

SAIKEI

International

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NEWS ROUNDUP

We had a very successful show at Bonsai World 2011 in Crawley, West Sussex with a great deal of interest from the visitors to the show. Anyone who missed the show certainly missed one of the best shows I have attended this year.

In other news we have been asked to attend the Green Lawns Bonsai Show on September 1st and 2nd 2012, as some will remember we attended the show in 2009 and had a great time.

We are now looking towards 2012 and beyond to identify possible shows and event we might attend.



WEBSITE

The website team have joined forces with the learning opportunities coordinator to identify how the website can be used to deliver lesson plans on Saikei to members.

The website team have indicated that they are interested in delivering e-learning solutions to those individuals who are not able to attend workshops.

We would welcome the opportunity to post pictures of Saikei from your country so please send us some images.

Following on from the redesign of our website we would like to receive some feedback about the current look and the future development of this valuable resource.



SHOWS

We are already starting to plan the 2012 show program.

If members are involved in a local show why not let us know so we can advertise your event.

ISA has been invited to attend the Green Lawns Bonsai Show in Suffolk on 1st and 2nd of September 2012. This follows our attendance of the 2009 show where we had a number of new members join.

I understand that David Penny will be demonstrating Saikei at the event. below is 2 pictures of David's demonstration piece at this show in 2009, the first taken on the Day, the second was taken earlier this year.



Green Lawns Bonsai Show 2012

1st and 2nd September 2012

See top Saikei and Bonsai displays
Watch demonstrations of Saikei and Bonsai
Get help and advice on problems with Saikei and Bonsai

Phone: 08700347765 or 01787 210501
Email: enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk
Website: www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk

Green Lawns Bonsai
Hadleigh Road
Boxford, Nr Sudbury
CO10 5JH



SHOW REPORT

BONSAI WORLD 2011

Where do I start to report on this wonderful exhibition?

The ISA members arrived about an hour before the start of the show and were able to set up five Saikei in about a 6 metre display area. The Saikei exhibits looked good on the tables that were covered with navy blue cloth and an off white back cloth. I say back cloth it is at this point I have to admit that it wasn't until the second day of the show that I appreciated what the backing of the display stands were made of – roller blinds, yes this sounds strange but these were an inspired idea for a back cloth and well done to whoever thought of this excellent idea.



Whilst I haven't experienced a huge range of Bonsai shows in my life time the sheer space at this venue was amazing. I was able move around admiring some wonderful trees without having to queue up and be moved along at the pace of the crowd. There were even seats available where I was able to just sit and well, dare I say it 'worship' some of the delightful trees.

Thank you Sussex Bonsai Club for inviting us.

If this event gets put on again at this venue – make sure you go!

Marion Cutter

BACK TO BASICS

HOW I GOT INTERESTED IN SAIKEI BY JUNIOR MEMBER HOLLY-MAY PENNY

I got into Saikei because of my Dad being the International President. After I started doing Saikei I started to really enjoy it. It is creative but you don't have to be to produce Saikei. It is a form of bonsai but I prefer it as, you get instant results, it grows faster and you can take it apart and start again unlike bonsai. It is enjoyable and fun and I sometimes spend hours creating a Saikei at the weekends. It is a valuable use of my time and I get a lot out of it as it teaches me patience and how to look after things. I think that Saikei is really good for all ages. I like Saikei and would recommend it to everybody.



IN THE WORKSHOP

ABOUT SPRUCE

Spruce is a common tree in the mountain forests of central Europe generally having a narrow conical crown with branches arranged in regular whorls. Often the spruce will grow to heights of more than 40 m the bark is brown and furrowed. There are many varieties that can be used for Saikei and careful consideration must be taken when selecting a variety that will work well within the confines of the pot. The nursery industry has put in a lot of work on creating a wide variety of dwarf varieties to suit rockeries and Alpine Gardens, these varieties will often provide a good starting point to the use of spruce within Saikei.

CARE

The care of spruce is dominated by a need to increase vitality in the tree therefore watering and feeding are the key tasks in ensuring the health of the tree.

LOCATION

I have found that spruces are best placed in a good light position but away from direct sunlight and so from May to October I provide slight shade. The provision of shade also assists with the maintenance of the trees particularly the watering.

WATERING

Spruce like to have their roots in damp (not wet) soil and so watering is a major task in the successful growing of spruce Saikei. The soil condition is a leading factor in ensuring that the tree has the correct level of moisture in the soil and careful analysis must be made of the soil to ensure that the tree does not receive too much or too little water. The longer the planting has been formed the smaller the soil particles will become and so drainage will be impaired.

FERTILISING

A balanced feed is required by spruce to ensure that the health of the tree is not compromised as this can lead to a significant reduction of success if training is applied. Be careful of higher nitrogen rated feeds as these can lead to increased internodal lengths which in turn decreases the beauty of the tree.

PRUNING

Pruning and shaping of spruces must be carried out at the correct time of year, failure to observe the time of year will lead to failure of branches. The other important consideration when pruning spruce must be the overall health of the tree, a weak tree will often suffer badly if pruned before strength has been achieved.

PINCHING BACK-METSUMI

In the picture on the right you can see the fresh new growth of the spruce.

In the spring when the growth reaches $\frac{1}{2}$ Inch/ $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm remove between $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ and $\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the growth depending on the strength of the particular shoot (in weak areas it may be necessary to leave the shoot alone).



To carry out Metsumi on spruce trees you must recognise that the shoot is weak at its connection with last year's growth therefore I recommend that you use both hands when carrying out this technique. I am right-handed and so I use my left hand to hold the previous year's growth and part of the current year's growth and my right hand to pinch away the un-wanted portion of the new growth. I find that this is the most successful way to carry out Metsumi on spruce. It may take a few goes to get this right but don't worry if it takes a little while to master this technique.

PINCHING BACK SHAPED SHOOTS-MEKIRI

The technique of Mekiri is used on spruce to reduce density of the branches caused by regular use of the technique of Metsumi. If we only use Metsumi on spruce they will become dense and lose the fineness of the secondary branches that we need to portray a full-size tree. Mekiri is normally conducted with scissors and it involves the thinning of secondary branches to achieve light and air exchange and the removal of secondary branches which have become heavy and unsightly.



FOLIAGE PAD CLEANING

Foliage pad cleaning is a necessity to keep the health of the tree. The technique involves the removal of dead needles, dying and dead secondary branches and insects that've chosen to make their home within the branches of your spruce. Removal of nature's clutter will help dramatically and improve the chances of back budding light and air must reach the inner part of the branch if budding is to occur.

WIRING

I have personally found that here in the UK the best time the wire spruce is from the beginning of September to the end of October. My personal choice is aluminium wire rather than the traditional copper, in my experience I have found that spruce does not always react well to the use of copper wire. You will need to watch wire on spruce very carefully to ensure that the dramatic swelling that often occurs during growth periods for the spruce does not create wire marks the take many years to disguise.

COMPETITION

Our photographic competition of Saikei was judged this year by members of the general public who visited the bonsai world 2011 exhibition in Crawley West Sussex.

We received quite a few photos from various members outside of the UK but unfortunately some countries were not represented. This is unfortunate as it was clear that the general public were very interested in looking and voting for the pictures in the exhibit. Over the course of the two days we received 225 votes in the competition.

I'm delighted to announce that Craig Jurd came first with a picture of a superb Saikei. On behalf of the board I would like to congratulate Craig on his achievement and on a superb Saikei.

I have included the winning photo below.



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

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	

CONTACTS

Name	Role	Telephone	email
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This E-Magazine is provided to members of the International Saikei Association

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