

November 2009

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# SAIKEI - LIVING LANDSCAPES

## Landscape Views

The e-magazine of the International Saikei Association



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## **AGM 2010**

David Penny

We are currently arranging the AGM for ISA which will take place in April 2010 and desperately need your ideas and comments about the current structure and activity of the association. It is my intention to email to each member a list of current members of the Executive and those that are willing to stand again. We will need to have your votes and nominations for the Executive which can be emailed to myself or Brian Dale.

Items on the agenda will be:

1. Web presence
2. Member activities (workshops, classes, shows)
3. Learning opportunities

Other items on the agenda can be emailed to myself at [david.penny@saikei.co.uk](mailto:david.penny@saikei.co.uk)

## **Congratulations!!!**

Our congratulations go to:

- Holly may Penny
- Bruce Scrivens
- Brian Dale

Who all achieved their Introductory Certificate in Saikei (ICS) on the 8th of November 2009. We are hoping that they will write an article at some point to tell you about their experiences.



## **Executive Meeting**

Brian Dale

We are seeking your input for the executive meeting on the 6th of December 2009.

On the agenda currently:

- Website changes—how it can be improved
- Membership fees and services
- Saikei events—workshops, shows, etc...
- Learning opportunities
- International concerns and promotion.

Please let us have your input as soon as possible. My email address is: [brian.dale@saikei.org.uk](mailto:brian.dale@saikei.org.uk)  
Thank you.



## Kokue

David Penny

Kokue

A shorter article this time so I have included a few inspirational pictures.

Kokue in Saikei is often difficult to describe and even harder to achieve this is due to the 'instant nature of Saikei where by the placement of rocks and trees with a covering of moss we are ending up with a fairly instant image.



Kokue is seen in the weathered bark of a tree it is aged and severe and it brings to mind the passage of time, it may suggest lessons learned and it tells a story of life.

So how do you achieve such simple character in your planting, the reality is that some of the ageing will just have to wait for the passing of time and for the composition to 'mature'. In Bonsai we would introduce false ageing on the tree like deadwood and uncovering the surface rootage but in





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Saikei we have to be careful that the features of the tree do not detract from the overall landscape (a common failing in Saikei). In Saikei we might aid in the ageing process by introducing 'mud' to the rocks so that the moss will grow onto the rock thus aiding in the illusion of age, but always remembering that the individual features are not our image but the landscape as a whole.



The trees will gain a maturity over time and for this we will have to wait but a small amount of sphagnum moss placed on one side of each tree (the same side) will help to increase the look of age and increase the naturalness of the planting. Roots can play a strong part in achieving Kokue as this will provide a feel of maturity and permanence.

Rocks will also mature over time but can be aided by painting with natural yogurt or spreading with mud and slowly being allowed to wash away in rains both these techniques must be done before planting.

You will have to be careful of false ageing to avoid it looking just that.

David Penny



## Tree Styles—Part 1

David Penny

As you are all ready aware tree styles in Saikei follow the same basic styles as Bonsai however there are subtle differences. In bonsai the use of deadwood and other such features are accepted and encouraged in trees that can take it where as in Saikei this kind of feature is discouraged as it detracts from the whole landscape which is of primary importance. Overall it cam be said that the style of a tree in Saikei is more delicate than its counterpart in Bonsai.

The style of a Saikei tree will depend on the landscape design in which it is to be placed, therefore in Bonsai the style is defined by the tree in Saikei the style is defined by the landscape this is the main difference between the styles of tree in Bonsai and Saikei.

In Saikei we will use certain types of style for certain types of landscape, for instance we will use Formal upright, windswept or cascade for alpine style landscapes.



As you can see above we may have to use a variety of styles to truly capture the feel of a particular landscape.

Below is a chart that indicates the basic styles of tree and their uses in Saikei.

Alpine	Lowland	Coastal
Windswept	Full Broom	Windswept
Low Broom	Informal Upright	Low Broom
Formal Upright	Low Broom	Formal Upright
Cascade		Cascade

As you can see the alpine and coastal use the same styles of tree but it differs in the way that they are used in the planting.

In the next article we will see a tree being shaped for Saikei.



# International Saikei Association

INTERNATIONAL SAIKEI ASSOCIATION

## Landscape Views

### Suppliers

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

Phone: 08700347765

Email: [enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk)

Website: [www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk](http://www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk)

**Downsview Bonsai**, 126 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SJ

Phone: 01323 485656

Email: [info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk](mailto:info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk)

Website: [www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk](http://www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk)

**Southampton Bonsai Trees** 6, Farmery Close, Swaythling, Southampton, SO18 2JX

Phone: 023 8049 5729

Email: [info@bonsai-trees.com](mailto:info@bonsai-trees.com)

Website: [www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk](http://www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk)

**Bushukan Bonsai** Ricbra, Lower Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 5NL

Phone: 01702 201029

Email: [bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net](mailto:bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net)

Website: [www.bushukan-bonsai.com](http://www.bushukan-bonsai.com)

### Affiliated Bonsai Groups

**Dai Ichi Bonsai Society (Essex)**

**Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club (Sussex)**

Meets Hellingly Village Hall, 2nd Monday of the Month, call 01323 731 369

#### International Association of Saikei Administration:

70 Forest Rise, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2ES.

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#### International Association of Saikei Membership:

Brian Dale

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