



Hank Fawcett Presidents Message

It's still a little bit of crazy weather with temperatures fluctuating from 90 degrees on some days to mid-sixties on others. However, my trees are definitely enjoying it. Almost all of my deciduous have new leaves and the tips of my junipers are swelling nicely.

I procrastinated about repotting so far this year and now it is a game of catch-up. Thankfully, the Bonsai-a-thon was several weeks ago and I bought plenty of soil so for me it is a matter of time and labor rather than scrambling for a bonsai mix. If you haven't repotted your trees in over 3 years, it may be a good idea to jump in and take care of it. I started grafting kishu as early as December and finished all of the trees that I wanted to graft. The grafted trees are bagged and in the greenhouse. On a weekly basis, I remove each bag, hydrate the grafted tree, re-bag and put them back in the greenhouse. This gives me an opportunity to see the progress of the grafts and to ensure that they simply don't dry out. Grafting the trees is probably 30% a mechanical process and 70% the aftercare.

Mike and Steve are re-energizing the monthly raffle and they will definitely appreciate member donations to the raffle. Please bring a plant (or 2) or a pot. We all have something on our benches that we just never seem to have time (or desire) to work on. Bring it in. Someone will definitely be thrilled to win it.

Enjoy your trees and I will see you at the March meeting.

President Hank showing one of many bonsai he brought Wednesday



Rick discussing his boxwood at the February meeting organized by Keegan



Naka Notes

Lessons from a Master

by Jack Reynolds



Jack giving demo at yearly show

March. We may later get more frosty nights. Bring trees coming out of dormancy into sunny locations to stimulate the new growth but be ready to move them back into protection if the weather should turn cold.

WATER

Over watering will promote large leaves or leaves with browning at the tips.

FLOWERING When they have bloomed out eighty per- cent of their flowers, remove the remaining buds and all of the bloom. This will prevent stressing the tree. The same should be done with berries.

FERTILIZER

It is not too early to use high nitrogen fertilizers and magnesium, sulfur and iron can be added for good leaf color. Conifers can also be fertilized with organic fertilizers. Liquid fertilizers can be used such as 1/2 or 1/4 quarter strength Miracle Grow.

TRANSPLANTING

From March until June is the time to transplant. There are two reasons to transplant; the first is that the tree needs to be moved to another pot for aesthetic reasons; the second is for reasons of health of the tree. When transplanting into a new pot roots will not be disturbed too much. Some root pruning will undoubtedly be necessary. Remove large unsightly roots but leave enough white feeders to sustain the tree. Remember to remove some foliage if you remove a significant number of roots in order to maintain a balance between water uptake and water loss. In general the decision to change soil should be made when the tree shows signs of slowing down in growth or signs of being root bound.

BUGS

Insects can be bad at this time of year particularly aphids and scale. Check early and often. Spray with Ultra Fine and Malathion or other insecticide as directed. It is better to use slightly dilute mixes due to the fact that trees in pots tend to be more sensitive to insecticides than those in the ground. A second spraying with lime sulfur for deciduous trees can be done now but not on new growth.

CUTTINGS this is the perfect time to start deciduous cuttings.



Naka San photo from Cheryl Manning



FEBRUARY MEETING was a little different. Members brought their own trees and talked about problems, solutions and tricks of the trade.

Keegan in left photo moderated the meeting and even broadcasted the event live. Welcome to 2020.

Rick (below left) unexpectedly brought a boxwood found in a trash site at an building excavation. Look what he did with carving!

Speaking of carving Steveworked over the rosemary just below. (Enlarge for details)



Dan's Tea tree
(Forbidden tree) above.

Left above AI shows a family project by he and Grace.
(Upper left)

Here to the left Jack showing off a ficus raft



FEBRUARY MEETING
(continued)



Keegan
shapely
pomen-
granite
grown in
the ground



The Baron (above top
two) grafted bonsai on-
left

Below Incredible
Ramification in Michael's
Trident





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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BAT

As always a great event for the bonsai community. Club member Ellen was chair. Above is a wonderful saikei by Lindsay Shiba who was here at SSK recently for a workshop and demo thanks to Mike. Top is an EYHO oak by Tak Nakamura