



## SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hank Fawcett

Coming up for our December meeting is a pot luck meal and a bonsai auction. I realized today that I neglected to solicit dishes for the meeting on December 12, 2018. Sansui Kai always provides the drinks and chicken and the meal is augmented by lots of goodies from our members. Please send me the list of dishes that you will bring to the meeting. My email is hankfawcett@yahoo.com. I apologize for not being proactive with organizing this meeting.

The auction is one of the ways that our club has sufficient resources to fund the demonstrators for each club meeting and for the rental of the building for our meetings. Please bring donations and please browse through your trees, pots and bonsai related and find some fabulous material to sell. On sales, the club will receive 20% of the auction sales.

Mauro Stemberger is in town for the next week. Typically, he works on my California junipers but sadly they haven't recovered sufficiently from the summer heat madness to be worked on. Mauro usually comes to Los Angeles in March but not this coming year. He wants to give the California junipers a full year of growth before he does anything to them. I mention this to anyone who has heat damaged California junipers. It may be

best to give them a respite for a year. I certainly will take his advice to give them enough time to recover.

And grafting season is right around the corner. All of the junipers that I plan to graft have been cleaned and are ready for grafting. I am just finishing up on cleaning the Kishu junipers that will provide the scions. Get ready. Time has a way of creeping up on us and before you know it, it may be too late to graft.

Enjoy you bonsai. It is a wonderful hobby.

\*\*\*\*\*

Coming up:

December 12 Pot Luck  
Auction

Roy and Alex in January 9th

Winter Silhouettes January  
13 and 14th Arboretum

Bonsai-a-thon - Volunteer!

# Jason Saito Saikei

There was a last minute speaker cancellation and Mike was able to find Jason Saito who graciously stepped up to put together a saikei for the club which was later to be auctioned at the December potluck.

The video of his demo prepared by Mel is available on our website and references to other details are available as well. The details cannot be overstated.

If you review Naka's Bonsai techniques I you will find somewhat rigid rules to guide the aesthetics of asymmetry, balance and proportion of bonsai. For example, the first branch should begin at 1/3 the height of the tree or the trunk width to height is 1 to 6. Saikei differs from bonsai. The aesthetics are not just in the trees but much more the assemblage. It was developed after World War II when bonsai had fallen out of popularity. Saikei's historic roots are traditional bonsai, rock scenes without trees and elaborate scenes of people and plants as in Penjing.

In bonsai, the tree is the main feature. Saikei uses young trees and can include trees and plants of different species none of which might dominate. The main rule of a useful saikei tree is the foliage and the tree size should be in proportion to the display. In fact the rocks and not the trees provide the structure of the display. Trees can be placed anywhere they seem to fit.

Because the trees do not need to be mature, saikei can be assembled quickly and inexpensively. Trees should be simple and not contorted or overly developed. Different species of trees and plants allow the saikei more flexibility in portraying seasons. A virtue.

Jason came prepared and finished a beautiful saikei in no time ready for the December auction. The club thanks Jason, a valued member for his generosity.

*\*(notes taken from Wikipedia, Naka's Bonsai Technique I, and Jason's demo)*



*photo from video by Mel on website*



# Naka Notes

*Lessons from a Master*

by Jack Reynolds

All deciduous trees should be dormant 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.

Pinch or cut excess evergreen growth to create tight, colorful new spring growth. Pull all moss off of the very base of the trunk and main roots and brush these.

Prepare supplies of potting soil mix, clean pots tools and screens to be ready for spring repotting. Label the trees that will require repotting.

When trees are bare, a VERY 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. 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 a fungicide on conifers. Do not use lime sulfur on azalea and camellia. Volk oil is also an effective non-toxic insecticide but not for buttonwoods. Volk oil can be used on conifers instead of lime sulfur.

For bleaching and to prevent rot 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. Cover the soil to protect the roots

Be sure to protect any semitropical such as ficus and bougainvillea by placing them under a bench or inside. Over watering 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. Slow release 5-5-5 is an effective fertilizer for winter.

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 inch diameter.

This a good month to graft conifers with Shim-paku.

# JASON SAITO'S SAIKEI DEMO



Jason's saikei on auction 12/12 at SSK



## 2019 SANSUI KAI DEMO LIST

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.

**Hank Fawcett  
President**

**Jack Reynolds  
Past President**

**Sonja Kobler  
Refreshment  
Chairperson**

**Gracie Sy  
Treasurer**

**Eric Percifield  
Secretary**

**Mike Kelly  
Vice President for  
Programs**

**Josh Miller  
Vice President for  
Benefit Drawing**

**Steve Riley  
Vice President for  
Membership  
Website Editor**

**Librarian  
David Lim**

**Dan Kashinsky  
Editor  
Kai Wire**

**Mel Carrillo  
Technical visual  
communication**

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

-JANUARY 9th- ROY NAGATOSHI & ALEX WORKSHOP  
((confirmed)

-FEBRUARY 13TH. ELSA BOUDOURI (CBS VISITING ART-  
IST PROGRAM) ( confirmed)

-MARCH 13th- AL RIVERA - DEMO OF SMALL BONSAI  
( MAME & KOMONO) OR JUNIPER GRAFTING WORKSHOP  
(confirmed)

-APRIL 10th- TOM VUONG GRAFTING  
WORKSHOP. (confirmed).

-MAY 8th TED MATSON -CLUB SHOW  
TREE CRITIQUE (confirmed)

-JUNE 12th PETER MACASIEB -SHOHIN  
DEMO OR WORKSHOP. He will  
bring a tree (confirmed).

-JULY 10th- MARCUS JUNIEL (carving or  
bending)

-AUGUST 14th- ANNUAL AUCTION

-SEPTEMBER 11TH OPEN SUG

-OCTOBER 9TH- POSSIBLE WORKSHOP FOR  
DECIDUOUS TREES?

-NOVEMBER 13th — OPEN Suggestions ?

-DECEMBER 11th HOLIDAY POTLUCK AUCTION.