# Saikei International

The Magazine of the International Saikei Association

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- YouTube
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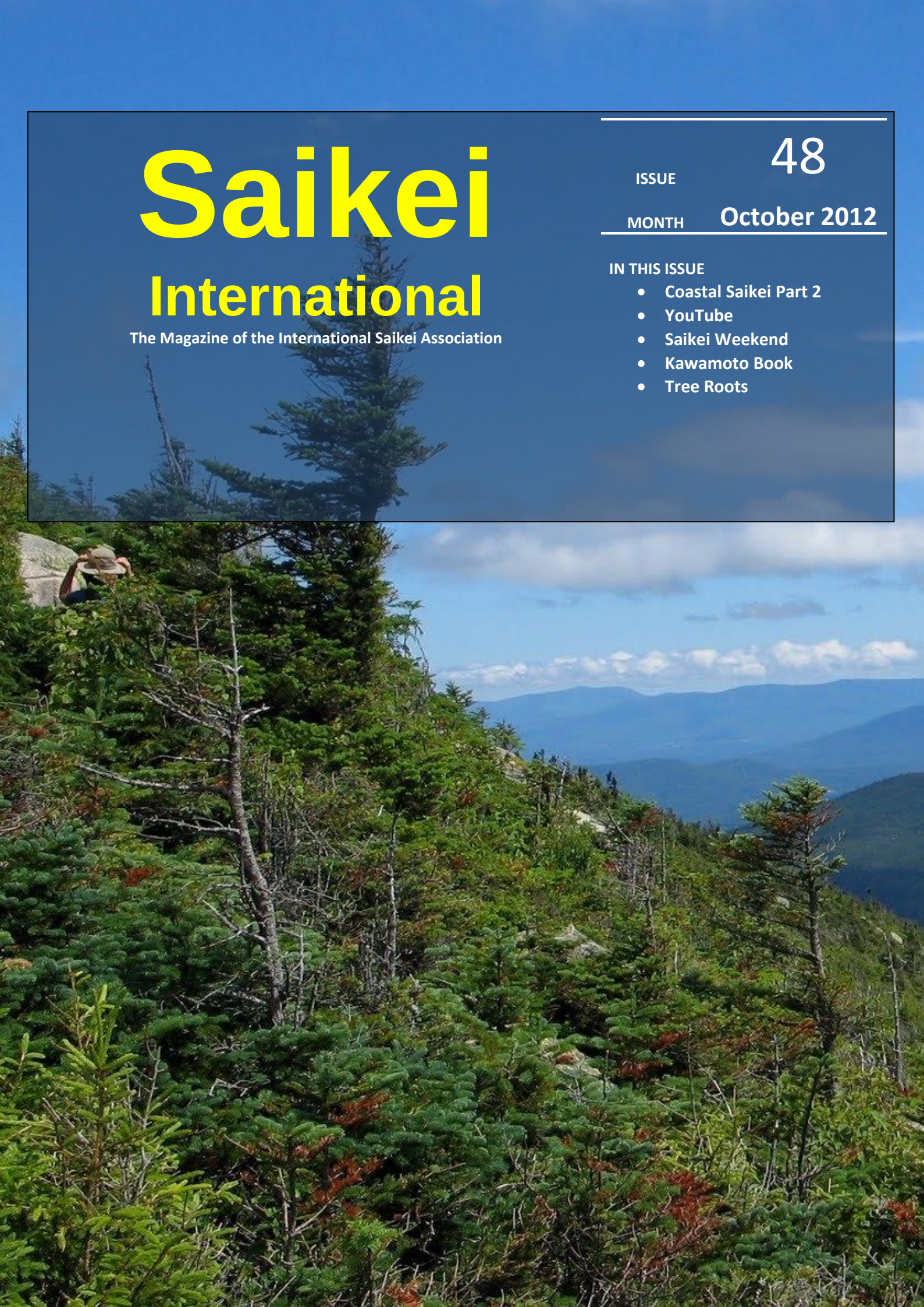
- Kawamoto Book
- Tree Roots

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## General News

We would like to welcome new members from India, Greece and the USA. On behalf of all the board and members I would like to wish them well and hope they find their experiences with ISA rewarding.

## Board Meeting

We are seeking to firm up a meeting of the board in November. So if you have anything you would like to raise please contact David Penny david.penny@saikei.co.uk

Currently the agenda is as follows:

1. Minutes of last meeting.
2. Progress of actions from last meeting.
3. Membership report.
4. Financial report.
5. Membership development and fees.
    - International membership development
    - Local representative responsibilities
    - Membership benefits
    - Membership fees
6. Events and shows.
7. Action plan for 2012-14
8. AOB

## YouTube Channel

We have set up a YouTube channel called SaikeiWorld so far we have 2 videos uploaded:

1. Saikei Creation with David Penny
2. Demonstration at Green Lawns Bonsai Show

## Saikei Weekend or Day

The size of venue and the length of the event will depend on those individuals who would like to attend. Please contact a member of the board if you would like to partake of this event, the costs have yet to be defined but in order to ensure that everybody has an equal opportunity to be part of this event we will be looking to keep in the cost to a bare minimum. We estimate cost will be approximately £25.00 for the day and will include tea and coffee. The location will be near Crowborough, East Sussex as this will allow David Penny to bring a number of Saikei for display and materials for the event.

