Landscape Views

The newsletter of the International Saikei Association 栽景

June 2011 Issue 32

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International Saikei Association

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Quick News and Board Activity

General News

Editor

We apologise for the lateness of the newsletter this month but we decided to hold back this edition for a report on the Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Show held at Stone Cross Hall Eastbourne on the 2nd of July 2011.

Don't forget that ISA will be attending the Eastleigh Bonsai Show at Humbee's Garden Centre (opposite Marwell Safari Park) on the 17th of July 2011, so if you are in the area please pop in and see us.

Website

Editor

The new website has been launched, if you are a regional director or local co-ordinator please check that the details for your country are correct.

As you will see on the new website we have an events and news page, the events page is designed to advertise any event that is Saikei or bonsai related. The event could be an exhibition, workshop, demonstration or visit. The news page is more designed to tell people about what's happened.

Please let us know about your events and news so that we can include these within the website and newsletter.

newsletter@saikei.co.uk

Learning Opportunities News

Learning Coordinator

We currently have two individuals working towards the certificate in Saikei level 2. e will keep you posted of their progress and of any other individuals who decide to work towards one of the awards or certificates.

learning@saikei.co.uk

Events and Shows

Eastbourne Bonsai & Saikei Show 3rd of July 2011

Events Coordinator

Please see the show report for a run down of this event.

Eastleigh Bonsai Show 17th of July 2011

Events Coordinator

The Association has been invited to attend the Eastleigh Bonsai Group show at Humbee's Garden Centre which is almost directly opposite Marwell Zoo near Winchester.

The Association will be putting on a display of Saikei and members will be creating a few Saikei under the watchful eye of the president of ISA. There will also be around 90 bonsai on display.

The show will be open from 10.00—16.00

The address is: Thompsons Lane, Owslebury, Winchester, SO21 1JH

Bonsai World 2011 3rd and 4th of September 2011

Events Coordinator

The Association has been invited to attend the Bonsai World show at K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley, West Sussex.

The Association will be putting on a display of Saikei and other Japanese Cultural Activities will be demonstrated. There will also be some of the best bonsai in the country on display.

We will post more details in the next newsletter.

The address is: K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 9BQ

The website for further information is: http://www.bonsaiworld2011.co.uk

If any member outside the UK wishes to attend this event please contact us and we will arrange to have local information sent to you regarding where to stay, local airports, places to eat and local contacts for the Association.

Eastbourne Bonsai Show Report

It was a warm summers day and we approached the Stone Cross Hall in Eastbourne with no idea of what to expect. On entering the hall we were greeted in the friendliest way possible by 2 members of the Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club who explained briefly about the layout of the exhibition and that if we required help there are a number of members to assist us.

When we walked into the hall we were treated to some beautiful bonsai displayed in the traditional way with accent plants and simple but very effective stands. Walking along looking at the trees we were joined by a member who offered any assistance in knowing more about Bonsai and how they were created.

We found the ISA stand and enjoyed a number of Saikei of a very high quality including the Gorge Style Saikei featured on the home page of this website, although it has matured and improved since the original photo was taken. We were joined by a member who introduced himself as the president of the Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club who made some comments about the Saikei and informed us that a demonstration of Saikei was taking place in the adjoining room.

We did not waste any time and went next door to the demonstration room to see the demo, unfortunately we had missed about half of the demo by David Penny and another member of ISA, and were just in time to see the trees placed in the pot and moss laid on the surface of the soil, but we still enjoyed the demo and the finished article will, I am sure, become another good Saikei. We finished by having a cup of tea which was ideal as we had a long trip home again.

Thanks again to the Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club.

Mrs J.P (Salisbury)

In Memorial

It is with a great deal of sadness that I have to report the death of Daizo Iwasaki one of the foremost collectors of bonsai in Japan.

Daizo Iwasaki was the honorary chairman of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation and his home was one of the most amazing bonsai collections in Japan.

He had been a lifelong supporter of bonsai and by his extraordinary generosity brought many others into the world of bonsai. He will be sorely missed by the bonsai community to whom he was a constant source of inspiration.

Daizo Iwasaki died on May 15 at the great age of 94.

On behalf of the board and members of the International Saikei Association I pass on our sympathy to the family he leaves behind.

Back to Basics - Care of Saikei

Placement

Nearly all beginners start out by buying a Saikei from a garden centre, shopping centre or (hopefully) a reputable dealer and are often given only summary advice.

