

Landscape Views

The newsletter of the International Saikei Association

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January 2011 Issue 27



In this Issue

- [The Path Ahead for 2011](#)
- [Details of the New Membership Grades](#)
- [Back to Basics for a New Year](#)
- [Gallery](#)

Next Month we will start a new series of profiles on Saikei Artists

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**International
Saikei
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Contents

Board News	3
Around the World	3
Learning Opportunities	3
Shows	4
Back to Basics for a New Year	5
Members News	8
Views from a Lens—Gallery	10
Suppliers	11
Clubs	12
Contacts	13

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Quick News and Board Activity

Board News

Editor

Mistake in the previous board report 'At the Board Meeting on the 14th of November a change to the current membership grading was discussed this will come into force on the 1st of January 2010', this of course should have read '1st of January 2011'.

The next board meeting will be taking place in March and the tentative date booked is the 13th.

We wish to pass on a happy new year to all our members.

The Board.

Around the World

Editor

Our thoughts go out to members and their countrymen in Australia who were affected by the floods.

Please Please Please let us know if you have any events that involve Saikei.

brian.dale@saikei.co.uk

Learning Opportunities News

Learning Coordinator

Just a brief message this month , we now have the Award in Saikei (AiS) documentation available for individuals to study via distant learning.

If you are interested please contact us learning@saikei.co.uk

Events and Shows

Eastleigh Bonsai Show

13th of July 2011

Events Coordinator

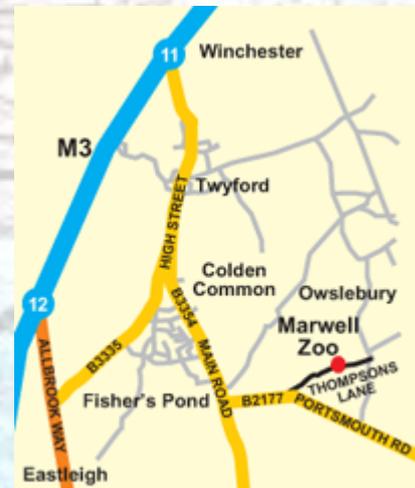
The Association has been invited to attend the Eastleigh Bonsai Group show at Humbee's Garden Centre which is almost directly opposite Marwell Zoo near Winchester.

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**



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.

Bonsai World 2011 3rd and 4th of September 2011

Events Coordinator

The Association has been invited to attend the Bonsai World show at K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley, West Sussex.

The Association will be putting on a display of Saikei and other Japanese Cultural Activities will be demonstrated. There will also be some of the best bonsai in the country on display.

We will post more details in the next newsletter.

The address is:

K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 9BQ

The website for further information is:

<http://www.bonsaiworld2011.co.uk/index.htm>



Back to Basics for a New Year

In a break from the series of articles on tree styles in Saikei we have reprinted some old articles in order to help those of you just starting in Saikei.

Editor

Introduction to Saikei

“Saikei uses the techniques of bonsai with trees, rocks, moss, plants and aggregates to form complete landscapes within the confines of a tray”.

David Penny 10.03.90

About Saikei

To create a Saikei you will need small trees, rocks, moss, plants and aggregates and of course a tray.

Saikei gives the creator a better vent for their imagination. Many Saikei artist draw on places that they have visited to get inspiration often drawing on geological features and feelings of a place to create a Saikei.

Some Basic Saikei Facts

- Saikei originally developed from the Chinese art of Pen-jing (Chinese landscapes).
- It lost popularity in the 1400's due to a focus on refined arts.
- Toshio Kawamoto a Japanese bonsai master and the owner of the Nippon bonsai and Saikei institute rediscovered Saikei in the 1960's.
- Saikei is less stylised than Bonsai in that it puts less emphasis on trees and more emphasis on the whole.
- Saikei trees are less stylised and are generally more natural.
- Saikei has very few rules and so is a free form.
- Most students learn by starting with the one tree one rock form.



(Continued from page 5)

Good Saikei

I was asked recently 'how do you make a good Saikei', I had to admit that the answer eluded me at first then I quickly answered 'the answer must be found in the question 'what makes a good Saikei'? we then had a discussion about what makes a good Saikei and in essence this is what we concluded. A Saikei must:

Be able to reveal to the viewer a larger landscape than that contained in the pot.

Reflect the features of the chosen style.

Be pleasing to look at.

Be in scale so that it is 'realistic'.

Be peaceful.

Be interesting so that it holds the viewers eye but it must not be too complicated.