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## SHOWS

We have been invited to display two shows in 2013 and we have included the details. If you are aware of any shows concerning Bonsai and Saikei we will be delighted to hear about these and we will of course put them in the magazine so that all members are aware. In order to enter an event we only need to know the name of the event, where it will take place, dates and times and contact for further information.

### Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club Annual Show 2013

**Stone Cross Hall, Stone Cross, Eastbourne.**
**June 2012**
**Bonsai, Saikei, Martial Arts, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc…**

### Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery 2013 Show

**Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Sudbury, CO10 5JH**
**01787 210 501**
**Date to be confirmed**
**Bonsai, Saikei, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc…**

### Your Event Name Here

**Where**
**When**
**Description**

### Your Event Name Here

**Where**
**When**
**Description**

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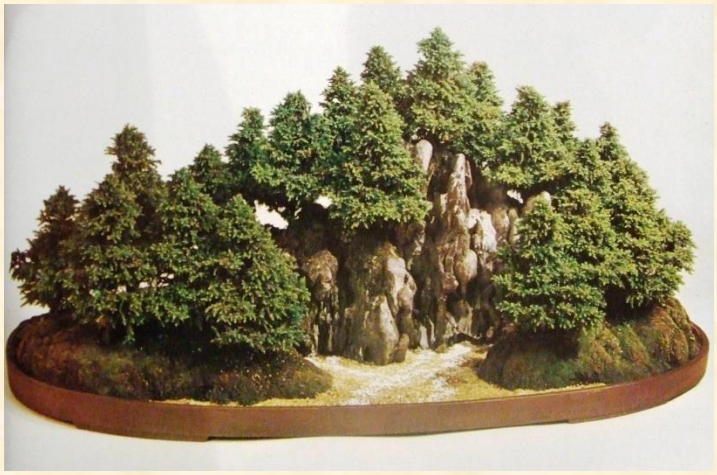
## SAIKEI BOOKS

I was recently lucky enough to be given a book by my wife that she purchased through an antique book dealer in Japan.

This book is a 1960's book by Toshio Kawamoto and resembles the Saikei Living Landscapes book that we regularly quote as the foundation of Saikei outside Japan. The main difference between the books are the images used, that said this book is in Japanese so the text could well be different as I have not had a chance to have it looked at as yet.

I have included a couple of the images for you to review.



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# BACK TO BASICS

## ROOTS

In vascular plants, the root is the organ of a plant that typically lies below the surface of the soil. However, this is not always the case, a root can also be aerial (growing above the ground) or aerating (growing up above the ground or especially above water). Furthermore, a stem normally occurring below ground is not exceptional either (see rhizome). So, it is better to define root as a part of a plant body that bears no leaves, and therefore also lacks nodes. There are also important internal structural differences between stems and roots.

The first root that comes from a plant is called the radicle. The four major functions of roots are 1) absorption of water and inorganic nutrients, 2) anchoring of the plant body to the ground, and supporting it, 3) storage of food and nutrients, 4) vegetative reproduction. In response to the concentration of nutrients, roots also synthesise cytokinin, which acts as a signal as to how fast the shoots can grow. Roots often function in storage of food and nutrients. The roots of most vascular plant species enter into symbiosis with certain fungi to form mycorrhizas, and a large range of other organisms including bacteria also closely associate with roots.

When dissected, the arrangement of the cells in a root is root hair, epidermis, epiblem, cortex, endodermis, pericycle and lastly the vascular tissue in the centre of a root to transport the water absorbed by the root to other places of the plant.

## ROOTS OF A TREE

Early root growth is one of the functions of the apical meristem located near the tip of the root. The meristem cells more or less continuously divide, producing more meristem, root cap cells (these are sacrificed to protect the meristem), and undifferentiated root cells. The latter become the primary tissues of the root, first undergoing elongation, a process that pushes the root tip forward in the growing medium. Gradually these cells differentiate and mature into specialized cells of the root tissues.

There is correlation of roots using the process of plant perception to sense their physical environment to grow, including:

- The sensory of light,
- Physical barriers.
- Plant roots will generally grow in any direction where the correct environment of air, mineral nutrients and water exists to meet the plant's needs. Roots will shy or shrink away from dry,
- Other poor soil conditions.

