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April 2010

SAIKEI - LIVING LANDSCAPES

Landscape Views

The e-magazine of the International Saikei Association

International Saikei Association

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INTERNATIONAL SAIKEI ASSOCIATION

Landscape Views

Welcome

Editor

Welcome to the rather late April edition of Landscape Views. We have not received any replies on the AGM and therefore will be holding a basic board meeting in order to discuss the direction of the Association.

I will therefore make a plee 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

Around the World

Editor

The board is delighted to welcome the following members as recently appointed Regional Directors.

- Mario A Mallari - Philippines
- Vyacheslav E Maltsev - Russia
- Ben Cutts - South Australia
- Hrvoje Knezovic - Croatia
- Craig Jurd - Eastern Australia
- Rusu Lucian Radu - Romania

Learning Opportunities News

The Award in Saikei (AiS) became available from the 1st of April 2010 and we have already had 4 members successfully achieve the award. The award is available to all those who wish to study the art of Saikei.

Our congratulations go to:

- Colin Hampton
- Marion Cutter
- John Brown
- Anne Hall

I hope to encourage one of these individuals to write a short piece about their experiences to encourage others to have a go, Hint, Hint.

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Basic Saikei Styles

David Penny

We have been asked to repeat this article from a previous issue but there are some additional parts to it and it is important to be fully aware of the styles of Saikei.

There are 3 main styles of Saikei.

- Alpine
- Lowland
- Coastal

I have included a brief description of each one.

Lowland

I am going to start this article series on Saikei Styles with Lowland Style the reason behind this is simple the lowland style is one of the easiest to create this is because the composition concentrates on movements in the soil rather that impressive rock formations.

- To start a lowland Saikei you will need to get a variety of small trees and plants I often find that looking at pictures of lowland scenes helps in the arrangement stage. Try to focus on Certain elements in the scene that will create harmony and naturalness.

- Begin by placing netting over the holes of the pot, then introduce the stones into the composition. The stones provide visual anchors to the composition so be very careful about the arrangement.

- Bed the stones with either sand or natural clay to avoid excessive movement in the pot. Then add a layer of soil avoiding the parts where you will be adding aggregates to represent water.

- Now start to place the plants starting with the largest first and then reducing to the moss.

- Then gradually add soil around the trees and plants and contour the soil to give a natural impression. Use plants like thyme to represent shrubs in your landscape and use light moss in the spaces and dark moss under the trees and shrubs. This will give a better impression of light and dark contrast in the landscape.

- Remember in lowland styles there should not be a dramatic rise and fall in surface levels but use the soil and mosses to vary the level in small amounts.

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Basic Styles Continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Alpine

We will be looking at the most dramatic style in Saikei that of Alpine (mountains to you and me). This is my favourite style in Saikei as it gives the most scope for interpretation.

The secret to good alpine compositions is the position and aspect of the rocks, to truly explain rock placement and aspect would probably use up this handout, but a tip would be to think of the rock as a mountain side or as a part of a mountain and to study how mountains look.

To make an alpine Saikei you will need a tray, rock and trees suitable for the variation of alpine style you have chosen. The trees will need to be thin in width to give the impression of an alpine tree (I saw a lot of alpine larch and spruce in the Alps and they all had the same shape, tall and thin).

- Prepare the pot by covering the drainage holes with large grade net.
- Put in clay or sand where you need to place the rocks (remember if you are going to do a ravine or mountain side they must be secure)
- If you are creating a ravine or mountainside and you have more than 1 rock forming a cliff you may wish to place clay between the rocks to stabilise and prevent soil from falling out of the gaps.
- Now place a layer of soil so that when you place the trees they are level with the top of the cliff and put the trees in place. You may like to place trees in the side of the cliff and at the bottom particularly for a mountain side.
- Now mound the soil around the trees and place moss on the surface of the soil.
- Often a small amount of grit placed at the base of cliffs can be affective to represent rock falls.

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Basic Styles Continued...

Coastal

In the Saikei style of Coastal the position and aspect of the rocks is very important, for instance in the headland sub style rocks are normally placed on the 2/3rd line of the pot with the trees planted in the 2/3rd space and the last third is gravel to represent the beach, but a tip would be to think of the rock as a cliff.

To make an Coastal Saikei you will need a tray, rock and trees suitable for the variation of Coastal style you have chosen. The trees will need to be either low and windblown for an exposed coast or tall for a sheltered cove or headland.

- Prepare the pot by covering the drainage holes with large grade net.
- Put in clay or sand where you need to place the rocks.
- If you are creating a headland and you have more than 1 rock forming a cliff you may wish to place clay between the rocks to stabilise and prevent soil from falling out of the gaps.
- Now place a layer of soil so that when you place the trees they are level with the top of the cliff and put the trees in place. You may like to place trees in the side of the cliff but these should always be weathered and have the impression of clinging to life.
- Now mound the soil around the trees and place moss on the surface of the soil.
- Now place gravel where the beach and water is to be.

You will have spotted that the Coastal style is very similar to the alpine and that the major difference is the use of gravel and the position of the rocks.

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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

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.

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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

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

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