Landscape Views

The newsletter of the International Saikei Association 栽景

July 2011 Issue 33

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This E-Magazine is provided to members of the International Saikei Association

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International Saikei Association

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Quick News and Board Activity

General News

President

Dear member,

It was a busy month in July with two shows that were close in date terms.

On 2 July we travel to Eastbourne to attend the EWBC show and were treated to a display superb bonsai and a number of high-quality Saikei. I was privileged to be able to demonstrate Saikei to the general public as well as members of EWBC, and the comments received after the demonstration were all positive. Following this show we had a break of one weekend before we then travelled down to the Eastleigh bonsai Society show, although the weather was appalling we had a good time and gained a member for the Association.

I would like to thank both groups for their hospitality and for allowing us to display Saikei.

Website

Editor

Anyone who has visited the website recently will know that we have changed a number of aspects on the website.

We have tackled one of the early problems in relation to country specific information by having pages dedicated to each country with contact information, suppliers and clubs. In order to ensure that visitors to the site are able to find the information they need we need to populate these pages as quickly as possible. If you are able to help by being a local contact or if you know of suppliers and clubs within your country please send these details to the address below.

Shortly there will be an additional page for demonstrators and so if you feel that you are able to provide demonstration services to clubs and interested parties please contact us on the address below to add your details to the list.

If you have any ideas for the improvement of the website please contact us and we will be happy to give them serious consideration.

Thank you in advance.

newsletter@saikei.co.uk

Learning Opportunities News

Learning Coordinator

The learning opportunities pack for the award and level I certificate is due for publication during August and any individual who has expressed an interest will receive the pack once published. We are hoping to be able to deliver the learning opportunities program around the world over the next three years, as you will appreciate there is a number of hoops that we need to get through to achieve this aim. If you feel that you will be able to help by becoming a tutor please contact us at the address below.

learning@saikei.co.uk

Events and Shows

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.

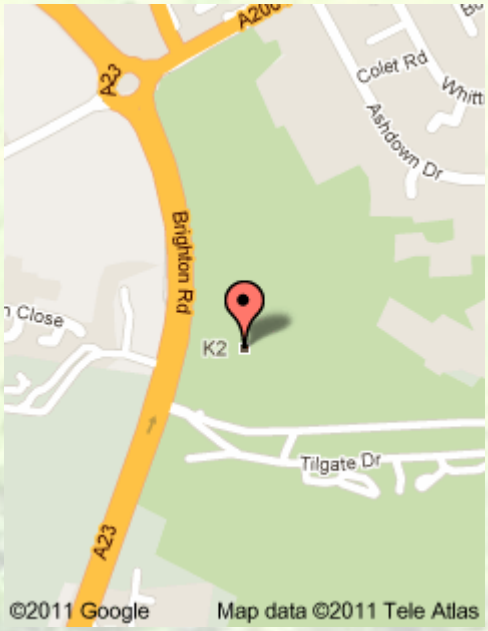
The address is: K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 9BQ

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.

The junction you will need is on the m23 Junction 11 and is marked Pease Pottage follow it round to the 3rd exit marked A23, proceed down this road and about 1/2 to 2/3rds down you need to keep right and take the turning into the leisure centre.



Events and Shows 2012

Eastbourne Bonsai & Saikei Show 2012

Events Coordinator

We have tentatively been invited to the Eastbourne bonsai and Saikei show in 2012. The location of the show is under review but we will keep you advised.

Eastleigh Bonsai Show 2012

Events Coordinator

In 2012we will again be showing at the Eastleigh show.

We are looking for more shows to attend in 2012

Show Report

Eastleigh Bonsai Show 17th July 2011

My alarm went off at 6.15 on the morning on Sunday 17 July and I was saddened to find that it was raining and it also felt very cold.

Fortunately, I had spent some time the evening before packing a bag with clothing that would cover the entire range of the British 'summer' weather and so, undaunted about 45 minutes later I set off for Eastleigh.

By the time I arrived at about 9 am the weather had improved and I was hopeful that there would be lots of people visiting the show. After a couple of attempts at working out how to get into the venue I was pleased to come across Paul Eslinger who was unloading his car outside a set of poly tunnels.

On entering the Poly tunnels I was immediately greeted by Robert from the Eastleigh group and led off to the generous and more importantly pre prepared space that had been allocated to the ISA for the day.
After a short while David arrived and together we set up the 3 display Saikei. We were able to set up promptly because the hard work of covering the tables and sorting out the back cloth had already been done for us by the members of the Eastleigh club and both David and I were really grateful for their efforts.

