Classical Bonsai MasterClass

If you have been growing bonsai for some time and wish to advance your skill level in producing high quality bonsai, then this Classical Bonsai MasterClass is designed for you. The detailed instruction and individual help with your bonsai will reinforce the principles and techniques learned from the program. The instruction and personal attention will provide confidence in the development of your future bonsai designs.

The Classical Bonsai MasterClass will consist of lectures on classical bonsai and guided workshops to ground your skills and reinforce the principles discussed. You will work on your bonsai with the guidance of William N. Valavanis, increasing your understanding and skill while also improving the quality of your trees. The practical application of the techniques learned and the personal attention during the work sessions will be beneficial to the improvement of your bonsai skill and understanding of classical bonsai art. The level of quality bonsai is increasing in the United States as can be clearly seen in the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibitions. Improve and refine your trees during the open workshops for developing exhibition quality bonsai.

Professionally trained horticulturist and bonsai artist William N. Valavanis will teach the Classical Bonsai MasterClass at the International Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester, New York. Drawing on his experience of teaching classical bonsai art for over fifty years on five continents, he will freely share his knowledge and techniques and help you to practically apply them in the open workshops. Lectures on core principles and skills will begin each day. Detailed techniques and refined design will be illustrated using some of the developed specimens from the Valavanis Bonsai Collection.

Limited to only five students, the Classical Bonsai MasterClass can be customized to the student’s interests and bonsai brought to the workshops. Seasonally related and other advance topics will be fully explained and explored in future sessions to be announced at a later date.

Registration:
Registration for the three day Classical Bonsai MasterClass is $600 per student which includes personal instruction by Wm. N. Valavanis, lunch and snacks during the day. This session can also be extended by participating or observing the regularly scheduled open workshops on Friday and Saturday. Please prepare and bring your tools, wire, supplies as well as plants, and are encouraged to bring both untrained nursery stock as well as developed bonsai for the open workshops. Items may also be purchased during the sessions. Students traveling from long distances may work on specimens from the International Bonsai Arboretum.

Transportation may be easily arranged from the Greater Rochester International Airport as well as to and from the motels. The eight motels within two miles of the International Bonsai Arboretum offer comfortable accommodations in all price ranges.

Please contact Mr. Valavanis for any questions and to register for the Classical Bonsai MasterClass.
2015 Course Outline

Tuesday, March 24, 2015
Day 1– Classical Bonsai Aesthetics
   AM: Lecture– Aesthetics:
       Principles of Classical bonsai design - Aesthetics for classical bonsai styles
       Open workshop– Suggestions for student’s bonsai improvement
   PM: Lecture– Bonsai Training Techniques:
       General Pruning: Drastic, New Growth & Thinning
       Open workshop– Training student’s bonsai

Evening: Bonsai Society of Upstate New York meeting/workshop with Wm. N. Valavanis

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
Day 2– Classical Bonsai Techniques
   AM: Lecture– Technical Shaping Techniques:
       Advanced Wiring Techniques
       Open workshop– Wiring student’s bonsai
   PM: Lecture– Horticultural Techniques:
       Transplanting: Soils - Containers - Root Pruning - Mossing - Aftercare
       Open workshop– Training student’s bonsai

Thursday, March 26, 2015
Day 3– Refining Classical Bonsai
   AM: Lecture– Improving Bonsai:
       Improving root systems - trimming - Wiring - Transplanting
       Open workshop– Training student’s bonsai
   PM: Open workshop– Training student’s bonsai

Additional Open Workshops
Participate or observe the regularly scheduled classes at The International Bonsai Arboretum
   Friday AM: Study masterpieces on your own
   PM: Open Workshop
   Saturday AM: Bonsai Seminar on Forest Bonsai
   PM: Open Workshop