



# Member Workshop April 9th

## SSK Demonstration Calender

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----Herry Hirao

AUG.13th---Bob Pressler

SEP.10th---- Members Workshop

OCT. 8th----Frank Goya

## Officer Installation

It was a sweet Sunday brunch at the Zen Buffett with excellent food, festive mood and knock out raffle. Gifts of bonsai tools and trees were presented to the outgoing and continuing officers. Eric Percifield reviewed the years events and accomplishments and credited past members Yoko and Walter Zupisch for their work for the club and its members. New President Jack Reynolds thanked Eric for his efforts. "Eric, I want to thank you for doing a thankless job". It was a satisfying event. There was a lot of excitement and support for the new board members felt and communicated.

Meet the Sansui Kai Board for 2014-2015.

Left to right is Eric Percifield Past President, Steve Riley Secretary and Web, Armand Trujillo VP for Membership and Raffle Chair, Gracie Sy is Treasurer, Sonja Kobler Refreshments, Dan Kashinsky Newsletter, Albert Espinoza VP Programs and Jack Reynolds President. Al Ioman, Librarian (absent) *Photo by Michael Jonas*



## Jim Barrett's Demo in March

by DK

On the way in to the demo, Jim had to hit his breaks and accidentally topped the foemina he had plans to style. Undaunted he proceeded. His favorite styling is formal upright he thinks because so many of the local pines in nature are straight. The styling is technically easy but aristically difficult. Jim likes the tree size of 24-48 inches to work with.

Does a tree have potential he sees as the initial question in appraisal. Purchase a tree you don't have to struggle with. Its not what tree is now but what it can be. Roots or nebari is what at first glance determines the potential of a tree. Foemina often have 2 sets of roots. The superficial roots are often ugly from growth in a container but there are many times a more pleasing group below the first set. Nebari (Japanese for roots) are more difficult to change. He went on to discuss the basics of design with triangles on the trunk branching and triangles on the side branches both as seen from top (pic) and side. The foliage should start close to the trunk and even grow back over it if desired without allowing branches to cross. The top styling from weather and lightening is an option.

The discussion roamed through many items from the history of the trees in the National Arboretum in DC (where Jim has a tree) to recent changes in the bonsai-athon which had a good attendance from SSK members. Proceeds of the bonsai-a-thon go to an endowment to support a permanent curator for So Cali bonsai display at the Huntington. The turnout was good and the crowd in good spirits from this icon of California bonsai.



Tree before and during shaping by Jim Barrett at the March SSK demo. Above is the standard triagle branch shaping as recommended by Mr. Barrett. *Pics by EYHO*





Ahh... spring has sprung, and it is time to do everything at once. First, general care; everything has sprouted and is growing well so remember to rotate trees to keep their growth even. Water is very important as always. Make sure that everything is getting enough but not too much (tilt your trees when raining heavily to promote drainage). Deciduous trees will be very thirsty as they put on new leaves. Naka recommends that pines be kept on the dry side to insure that needles are short and sturdy. If you are courageous you can even let them wilt a little before watering. This practice is recommended for mature trees that have achieved their desired growth. New growth on deciduous trees can be trimmed but wait until it has hardened (gotten woody) before doing so, then trim back to no more than three buds. If you are careful, you can direct the new growth by trimming a bud that is pointing in the direction that you would like the branch to go. This is the first month that you can candle prune older pines that have achieved their growth. You should wait to prune candles on young trees until May or even June. This is a good month to create jin, because growth is vigorous and healing is rapid.

Almost anything can be transplanted this month. When transplanting pines be sure to take some of the old soil with the tree because it contains a fungus that is beneficial to the tree. In general these fungi called mycorrhiza, increase the tree's ability to take up water and phosphate from the soil. Speaking of phosphate, this is the first month to fertilize deciduous trees. Conifers can be fertilized all year in southern California because they do not go dormant in our warm climate. Fruiting and flowering trees should receive low nitrogen, high phosphate fertilizer that will promote flower and root growth. Bone meal or super phosphate is good. Most things will love Miracle Grow used at half strength. Watch for insects. Aphids can be bad, as can spider mites. Spraying with the hose can dislodge some of these pests but sometimes we must resort to insecticides. Malathion and Volk oil or Ultra-fine leaves

will get many pests. The Safer Soaps can be used on delicate things. Sometimes insecticides will burn so be careful and follow directions.

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## Refreshments

Georgette Puck, Elliott Martin, Josh Miller and Michael Jonas

## Raffle Thanks

(quite a nice one) donations for the officer installation brunch from Steve, Grace, Albert, Rick, Emma, Sonja, Dan Kash, Dan Kahn, Jack, Michael and Armando

Thank you!!!!

## Coming Events

Sansui-kai show in conjunction with the Los-Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society June 14th and 15th with sales and demos  
Contact [Kaptankaiser@gmail.com](mailto:Kaptankaiser@gmail.com)

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

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Orange County Bonsai Society 25th Annual Spring Garden Show April 24-27th  
[dnadzam@socal.rr.com](mailto:dnadzam@socal.rr.com)

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San Diego Bonsai Club Spring Bonsai Show and Sale April 26th and 27th 10 AM to 5 PM  
[sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

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Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Annual Exhibit Serenety Through Bonsai May 3rd and 4th  
<http://daiichibonsaikai.wordpress.com>

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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**  
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**Albert Espinoza**  
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**Steve Riley**  
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**Dave Williams**  
Photographer

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

## As I See it

*by Eric Percifield*

The February demo was led by Roy Nagatoshi and his assistant Alex Martinez of Fuji Bonsai Nursery. Roy used a well established Boxwood to show us how to start the initial root-over-rock styling. Roy first trimmed the tree's foliage, then trimmed long roots and selected those that would hug the rock, creating the interesting design. Roy used a naturally soft rock which, when wet, could be cut with a simple hand saw, allowing him to carve flat spots and crevices in the rock to fit the roots of the tree. Alex then helped Roy to apply twine to bind the roots to the rock, which is Roy's preferred method because the twine will eventually rot away over a few seasons as the roots grow and attach themselves to the rock. As root development progresses, the tree can be repotted and the roots progressively exposed until the final root development is achieved. This was a very interesting demo that resulted in a magnificent tree that will only get better with time. Roy also graciously donated the demo tree and his regular fee back to the club. Thank you to Roy for his generous donation, and also thanks to Roy and Alex for a wonderful demonstration!

## Thanks Roy

Sansui Kai would like to thank Roy Nagatoshi for his excellent demo last month, and for his donation of his stipend and tree. So nice.



Bonsai master Roy Nagatoshi and his fellow demonstrator Alex Martinez assisting in this roots over rock presentation

*photo Eric Percifield*