



ALEX MARTINEZ BOXWOOD DEMO

Photos by David Williams

by Dan Kashinsky
Editor

Roy Nagatoshi introduced his long time assistant Alex Martinez as the May Sansui-kai bonsai demonstrator. Alex has been trained by Roy in the traditional manor as an apprentice. He is well known to Roy's many students as his hands on person. Alex stood up, elevated his sunglasses, tightened his headband and made short work of a boxwood bush turning it into a slant style bonsai. All the time Alex was dropping "how to" on wiring, reducing foliage and styling. The large crowd at the new

Continued on Page 2



Alex Martinez

Continued from Page 1

venue Tuesday night was appreciative and excited about Alex's appearance on the bonsai scene. Dan Kashinsky won the tree and has been staring at it the last few days delighted by long smooth curve of the trunk he created.

Dan won the tree
photo Dave Williams



As I See It

by Eric Percifield
SSK President

Summer is here! Days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer and our June show is almost here! We'll be joining forces with the Los Angeles Cacti and Succulent Society again this year for another great weekend of activities, demos, sales tables, a silent auction, raffle, cacti and succulent display, and of course, our bonsai display! Bring in your extra bonsai related material for the sale table and make some extra money! Members will receive all the money for items sold minus 20 % which will go to the club as a donation. We also need volunteers, so if you can help out please see Eric Percifield. The show will be held the weekend of June 8th and 9th at the Sepulveda Garden Center located on 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91406. See the attached flyers for more info. This will be an awesome and fun-filled weekend, so come join us and don't miss out!

In May we were able to host a great demo by Alex Martinez, who assists Bonsai Master Roy Nagatoshi at his nursery in Sylmar. Alex worked on an excellent piece of Boxwood stock material, and transformed the plant from an overgrown bush into the start of a very elegant bonsai. He pruned away all the unneeded branches, and wired the entire tree to create and develop the base branch structure. The tree was raffled off at the end of the evening and our own newsletter editor Dan Kashinsky was the lucky winner! Congratulations Dan, what a great tree!



In June we will be hosting an excellent demo by one of the Iron Men of Naka- Frank Goya! Frank is well known for his beautiful Saikei bonsai, and that will be the focus of the June demo. The demo material will be in the raffle, so don't miss this awesome demo with one of the great bonsai artists of our time!

The raffle was quite good with donations from Sonja, Jason, Jack, Don, Gloria, Steve and Emma.
Thank you!

*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 first month of summer, trees will be leafed out and growing rapidly. It is important to ROTATE your trees every 2 weeks to insure even growth. Deciduous trees may be moved into PARTIAL SHADE. However too much shade will promote large leaves.

When WATERING, spray the foliage benches and ground to raise local humidity. MAPLES are sensitive to over watering, which can make their new leaves small and misshapen, and old leaves get brown tips. Check your pot drainage and tip the pot to one side with a stone if drainage is questionable.

It is easier to use GUY WIRES or directional pruning to shape the branches of deciduous trees than to wire the branches thick with leaves. Cut back the branches to one or two nodes. Fertilize with low nitrogen and high phosphorous on deciduous trees.

This is a good month to DEFOLIATE deciduous trees like ginkgos, elms and maples. Remove every leaf. You may WIRE after defoliation but be careful to