There were others but these were the key ones. This really got me thinking about how I prepare to do a Saikei and what I have done in the past that allows me to draw on experience and knowledge. To do this I had to go back about 21 years to when I saw my first Saikei and got 'hooked'. I was at the UK Bonsai Convention in 1989, hosted by the Sussex Bonsai Group at the University of Sussex in Brighton, wandering down the rows of many Bonsai trees admiring their beauty when I came across 2 plantings of trees, rocks and moss, I looked at the labels and it told me the species, variety and age of the trees but not the style. Later I asked Mitsuo Matsui, a Japanese bonsai master demonstrating at the convention, through his interpreter, what style these plantings were and he replied that they were landscape style and after further questions discovered that this style is called Saikei in Japanese. That started me on a fruitless search through bookshops until I discovered a book Living Landscapes in Miniature by Toshio Kawamoto a full 6 months after the convention in a second hand bookstore in Hastings on the south coast of the United Kingdom.

This book which I still rate as the best book became the bible of Saikei to me; through it I learned the basic principles of tree and rock placement, design as well as the care aspects. I found that the book opened my eyes to the landscapes that I passed by on my travels and these became my future inspiration. One of the key things I have learned is that you cannot create a photocopy of a landscape you have seen, be warned, you will always be disappointed because you will not be able to incorporate the distant mountains, sea, sweeping hills, etc... so what we always say to those new to Saikei is, try to capture the feeling and mood of, or a key feature of the landscape. In reality there is no landscape that can't be captured in a Saikei in some way, perhaps that would be a fun challenge for a future issue, I have even seen a Saikei done with cacti to represent a desert scene which was very effective.



To my mind the key to good Saikei is observation, you need to look at landscapes on your travels and through doing image searches on the computer. If you study these landscapes and commit to memory the key features that make the landscapes what they are, you can incorporate these into your composition (subtly) to give your Saikei that natural feel. Pay particular attention to details but do not lose yourself in them, to do that loses sight of the whole. I find that if you try too hard and think too much your Saikei will not be as good, relax, and let your hands move freely and a Saikei will be formed, even a beginner will be able to tell you something is not right with their Saikei but they won't always know what. Never try to create using an image in your head, start out with a concept say a windswept coastal landscape then start to place rocks and let it form naturally. It must always be remembered that the purpose of technique is to make creativity possible it should never become the focus.



One of my favourite Saikei although it still has a long way to go, I really enjoy looking at this composition and imagining what is beyond it.



Members News

New Membership Grades

Following the recent ISA Board meeting we choose to review the membership grades in line with a more international membership.

The grades have been changed and the following is implemented from the 1st of January 2011.

1. Associate Member AISA this is open to all individuals and when joining the association you will automatically be assigned to this grade.
2. Member MISA this grade is open to any individual who has completed the Certificate in Saikei Level 1.
3. Senior Member SISA this grade is open to any individual who has completed the Certificate in Saikei Level 2.
4. Fellow FISA this grade is open to any individual who has completed the Certificate in Saikei Level 3 and who makes a commitment to ISA through contribution of a technical, man hour or experience.
5. Honorary Fellow FISA (HON) recognises those individuals who have made a substantial contribution to Saikei and/or the work of ISA.

Members who are current may use the abbreviation of there membership grade during communication if they so wish. The abbreviation must be removed if the individual ceases to be a member of ISA.

Membership fees are now due for 2011

Please send your cheque to Brian Dale to renew your membership for 2011. We greatly value you as members and hope you will continue to support the work of ISA through your membership fee.

The fees for 2011 have not increased from last year and remain at just £5.00 for individuals for the year.



Members News cont...

The Path Ahead in 2011

During 2011 we have the opportunity to display at a couple of major shows and whilst it is nice to be able to view good Saikei and see how they have developed since the last show, it would be great if we could see some new Saikei on the stand.

Your support is needed at all events that we attend and we are dying to meet as many members as we can so that we can here your good and bad comments about the association and what we can do to improve. Of course you can always email me to provide positive and negative feedback anyway but we would still like to meet you all.

One of the 2011 projects is to provide some resources to aid you in your study of Saikei including a DVD and Booklet.

I look forward to seeing you at the shows.

Yours in Saikei

David Penny FISA (HON)

President.

Photos of Saikei and other related photos

On behalf of the board can I make a plea please send in photos of your Saikei as we are trying to get some examples from outside the UK of different Saikei creations to publish in the newsletter.

If you have some pictures but are not sure if they are suitable please send them to me titled pictures for consideration and we will take a look. We need a variety of pictures from natural landscapes, Saikei in training, 'finished' Saikei to show pictures.

Please, Please, Please send them in.

David Penny FISA (HON)

President



Views from a Lens

send your photos to brian.dale@saikei.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL SAIKEI ASSOCIATION www.saikeiassociation.org



Name: Un Named
Created: 2010
Keeper: David Penny (UK)



Name: Un Named (being created)
Created: 2009
Keeper: Colin Hampton (UK)



Name: Alpine Clearing
Created: 1996
Keeper: David Penny (UK)



Name: Unknown
Created: Unknown
Keeper: Unknown (UK)

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

Website: www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk

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

Phone: 01323 485656

Email: info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk

Website: www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk

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

Phone: 023 8049 5729

Email: info@bonsai-trees.com

Website: www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk

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

Phone: 01702 201029

Email: bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net

Website: 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



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