire.

Fertilize as usual. Why fertilize if growth has stopped? The answer is that growth hasn't really stopped. Everything is pushing its root growth now. And fruits may be growing on the fruiting varieties. To be safe and not "burn the roots" use dilute low nitrogen fertilizer.

Cut pine candles may now be having shoots, which can be limited to two for branch ramification. Those at the top may have the verticals saved.

Be on the alert for infestations. Spray trees forcefully (not pine) with a hose as first treatment/ prevention.

Be sure to check the club's Facebook page Steve Riley and Jason have been updating for the pics of the trees from the show. <https://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>

Keep your eye on the GSBF Convention Website

<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/convention/>

Steve has been posting GSBF info other sites such as BonsaiNut, International Bonsai Club, Bonsai Bark Online Mag, Bonsai International Online Mag





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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### CARVING *from page 1*

Juniper -delicate jins and large sharis are common but hollows are uncommon.

Yew- jins are blunt and short shari likely to have hollows.

Pine -delicate jins but sharis and hollows are uncommon

Crushing the bark, removing it and then peeling back layers of wood to a precut circular line on the branch creates typical jin on fresh wood. The peeling when done with pliers or more specialized instruments is called thread carving. He keeps the branch length and attempts to reduce the diameter to complement the trunk and foliage. He does not create long continuous curves on the branch when peeling but rather discreet and irregular curves. And he allows for the recesses to darken as they would in nature while the prominences are bleached as if by the sun using lime sulphur with ink or torching which he tends not to approve of. The use of machine carving is less natural but perhaps necessary when large amounts of wood must go. Remember to always follow the grain and not get carried away with electrical tools by using them without safety glasses. The bonsai should not look like a tree with a branch cut down and then made a jin. The process both mechanically and aesthetically should not be apparent. Let the jin and tree grow together over time.

Travis spent time with power and hand tools reducing the size of the dead wood principally the diameter but not the length, which can be adjusted later. Always follow your safety guides. On this project Travis localized 2 lifelines on the tree and created shari around them. Later, he created the illusion of taper in the jin (dead branch) by placing holes in the wood. The bonsai was raffled but I had the feeling Travis would love to continue the work. Sang Le is the new owner.

### SMOKIN'



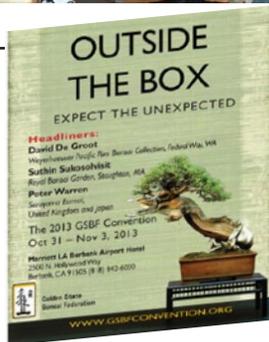
photo by Mary Tatro

## SHOW THANKS TO YOKO

## AUGUST AUCTION



AUCTION FUNDRAISER FOR SSK DON AND ILENE'S HOME **AUGUST 25**. SWIM EAT TALK BID AND BRING A DISH AND ITEM TO AUCTION. SEE YOU THERE.



GSBF CONVENTION  
BURBANK

OCT 31-NOVEMBER 3

WEBSITE <http://www.gsbfbonsai.org/convention/>

## REFRESHMENTS

DAN JACK EMMA MARIA