May 2009

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SAIKEI - LIVING LANDSCAPES

Landscape Views

The e.magazine of the International Saikei Association

Name Change

I am happy to advise that the International Association of Saikei is changing its name to the International Saikei Association (ISA).

As you can see we have kept the original logo concept and simply changed the name. There are 2 official logos as shown opposite, the first is for use on white and coloured stationary. The second is our logo for use at shows and on black stationary and web mailings.

If you should to wish to display the logo for any reason you must notify and gain approval from a member of the Executive. There will not normaly be a problem with you using the logo legitimately, it is simply a way of reducing the misuse of the logo. When "approved use" is given a original logo will be sent.

Demonstrations Aplenty

Since the last newsletter our own David Penny has been busy demonstrating around the south east of England.

He has demonstrated at the following Groups:

Dai Ichi Bonsai Group

Bedfordshire Bonsai Group

Eastleigh Bonsai Group

You can see more of the Bedfordshire Demonstration in the educational section of this newsletter.

At Dai-Ichi Bonsai Group David produced a Lowland style landscape with a stream.

At Bedfordshire Bonsai Group a river bank was created in the Alpine style.

At Eastleigh he created what started as a lakeside but ended as a moorland due to the shape of the trees.

New Members

We would like to welcome 5 new members to the ISA, from Eastleigh Bonsai Group who joined us on the 11th of May.

We also have a new member from Russia. Welcome to you all!!

We hope you will find membership to the International Saikei Association a great benefit in your study and enjoyment of Saikei.

The Executive

INTERNATIONAL SAIKEI ASSOCIATION
Landscape Views

Education - In the workshop with David Penny

Riverside Saikei

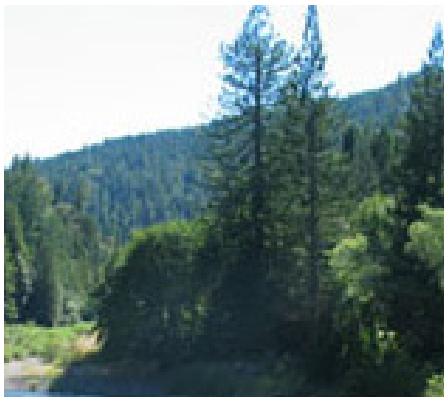
Introduction

In this article we will explore "Riverside" Saikei through text and pictures from a demonstration given to the Bedfordshire Bonsai Group.

As you will no doubt remember the challenge was set last month to create a Saikei based on a photo of a river winding through a conifer forest, (see below).

I decided this time to have a go myself so I chose the area in the square to base my Saikei on.

It just so happened that I was visiting the Bedfordshire Bonsai Group to give a demonstration, and (being a glutton for punishment) I decided to make this my demo.



Riverside

As a child I can remember a certain fascination with rivers, I remember walking along the bank watching the water passing by particularly when a autumn leaf floated by. Rivers always have evoked a sense of calm within me and when I pass by a stream or river I have an urge to stop.

About Riverside Saikei

The sub style of riverside can fall under either alpine or lowland and the use of trees and rocks will often determine the type that they fall into. With riverside Saikei we have to use a certain amount of symbolism for instance we use gravel to represent the water and occasionally white sand to represent fast water, but the viewer will have to see past the physical material of gravel and sand and imagine the water.

The mechanics of building the Saikei differs little from the coastal styles but instead of large rocks smaller rocks are used to create a river bank instead of a cliff.

(Continued on page 4)

Materials

Trees in either mountain or lowland style

Rocks that reflect the style of riverside you wish to create i.e. smooth finish for lowland or rugged for alpine.

Mosses and companion plants

Gravel

White Sand if you wish to create fast water.

Designing the Saikei

Start by preparing the tray for the Saikei, apply insect netting over the drainage holes and wire this in.

Now look at the tray and imagine the scene, as a general rule of thumb, the riverbank should be positioned no more than at the ¾ point of the pot; this allows at least ¼ to be the river.

Once you have prepared the tray you can start to arrange your rocks you should do this by sorting the rocks into sizes, and then lay them out roughly in the tray.

Once you are happy with the arrangement you can bed them in using clay or sand (if using clay spray the pot where you intend to insert clay, this will help it to bond). Bed the rocks in, starting with the largest, by forming a mound of clay or sand placing the rock on top and pressing firmly into the clay, I often then look again adjust if required and then mould the clay around the rock. Continue this process until all rocks are placed.

Now we can start to add planting soil into the spaces around the rock, try to ensure that you feed the soil into all the open spaces. Once you have a base layer around the rocks you can start to prepare and place the trees. If you have not pre-prepared the trees you will need to shape the trees and then tease out the root system (Remember as soon as you have finished teasing out the roots wrap the roots in a damp cloth to prevent drying).

Now start to arrange the trees.

Try to avoid having trees in a line or one tree completely hiding another.

Once you have the trees in place you can start to add the moss and companion plants. You should arrange the moss so that it shows a mixture of texture and colour. Think about shade and use darker moss where shaded areas would be.

Now add gravel (Fine) to the Saikei where the river bank and water would be. If you wish to add fast running water gently sprinkle a small amount of white sand around any small rocks you have added to the river, try to capture the flow of the water.

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

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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