



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hank Fawcett

Our summer barbeque and auction is a smashing success thanks to all of the members and guest who attended. A special thanks to Josh who graciously hosted the event at his house and made the most scrumptious chicken ever! Also special thanks to Mike who tirelessly accumulated all of the bids and bidders, Grace who did the numbers and puts up with us, Steve the manager of trees and to Eric who performed the difficult task of auctioneer. I don't think I have seen so many great trees for sale. It was amazing. Thanks to everyone.

It has been hot in the valley for the past 3 weeks which makes it difficult to work with our bonsai other than water them and ensure that they stay hydrated. However, I am taking this lull in their maintenance to work on the trees that I want to graft in January. Without going to extremes, I am reducing foliage on them and creating jin and shari that will later lead to their improvement.

My California junipers are under a 40% shade cloth. This was a reaction to last year's unbearable heat that in some cases reached 122 degrees. It appears that the shade cloth, vacuum pruning, fertilizing with a mild Doctor Earth fertilizer, loose soil mix and generous watering has enabled them to continue to grow during the summer months.

Enjoy your bonsai. They are living art.

Roy
Nagatoshi this coming
Wednesday
9/11
Bring your problem
trees for
consultation

Lindsay Shiba in October



August Auction

by EYHO

Elliot and I headed into the SSK auction with a load of sausages deserts and bonsai items. Members were out on the front lawn of Josh's new home to help unload while Josh was busy bbq chicken and mixing up a Mai Tai just for me and the crowd.

After greetings, filling up my plate, checking out the auction items and finding a seat, auctioneer Eric began the program. President Hank sat at the back quietly supervising. Mike and Grace recorded the sales some for 20 percent going to the club and others for 100 percent. Steve helped keeping the items moving.

I was totally interested in an oak brought by Ellen and had to bid aggressively to own it. I began working it over immediately at home. I also bought some holiday presents for family and friends.

The auction went on over 2 hours exhausting Eric and the crew. Thanks to all who participated especially to Josh and family for loaning their home and allowing a tradition to continue following the Berkus' tradition. The club did well and will use the proceeds for our demonstrators and space rental.

Bien Heche SSK



Josh, the host with the most. The BL (bonsai lover) behind the BBQ, auction and Mai Tai



Eric the Auctioneer
No more need be said

Naka Notes

Lessons from a Master

by Jack Reynolds



Jack giving demo at yearly show

September is pretty much like August as far as bonsai care is concerned. It is generally hot, particularly in the first part of the month so care must be taken in watering but since most trees have finished their branch growth they will not require as much water as in the spring. Strike a balance between the amount of water given and the needs of the tree in the heat. One way to do this is to check the top quarter or half inch of soil, if it is damp a quarter to half an inch down then you don't need to water if it is dry then water until water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Very small trees (shohin) may need to be checked twice a day. Look at the drainage holes for cobwebs and other obstruction and clean with a bristle brush.

Trees that may become sunburned should be placed in the shade. This will start the tree into dormancy and inhibit sprouting of new growth too late in the year; such late growth usually freezes off or burns off in the fall and winter winds. Trimming should be reduced at this time of year. Don't remove growth until it has matured. If in doubt leave it for spring pruning. Reduce shimpaku only a little and with discrete scissor cutting not plucking or mowing.

Light feeding, particularly of trees that are still showing new growth is permitted at this season. Deciduous flowering and fruiting species may benefit from a low nitrogen high phosphorous high potassium fertilizer (0-10-10 such as Liquinox Bloom) to promote fruit development and strong roots.

Some things may be transplanted this month, particularly toward the end of the month. These would be pines and junipers. No severe root pruning should be done however so you should only be moving trees from one pot to another of about equal or larger size. If the weather remains hot, wait until October to re pot. Willows, tamarix, olive and bougainvillea can be re-potted or even started as cuttings at this season.

Pine candles and needle plucking can begin now for directional branch growth and ramification and needle reduction; but done under the guidance of an experienced bonsai artist.



Naka San photo from Cheryl Manning



Auction peeps Steve (arms crossed), Mike (back with the panda bear cut) Grace (way in the back), Hank and Eric all active in this affair.



Do you remember when?
Don Berkus and auctions past at his home



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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California Bonsai Society

Several club members and past presidents of SSK such as Bob Pressler and Michael Jonas showed at this exhibition at the Japanese Cultural Center honoring John Naka its founder. Also many who showed are those bonsai masters and enthusiasts that have honored SSK with their demonstrations. More photos next month



Top left John Naka
Top right Bob Pressler-current CBS President
Middle left Taz Shimazu
Middle right Lindsay Shiba curator of Winter Silhouettes
Bottom left Tom Vuong-frequent gracious mentor