

BCI Diplomatic Mailbag - The Ambassador's newsletter:
Communicating with BCI members around the World

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Edition



BCI- Ambassador's

Newsletter

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Editors Message

Hi to all

This year is quickly coming to an end and with it brings a change of season and from all of us at BCI all the best wishes for the festive season and certainly wishes that 2008 brings all our friends happiness and good fortune.

I have entered a very busy period taking on a new position after attempting retirement for five months, the position is new and great fun.

I did promise a number of articles this edition but had two amazing articles come in and any contribution will take precedence over anything planned, so I will put anything promised and missed this issue into the next.

What a year for Bonsai 2007 has been and 2008, BCI and St Vincent for the conference is shaping as another fantastic Bonsai year.

From all of us at BCI we hope all have a fantastic Christmas and a great 2008.

Ian Glew – BCI Ambassadors Newsletter Editor : iglew@b022.aone.net.au

What's in this issue?

News from India	2
Isn't Nature Great	5
An Article from Philippines	6
St Vincent – Italy	8
Next Issue.....	8
Closing	8

News from India

BONSAI BRILLIANCE BEDAZZLES LUCKNOW

**BY K.K.ARORA, VIDHI BHARGAVA AND RADHIKA SOOD
Avadh Bonsai Association, Lucknow, India**



Certificate of appreciation being presented



Showing how it is done



An aerial view of the display



A view of the exhibition

The people of the City of Nawabs – Lucknow, had a visual treat in the form of 3rd Grand Bonsai Exhibition, which was hosted by Avadh Bonsai Association at the prestigious Hotel Clarks Avadh from the 6th to the 8th of April 2007.

Lucknow is essentially renowned for its culture (tehzeeb), cuisine and chikankari but a new dimension – BONSAI has been added to its eminence and the credit goes to the founder President of Avadh Bonsai Association, Mrs. Santosh Arora .

In 1998, Mrs. Santosh Arora, a connoisseur in the field of Bonsai, shifted residence from Mumbai to Lucknow along with her exquisite Bonsais. Her generosity and the love for the art of Bonsai prodded her to spread the art in Lucknow so that Lucknowites could relish the pleasures one acquires from growing Bonsais, something which was a little obscure in Lucknow. Thus was born the idea of Avadh Bonsai Association, which was formed in 2000 with a small group of like-minded people - all lovers of the art of Bonsai. Avadh Bonsai Association later on got affiliated with The Bonsai Study Group of Indo Japanese Associations as their Lucknow chapter . They also registered with the Bonsai Clubs International as their member.

Avadh Bonsai Association through Mrs. Santosh Arora has been imparting training in Bonsai and her enthusiasm and the ability to bring out the best in an individual as she does in a plant, has contributed immensely towards the success of the two earlier exhibitions in 2002 and 2004.

The 3rd exhibition was an occasion to remember as it was inaugurated by Mrs. Jyoti Parekh & Mr. Nikunj Parekh – the only Indian Masters of Bonsai acclaimed internationally and the Director BCI and World Bonsai Friendship Federation , on the 6th of April in the presence of the Guest of Honour Mrs. Swapna Roy, Dy. Managing Worker, Sahara India Pariwar . The show began with cutting of ribbon and lighting of the lamp by our chief guests. They were then taken around the exhibition.

‘Nature in Miniature’ was at it’s best as there were 350 exhibits covering 125 varieties of fruiting, flowering and foliage plants and the number of participants was 43. All the various styles of Bonsai – formal upright, informal upright, slanting, umbrella, twin trunk, multi trunk, cascade, semi-cascade, bunjin, wind swept, roots over the rock, raft, forests, saikei, sui-han penjing, and the roots on the wall and many free style were displayed in an artistic fashion. To prove the saying “Small is Beautiful” a number of Mame plants were also displayed. The figures speak volumes about the magnificence of the exhibition.

The show - stoppers which earned a lot of praise from the visitors were Brazilian Rain Tree umbrella style, Casuarina equisetifolia informal upright and Wrightia wind swept of our chief advisor Mr. K.K. Arora. Ficus Nuda formal upright, Ficus longisland umbrella style, Slanting Bougainvillea, Microcarpa umbrella style, Adenium group on rocks, Braided ficus Nuda, Curly Ficus on Drift Wood, and a ceramic Rock Penjing and Black Ficus Forest of our president Mrs. Santosh Arora. Ficus Long Island, Lipstick Ficus and a casuarina of Mrs. Benu Kalsi. Bocida, Cocoloba, Mysorensis, Multi Trunk Kamini (Murraya Exotica) and Nia Coxin Buxifolia of Mrs. Renu Prakash. Karounda, Jade and Ficus Long Island forest of Mrs. Madhuri Halwasia. Cascade of wax malpighia, Benjamina and Lipstick Ficus of Usha Singh. Acacia group of 71 trees and sandpaper of Mrs. Gunjan Banga. Ficus Long Island resembling a tortoise of Mrs. Padma Singh.

Adenium, Chickoo, Hibiscus Pinktip, Bottle brush, Banyan, Tamrind and different colour and style of bougainvilleas of other members were also the highlights of the exhibition. Photographs of some of these highlighters are printed along side.

On the second day of the exhibition, all members had the privilege of witnessing a live demonstration by the Masters themselves, on an **Indonesian Casuarina** equisetifolia . The masters diligently & skilfully, worked on the plant, shaping it, into an informal upright style tree with a few Gins , on its main trunk. Individual branches were intricately wired by the masters, who were later assisted by our senior members,. The plant seemed to have achieved the much desired balanced look of a natural tree & appeared dignified, after wiring. Undoubtedly, it is bound to; develop into a beautiful & majestic Bonsai, in the years to come.

