



### The Auction And Potluck In December

We went back and forth. Should we have the event or not. Many active members were traveling or having visitors. But the dark days of December were upon us, so what could be better than a party?

Thanks to everyone who came participated brought food and items to auction. **Sonja, Dan, Rick N, Michael, Hank, Grace, Eric, Josh, Albert, Mary, Gloria, Pejuo, and Jason** of chili cook-off fame all participated. I came home with a demo boxwood by Roy and contributed by Rick and some good holiday feelings.



Auctioneer Eric spanking this boxwood back to life for auction



Wall Street Gracie counting up the auction take

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DON'T FORGET HANK'S DEMO JANUARY 13TH AT THE SEPULVEDA GARDENS. HE WILL BE SHOWING US HIS NEW METHOD OF GRAFTING





Honored Guests Mr. Goya and Mr. Nagatoshi. Cherished SSK Member Emma Janza here displaying her bonsai

Super piece at the GSBF non judged exhibit by guess who for free raffle tickets.



Below left Mauro Stemberger discussing one of two bonsai he made for SSK to auction Below right still laughing board after 1 yr







## Announcements

All deciduous trees should be dormant by now. If you have not removed their leaves and fruit, do it this month. Japanese maples, Trident, and Chinese elms can have all leaves removed, including those that are still green (not Caitlin elms). Prune all of the twiggy tertiary growth having more than two nodes. Remove thick top branches leaving fine secondary and tertiary branches to form the crown and the top one third or one quarter of the tree. Open up the structure of the tree to allow better light penetration. Pull all moss off of the very base of the trunk and main roots and brush these. When trees are bare a dilute dormant spray of lime sulfur may be used as a fungicide. To avoid root damage cover the surface of the pot with plastic to prevent run-off or drip of the spray.

Pinch (cut) excess evergreen growth to create tight, colorful new spring growth. Prepare supplies of potting soil mix, clean pots tools and screens to be ready for spring repotting. Some (JB) will allow pot to pot transfer now if not a lot of root work is involved. Can to pot transfer should wait a month. Label the trees that will require repotting in spring. A light mist of DILUTE lime sulfur on the top and bottom of the foliage and woody branches is quite effective. Some will not use lime sulfur as an insecticide on conifers. Apply lime sulfur at half strength on wet, aged deadwood such as jin and shari. A few drops of black ink or black acrylic tones down the usual orange color. Protect the roots with paper. Volk oil is also an effective non-toxic insecticide but not on buttonwoods. Do not use lime sulfur on azalea and camellia. And some prefer Volk oil on conifers.

Pines should have older needles removed with tweezers to prevent damage. If the branch is weak leave most old needles. Leave more needles at the bottom and less at the top.

Be sure to protect any semi-tropicals such as ficus and bougainvillea trees by placing them under a bench or inside. Overwatering can easily damage all but especially bougainvillea. Dormant trees use very little water but do not let them dry out. If a

tree freezes do not water it until it thaws out. It is better to thaw the tree in an environment that is only a few degrees above freezing

Evergreen trees can be given fertilizer that is high in potassium and phosphorous but low in nitrogen. Bone meal and blood meal and cottonseed may not decompose fast enough to be effective.

Branches are brittle and can easily break. Start your wiring with the lowest branches, proceed to the top, but only wire those branches that need to be repositioned. Strive for a delicate graceful appearance with Japanese maples and a more rugged ramification on trident maples. Hide the cuts by making them slanted to the back, making sure they are concave. Seal all raw scars over 1/4 of an inch in diameter.

This is a good month to graft conifers so if you have some Shimpaku juniper stock that you want to graft to a California juniper now

## WHAT'S UP

HANK FAWCETT DEMO ON HIS NEW  
EASY FOOLPROOF GRAFTING TECHNIQUE

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WINTER SILHOUETTES AT THE ARBORETUM  
NOT TO BE MISSED JANUARY 16 TH, 17TH

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BONSAI-A-THON XIX FEB. 28-MARCH 1, 2015  
HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

8AM TO 4PM

THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE  
GSBF COLLECTION

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VOLUNTEER AT THE HUNTINGTON  
CONTACT TED MATSON, BILL WAWRYCHUK

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MUCH BELOVED SHOHIN CONVENTION

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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.

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P.O Box 571492 Tarzana,  
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**2015**

A solid board for SSK

We miss our good friends Al Loman and Harry Harao

The SSK show at our future home The Japanese Gardens

Speakers Roy, David, Jack, Travis, and Bob Pressler

Special tree auctioned last December created by Mauro Stemberger. See his trees in this quarter's issue of Bonsai Focus

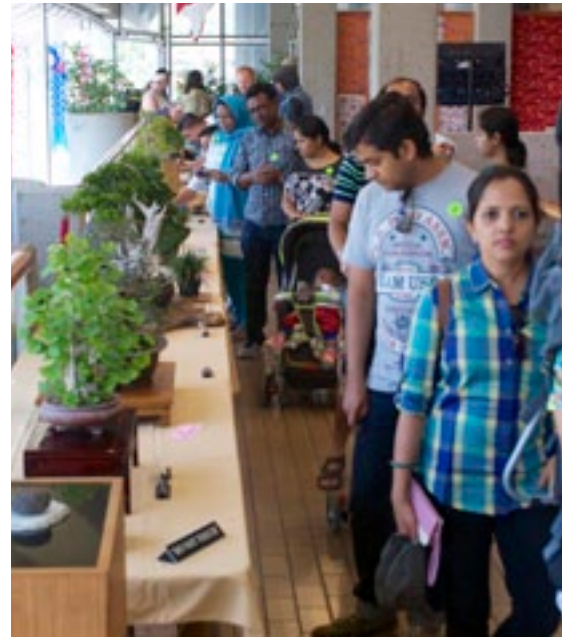
Winter Silhouettes 2015

Bonsai-a-thon 2015

GSBF Convention 2015

Auctions and pot lucks

Volunteering at the Huntington



Left Josh super raffel chairman

Top -SSK yearly show at the Japanese Gardens. Middle - bonsai entered by Hank Fawcett in GSBF Convention judged contest is a winner