

The KAI WIRE

SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Volume 34 • January 2019

SANSUI-KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hank Fawcett



December's meeting was wonderful. There was plenty of food and drink and a ton of trees and pots at auction. The bidding was excellent. The club made some money and so did members. Members sold trees and pots and other members got some fantastic bargains. A special thanks to our auctioneer, Eric, and to our coordinator extraordinaire, Mike, and of course, to all the members who came for the food, bonsai and camaraderie.

Last year, Roy Nagatoshi from Fuji Bonsai in Sylmar and his trusty sidekick, Alex, provided us with an excellent workshop. They are returning this month to provide us with another night of styling, wiring design and hands-on bonsai work. Yep. Bring your trees, tools and wire and create another work of art.

We sent out an email blast to you, the members, to determine if one of you would like to display a deciduous tree in the upcoming "Winter Silhouettes" presented by Baikoen Bonsai Kendyukai at the Los Angeles Arboretum on January 19 and 20, 2019. If you are interested, please bring your tree to the January meeting for Roy's impeccable insight and tutelage.

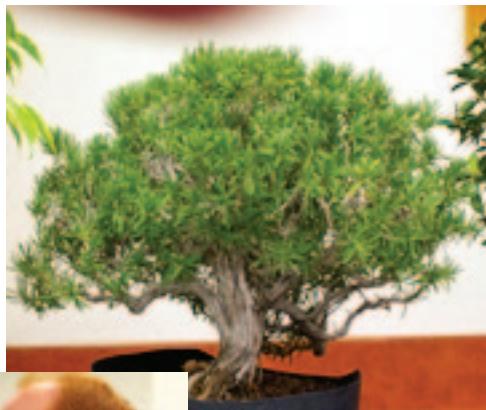
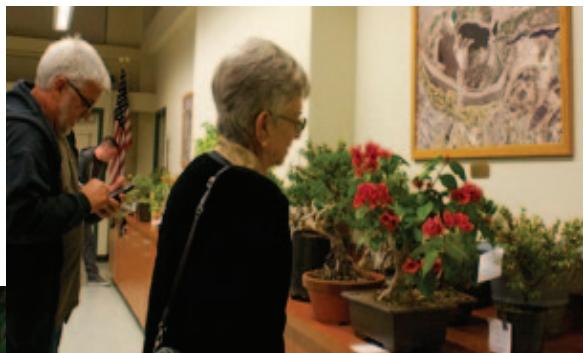
For the most part, the junipers that I will graft this year are ready. The last bit of work to do to ensure success is to spray them for spider mites and fungus. This also goes for the trees that will supply the grafting scions. Depending on the weather, we will probably have until April to graft. I have removed all the leaves from my deciduous trees. Yep. This is Southern California so even though they should have dropped all their leaves, there were some remaining. With the help of bonsai tweezers and a several hours of labor, they are ready for their yearly dormant spray.

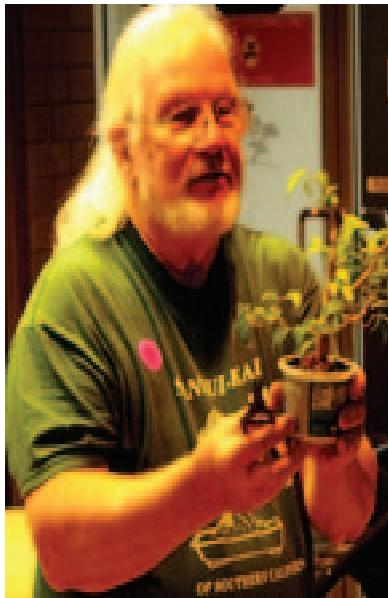
It is starting to get cold in the valley. It was 39 degrees last week at my house and a wake up call for me to put my tropical bonsai in the greenhouse. In past years, I haven't been as proactive and the tropical ficus paid the price. They don't like the freezing cold and will quickly die back. Not this year!

Enjoy your bonsai and keep them safe.

AUCTION/ POTLUCK

EXTRAORDINARY





All deciduous trees should be dormant by 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 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 re potting. Label the trees that will require repotting in spring.

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 an insecticide 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.

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.

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 Shimpaku.

DON'T OVER WATER

DECIDUOUS CLEAN UP

LOW OR NO NITROGEN FERTILIZER

WATCH THOSE WIRES



And Alex
Bring a tree to work on

Roy January 9

Don't miss
Winter Silhouettes
Bonsai-a-thon
You'll be sorry





Sansui-Kai
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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

2019 SANSUI-KAI DEMO FROM MIKE KELLY

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

-FEBRUARY 13TH. ELSA BOUDOURI (CBS VISITING ARTIST 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 SUGGESTIONS

-OCTOBER 9TH- POSSIBLE WORKSHOP FOR DECIDUOUS TREES?

-NOVEMBER 13th — OPEN SUGGESTIONS

-DECEMBER 11th HOLIDAY POTLUCK AUCTION.