

SAIKEI

International

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In This Issue

- Story of Peaceful Gorge
- Letter from Romania
- Pinching part 1
- Gallery



International
Saikei
Association

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CONTENTS

General News	3
Board Meeting	3
Demonstrators List	3
Saikei weekend	3
Shows	4
Your Letters	5
Back to Basics	6
The Story of Peaceful Gorge	7
Background	7
The Demo	7
After the Demo	9
Members News	11
Books	11
Views from a Lens—Gallery	12
Suppliers	13
Clubs	14
Contacts	15

GENERAL NEWS

It is worth noting that we will be attending the Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club Show on the 16th of June 2012. Our President will be doing a demonstration of Bonsai in the morning and Saikei in the afternoon, he will also be doing a demonstration of Japanese swordsmanship with his teacher Bruce Scrivens who is a 7th Dan in Iaido.

BOARD MEETING

We are seeking to firm up a meeting of the board in the next 2 months. So if you have anything you would like to raise please contact David Penny david.penny@saikei.co.uk

DEMONSTRATORS LIST

As part of our website development we are seeking to create a page to provide information on demonstrators of Saikei. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has or intends to demonstrate Saikei. Please contact myself or David Penny to be added to this list.

SAIKEI WEEKEND

The board has talked for some time about the possibility of running a Saikei event in the United Kingdom for any enthusiast who wishes to attend. 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.

SHOWS

We have been invited to display two shows this year 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 2012

Stone Cross Hall, Stone Cross, Eastbourne.

16th of June 2012

Bonsai, Saikei, Martial Arts, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc...

Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery 2012 Show

Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Sudbury, CO10 5JH

01787 210 501

1st of September 2012

Bonsai, Saikei, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc...

Your Event Name Here

Where

When

Description

Your Event Name Here

Where

When

Description

YOUR LETTERS

Hi David,

First of all, I would like to thank to you and to all of your board, for the pleasant surprise, and here I'm talking about your support for our website, and about the page 7 from your monthly magazine.

I hope that there will be even from UK or from all over the world, peoples who like saikei, to share this beautiful art on our Forum.

And it's because we're talking about our website, I would like to ask you a favour, to send us 2-3 pictures, to put them on the Home page.

We are not yet so far whit our saikei's set-up, so, unfortunately we don't have that kind of picture to put then on the front pages.

We want to put them on the section : " HOME' 'or even on the section : " ABOUT SAIKEI' 'where is the article about Toshio Kawamoto, too.

Of course, under those pictures it will be wrote the author of those saikei.

Thank you very much again, and I hope to here notice from you soon.

Best regards,

Bogdan Maicaneanu

If anyone would like to contribute any photos or articles to Bogdan to help the Romanian Saikei Association to get going please send them to me newsletter@saikei.co.uk and I will make sure he gets them.

Editor

BACK TO BASICS

In the UK we are now in the height of spring and the trees are putting on a large amount of growth I recently attended a workshop in association with the international Saikei Association and the Eastbourne and Wealden bonsai club. Our instructor was keen to point out the importance of soft pinching on many types of tree as he said soft pinching allows for a build-up of dense growth and fine branch structure which is so important in bonsai and Saikei.

During the workshop we look to the number of tree types including Juniper, Cryptomeria, spruce, Japanese maple, Elm and various other trees. It was interesting to see the speed of the fine pinching done by the enthusiasts there on the day we all started with great care pinching individual growth from the tree and by the end we were able to work at quite a high speeds to achieve our goal.

The basic technique is to utilise both hands 1 to hold the base of the new growth the other to pinch the tips. In some cases particularly with needle trees we were advised to use tweezers to remove the tip of the new growth. I personally found the use of the tweezers to be very difficult when I first started working with them but as it went on I realised that I was becoming used to and making very effective use of the tweezers.

I have requested that perhaps we can run a series on pruning technique and I believe this will start soon.



THE STORY OF PEACEFUL GORGE

BACKGROUND

The Saikei 'Peaceful Gorge' was created during a show at Green Lawns Bonsai in 2009 it was watched by around 60 people.

David Penny created this composition in about 1.5 hours of very intensive concentration and was very happy with the result. Those of us that know David well will be surprised to hear him say this as he is his own worst critic and is often heard to say that he is always striving for better compositions.

