



Volume 35 February 2020

### Jim Barrett at 90 visits Sansui-kai

"He has so much information about bonsai and he loves talking about it."



**Above- Jim Barrett at SSK February 2020**

**Left -Jim's Foemina at the National Bonsai Museum in Washinton DC**

**See attachment for bio**

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### MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT MIKE (not pence)

Hello All,

Please support Keegan and participate in this month's bonsai story time by bringing in a tree to show and discuss.

Thank you for your responses regarding our talk with Jim Barrett.

When you have ideas for the Sansui Kai meeting please feel free to email me. Mike.

## Winter silhouettes 2020



**Winter Silhouette display at the Arboretum in January. Featured here are SSK Club Members Ted (above left) and former club president Bob (above right) and club member Ellen to right below Joe above**

# Naka Notes

## Lessons from a Master

by Jack Reynolds



Jack giving a demo at SSK  
yearly show

In general, February is much like January in terms of bonsai care. You will have to be aware of the dampness of your trees. Sometimes we say, "Let the rain do it" but we may let the trees get too dry, especially in the wind.

If it gets too cold quickly bring your tropicals inside for 3 days at most. Find a balance of light and warmth. You can also bring your vulnerable trees near the house to absorb heat. There are commercial frost blankets that will protect you up to a sustained temperature of 28 degrees.

This is the month to spray DECIDUOUS trees with DILUTE lime sulfur to ward off leaf curl and other insect pests. Do this before the buds enlarge. Cover the soil. Read the directions before you spray. BE CARE-SPRAYING EVERGREENS AS YOUR FOLIAGE MAY SUFFER. Don't spray new tender growth or flowers that have opened with lime sulfur. Always wear EYE PROTECTION as pure lime sulfur which is alkaline can cause big time problems.

Any trees that were set in the shade to promote dormancy need to be watched. When they start new growth move them into the sun. If you leave them in the shade the growth will be spindly and weak.

Pruning of deciduous trees should be done this month. Prune to allow light in- side the tree. Be aware that upper branches may be brittle. This is a good month to start cuttings. Grafting of deciduous trees and also conifers can be done this month.

Fertilizing will not be done this month except for conifers, which are not dormant. Get your soil mixtures made up and sharpen tools for the coming repotting season. It is a good time to apply soil amend-ments such as Ironite and gypsum.

Get ready for: SHOW TIME.



Naka  
photo from  
Cheryl Manning

# President's Message FEBRUARY 2020

As I get older, sometimes I get confused. So, I can actually relate to my trees. The weather is hot and then it is cold. It is comfortable and then there are icy, cold winds. The buds on a number of my trees have opened only to be damaged by the cold windy nights. The tropical trees that I took out of the greenhouse are crowded back inside. Yep. They are confused by the temperature swings and the best I can do is to be attentive to their needs.

I am continuing to graft trees and I think the weather has been ideal. The cooler weather permits the scions to slowly join with the mother stock. Additionally, all of my grafted trees are bagged and snuggled in my greenhouse where the temperature is relatively constant.

The deciduous trees are budding and the growth typically starts as the tips. This is a wonderful time to ensure that you trim them back to obtain the shape that you want before they explode with new growth.

Kudos to Keegan for presenting an exciting February meeting. His concept where the members bring their trees and explain their provenance and progression is wonderful. We all have something to learn and I am looking forward to hearing about your trees and your methods for creating better bonsai.

Kudos to Mike Kelly as well for creating new ideas such as An Evening with Jim Barrett. Mike is a dynamo who continues to open his house for workshops for visiting artists such as Lindsay Shiba and Peter Macasieb. He will host Jonas Dupuich later this year for a workshop and club demo. This is an unbelievable coup for our small club and Mike guarantees more exciting things to come.

Take good care of your trees and they will bring you years of joy.

Hank

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**Those SSK members who were available to demonstrate bonsai principles to the girl scouts associated with the Huntington were Dan, Mike, Rick, Ellen and who did I foregt? In return we were awarded this patch and some coffee-it was a nice experience. Ellen put it together.**



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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[www.Sansui-Kai.org](http://www.Sansui-Kai.org)



## MORE WINTER SILHOUETTES

**Kathy Benson  
Lindsay Shiba  
Jack R.  
Winter Silhouettes  
2020  
SSk Club member-  
Joe whose tree is  
featured as an  
attachment  
was active in the  
show**

