



SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hank Fawcett

I just returned from 4 relaxing days with my daughter and son-in-law in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. We watched movies, played air hockey, went to the nickel arcade, played miniature golf and had many hours of bonding conversations. The one thing that I didn't do was worry about my bonsai collection. Thanks to Michael Jonas, accomplished bonsaist, I knew that my bonsai were in very capable hands. You might think that this is simply a nod to Michael as my appreciation. In many ways, it is. But it is also so important to recognize that it is very necessary for all of us to have someone to rely on. I have heard many stories about a bonsai collection that was half watered or half dead upon returning home when someone simply relied on a neighbor to do the watering. Bonsai enthusiasts take a special pride of ensuring that the plants under their care are well taken care of. My recommendation is for all of you to embrace someone to handle your duties when you are otherwise not available and there is no better place to find someone than your bonsai club.

A number of weeks ago, the wind was very strong in Reseda. Last week, I realized that several of my California junipers were showing signs of a fungal attack. Since fungus spores are easily transmitted from an unhealthy plant to a healthy plant by the wind, I decided it was time to spray. One of the most important things that

you can for your bonsai is to help combat disease and insects. Be observant and diligent and your plants will thrive.

Presently, my choice for a fungicide is Clearly 3336. I spray Clearly 3336 at a rate of 2 tablespoons per 5 gallons water. On page 22 of the Clearly label, it gives a rate of .5 to 1.5 teaspoons per gallon for a foliar spray. I choose 2 tablespoons per 5 gallon. You may decide any rate within the given range.

Club President Hank Fawcett's olive in the SSK 2017 show



Jim Barrett's Saikei Demo

Saikei is the art of creating a miniature landscape of rock, sand (water illusion), earth with lots of nice moss and trees. The trees used, unlike those of bonsai, are not the mature massive creations so often seen and admired, but smaller younger and less developed trees allowing for a project with much smaller investment of money and time. But skill and know how are necessary. Jim uses a textbook for guidance (Japanese Miniature Trees, Gardens and Landscapes by Kawamoto and Kuihara) plus his more than 50 years experience in bonsai.

Mr. Barrett brought African or Greek olive trees (Kalamata) farmed in Hawaii. These olive were planted in Hawaii after the landscape was devastated by hurricane. The largest tree in this saikei format is planted up front and the smallest in the back for perspective. They should not line up and should be an odd number. Jim brought one of the pots he is known for making hot out of the kiln. The rock used is lace rock from around Chico. This rock is more attractive than tufa. The soil is any that drains well.

Mr. Barrett's easy going and knowledgeable manner allowed much give and take. The planting will be auctioned at the August dinner meeting.

Thanks Jim Barrett!! Bonsai artist, potter, teacher and bonsai historian.





Naka Notes

Lessons from a Master

by Jack Reynolds

Water and food

Venturing into summer, it is important to be diligent with watering. Check pots daily and water when the first quarter inch of soil is dry. Plant soil should be damp but not wet and never dry. Check drainage holes for root plugging. Mature trees need less water. Just potted bonsai may need less watering. Fertilize with small amounts of fertilizer with each watering or use time release less often. Use high nitrogen for most plants except flowering, which require less nitrogen to bloom.

Turn Turn Turn

Trees should be turned every two weeks to keep growth even. Broad leaf trees may burn in afternoon sun and need some shade.

The Pines

Cut candles on your pines at the end of April. Some experts however wait until June. One method is to start at the bottom branches and remove the smallest candles. Two weeks later remove the candles at the top and the longest candles last. Cut the candles perpendicular to the base. This process should hopefully keep needles short and pine foliage compact. Pine needles may be cut to 1- 1/2 inch for further compactness.

Transplanting Deciduous Trees

Deciduous trees such as elm, Japanese and trident maples will have slowed down by now. Trim all new twigs to one or two sets of leaves after the shoot has hardened. Pay attention to the way new buds point, and trim for direction (JB). Deciduous trees need constant attention to keep upper growth in balance with the middle growth and the lower areas. Prune for shape and remove large leaves that block sunlight to the interior of the tree. From now on our task should be to encourage ramification, shape and health.

This is time to pinch cut (not pinch) and wire junipers. It is necessary to cut off the first new needle buds that appear on junipers in order to encourage compact interior growth. If not done the branches will get leggy and lose the appearance of being a miniature tree.

Bugs

The signs of mite infestation are weak growth and a sort of gray- green color to the foliage. Spider mites spin little webs among the needles. If you suspect spider mites hold a piece of white paper under a branch and run your hand across the branch. Look for very tiny reddish-brown specks smaller than the period at the end of this sentence. If the specks smear red they are probably spider mites.

The cure is to spray with an oil spray such as Volk Oil, Ultra Fine or Neem Oil. Mix it according to the directions on the bottle. You should spray weekly for about three weeks to make sure you get them all. Don't spray in direct sunlight or you may burn the foliage. Malathion may be added for particularly persistent problems.

Pot to pot

Repotting bonsai pot to bonsai pot is safe until the first two weeks of May especially pomegranate, most ficus, elms, wisteria, junipers, azaleas (after they bloom) and olives.

Next Meeting
Refreshments Reminder Sonja, Eric Percifield,
Dan Kashinsky

LAST YEAR'S SHOW



Trees in the 2017 show by Josh, Jack, Emma and above Jack doing the demo (which was a hit)



PAST PRESIDENTS

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.

Hank Fawcett
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www.Sansui-Kai.org



At the April meeting were past presidents **Michael Jonas** (1999 and on) and **Mark Albert** above (1982) with Vicki Brown. Also present at the meeting were **Eric Percifield** (2010-2014) who is now the club secretary, **Jack Reynolds** (1993 and 2014 -2018), **Bob Pressler** (1998 who will be in the show May 20) and to our good fortune **Hank Fawcett** our new president carrying on the tradition of nearly 50 years of bonsai at Sansui-kai.