The doors officially opened at 10 am and my, there were some wonderful trees on display from the Eastleigh, Solent and Newbury Bonsai groups. There was also a delightful display from the Wessex Orchid Society. And there was also a sales table from Southampton Bonsai.

David had brought along a large Saikei to do some work on and this proved to be of interest to a number of people and people were soon asking - what was being done and why was it being done.

Unfortunately, the heavy rain continued to fall on and off throughout the morning and there were only a few visitors to our stand.

Show Report Cont...

(Continued from page 5)

At about 1.15 David and I were invited to queue for lunch. This turned out to be a little more than lunch - even a sumptuous feast! The food was delicious. Thank you to the Eastleigh catering Team.

After lunch the rain continued to fall but we did see a few more visitors at our stand and David made some more progress with his Saikei but at about 3.45 we decided that the weather had beaten us and we would dismantle our display and head off home.

When I spoke to a none ISA member this week about our time at the Eastleigh Show they said 'Well that was a waste of a day then' I was quick to respond and said that I did not see my day in the light because we were able to see some fabulous trees, raised awareness of ISA, recruited a member and enjoyed lots of bonsai discussions with a number of people. THANK YOU Eastleigh for inviting us.

Marion Cutter

Saikei a Picture of the World

David Penny FISA

I was recently asked whether there are any limitations to the type of landscape you can create in Saikei, the reply to this question was that Saikei is only limited to your imagination and the technical limitations. This question did give me food for thought on my way home from Salisbury Bonsai Group.

Mulling it over I have concluded that it would be possible to create a complete picture of the world in Saikei if you had unlimited pots, unlimited room and a very, very understanding bank manager. Taking this further when I was in Oman at the beginning of 2008 I saw some very sparse landscapes with little vegetation, see picture, could this be done as a Saikei? The answer is very obviously YES.

As most of you are aware I am the President of the International Saikei Association. My work includes chatting to people around the world who are interested in Saikei, and I have found that often the Saikei produced by these individuals reflect their own countries landscape. Our members in the Philippines often show a jungle/dense forest in their compositions. Those who live in the Alps reflect what they see day to day, see picture.

So you can see that my title “Saikei a Picture of the World” is very apt for this hobby.

So it would be fair to say that Saikei unlike Bonsai can really be said to be regional and to allow the artist to reflect their own location.

My challenge to you is to have a go and reflect our region or to choose a country that you have visited and try to capture the essence of this country in your Saikei.

In the workshop-Juniper training technique

Junipers are the second most used conifer in my Saikei compositions. I like Juniper's because they are easy to train, very hardy, have beautiful bark and a small foliage pattern, in fact I would say the Juniper is by far the best tree to start composing Saikei with.

Care

Juniper's strong trees there are important differences when they grow in a pot as opposed to when they grow naturally in the ground.

Location

Juniper tolerate cold well, but if you have repotted or created a new composition in the spring it is a good idea to provide winter protection in the first year. Once the roots are fully established the tree will be able to tolerate the cold more effectively. During spring and autumn Juniper's are best in full sun as this will lead to compact foliage growth and a more pleasing shape, during the summer however you should keep them with some shade to avoid needle burn in excessive sunlight.

Watering

In nature you will often see Juniper is growing in poor soil with little moisture, however junipers actually like dampness as long as they do not become waterlogged. Regular misting of the needles increases the vigour of the tree and prevents the spread of red spider mites. Placing the Juniper in the correct location will help considerably with the care and watering of Juniper, when watering you should always wet the needles.

Fertilising

Junipers like a lot of fertiliser and will benefit from being fed throughout the entire growing season. In addition to a standard soil feed a foliar feed will prove to be most beneficial to the styling of the tree.

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Pruning

The pruning of junipers as with many conifers falls broadly into two categories I have outlined these below:

Pinching back-Metsumi

In the spring junipers produced buds which then extend to form a pineapple shape just before they open. At this stage you can pinch them back to their base with your fingers, the objective of this is to hold back the development of the shoots and keep the layers of the branches dense. This technique is primarily designed for completed compositions where maintaining the growth is the most important task, this technique also has the effect of pushing growth back along the branch and care must be taken to avoid too much density in the foliage pads.

A second version of this technique is to partially pinch back the new growth removing half to 2/3 of the shoot this is done slightly later when the shoot has opened and extended slightly. The main aim of this technique is to increase slightly the size of the foliage pad whilst maintaining a dense structure.