Unfortunately, unless you buy your Saikei from a reputable dealer, you may well have started on the back foot. The most common misunderstanding that beginners have (and Saikei forum posts can confirm this) is that Saikei are still trees and need outdoor living conditions. Trees need good light, good humidity levels, good air circulation and importantly, many species NEED the cold of winter to go dormant. Inside our homes, trees receive comparatively poor light levels and the dry air /low humidity levels created by central heating systems can cause many problems. There are species that we can use in Saikei that will tolerate indoor conditions and with the correct placement and care can thrive; there are also many species that are not hardy enough to tolerate the winter cold. But, these are in the minority. It is far more difficult to cultivate indoor Saikei than outdoor Saikei. Outdoor species very rarely die immediately when grown inside, they can survive for months. However they slowly lose their health and vigour in the adverse conditions they have to cope with, and become susceptible to bugs and disease until they finally start to show outward signs of ill-health; yellowing leaves, lose of foliage and eventually death.

Watering

This seemingly easy technique is the second most common cause of Saikei-related problems. Under watering or allowing the compost to dry out completely will instantly kill or badly damage most trees; however overwatering can just as equally cause ill-health and eventual death from root rot and disease.

The most important rule to remember is that Saikei should be CHECKED for their water requirement daily but should only be watered as required. Never, never water to a routine; this can lead to continually sodden compost which literally suffocates the roots. The surface of the compost MUST be starting to dry out between watering's, then the tree can be thoroughly watered again. The time between watering can vary from 12 hours to 7 days depending on factors such as prevailing temperatures, wind and humidity levels.

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Fiddling

Don't fiddle! The temptation for beginners is to continually fiddle with their tree(s), cutting bits off here and there, continually watering, misting, moving them around etc etc. Checking daily for water requirements and health problems is necessary, but otherwise leave the Saikei to grow and simply enjoy looking at it! Pruning back to shape is necessary but don't continually jump onto every out of place leaf. In order to keep the tree healthy and vigorous it needs to be able to grow freely at times. It is also important to remember timing is very important, don't carry out jobs such as repotting or major restyling at the wrong time of the year as this can lead to poor health in the tree and lack of vigour. A saikei repotted at the wrong time of year for instance may survive if you are lucky, it may even grow a bit, but, it will very rarely reward you with vigour.

Pruning

Saikei need to be pruned, this keeps them small, an unpruned Saikei tree simply becomes an ordinary tree. This is an area that you need to investigate once the basics of watering and placement are understood. If at first you are unsure, simply prune back your trees' new growth to its' original shape when it has extended but don't prune every new leaf that appears as it appears. By studying your tree, watching its growth patterns and studying other peoples trees on the internet and in books, you will be able to form a mental picture of how you wish your saikei to develop over the coming years. It may be that you wish it to remain as it is, or, that there are areas that could be improved. You need to establish your goals for the tree in order to be able to prune and style it for the future rather than just randomly cutting areas of growth back.

Repotting

The other area of Saikei that needs to be addressed by the beginner is repotting; a very straightforward technique if carried out correctly and at the right time. Most Saikei need to be repotted every 5 years or at very least every 7 in Spring as the years new growth starts to appear. Saikei that are not repotted will eventually lose their health and vigour.

Feeding

Feeding is a question that is a constant at demonstrations and workshops the most common are ‘How often’, ‘How’, these are questions that can be answered by checking on the back of your chosen fertiliser. Choosing a fertiliser will not present a problem if you have decided on what you want to achieve from a growing point of view with your Saikei, if you want good growth on the composition you need to use a fertiliser with a high nitrogen content, if you want to simply maintain it then a balanced feed is required. Towards the end of the year I find it is worth feeding with a low nitrogen feed like tomato fertiliser to harden the growth before winter. I always feed a little under the recommended strength (about 90% of the recommended amount to allow for the reduced soil content.

Benches

It is obvious that Saikei will always look best displayed at a height where they can be appreciated this also has a number of benefits it means that it is harder for insects to access the Saikei, and care is generally easier.

The main advantage to keeping Saikei at a higher level is that they can be appreciated as they should be, you would not lean a beautiful painting up against a wall at floor level to be looked at, you would hang it on the wall and so it is with Saikei and Bonsai.

Benches don't need to cost a great deal you can use bricks or blocks to raise the level or any other suitable material, then use scaffold boards or any other wood or suitable material to create a platform on which to place your compositions.

