Landscape Views

The newsletter of the International Saikei Association 栽景

AUGUST 2010

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International Saikei Association

Quick News and Board Activity

Board News

Editor

In October of 2009 we were asked by a members if there was any recognition in membership levels for those who achieve their Award and Certificates. In March it was raised again by one of our Australian members, the board have listened and are now happy to announce some new membership levels (see article on page 3).

A board meeting is set to take place in September so all members are invited to send in any items for discussion to brian.dale@saikei.co.uk

Around the World

Editor

Unfortunately dues to circumstances beyond their control the visit by David Penny our president to Croatia has had to be cancelled this is due to problems with the venue.

We would like to welcome a number of new members from Australia and India. We all hope you will find membership to ISA a benefit to you and your Saikei.

Learning Opportunities News

Learning Coordinator

A group is about to start the Level 2 Certificate and we wish them all the best on their endeavours.

The distant learning course for the Award in Saikei is now available to all those who cant travel to Sussex for the formal training course. learning@saikei.co.uk

We are still seeking individuals to be approved to deliver the ISA training in their own country, contact David Penny to investigate this further. david.penny@saikei.co.uk

Events and Shows

Shows in 2011

Events Coordinator

I am currently looking into possible shows for 2011 so if anyone knows of a club running a show that might be open to having a stand of Saikei I would be very interested to hear from them.

Please contact me by email at littletree1@btinternet.com

New Membership Levels

Board

The New Membership Structure

All new members will start at Member and if they wish they can stay at that grade for their entire membership however for those who wish to progress their knowledge, there will be a number of membership grades linked to the learning opportunity structure.

Membership Grade	Requirement
Member	None
Associate – aISA	Certificate 1 + 1 years experience
Executive Associate – eISA	Certificate 2 + 3 years experience since last level award
Fellow - fISA	Certificate 3 + 5 years experience since last level award

Membership Executive Committee – MEC

The membership executive committee will meet/communicate with each other in matters where a person applies for a higher grade of membership and each case will be reviewed on its own merit. If an individual wishes to apply for a higher level of membership based on their experience only then a portfolio will be needed to assess their level, however they will not automatically receive the learning certificates as a result of their achieving a higher level of membership.

Portfolio

This will need to contain a CV type document identifying training/sources of knowledge, experience, shows attended and photos of recent work that would include a date card in the image.

Request for Membership Levels

All requests for a higher level of membership should be forwarded to Brian Dale via email brian.dale@saikei.co.uk

International Saikei Association

AUGUST 2010

Appreciating, Encouraging and Promoting the Art of Saikei

Tree Styles - Part 1

David Penny

Introduction

In this article we will explore the subtle differences between bonsai and Saikei styles we will also start this series with the formal upright style.

Bonsai Styles

It is worth remembering at this stage that the styles used in bonsai are formalised shapes that draw their inspiration from the natural shapes of trees. The formal styles do not pretend to be copies of natural trees but they are a reflection of the shapes seen in nature. In Saikei we reflect the middle ground between copying the shapes of nature and the more formalised styles of bonsai. So let's study some of the differences between Bonsai styles and natural tree shapes.

Bonsai styles are driven by the need to simplify the shapes of nature, to remove the clutter that naturally occurs, and to remove any defects so that the artist 'perfects' nature however a balance must be met between making the tree too perfect and thus artificial.

Saikei Styles

Saikei tree styles tend to lean towards being more natural and therefore less stylised, that said the styles are the same as those for bonsai and use the same names. those most often used in Saikei being.

(Continued from page 4)

- Formal Upright.
- Informal Upright
- Broom
- Slanting
- Windswept
- Cascade and Semi Cascade

In most Saikei arrangements we use multiple trees but in general these trees will be styled in one way i.e. Formal Upright, that said it may be that we use a cascade tree in conjunction with formal upright style trees in the case of a Gorge to add an additional element to further add interest and naturalness. Using multiple styles can itself cause problems in that it can dramatically change the harmony of the arrangement.

Formal Upright Style in Saikei

The formal upright is a style commonly used in all of the Saikei styles. In order to ensure that the naturalness is not lost the trees must be styled in a gentle way to reflect the natural landscape. The strict formation of formal uprights in Bonsai is less obvious or defined in Saikei which inevitably leads to some 'Bonsai People' querying or even criticizing our use of the term formal upright.

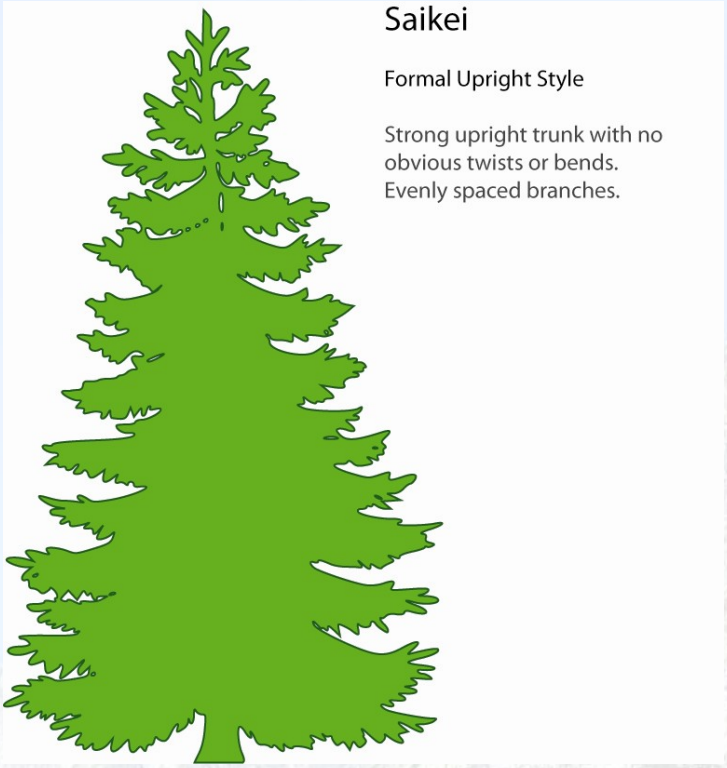
What constitutes a Formal Upright

A common question with beginners is 'how do I tell what style a tree is' if you use the following method you will be able to tell the style with a certain ease:

- The shape and number of trunks.
- The shape of the branches.
- The way that the roots grow.

So let's apply this to a formal upright

- It has a single straight trunk with no significant or visual turns.
- It has evenly spaced branches.
- It has a radiating surface root system.



Achieving the Formal Upright

To achieve this style I will mainly grow them from cutting or layering, at the early stages you should leave as many branches on during the growing stage as possible this will encourage the trunks to grow straight if any curves start to form in the trunk these should be wired out early to avoid the need to use large wire at a later stage. When the trunk reaches the desired thickness and height you can start to develop the branch structure by pruning and pinching techniques always keeping in mind the need to plant these with other trees to form a Saikei.

In the next in this series we will look at the methods used to train a tree into a formal upright.

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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