It should be said that a Juniper will bud several times during the growing season and so this technique will have to be repeated a number of times during the year.

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Pinching back shaped shoots-Mekiri

Pinching back tender shoots is essential for maintaining the shape and density of branches. Trees in the training stage that are starting to ramify, that are strong or have small dead branches due to neglect, cannot be arranged simply by using the pinching back technique.

With trees in a training phase or where the composition has been made in the spring you can use the pruning technique to encourage strength in the tree. Let the buds form and allow them to grow into shoots until the middle to the end of spring then reduce to leave about 5 to 8 pairs of needles, a second budding will immediately urge at the base of the needles that have been left. Let the second shoots grow freely eliminating only the strongest or those growing in poor direction, this will improve the density and shape of the foliage pads. With this technique it is important to feed regularly.

Understanding that pinching back of tender shoots maintains the profile of the branches and increases their density, and pruning of matured growth helps to strengthen the tree but also to develop shape is the key to understanding the correct development of branches in junipers.

Foliage pad cleaning

When summer begins the old needles will turn brown, but these needles will not drop off until much later and generally only when disturbed. These old needles hinder the passage of light and air to the interior of the pad and should be removed as soon as possible. Using the technique of pinching back tender shoots the tips can become incredibly course and so the removal of the thick shoots is necessary to improve the ventilation to the interior shoots. During this process you can also remove shoots which are growing in a poor direction.

(Continued from page 10)

Wiring

The best tip I can give you in regards to wiring junipers as with most conifers, is to wire when the branches are as thin and flexible as possible, the finer the branches, the easier they are to train. I generally wire at the end of autumn when the leaves on deciduous trees start to change colour. Never try to wire junipers in spring due to the tendency of the cambium layer to separate from the wood, and avoid wiring during the winter as junipers do not like to be worked on in the cold.

In Conclusion

If you utilize these techniques you should find that your Saikei compositions will improve dramatically.

A picture taken in 1996 of a Juniper Based Saikei

Competition—Photo Competition 2011

2011 will see our first annual photo competition for all members. As part of the ongoing improvement process we have decided to run an annual photographic competition for all members around the world. The photos will meet the other composition of Saikei and ideally against a plain background so the judges can clearly see the detail of the planting. You do not have to be an expert photographer as the judges will be looking at the compositions and not the quality of the photograph.

The photographs will be displayed at bonsai world 2011 and the winner and runner-up will receive a certificate indicating their placing. It is important that all entries include the owners name, how long you have been doing Saikei, the year of composition (if known), the title of the Saikei and the country of origin.

This provides a good opportunity for your Saikei to be shown outside your own country and to be recognized for its quality and all the hard effort that you put in to creating and keeping it.

We hope to publish all the pictures in the newsletter in October together with the results of the competition.

We would particularly like to see photos from members outside the United Kingdom.

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 Bonsai World 2011 please make contact with the Events Coordinator who will be delighted to take your name ready for production of the rotas. At this show 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 the stand and act as promoters for the Association.

This promises to be a very good event 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

Following last months plea we are again asking members to provide some feedback.

1. We are currently seeking some ideas for workshop venues and would be interested to hear from any members.
2. Please can you let us know if you have any ideas for improvements to the services that are currently provided to members.
3. The current learning resources are being reviewed and we would be interested to hear if there are any subjects which members would like to learn more about.

newsletter@saikei.co.uk

International News

Dear International Members

Please, please, please write something on Saikei for our international news. If we don't get anything we may have to drop this feature which we do not want to do as it provides a good opportunity for international comment.

Editor

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

Name: Un Named (any ideas)

Created: 1999

Keeper: David Penny

Name: Un Named

Created: 2008

Keeper: Brian Dale

Name: The River Bank

Created: 2006

Keeper: David Penny

Name: Unknown

Created: 2008

Keeper: John Brown

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, SO18 2JX	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	
Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club (Sussex)	01323 731 369	Hellingly Village Hall	2nd Monday of the Month	
Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)	01489 789 962 or 07795 187 632		2nd Monday of the Month	

Contacts

Name	Role	Telephone	email
David Penny FISA (HON)	**President**	07909 846 885 01892 665 704	david.penny@saikei.co.uk
Paul Eslinger FISA (HON)	**Senior Vice President**	07795 187 632 01489 789 962	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

www.saikeiassociation.org

Administration Offices

International Saikei Association

70 Forest Rise

Crowborough

East Sussex

United Kingdom

TN6 2ES

t. +44 1892 665 704

President: David Penny

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