

# Landscape Views

The newsletter of the International Saikei Association

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September 2010



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**International  
Saikei  
Association**



## **Quick News and Board Activity**

### **Board News**

Editor

The board has started planning for 2011/12 and would like to hear from members from round the world about the focus and direction in the coming years.

The board is also keen to further that activities of the association so please send your ideas to the vice president membership on the email below.

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

### **Around the World**

Editor

We would like to welcome new members from America, India and Australia. We hope you will find your membership to ISA rewarding and we look forward to seeing some of your Saikei creations.

As editor it is a constant battle to find articles that have local interest. To that end I am on my knees begging all those members in countries other than the UK to write a short piece on Saikei in their country so that we might have a better idea of the level of interest in those regions.

### **Learning Opportunities News**

Learning Coordinator

We currently having preliminary discussions to offer the Award in Saikei in Melbourne Australia with the potential for the higher levels at a later stage.

Don't forget that you can study for the award and certificate 1 by distance learning.

The learning opportunity levels are now fully linked to the progressive membership system so that as you progress so will your membership levels.

Contact me for further information at [learning@saikei.co.uk](mailto:learning@saikei.co.uk)

## Events and Shows

### Eastleigh Bonsai Show 13th of July 2011

Events Coordinator

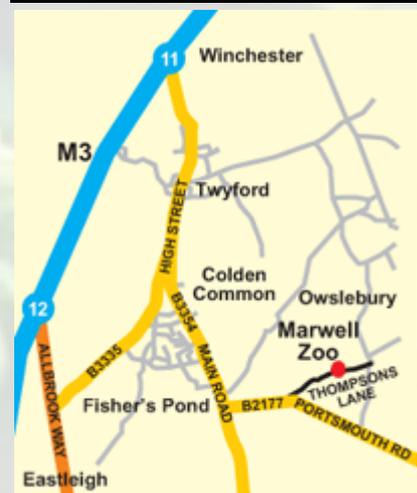
The Association has been invited to attend the Eastleigh Bonsai Group show at Humbee's Garden Centre which is almost directly opposite Marwell Zoo near Winchester.

The Association will be putting on a display of Saikei and members will be creating a few Saikei under the watchful eye of the president of ISA. There will also be around 90 bonsai on display.

The show will be open from 10.00—16.00

The address is:

**Thompsons Lane  
Owslebury  
Winchester SO21 1JH**



### Other Shows

Events Coordinator

If you are involved in a society which has a show and you think there might be interest in hosting a stand from the Association please contact me through the VP membership.

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



## **Formal Upright Development for Saikei**

David Penny

### **Nursery Stock**

When creating a formal upright from nursery stock it is important to ensure that you select trees with a good radial branch structure, that is to say a good branch structure that emanates from all directions on the trunk, this is particularly important at the growing stage of the trees development as this will dramatically reduce the chances of unwanted bends appearing.

I normally like to obtain the tree at a fairly young age so that the trunk is still trainable this will allow you to wire and straighten the trunk to remove any bends, a word of caution you should never leave the wire on to long which will inevitably lead to wire scaring.

### **Cuttings or Seed**

If you are a patient person then you may like to start from a cutting or seed, although it is a long process it is by far the most effective route for forming a formal upright as it gives you control over the development. At the earliest opportunity work with the rootage and trunk. Do not pot the tree into a small pot to early give it growing room in the pot and feed well but be careful if it is wired as this can cause rapid thickening of the trunk which can lead to wire scaring. Allow as many branches as possible to form on the trunk to increase thickening and straight growth and be sure to pot on every year.

### **Roots**

Where possible it is important to start work on the root system of your potential upright as soon as possible this will aid in achieving the radial root structure which is of benefit in Saikei. It must be remembered that unlike bonsai the lack of a radial root structure on a formal upright will not affect the overall look of the composition, in fact in many circumstances the roots may not be seen due to the use of mosses as ground cover. Of far more importance is the need for a tight root structure to allow close planting with other trees. Another important fact is that you should repot every year to avoid root contortion which can lead to slight bends in the trunk.