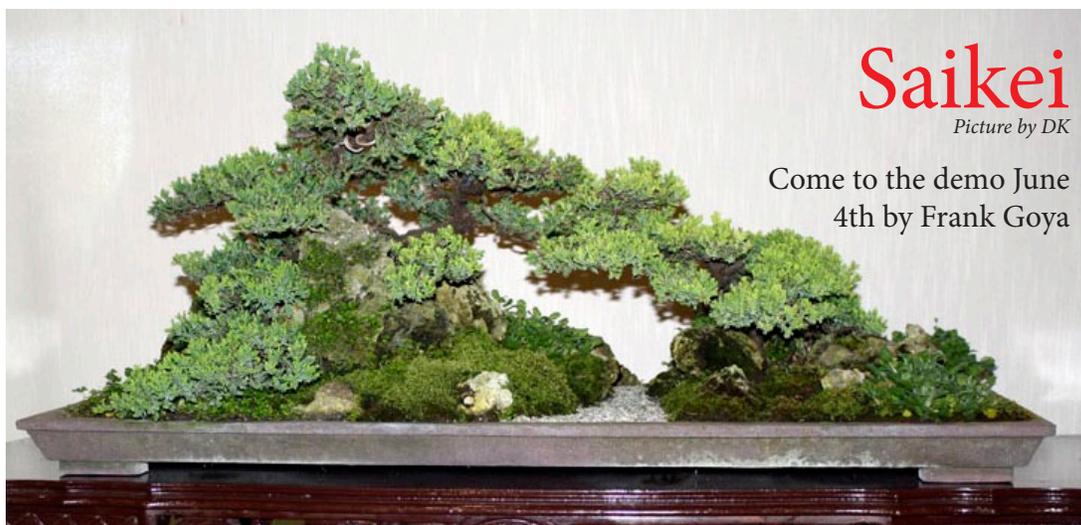
prevent wire cuts. FERTILIZE everything this month. Be sparing on fruiting and flowering trees.

Candle pruning nursery stock can be started earlier than black pine that has been in a bonsai container for some time. For instance, nursery stock may have their candles pruned this month. The object is to produce shorter internodes and an abundance of branches (JB).

Bonsai black pine, depending again on maturity and health, may have the candle pruning program start as early as late May or as late as mid-July. The later you prune, the shorter the internodes (JB).

Needle plucking is a personal choice and, if done, should not be done on a weak, unhealthy tree (JB).

This is the month to TRANSPLANT Satsuki azaleas after they have flowered. Cut off the flower at the base cleanly. You can also transplant olives bougainvillea pomegranate, ficus, blue cedar atlas, willow and tamarack, maples if the growth has hardened and roots are not disturbed much.



Saikei

Picture by DK

Come to the demo June
4th by Frank Goya





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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Showtime

Notes from Jim Barrett, Lindsay Shiba, Cheryl Manning and Ted Matson

All club members especially beginners are encouraged to participate. Putting a tree in the show will force you to critically look at your trees, clean the pot, soil and roots and acquire the basic show materials such as a table or a plain stone slab or wood or bamboo to show your tree (the simpler the better) plus an accent plant and stand. Beginners without tables accent plants or moss etc. are encouraged to show.

Remove dirt and moss from trunks, main roots and any low branches. Wire can be left in place on small branches.

If your tree has dead wood and branches that have been treated with lime sulphur, give it another treatment at least two weeks before the show.

Juniper and pine color can be enhanced with an application of volck oil. To mix, add 1 to 2 teaspoons of volck oil to one quart of water and, using a spray bottle, spray this mixture on all foliage. Do this just before the show (JB).

“Old English” lemon oil or walnut oil work very well on pots as does toilet bowl cleaner (no metaphor intended). The pot color should complement the color of the bark. Glazed pots and color work best with the deciduous trees.

The accent plants should have foliage that is finer than the tree foliage. The accent plant is lined up in the trajectory from the apex to the edge of the branch on the side to which the tree is leaning. It should be about 1/5 the size of the tree or smaller and its stand the smallest object in the display. Accent plants should suggest the present season. Dry grass in winter or small flowers in spring. Succulents are also useful for California natives.

We are encouraged use moss over most of the surface applied 2-4 weeks before display. Moss is a traditional Japanese custom to avoid the obvious presence of soil (dirt).

Tables should be much taller than we usually see so that the midpoint of the bonsai is at eye level. And accent plants indicative of the season of the show and ecology of the tree.

When displaying the trees on show tables with multiple bonsai the trees should never point off the table. The direction of the tree is determined by the placement in the pot, the roots and trunk direction. The apex is the final determinant of trunk direction and that direction points to the middle of the table.

Refreshments

Dan Kashinsky

Yoko Zipusch

Don Berkus

Steve Riley



Frank Goya