



HO YOKU *School of Bonsai*

INTENSIVE WEEKEND COURSES

With Colin Lewis

DESIGNED specifically for serious bonsai students in groups of no more than twelve, sessions cover in depth the practical, horticultural and aesthetic principles of the Ho Yoku School of Bonsai and take place on Friday evening, all day Saturday, Saturday evening optional, and all day Sunday at the host's venue. The inclusive fee is \$2000 plus expenses.

Friday evening 6:30 - 10:00

Brief introduction.

Techniques: Wiring!

The single most important technique in bonsai training, yet nobody's wiring technique is beyond improvement. A simple yet ingenious method of getting it right. Hands-on session.

- Techniques: Heavy bending.

Descriptions and demonstrations of how to make big bends in big branches with minimal risk to the tree.

Saturday morning 9:00 - 12:30

Discussion: Bonsai soils.

What's good, what's bad, what's available

Techniques: Root pruning.

(Hold on, you might not know as much as you think...) Root pruning can serve many more purposes than rejuvenation: nebari improvement, angle adjustment, restructuring, initial design step.... But it must be done right.

Brief examination of students trees

for the practical afternoon workshop.

Saturday afternoon 1:30 - 5:00

Practical workshop:

Root pruning and repotting.

Saturday evening 7:00 - 10:00

An evening of design critiques and discussions on students projects, during which students may also work on preparing their trees for Sunday's practical workshop.

Sunday morning 9:00 - 12:00

Developing and pruning deciduous trees:

If the initial branch structure has been properly built, very little wiring will be necessary to complete the design. A good understanding of pruning theory and practice is essential. Students will be asked to bring deciduous trees for possible demonstrations of specifics.

Discussions on students trees

for practical afternoon workshop.

Sunday afternoon 1:00 - 5:00

Practical design workshop: 'One tree at a time'.

Too many workshops are wasted when students bring along several trees "just for ideas" and fail to implement any of them at home. So I have one rule: Choose the tree you want to work, and stick with it until it is finished - and it isn't finished until I say so! Only then can you begin another.

Students will leave with a sketch of the future form of their workshop trees.

Throughout the weekend students will be presented with a series of brief design exercises on paper.

These are intended to stretch the imagination and to encourage students to look beyond the obvious.

A week or two before the Intensive Course participants will be notified of what to bring along each day and how to prepare their trees for the practical sessions.