



Ted Matson September 14th at Sansui-kai

Ted Matson, the Curator of the Huntington Bonsai Collection will be our speaker.

Presidents Message

Jack G. Reynolds

First the BBQ, we met at Don Berkus' home in Encino as we have done for many years. As I was unloading my truck I had a bit of nostalgia come over me remembering times past and Ileen's cheery greetings to everyone as they came into the kitchen to deliver their dishes. It was a little more subdued this year but Don was there and welcomed us all in good cheer. The club presented Don with a card and a donation of a tree to be planted by Tree People somewhere in the urban forest in Ileen's name, to honor her and also his contribution to the club. The auction included trees of many species in all stages of growth from year old cuttings to trees with large bases many inches in diameter, as well as some rather good pots. There was something for everyone.

The demonstration this month (Sept.) is to be Ted Matson. He plans to do something with shohin size bonsai, the little trees under nine inches high. It promises to be instructive as usual. I have taken lessons from Ted for over twenty years and believe him to be a great teacher of the art. Please plan to attend.

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Mr. Young at SSK in August.

Article and photo on page 2

Mr. Thomas Vuong Comes to Sansui-kai

Graft, Jin, Bend -- FAST FAST FAST
Thomas Vuong August 2016

Mr. Vuong is primarily self-taught in the art of bonsai. He is fond of producing jin, grafting and bending the impossible.

Bending for position is easy. Bending for movement is harder. He uses ratchets and guy wire. "I love jin the most. Jin is more important than live material for providing movement and age".



Here are the trees Mr. Vuong will work on over the next year. This bonsai will be placed on auction to the members in 2017. It will be grafted first. He uses scion grafting as opposed to free grafting used primarily in bonsai. Spring is the best time for grafting and grafting material taken from prior grafts is strongest. When he grafts generally he uses 20 to 30 grafts primarily shimpaku. In March 2017 he will graft the demo tree and later in the year he will refine the bonsai for auction. "Bring your own material and we will practice grafting in March".

Mr Vuong is a gracious and generous teacher. Thank you.



Refreshments
TBA



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. *****

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

On the weekend of Sept. 24-25, Sansui-kai will be doing bonsai demonstrations on olive trees at the **Sylmar Olive Festival** in El Cariso Park, 13100 Hubbard St. in Sylmar. The festival runs from 1-9 PM, Sat. and 1-7 PM Sun. We need volunteers to man our booth, sell trees and answer questions from the public. If you have some trees you would like to sell bring them. The club will get twenty percent as usual. Heck just come out and have fun at the festival and hang out. The demo trees will be auctioned off at the Christmas potluck auction meeting in Dec. See you at the meeting. Jack

(Below) a tree planted in honor and memory of Ileene.





Annual BBQ / Auction

The auction BBQ was small and fun. The weather was cool, the environment of Mr. Berkus' home gracious, the food plentiful and delicious and the auction beneficial for individuals and the club. And we had some fun and made some money. Thanks to all who contributed.

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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*(Left) Club members stocking up from the auction
Photos by EYHO*

(Below) The Huntington's Chinese Garden. Elliot a SSK club member and Huntington docent will share his insights of the vious gardens in future issues

