

The KAI WIRE

SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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## Member Workshop April 8th

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SANSUI-KAI -APRIL, 2015

by  
Jack G. Reynolds

WE HAVE A SHOW LOCATION AND DATE!!!! Mark your calendar and start getting trees cleaned up and ready to go. Our show will be at the Japanese Garden on Woodley Ave. on May 30-31. Set up will be Sat. May 30 between 7 - 10 AM. The garden will be open to the public from 10 AM to 4 PM both days. We will have the main building and space for about 35 trees. There will be a shaded area at the entrance for sale tables where we can sell the trees we created in Feb. as well as other bonsai related stuff that members want to sell. The club will take a 20% cut from privately sold items at the sale table. We will need volunteers to man the sale table as well as watch the trees in the show.

The garden will charge a nominal \$5 for entry to the show as well as the garden so the public will get both attractions for relatively low cost. The garden will furnish publicity on their web site beginning a few weeks before the show. I would like as many members as possible to put in trees. Ideally each member should try to have two trees plus a third tree if space allows.

This month's program is a tree workshop so plan to bring a tree that you need to work on plus tools, wire etc. It would be a good time to get a tree ready for the show and get help with styling and display, trying out stands and accent plants etc.

Looking out the window  
of the Japanese Gardens  
display area



INSIDE

-NAKA NOTES- COMING EVENTS-BOB PRESSLER

# Show Place 2015 for SSK at the Japanese Gardens

by DK

Mr. Gene Greene, supervisor of the Gardens and Water Reclamation Plant has invited SSK back to the gardens for our annual bonsai show. To the right is a picture looking outside into the gardens from what will be our display area.

The Gardens were beautiful that day as Mr. Gene Greene showed President Jack Reynolds and Vice President Albert Espinoza around the area (*right lower*). It was a most positive experience.



*pics by DK*



Above designs at the Gardens  
Below Sansui-kai Officers  
checking out the venue



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## Other Questions



Is windswept style an illusion?

Photo by Joseph Koudelka





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

Water is very important as always. Make sure that everything is getting enough but not too much (tilt your trees when raining heavily to promote drainage). 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.

#### TRIMMING

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.

#### PINES

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.

#### TRANSPLANTING

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.

#### FOOD

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. Super phosphate is good. Most things will love Miracle Grow used at half strength.

#### BUGS

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 so be careful and follow directions.

## Coming Events

Sansui-kai show May 30 and 31 at the Japanese Gardens

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Sansui-kai officer installation April 19th at the Zen Grill in Woodland Hills (Yum)

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3rd Annual Bonsai Sale and Swapmeet April 12  
10-3 PM Jesse Owens Park

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#### Other Shows

There are coming shows such as Conejo May 2nd, Die Ichi in Gardena May 2 and 3rd, Santa Barbara May 16th and 17th,

Descanso June 13th and 14th and others in Modesto, Sacramento, Jackson California, Watsonville, San Mateo (good one), Oakland (suiseki)

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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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<http://www.sansui-kai.org/>

Sansui Kai Facebook  
page:<https://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>.

## Bob Pressler

It's a little like high school reunion when past Sansui-kai President Bob Pressler of Kimura Bonsai Nursery in Northridge comes to the demo. He brought two unspecified found backyard trees to work on and we chose the pictured tree.

His demo is a tightly structured power point like presentation which includes much reminiscing of members here and gone, various tips on bonsai work (cut branch off and shari will appear gradually below it and cut the top of a branch bend it and 80% will survive) and tools (Michael Jonas' bark stripper and flush cut saw from Harbor Freight), cynicisms or praise for this or that person, mostly dumping on bonsai on the internet and completely dumping on Face book, meandering political commentary and finally viola' a bonsai and then home after a good raffle which included a nice signed Jim Barrett pot and Rick getting Bob's demo tree.



Bob and Rick  
*photo by EYHO*