### **Trunk**

The trunk of a formal upright should be straight and well tapered so start to work with this as early as possible taper can be encouraged by allowing the lower branches to grow whilst cutting back the ones at the top. You should make every effort to straighten any curves/bends in the trunk as early as possible, but you may find it is better to grow that particular tree as an informal upright.



*(Continued from page 4)*

## **Branches**

Branches are unimportant at the early stages of growing and their main purpose is to increase taper and to ensure a straight trunk. When you come to style the tree it is important to ensure that the branch structure is evenly spaced whilst not hiding the straight line of the trunk. The branch structure on a formal upright in Saikei (fig.1) does not have to be as strictly laid out as in bonsai (fig.2).

Fig.1

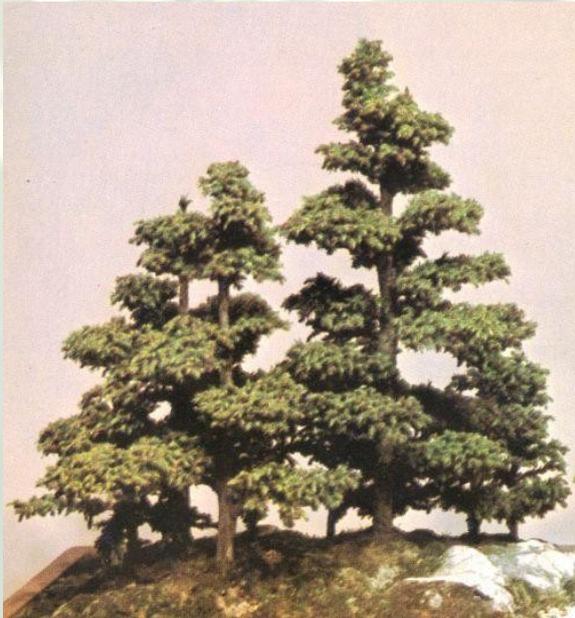


Fig.2



## **Foliage**

As with branches the density of the foliage is something that can wait to the later stages of growing although it must be remembered that the on certain types of tree if you allow the foliage to advance to the ends of branches you lose the opportunity to get a good pad. Foliage in formal uprights must be controlled once styled to avoid overcrowding and branch loss as a result.



## **Learn From Nature**

At the end of the day the purpose of Saikei is to reflect a natural landscape so ultimately the best way to learn the formal upright is to go out and find some natural examples, study these trees and ask yourself what you feel when you look at one of these majestic beings. Try not to focus too much on the detail but rather the overall shape as this is what we are trying to capture in Saikei.



## **About the Contributor**

Editor

In the next article David will be looking at the informal upright style.

David Has been studying Saikei since 1989 and is currently a fellow and President of ISA and also he teaches and demonstrates Saikei in the UK and overseas. He is the originator of the ISA learning opportunities program (yes its his fault, so give him a kick next time you see him) and has been published here and overseas and is a regular contributor to the Bonsai Romania magazine.

For any information concerning lessons and demonstrations in Saikei contact David on [david.penny@saikei.co.uk](mailto:david.penny@saikei.co.uk)

**Views from a Lens**

send your photos to [brian.dale@saikei.co.uk](mailto:brian.dale@saikei.co.uk)



Title: 'Windswept Shore'  
Date: 1991  
Keeper: David Penny



Title: Unnamed  
Date: 1995  
Keeper: David Penny

Send Us Your Photo and the Basic Information

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**Photos can be of Saikei, other tray landscape arts or inspirational landscapes.**



## **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)



## **Clubs**

### **Dai Ichi Bonsai Group (Essex)**

Meets at Shenfield Village Hall, 1st Monday of each month call 01277 625 298

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

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

### **Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)**

Meets 2nd Monday of the Month, call 01489 789 962 or 07795 187 632



## Contacts

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