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May 2010

# SAIKEI - LIVING LANDSCAPES

## Landscape Views

The e-magazine of the International Saikei Association



## **AGM and Board for 2010/11**

It has been decided that the Board will Meet in the next couple of months as we cannot get enough people to run an AGM we will continue in the current setup. To repeat last months message.

“I will therefore make a plea to all members to let us know your thoughts on the association and how we can move it forward, please send your comments to me [david.penny@saikei.co.uk](mailto:david.penny@saikei.co.uk) “

## **Around the World**

Editor

A article written by our President will appear in the next Romanian Bonsai Magazine.

The workshop and lecture in Croatia is due to go ahead on the 4th and 5th of September, if any member is interested they should contact Hrvoje Knezovic on the following email address

[hknezovi@crobonsai.com](mailto:hknezovi@crobonsai.com)

## **Learning Opportunities News**

2 members have achieved their Level 1 Certificate in Saikei. Our Congratulations go to both:

- Colin Hampden
- Marion Cutter

The new DVD which covers the Level 1 Certificate learning and basic techniques will be available slightly later than the revised date of 01.06.10 due to scheduling problems with the filming of a couple of additional scenes, we will keep you notified. To register your interest in the DVD priced at £12.00 for members and £18.00 for non members please email Brian Dale on [brian.dale@saikei.co.uk](mailto:brian.dale@saikei.co.uk)

## **Showing Saikei**

**David Penny**

### **Preparing Saikei and showing**

#### **Introduction**

It is important to recognise that showing Saikei is open to people of all levels and not (as some people think) to those experienced members that have been doing Saikei for “Cough” years. I remember when I first doing bonsai in the late 70’s and early 80’s I use to visit shows which displayed some really excellent bonsai, and to be honest I used to come away from these exhibitions disillusioned thinking I will never manage that. What the public want to see is a variety of trees and plantings some at the top end and some that are in development so therefore if you have a tree that you like, chances are that others will like it too.

An idea that I saw at another exhibition recently was an education table that included 5 trees of the same species at different stages in development. Each tree had a description of each stage to educate the viewer. Also on this table was a tree that had been styled on only 1 side so that the difference was made clear.

#### **Preparing hardware**

You should be checking your hardware against the following list:

1. Is the pot right for the planting (believe it or not it is possible to change the pots on saikei with care, don’t be frightened to ask for some advice).
2. If the pot is right does it have any damage or unsightly marks?
3. Do I need to do a thorough clean and oil of the pot now so that it will be easier before the show.
4. Do I have a stand that compliments the pot and composition (remember never use a stand that crowds the tree, space is important) again ask if you are in any doubt.
5. Choose an accent that will compliment the tree and portray the season (I will often choose 2 or 3 and then pick one that is in the best condition).
6. Decide on a scroll which will compliment the tree and accent and complete the seasonal image.



## Basic Styles Continued...



An excellent display of Shohin tree, accent and scroll (a Saikei display can often be composed in a very similar way)

## Preparing trees

When preparing trees for show it is important to make an evaluation of the tree as a whole, look at the:

1. Soil surface – is it clear of weeds and does it help to enhance the natural look of the Saikei, (liverwort does not serve as a soil surface and is not a good thing to have on a Saikei at any time of the year let alone during a show).
2. Are the surface roots nicely spread and clean of old fibrous roots .
3. Is the bottom of the trunks (Tachiagari) clean and well shaped.
4. Is the rest of the trunk clear of old branch stubs and free of moss.
5. Are the branches well shaped and in the right position (now is the time to take corrective measures if not).
6. On conifers you can start to correct foliage problems. Closer to the exhibition there should be a general review of the foliage on broad leaf trees (remember to shelter the tree from the harshest of elements, especially on the more delicate species).

Once you have reviewed the composition then you can plan the remedial action needed to get the Saikei to a showable condition.

## **Basic Styles Continued...**

### **Showing**

Make sure that you have prepared everything in advance that way it will be far less stressful.

Before you go to exhibition use this check list.

1. Have you cleaned the pots?
2. Have you cleaned the soil surface and dressed it for exhibition?
3. Have you removed dead or unsightly foliage?
4. Have you got the tree, stands and accent?
5. If you are displaying in a Tokonoma do you have the tree, stands, accent and scroll?
6. Have you got the oil rag and scissors for last minute touches?
7. Are you relaxed and ready to enjoy yourself?

**Showing should be enjoyable so go and have fun!**



Saikei competition guidelines and judging criteria are available from the Association by emailing [david.penny@saikei.co.uk](mailto:david.penny@saikei.co.uk)

## Shows 2010

### Eastbourne Show

Events Coordinator

We have been asked to put on a small display at the Eastbourne and Wealden show on the 12th of June 2010 at the Stone Cross Hall, Eastbourne, East Sussex, United Kingdom, BN24 5SL.

Our own president David Penny will be demonstrating Saikei at the show in the afternoon. Please come along and support this show and help us spread the word about Saikei. Further information is available by visiting the EWBC website or by Contacting Brian Dale by email.

There will be a small competition with 3 categories and best Saikei in show judged by David Penny and 2 other judges if you want to try.

[www.bonsai-club.co.uk](http://www.bonsai-club.co.uk)

[brian.dale@saikei.co.uk](mailto:brian.dale@saikei.co.uk)

### Eastleigh Show

Events Coordinator

We have been invited to put on a display at the Eastleigh Bonsai Society show on the 18th of July (details to follow) and we need to start organising so please can you let me know if you are able to attend and supply any Saikei.

It would be good if we can have a 12 foot display and some help on the day to promote Saikei to the general public.





**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 Group (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.

[david.penny@saikei.co.uk](mailto:david.penny@saikei.co.uk)

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**International Association of Saikei Membership:**

Brian Dale

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01323 731 369