

# Saikei

## International

The Magazine of the International Saikei Association

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## **BOARD MEETING**

Due to the difficulty in trying to get people together we are going to try to get an online meeting in place. It is hoped this will allow regional directors to be involved in developing the association further bringing a very local involvement to the management of the association.

## **DEMONSTRATORS LIST**

We are still trying to get the list up and running and the website is nearly finished currently there are only 2 people on the list and they are both based in the UK if you would like to offer your demonstration services please contact us as soon as possible.

## **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.

## **SUPPORTING SAIKEI**

The International Saikei Association has arranged with our president David Penny to offer a substantial discount for Saikei demonstration fees in 2013 arranged by any member of the association.

## SHOWS

Unfortunately due to a high volume of structural development at the nursery and people visiting Green Lawns Bonsai David Pagit the owner of the nursery has had to cancel the show this year. David Pagit has informed us that he is looking to run a show in 2013 meanwhile there will still be a demonstration by Peter Warren apprentice to Bonsai Master Kunio Kobayashi on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2012 if you would like to attend please contact David Pagit by email [enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk).

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.

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### **Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery 2012 Show - Cancelled**

Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Sudbury, CO10 5JH  
01787 210 501  
1<sup>st</sup> of September 2012  
Bonsai, Saikei, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc...

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#### **Your Event Name Here**

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

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#### **Your Event Name Here**

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

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## YOUR LETTERS

MM Writes

Dear ISA,

I wonder if you could help I have a Saikei created with a Cryptomeria variety which I think is vilmoriana although I can't be certain of this. I have been very busy at work and have neglected this Saikei very badly any help would be greatly appreciated.

I have attached a photo.

Regards

MM

p.s. I am enjoying the magazine each month.



DBP Replied

*Dear M,*

*Firstly congratulations on your Saikei it shows a lot of potential. From your pictures I presume that this Saikei has been created in the alpine style.*

*Before I go into what you need to do I would like to point out that you should not beat yourself up too much about the neglect of this Saikei unfortunately we cannot always give the time our Saikei need due to life getting in the way. On a positive note it will not take very long to recover this composition, you will need the following:*

- *Scissors*
- *Soil*
- *Moss*

*Right let's get started the first job is to clean up the soil surface taking off old moss and debris. Once this task has been completed it is time to move on to replacing missing soil that has been burrowed by animals/insects or washed away by successive watering's now spray the soil with a very light mist until the soil has become moist. It is clear in your photo that the trees are under stress as the Cryptomeria has a habit of withdrawing chlorophyll from its needles during periods of stress the good news is that once the stress is reduced i.e. conditions improve the foliage will green, bring the foliage back and this will reduce the transpiration rate (moisture loss from the foliage) which will balance the tree. Lastly you will need to moss the planting; you will need to use a fast growing sphagnum moss on the newly soiled areas and low growing cushion moss for established areas.*

*I hope this helps and perhaps you would take a photo after you have conducted the work. If you would like to contact me directly please feel free.*

*David Penny*

This photo arrived just in time, thank you MM



## BACK TO BASICS

### ALPINE TREES

In this article we will look at the various shapes of alpine trees.

In general Alpine trees are both tall and very narrow or they are low and compact. When considering the shape of the tree we must consider the theme of our landscape, is it high on a mountain, is it a flat outcrop of rock or an alpine meadow, all these will influence the style of the tree. It may be that in order to get a natural feel we may include more than one style of tree but when considering this we must keep the trees 'in character'.

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit Italy a few years ago and we drove down through the Alps, during the trip I was able to study trees at high altitude and noticed this very elongated shape.

The shape is defined by a long thin trunk with a short branch structure ideal when training young trees as the image is achieved quite quickly.

I have included below a image of the first stage of training of a young *Cryptomeria Japonica* 'vilmoriana'. It is important to bear in mind the health of the tree and with this variety it is easy to overwork so the first stage is to remove some of the branches followed by straightening the trunk with wire and a light pinching to concentrate growth. I will continue to publish progress photos of this tree as it develops.