Over time, given the right conditions, roots can crack foundations, snap water lines, and lift sidewalks. At germination, roots grow downward due to gravitropism, the growth mechanism of plants that also causes the shoot to grow upward. In some plants (such as ivy), the "root" actually clings to walls and structures.

Growth from apical meristems is known as primary growth, which encompasses all elongation. Secondary growth encompasses all growth in diameter, a major component of woody plant tissues and many nonwoody plants. For example, storage roots of sweet potato have secondary growth but are not woody. Secondary growth occurs at the lateral meristems, namely the vascular cambium and cork cambium. The former forms secondary xylem and secondary phloem, while the latter forms the periderm.

In plants with secondary growth, the vascular cambium, originating between the xylem and the phloem, forms a cylinder of tissue along the stem and root. The vascular cambium forms new cells on both the inside and outside of the cambium cylinder, with those on the inside forming secondary xylem cells, and those on the outside forming secondary phloem cells. As secondary xylem accumulates, the "girth" (lateral dimensions) of

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the stem and root increases. As a result, tissues beyond the secondary phloem (including the epidermis and cortex, in many cases) tend to be pushed outward and are eventually "sloughed off" (shed).

At this point, the cork cambium begins to form the periderm, consisting of protective cork cells containing suberin. In roots, the cork cambium originates in the pericycle, a component of the vascular cylinder.

The vascular cambium produces new layers of secondary xylem annually. The xylem vessels are dead at maturity but are responsible for most water transport through the vascular tissue in stems and roots.

The pattern of development of a root system is termed root architecture, and is important in providing a plant with a secure supply of nutrients and water as well as anchorage and support. The architecture of a root system can be considered in a similar way to above-ground architecture of a plant—i.e. in terms of the size, branching and distribution of the component parts. In roots, the architecture of fine roots and coarse roots can both be described by variation in topology and distribution of biomass within and between roots. Having a balanced architecture allows fine roots to exploit soil efficiently around a plant, but the plastic nature of root growth allows the plant to then concentrate its resources where nutrients and water are more easily available. A balanced coarse root architecture, with roots distributed relatively evenly around the stem base, is necessary to provide support to larger plants and trees.

Tree roots normally grow outward to about three times the branch spread. Only half of a tree's root system occurs between the trunk and the circumference of its canopy. Roots on one side of a tree normally supply the foliage on that same side of the tree. Thus when roots on one side of a tree are injured, the branches and leaves on that same side of the tree may die or wilt. For some trees however, such as the maple family, the effect of a root injury may show itself anywhere in the tree canopy.

*Originally taken from US forestry information*.

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## In the Workshop

## Creating a coastal Saikei Part 2

Difficulty Level 12345

### Styling Stage

At this stage it is important to define the movement of the trees. In this particular planting the trees will move from the right to the left to represent the severe wind that comes across the lake and shapes these trees. I started to style the trees within this composition by thinking about the effect that the wind had on the growth of the tree.

The first physical job was to remove the debris and unwanted branches from the tree.

*Ready to start cleaning away the debris*

### Number 1 tree

I normally start with this tree to define the style for the other trees, let me explain, the movement of the main tree defines the movement for the rest of the composition. if the branches of the main tree sweep to the left as in this instance then the natural forces which caused this to happen will have the same effect on the other trees. I have incorporated a reverse sweep towards the water with the thought that if we were able to see further to the right we would see a large expanse of water and a good source of light, therefore it is natural that the tree should bend in this direction until the wind caught the tops and directed them to the left. This is a very natural occurrence and I've seen it many times when walking by lakes in exposed areas in Scotland and Wales. Branches that were growing to the right are wired and turned to follow the natural wind pattern of these trees. I have purposely left some right growing branches towards the base of the tree to add balance and interest, these will not be allowed to overgrow all become too heavy and the focus will remain on the branches sweeping to the left. I have left extra foliage at the top of each tree to aid recovery which will be removed later.

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*Branch Selection Underway*

## NUMBER 2 TREE

This tree presented a number of problems in the fact that it had clearly been broken or cut in the garden centre and a stump remained at the top of the tree. The stump has not at this point been removed, it will be shaped or removed at a later time, I have utilised a branch on the main tree to help disguise this problem at this moment in time, this is to avoid distracting the viewer too much. I followed the same practices as I did with the main tree in sweeping the branches to the left some extra foliage was left on this tree to encourage thickening of the trunk and to promote the recovery process.

*Close up of gravel*

## NUMBER 3 TREE

This tree as mentioned earlier caused a slight issue when it was discovered that it was clearly much weaker than the other two. For this reason less styling was done on this particular tree and more growth was left to encourage an increase strength as previously mentioned. The main work consisted of placing some movement in the trunk and shortening the branches on the right-hand side and the removal of over thick foliage and branches that would be detrimental to the improvement of the foliage pattern and strength of this tree there is an over large branch that at this point has been left on but I hope in time to be able to replace this with a smaller branch.

