



KATHY BENSON SSK & BAIKO-EN



Kathy at Sansui-kai above and below right at Baiko-en

the tree's health or would benign neglect for another year? Is the time of year right to repot? Conifers pot earlier then deciduous and flowering bonsai last. The ideal time is just before the new buds pop or just after flowering."

This specimen had huge roots. "On examining the roots and root ball, look for roots that are thick and cut them leaving fine roots above the cut. Attempt to pull apart the roots and display them. Spray them with water as you go". She placed a layer of soil in the chosen pot and ground the root ball into the soil to make contact. "Be very careful and take your time placing the tree in the pot for proper height and position". Kathy wires in all trees attempting to run a more rigid wire such as picture hanging wire which does not stretch as much under the root. She suggested not to fertilize right away. Some add chemicals such as ironite. Place in the shade for few days. Hope you got it right and are satisfied with your tree. Thanks so much to Kathy Benson, bonsai artist and painter.

Kathy Benson took her advanced degree in repotting from Cheryl Manning after Cheryl's "internship" in Japan.. Kathy emphasized however that successful repotting is really a matter fundamentals with proper organization of materials before ever touching the bonsai roots. These are fundamentals we all know, but we fail to adhere to. She worked with cork bark elm at this demo (see left) from a cutting of parent elm shown at the Winter Silhouettes Show (below).

Kathy feels that 90 percent of successful repotting is preparation." Organize organize organize, prepare prepare prepare. Get your pots clean with chlorox. Prepare your soil and sift sift sift until clear of dirt.

"Make sure you have considered if the tree is healthy. If not would new soil or a larger pot help

Parent cork elm displayed at Baiko-en *photo DK*



AS I SEE IT

By Eric Percifield Club President

For the January Meeting, Kathy Benson demonstrated proper techniques for repotting deciduous trees during their dormant period. Her demo material was a very nice cork bark elm that she started from a cutting about ten years ago, and now is developed into a very nice bonsai. Her tree was quite encouraging and truly shows how attention to detail and continued training can develop an exquisite tree. Thanks to Kathy for a great demo!

This month we'll be joined by bonsai master Roy Nagatoshi. His vast knowledge of bonsai is not only informative, but also inspirational. One of Roy's specialties is grafting shimpaku on junipers, which allows him to place branches where the tree is lacking, and also to graft desirable foliage to an interesting rootstock. This technique once mastered it can be very useful to create exceptional bonsai. Roy's demos are always very informative and interesting. Don't miss it!

February meeting is the time for the election of the new board members for 2014. Be sure to show up and cast your vote! The current nominees for the 2014 board officers are: President – Jack Reynolds; Program/1st V.P. - Yoko Zipusch; Membership/2nd V.P. – Matt Heeney; Secretary – open; Treasurer – Grace Sy; Editor – Dan Kashinsky; Webmaster – Steve Riley. All positions are open for nominations, so if you're interested in helping to run Sansui-Kai, please notify one of the current board members before the February meeting. New officers will be announced in March, followed by our annual installation brunch.

Bonsai-a-thon

Bonsai-A-Thon XVIII will be held at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, located at 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, on Saturday February 22 & Sunday February 23, 2014.

- JAN. 8th---- Kathy Benson
FEB. 12th----ROY NAGATOSHI
MAR.12th---Jim Barrett
APR. 9th---- Member's Workshop
MAY.14th---David Nguy
JUN.11th--- Ben Oki
JULY.9th----Herry Hirao
AUG.13th---Bob Pressler
SEP.10th---- Members Workshop
OCT. 8th----Frank Goya
NOV.12th---Travis Goldstein
DEC. 10th---Member's workshop

ROY NAGATOSHI AT SSK ON FEBRUARY 12 2014

At Baiko-en pear by Cheryl Manning *photo by KK*





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" (rain?). 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 DILUTE 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. BE CAREFUL SPRAYING EVERGREENS AS YOUR FOLIAGE MAY SUFFER. Don't spray new tender growth or flowers that have opened with lime sulfur. Always wear EYE PROTECTION as pure lime sulfur which is alkaline can cause big time problems.

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. This is a good month to repot California junipers. Repot conifers first deciduous trees second and flowering and fruit bearing bonsai trees last in later spring. Think of tree and pot harmony. Assess your tree for health, soil drainage and coarseness, and soil elevation in the pot. 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. Get your soil mixtures made up and sharpen tools for the coming repotting season. It is a good time to apply soil amendments such as Ironite and gypsum. Get ready for SHOW TIME.



Photo of Chinese elm branch ramification at Baiko-en by EYHO

REFRESHMENTS

Ed Henjyoji Steve Riley

Dan Kahn Al Espinoza

PLEASE AY YOUR DUES

THE RAFFLE THANKS

Artie Chavez, Sonja Kobler

Dan Kashinsky, Walter Zipusch

FOR THEIR GENEROSITY



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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www.Sansui-Kai.org

WINTER SILHOUETTES

BY KK

Baiko-en represents the first break of spring in Japan usually by the ume blossoms. Baiko-en means the fragrance of blossoming ume. It was also the name of Frank Nagata's Los Angeles bonsai nursery; perhaps the first dedicated solely to bonsai. Mr. Nagata was the President of the Southern California Bonsai Society, which later became the CBS. Frank Nagata's daughter Kay married Khan Komei. His family published the important Japanese bilingual newspaper Rafy Shimpu. Khan came to bonsai late brought along by his father in law Frank Nagata and wife Kay. Khan is often credited with starting the Winter Silhouettes Show named the Baiko-en in Mr. Nagata's honor, but it was at least partially brought about by Mr. Nagata's faithful non-Japanese students. Lindsay Shiba, a student of Khan Komei is now the chairman of this show.

On this Sunday afternoon of the show there were familiar faces present. David Nguy was working on a juniper forest. Harry Hiroa presided calmly. Marge Blasingame worked the sales tables and Lindsay Shiba, Santa Anita President, gave tours of the work. Peter Macasieb was discussing his excellent trees being shown.

Kathy Benson's cork elm was prominently displayed (first page). Jim Barrett was honored at the show (see below).

The show as always is excellent and the finest bonsai artists showcased. It was as always my good fortune to see this work.



Jim Barrett
honored at Baiko-en
Winter Silhouettes at the
Arboretum February 2014
here showing his Chinese
Elm

photo KK