## IN THE WORKSHOP

### WORKING WITH ROCKS

#### WHY USE ROCKS

We use rocks in Saikei to effectively portray the landscape the amount and type of rocks used will vary given the type of landscape that we are composing.

#### ROCK SELECTION

When selecting rocks for Saikei it is important to have in mind what style of Saikei you wish to create as this will determine the type of rocks needed. As an example if we were to create a alpine style planting we would not use smooth rocks we would tend to use a more fissured rock to impart a sense of the dramatic landscape, it is important to remember that we are trying to capture the essence of the scene and not create an exact copy as in a photo. Adversely if we are trying to create a stream in the woods we would use smooth stones to represent the movement of the water and the gentle nature of the composition.

#### AVAILABILITY

The actual rock used in your Saikei will depend on your location, availability and budget.

#### LOCATION

Your location in the world will dictate, in part, the type of rock you can use in your Saikei. Whilst the world is certainly becoming smaller with regard to the availability of rocks for Saikei, rock imported will often be expensive and the quality will not always suit the Saikei enthusiast's critical eye.

#### AVAILABILITY

On speaking to individuals on this subject I have discovered that many have problems getting certain types of rock, I can confirm this from my own experience having been to an aquarium centre and brought a quantity of superb rock for Saikei and on my return finding that they no longer stock it or worse still the centre has gone out of business. This is a constant worry for me and other Saikei artist and we cannot go past a Garden centre or aquarium shop without visiting to see what rock they have in. For those of you in countries which tolerate the collection of rock I have included ISA's official policy on collecting rock in the 'collecting' section.

#### BUDGET

Here in the UK as previously mentioned we will often visit aquarium centres to source interesting rock but we are paying, (2012), about £3 - £5 per kilogramme of rock which when creating a large landscape can end up at about 10 – 15 kilogram's or more which equals a big hole in the pocket. So for obvious reasons if you are able to source local rock it is much more cost effective as it has not had to travel far and therefore does not have those costs attached.

#### SHAPE AND FACES

The shape of rock is the overall shape of the rock itself and the faces are the part which will be seen after the Saikei has been completed. Often I hear students say that is a good rock but that part is ugly and then I see the student discard the rock, I very quickly step in and show them how to hide the ugly part of the rock and use the 'Face' that has the right aspect for the Saikei. It can be said that there is no rock that can't be used for Saikei.

**VIEWS FROM A LENS—GALLERY SPECIAL ON GREEN LAWNS DEMO**

Photos taken by John Brown



Placing the rocks



Adding trees and moss



Finalising the detail



Peaceful Gorge 20 minutes later

## SUPPLIERS

Name	Telephone	Address	Email	Website
<b>Bushukan Bonsai</b>	01702 201029	Ricbra, Lower Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 5NL	bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net	www.bushukan-bonsai.com
<b>Southampton Bonsai Trees</b>	02380 495729	6, Farmery Close, Swaythling, Southampton, SO18 2JX	info@bonsai-trees.com	www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk
<b>Downsview Bonsai</b>	01323 485656	126 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SJ	info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk	www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk
<b>Green Lawns Bonsai,</b>	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
<b>Dai Ichi Bonsai Group (Essex)</b>	01277 625 298	Shenfield Village Hall	1st Monday of each month call	
<b>Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club (Sussex)</b>	01323 731 369	Hellingly Village Hall	2nd Monday of the Month	<a href="http://www.bonsai-club.co.uk">www.bonsai-club.co.uk</a>
<b>Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)</b>	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](mailto:newsletter@Saikei.co.uk)

## CONTACTS

Name	Role	Telephone	email
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Paul Eslinger FISA (HON)	<b>Senior Vice President</b>	07795 187 632 01489 789 962	paul@eslinger.com
Brian Dale SISA	<b>Vice President Membership Services</b>	01323 731 369	membership@saikei.co.uk
Bruce Scrivens FISA (HON)	<b>Vice President Finance</b>		finance@saikei.co.uk
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**Vice President Membership: Brian Dale**

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

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