THE DEMO

The show is a summer show and takes place in September. This in itself shows the amazing flexibility of Saikei with root work being conducted at this time of year. The rocks and pot were supplied by David and the trees by Green Lawns Bonsai. The trees are *Cryptomeria Japonica* Yokohama and are one of the small leaf varieties of this beautiful tree.

'Cryptomeria are a personal favourite due to their amazing capability to look like full grown trees in a relatively short time', David says. Those of us that have worked with or attended workshops with David will know that these trees feature very strongly in his Saikei and he has built up an extensive knowledge of their needs, requirements and training techniques.

The demo started with an introduction by David Paget the owner of Green Lawns Bonsai he then handed over to David to conduct the demonstration. In the audience was a good cross section of people including a number of Americans who were visiting the UK.





The rest of this section of the article was written by David and allows us to see his thoughts.

I started the demonstration as I often do by explaining the differences between Bonsai and Saikei whilst I was doing this I was also working through the tree material to see what I had. I then started to remove lower branches on a number of the trees in order to gain some time.

I had not planned the demo as I find that this can severely restrict my capacity to move with the needs of the material. I started to build what I thought would be a mountain in the right hand of the pot and then studied the rocks and decided a better use of the material would be a gorge. I used a clay base which I mix myself for the rocks being careful to avoid the drainage holes. I was lucky to find a number of Seiryu rocks (these are sometimes found in aquatic centres) I used these rocks to form 2 planting pockets by placing the rocks upright on their ends and gently pushing them into the clay. I used the same clay mixture to push into the spaces between the rocks to further stabilise the composition, all through this part I was contemplating how the trees would work in the composition.



Early on identified the need for the two planting areas to be at different levels this important as it creates interest when viewing the composition I had to consider not only the height of the rocks at the height of the trees that will be planted amongst them. I continued by adding soil inside the planting areas ready for the trees, once this was completed I moved on to the rough shaping of the trees ready for planting this consisted of the removal of obvious problem branches and the removal of debris from the inside of the tree. The trees themselves had obviously been kept in close proximity to each other and this had caused a reduction in the strength of the trees, as I was working I realised that it would not be possible to starve the trees in this instance but it would be preferable to wait until the trees had regained their vigour before carrying out true styling

work. I decided to restrict the work to the simple shaping of the tree and the minimal amount of root work required to place the tree the composition.

I started to place the trees and found that the composition was being completed far quicker than anticipated, I considered each tree carefully and placed it with the other trees to provide a harmonious planting. I finished a demonstration by adding the Moss to the composition and placing Cornish grit in between the two planting pockets to represent a River or stream I placed to stones in the river partially buried.



It is very rare that I'm happy with the composition and I try wherever possible to study and analyse what I have done in order to consistently improve.

AFTER THE DEMO

David received a standing ovation for the demonstration and I heard a number of people say that they couldn't quite believe how easy he had made it appear, most of these people were under no delusion the many years of study were needed before a result like this could be achieved.

I'm sure that you like I will continue to enjoy this composition in years to come. You will often hear this planting lovingly referred to as hernia one, the reason for this being the sheer weight of this composition which realistically requires two people to carry. So you have been warned if David asks you could you give him a hand I find it best to run in the other direction as quickly as possible.

David will be demonstrating Saikei at this year's show at Green Lawns Bonsai (see the show page), he promises me has something even better in mind, (oh my aching back) and is looking to spread the word of Saikei further afield so if you need a demonstrator bear this article in mind and perhaps give David a call.

See on the next page the final planting.

BM



Peaceful Gorge 2009

MEMBERS NEWS

Please, Please, Please

Can you write a little something for the magazine, just let us know what's going on in Saikei in your country.

We can only keep this magazine going if we get some contributions.

BOOKS

I have had the opportunity to have a sneaky peak at David Penny's book on Saikei which is still being written and I have to say it looks good so far. The book appears to be going to cover Saikei in great depth and has been written in David's own inimitable style.

I can't wait for it to be completed...

VIEWS FROM A LENS—GALLERY



Gorge



Lakeside



Coastal



Riverside

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 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

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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