



Dear Bonsai Fans,

The idea of a Bonsai Academy came to me as I found, that during my workshops, more and more attendees expressed an unmitigated interest in learning more about the basics of Bonsai. I often hear that expectations of a Workshop are not being met. During the course, comments such as *relative little worth is given to basic technique* or after the participant worked on the tree and application of wire, the 'Master performed *a few magical twists and voila*' you now had a finished Bonsai. This occurs not only due to limited time allotted for the seminar but also because of the expectations of the student to take home a finished tree.

I propose an alternative to this concept. A series of courses consisting of a *Basic Course*, which is also a stepping stone for a *Special Course*, the contents of which, even the more experienced in the Bonsai Scene can enhance their knowledge and broaden their spectrum in the actual professional and technical know how.

Naturally, it doesn't make much sense during these series of courses to redefine Bonsai. Instead more emphasis will be given to the possibilities of Technique and Bonsai Design, combined with the students own personal experiences. This way, in the end, the student will be able to make the final decision what his or her design should be according to design parameters and personal preference.

Since August of 2002 I have presented this concept in Europe and it has been received with wide acceptance and with positive response. The following attachments consist of a course outline. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jürgen Zaar
Bonsai Studio Cochem



Basic Course

Instructor: Jürgen Zaar
Time Period: 1 Day

- General overview of Bonsai (Character, Drama, Dynamic, Grandeur, Submissiveness and Harmony)
- Characteristics and peculiarities of different styles
- Tree structures
- Proportion and Balance
- Branch placement
- Preparation and candle pinching of different Conifer species
- Wiring techniques on different Conifers
- Building of Foliage Mass and Ramification
- Pot/Container Basics
- Dimensional tuning of Container to Bonsai
- Preparation and application of Raffia
- 2 and 5 Needle Pines

1. Special Course: Jin and Shari, Deadwood Techniques

Instructor: Jürgen Zaar
Time Period: 1 Day

- Everything about Jin/Shari Techniques, why, when and how to proceed effectively
- Different techniques with various tools
- Working with a Router; which Router Bits and Sanders to use for particular areas
- Treatment to preserve Jin and Shari areas
- Recognizing the living areas (vein) and how far to proceed



2. Special Course: Analysis of Raw Material – Improvement of Completed Material

Instructor: Jürgen Zaar
Time Period: 1 Day

- Discussion and analysis of finished material under strict Japanese guidelines
- How to improve and evaluate Bonsai for presentation
- Analysis of raw material
- Selecting the front of the tree and first branch
- Discussion of multiple design possibilities on material
- Creating the Apex
- Various bending techniques with Raffia
- Splitting and bending of branches and trunk

3. Special Course: Specific Disease, Tree Protection, Fertilization, Flowering Species

Instructor: Frank Busch
Time Period: 1 Day

- Nutritional Assimilation and how it functions in the tree
- When and how to fertilize, seasonal differences
- How to recognize specific disease
- Most frequent disease particular to Bonsai
- How to proceed against disease, which substance is effective – Azalea and Flowering Species (Care and Design)