

The KAI WIRE

山水會

VOL 31 N12
DECEMBER
2014



SANSUI-KAI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

FABULOUS AUCTION AND POT LUCK 12/10 7PM

THIS YEAR'S EVENTS *See Below Left* MAURO "FIRE OF DEADWOOD" AUCTIONED 11/12 *Pic Below Text Page 2*

JAN. 8th---- Kathy Benson

FEB. 12th----Roy Nagatoshi

March 12th Jim Barrett

APR. 9th---- Member's Workshop

MAY.14th---David Nguy

JUN.11th--- Ben Oki

JULY.9th----Member's Workshop

AUG.13th---Bob Pressler

SEPTEMBER 10TH- Members Workshop

October 8th Frank Goya

NOV.12th---Mauro Stemberger 7 PM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Jack G. Reynolds*

First I want to express my great sadness at the news of Elliott Farkas' passing. Elliott had been a member of Sansui Kai for many years and had served on the board. He was full of enthusiasm for many things but most of all he loved bonsai. It was Elliott who came up with the idea of Sansui Kai sponsoring Walter Pall's critique three years ago. He was always striving to engage with the top people in bonsai to learn from them and make their message heard by as many as possible. He also worked within the Golden State Bonsai Federation selling advertising for the magazine and rounding up trees for display at the 2013 convention. At the end of his life he was striving to ready himself for an apprenticeship to a Japanese bonsai master. He will be missed by all who came to know him through bonsai and were exposed to his sly and somewhat ribald humor.

I was very pleased at the turnout for Mauro Stemberger's demonstration. He did the initial styling on two trees both California junipers. The first one was auctioned off at the Nov. meeting and went to Hank Fawcett. Congratulations Hank, I expect to see that tree in our show someday. Of the course the second tree will be auctioned at the Dec. club auction. Since I sold the tree to the club especially for this demonstration I am putting in my opening bid for \$200 at this time. WHO WILL WIN IT?

MAURO

“TREES DESERVE YOUR RESPECT.

Mauro was given two trees to turn into bonsai. The first is a double trunk California juniper purchased for this demonstration at SSK from an Orange County bonsai artist. GSBF is to be thanked for sponsoring the purchase for SSK.

“FIRE OF DEADWOOD” *Pic Page 1*

Mauro saw a “fire of deadwood arising from the sand”. His first attack was to carve the deadwood. He felt the foliage was still needing growth. Wiring at this time would be counterproductive to growth and health of the tree. He recommends weekly foliage spray with a liquid chemical such as Superthrive and organics for the soil. The entire tree should be treated and positioned so that all growth is approximately equal.

“LOOK FOR THE TRUNK LINE LIFELINES SHOULD FACE FRONT”

His method is to clean the tree, work the deadwood, wire branches and last position branches for optimal positive and negative space. Use the natural deadwood as much as possible. He warned again to limit wiring on this California until it is shooting out all over.

“ART CONCERNS LINE AND PROPORTION”

Jack provided a potted California that he has worked with for years. This smaller tree is more mature than the tree to be auctioned. In looking at the tree's future he uses his architecture background as well as his very early interest in aesthetics (“art concerns line and proportion “partially”) and bonsai in his early teens.

Jack's smaller California has a bar branch. This imperfection Mauro dealt with by tilting the tree to the right. He prefers to show lifelines as the front. Nebari is of less concern for California's.

“WIRING IS THE LANGUAGE OF BONSAI”

When wiring pay strict attention to technique. In his travels he finds wiring is an issue everywhere. Wire size is 1:3. Copper is a bit stronger than aluminum. He usually does not wire the “shoulder”. He wires facing the branch with an inside out technique always starting from a wired branch allowing the branches to spread out for the sun. Bend the second branch to COMPACT the tree silhouette. Wire that is too big can injure the tree. Severe bending

stimulates the tree's growth (counter intuitive).

Pot in spring in an oval pot. The tree has a feminine look to him so oval fits.

HANK THE WINNER

Hank wanted the auctioned tree and he took it home at a good price for him and for the club. *See photo page 1*



BEFORE

Pics by DK



AFTER
*to be auc-
tioned 12/10*



Announcements

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 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 full strength on wet, aged dead-wood 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 1/4diameter. This a good month to graft conifers with Shimpaku.

DON'T OVER WATER

WATCH THOSE WIRES

DECIDUOUS CLEAN UP

LOW OR NO NITROGEN FERTILIZER

Naka notes have been edited by EYHO using current bonsai teacher's advice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 10TH SSK AUCTION AND
POTLUCK 7PM -COME EAT, TALK BONSAI
AND BID ON MAURO'S CALIFORNIA

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DECEMBER 6TH ANNUAL YARD SALE
FRESNO

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HUNTINGTON STONE EXHIBIT
12/26-1/2/15

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WINTER SILHOUETTES JANUARY 2015
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW -DON'T MISS IT

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DESCANSO ANNUAL BANQUET
JANUARY 24



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.

Administration

Jack Reynolds
President

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OFFICERS 2014-15 -DA CREW



Left Elliott's Famous Olive

Above
Eric, Steve, Armando, Gracie, Sonja, Dan, Albert and Jack. Where is al Loman?

HELP WANTED

The staff of Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) publication Golden Statements Magazine is in need to fill the following positions

- Treasurer
- Advertising Manager
- Subscriptions Manager
- Part Time Assistants

For more details on duties and special perks, contact George Haas, Past Editor of Golden Statements Magazine, 707 762-9154 or gwhaas@comcast.net

FROM STEVE

I posted a few pictures from the GSBF Convention on the Sansui Kai Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>

For all club members that have not discovered the new Sansui -Kai website and Sasui- Kai Facebook page, click on the links below. Please save these links so that you can go to these pages for updates on club activities.

Sansui Kai website:

<http://www.sansui-kai.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SansuiKaiBonsai>