Members News

Membership Benefits

We will continue to develop the benefits of membership and welcome suggestions. The present benefits are as follows:

- Saikei networking opportunity
- Development guidance
- Regular electronic newsletter
- Style Sheets
- Learning Support
- Library References List
- Discounts with selected Traders

Membership allows you draw on a library of learning resources for Saikei and the opportunity to study towards one of the many certificates in Saikei. You will also receive a dedicated monthly newsletter that focuses entirely on Saikei.

To learn more about these benefits please contact the membership team:

membership@saikei.co.uk

How to Pay your Membership Fees

Please send your cheque to Brian Dale or contact him to get a standing order form to pay annually directly from your bank.

We have also arranged a online payment scheme with PayPal and details of this can be obtained by contacting the vice president membership on the email below.

brian.dale@saikei.co.uk

Members News cont...

Show Help

If you are able to help at any of the shows please make contact with the show secretary who will be delighted to take your name ready for production of the rotas. On both shows we will require people to help set up and also to break down at the end of the day as well as people to man and act as promoters for the Association.

These promise to be very good events with plenty of trees and traders all displayed for your enjoyment, there may be an opportunity to get hold of a pot or tools that you might need. There will also be the opportunity to meet and discuss Saikei with members of the board, if you have a Saikei that you wish to discuss or get ideas on please bring it along and there will be individuals able to discuss and help with any Saikei problems.

Please remember that at each show we hold a best in show Saikei so if you have a Saikei but you wish to display please contact the show coordinator with details of which show you wish to display and the size of your composition.

events@saikei.co.uk

Feedback Please

Unfortunately we have not received any feedback from members so I hope that we are right in thinking that we are on the right path.

If you should have any suggestions for ways in which we can improve the association please let us know by contacting us on the email below.

newsletter@saikei.co.uk

International News

International Pages

If you have taken a look at the new website you will have seen that we have country specific pages for contacts, affiliated clubs and retailers who can provide Saikei and or materials for Saikei.

We need your help to populate these pages and so I ask you to let us know about any clubs and retailers who might be interested in appearing on the website.

We need more articles about saikei in your country. These can be on any subject that has a relationship to Saikei, so internet dating I am afraid is out.

Let us know your Countries Saikei and Bonsai news

We are asking all members to keep us informed of events and news in their countries. We want your events to be successful so please let us know and we will also put them on the website.

Please send all submissions to the editor at newsletter@saikei.co.uk

Views from a Lens

send your photos to newsletter@saikei.co.uk

Sensei Kawamoto Special

Name: Peaceful Lake

Created: 1960's

Keeper: Toshio Kawamoto

Name: Matsushima

Created: 1960's

Keeper: Toshio Kawamoto

Name: Wooded Gorge

Created: 1960's

Keeper: Toshio Kawamoto

Name: Unknown

Created: 1960's

Keeper: Toshio Kawamoto

Photos can be of Saikei, other tray landscape arts or inspirational landscapes.

Suppliers

Name	Telephone	Address	Email	Website
Bushukan Bonsai	01702 201029	Ricbra, Lower Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 5NL	bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net	www.bushukan-bonsai.com
Southampton Bonsai Trees	02380 495729	6, Farmery Close, Swaythling, Southampton,	info@bonsai-trees.com	www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk
Downsview Bonsai	01323 485656	126 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SJ	info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk	www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk
Green Lawns Bonsai,	08700 347765	Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Nr Sudbury, CO10 5JH	enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk	www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk

Clubs

Name	Telephone	Address	Day of Meeting	Website
Dai Ichi Bonsai Group (Essex)	01277 625 298	Shenfield Village Hall	1st Monday of each month call	
Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club	01323 731 369	Hellingly Village Hall	2nd Monday of the Month	
Eastleigh Bonsai Club	01489 789 962 or		2nd Monday of	

Contacts

Name	Role	Telephone	email
David Penny FISA (HON)	**President**	**07909 846 885**	**david.penny@saikei.co.uk**
Paul Eslinger FISA (HON)	**Senior Vice President**	**07795 187 632**	**paul@eslinger.com**
Brian Dale SISA	**Vice President Membership Services**	**01323 731 369**	**brian.dale@saikei.co.uk**
Bruce Scrivens FISA (HON)	**Vice President Finance**		**bruce.scrivens@saikei.co.uk**

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