The grand masters also demonstrated a Sui-han (Land-Water Penjing) on an oval marble slate, using a lot of self patterned with a tint of bluish, green, & white, natural texturing hard rock demarcating well defined, distinct land & water areas on the slate.

The main tree used was an impressive twin-trunk Ficus Benjamina, well coordinated by the secondary tree and then a number of small leaves, individually wired, Multi Trunk plants giving an impression of a number of individual trees growing together in a group. The awe-inspiring Penjing, showing the trees bent over the rivulet, forming an interminable groove over it, was indeed as natural as any man-made creation can be. On popular demand the masters agreed with broad smiles on their faces to make another marble tray using Ficus Microcarpa. They worked effortlessly, amidst endless queries of the members who were showered with useful tips on growing and maintaining Bonsais. It was very encouraging to observe the skillful demonstration which could be termed '**par(ekhs) excellence**'!

In the evening of the second day a formal function was held followed by dinner hosted by Sahara India Parivar to felicitate the chief guests and all the participants of the exhibition. Members were awarded certificates by Mr. Nikunj Parikh for the outstanding display of their plants on behalf of BCI which was a major source of inspiration for all to put in their best. The executive committee and the founder members of the association were presented with certificates of appreciation for their contribution to bring up the association and to spread the art of Bonsai by Mrs.Jyoti Parekh on behalf of Bonsai Study Group of Indo Japanese association. On behalf of Bonsai Study Group Parekhs presented a silver plaque to Mrs. Santosh Arora, founder president and Mr.K.K.Arora chief advisor for their exemplary work in spreading the art of Bonsai.

This exhibition was a tribute to the 'teacher' from the 'taught' as our Arora Aunty very proudly introduced her teacher Mrs.Jyoti Parikh to her students as her Guru. The impeccable show has elevated the standard of Bonsai in Lucknow and also the level of expectations of Lucknowites and the feedback that we have got has collectively bolstered our mental and physical faculties to work for another matchless and brilliant exhibition. The visitor Book was full of flattering remarks with superlatives such as awesome, out of the world, simply breathtaking, superb, treat to the eyes, delightful etc. but one remark from Mr. Vikram Singh ADG, Central Industrial Security Force, New Delhi is worth sharing with all.

“A Piece of Heaven Descended on Earth. A whole Galaxy of Stars are shining bright in the portals of the exhibition. God bless all of you in Avadh Bonsai Association”.

Isn't Nature Great

Found this amazing natural Root over Rock in a town north of Brisbane – Buderim, wouldn't you love this in your front yard?



A close up of the root structure



A distant view



Around the other side



The roots



Another close up



Another view



Amazing tree in full flower

An Article from Philippines

BONSAI TECH FEATURE – showcasing simple bonsai art technique. We hope to feature one article in every issue. We welcome your sharing of practical technique. Please email to itx@pldidsl.net.

Saikei – Miniature Living Tray Landscape by Anna de Leon

Saikei is a fun project both for beginners and everyone else in the art of bonsai. In bonsai, it takes many years, ten at least, to create a truly beautiful tree, while in Saikei, we can use young trees from cuttings or seedlings to make a three dimensional landscape we can already enjoy viewing whilst waiting for the trees to mature

Materials we need are:

1. shallow tray or pot or cement slab
2. one to three small bonsai trees



3. bonsai soil, sand, moss, muck, wire, rocks, and figurines



4. Lots of imagination.

Step by step procedure in making Saikei:

1. Insert anchor wires into the hole of the tray or in this case cement slab. These wires will be used to anchor the trees in place.



2. Remove the trees from their original pot. Try to keep the soil intact to lessen the stress



3. Position the trees in their proper place and fasten with wire. Set the primary tree (the biggest) either in the left or right side. After we have decided on the primary tree's location we set the



second tree and the third tree. This will give us good perspective.

4. Anchor the trees by tying the wires we prepared earlier onto the slab.



5. Mix your sticky soil with water until you have a muck/mud. Build up the muck on the sides of the trees to create a retaining wall.



6. Set the stones to create a natural landscape.



7. Plant your moss into the muck.
Moss helps retain the wall and adds color and naturalness to your design.



8. Add white sand to your landscape to represent water.



9. Trim the miniature trees to create good silhouette.



10. Water your creation generously until water comes out of the holes of the slab.



11. Place the figurines onto the design.
Enjoy your Saikei!!!



12. You can have many versions of arrangement as your mood for the day desires by changing the figurines.



Thankyou to our friends in Philippines for supplying this article , I had a few problems getting it into the newsletter and certainly not as professionally as supplied.

Ian Glew

St Vincent – Italy

BCI-IBS CONGRESS 2008: 24-28 SEPTEMBER
“art and teaching on the top of Europe”

Put these dates in your diary now as it is not to be missed

<http://www.bci-ibs2008.it/home-en.asp>

Next Issue

I certainly hope I have to pull some articles from the next issue as it will mean member clubs are sending me pieces to go in the newsletter, at time of going to print this is some of the items for the next edition.

- **Formal Upright that I wrote about some issues back and I am sure you will notice a difference.**
- **Chicago Bonsai collection**
- **Puerto Rico – more of the conference.**



Closing



The next edition will mark the end of three years of editing this newsletter and at this stage I am still enjoying it immensely, articles and photographs from all the ambassadors makes my life a lot easier and certainly shares your experiences with the world.

I have never been short of information and articles to write about and have tried to share some of the amazing natural Bonsai that we all see in our countries as well as articles and tips from my country and as much of the World as I can pack into my holidays, we are off to the Antarctic in February and will be surprised if I find many trees down there! Bye for now – Ian Glew