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## FINAL RESULT

Overall I'm very happy with the final result of this composition and look forward to its further development this composition has a special meaning for me as it brings back many happy memories of walking in the Highlands of Scotland and the mountains of Wales. I would estimate that a further 2 to 3 years are required before we see a final result (as far as any Saikei is finished), and I intend to publish regular pictures of this planting so you might see it's the future development.

*Final result for now*

The first article in this series race a number of questions from various Saikei artists around the world these centred on the height of the trees and I thought it would be useful to explain my thoughts on this subject I'm fortunate enough to be able to claim ownership of a number of books by Toshio Kawamoto in the original Japanese text, these books, as far as I can see, have not been translated into English.

One chapter in these books made me rethink the way I approach the size of the trees in the compositions, Toshio Kawamoto talks about the distance of the viewer from the landscape being portrayed in this particular case I believe that the viewer is about 100 meters from the trees in the landscape therefore the trees are consequently slightly larger if this composition was being done at a further distance more of the landscape would become viewable and the trees would consequently be much smaller in size. I fully intend to write a further article explaining this in greater depth so keep an eye out in future issues.

I really hope that you have enjoyed seeing this composition completed and hope that you will have an opportunity to see it in real life as a future exhibition.

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# WORD SEARCH

## FEATURES OF SAIKEI

P S V X E P Q U Z X L T D N W T O E I J I K D Z D S Z Y G I
K F T S Z W O F G Q E E H O T D K E X K W V J A J B E Q E J
G P O R Z K W T R W D F M X R W H F U U L V Y C W M R R Q T
E I L A E H G P Q S I O A I E W N O Y N P W U M S F F T X D
R B R D M A Z M R O L Y P B S Y B Z F N V Y Z E Q N C D T W
G K F U S S M R U M S Q T C P P X S T P B Q F E V P A V Q X
C U U N N B F L A J K Z L U A U T Q Z X J B G J H N V W H H
M Y O D L B E O S N C D A A A C V R V K X Q Y A B X K Y O G
D Y I D Z F L C C V O P C N U B S A T V I C B Y H G R C O R
P V X E P Q U Z X L R T D N W T O E I J I K D Z D S Z Y G I
E K F S Z W O F G Q E H O T D K E X K W V J A J B E Q E J G
G P O Z K W T R W F M X R W S D I P A R H F U U L V Y C W M
R R R Q T E I L A H G P Q S O A I E W N O Y N P W U M S F F
O T X D R B R D M Z M R O Y P B S Y B Z F N V Y Z E Q N C D
G T W G K F U S S R U M Q T C P P X S T P B Q F E V P A V Q
X C U U N N B F L A J Z L U A U T Q Z X J B G J H N V W H H
M Y O D L B E O S N D A A A C V R V K X Q Y A B X K Y O G D
K Y I D Z F L C C V P C N U B S A T V I C B Y H G R C O R P
N V X E P Q U Z X L T D N W T O E I J I K D Z D S Z Y G I K
A F S Z W D O F G Q F E H O T D K E X K W V J A J B E Q E J
B G P O Z N K W T R F W F M X R W H F U U L V Y C W M R R Q
R T E I L A A H G P I Q S O A I E W N O Y N P W U M S F F T
E X D R B L R D M Z L M R O Y P B S Y B Z F N V Y Z E Q N C
V D T W G S K F U S C S R U M Q T C P P X S T P B Q F E V P
I A V Q X I C U U N N B F L A J Z L U A U T Q Z X J B G J H
R N V W H H M Y O D L B E O S N D A A A C V R V K X Q Y A B
X K Y O G D Y I D Z F L C C V P C N U B S A T V I C B Y H L
G R C O R P V X E P Q U Z X L P O R C T U O T D N W T O E A
I J I K D Z D S Z Y G I K F S Z W O F G Q E H O T D K E X K
K W V J A J B E Q E J G P O Z K W T R W E E R T D A E D F E

LAKE

RIVERBANK

OUTCROP

RAPIDS

CLIFF

ISLAND

DEADTREE

ROCKSLIDE

STREAM

GORGE

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## VIEWS FROM A LENS—GALLERY

Not a true Saikei but WOW!!!

True Inspiration

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## SUPPLIERS

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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 |

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## 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 (Sussex)** | 01323 731 369 | Hellingly Village Hall | 2nd Monday of the Month | www.bonsai-club.co.uk |
| **Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)** | 01489 789 962 or 07795 187 632 | | 2nd Monday of the Month | |

If you would like to have your local club details added to this list please contact the newsletter team by e-mail newsletter@Saikei.co.uk

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