

Bonsai Basics: Chrysanthemum Bonsai

Shape your own flowering bonsai in a single growing season.

The horticultural perfection of a bonsai does not have to take decades to accomplish. The chrysanthemum can be artfully shaped into a bonsai within one growing season. Register for a series of five chrysanthemum bonsai classes, beginning on World Bonsai Day, Saturday, May 13th, 2023, and produce a styled, blooming chrysanthemum bonsai by November.

This **Bonsai Basics** is a course for beginners and intermediates, consisting of five classes beginning May 13 and ending November 4. A maximum of 40 students will meet all together for the first and last class for lectures and demonstrations. In between, students attend three, two-hour classes in small groups of 10 for more intensive teaching by curatorial staff of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.



Participants will learn the basics of watering, wiring, pinching, pruning, potting, and displaying chrysanthemum bonsai. While these principles also apply to bonsai that are traditional woody tree species, using the chrysanthemum allows students to see the results of their pruning, wiring, and other work, within only a few months instead of after years of training. When cared for correctly, these “gnome” species of chrysanthemums, bred for their small flower and leaf size, will bloom heavily in the fall, providing students with an opportunity to present their personally designed, flowering bonsai in an all-group display.

This course is offered in partnership with Potomac Bonsai Association and Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society.

Program Prerequisite Requirements:

Participants must be 12 years of age or older and have access to an outdoor growing area with a minimum of 6 hours of direct sun per day.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Course Materials:

Participants in the course will be provided with the following:

- Three chrysanthemum plants
- Growing containers
- One ceramic bonsai container for final display
- Aluminum wire for styling (1mm, 1.5mm, 2mm)
- Potting mix
- Drainage screens

Participants are expected to bring or provide their own:

- Pruning scissors - (any scissors will work)
- Fertilizer for encouraging growth during the time between classes.

Course Fee: \$150 for all 5 classes

Registration: Students must choose ONE time-slot for all lessons: 2,3 & 4. If you choose Group A for, Saturday June 17th, you are expected to attend Group A for all three of the small-group sessions—10 students maximum in Group A, B, C & D.

Lesson 1

Saturday, May 13: All groups (1pm – 4pm)

Lesson 2

Saturday, June 17: Group A (10am – 12 pm), Group B (1pm – 3pm)

Sunday, June 18: Group C (10am – 12pm), Group D (1pm – 3pm)

Lesson 3

Saturday, August 5: Group A (10am – 12 pm), Group B (1pm – 3pm)

Sunday, August 6: Group C (10am – 12pm), Group D (1pm – 3pm)

Lesson 4

Saturday, September 2: Group A (10am – 12 pm), Group B (1pm – 3pm)

Sunday, September 3: Group C (10am – 12pm), Group D (1pm – 3pm)

Lesson 5

Saturday, November 4: All groups (1pm – 4pm)

Program Schedule:

Lesson 1

Saturday, May 13th (All students: 1:00PM-4:00PM)

Lecture in USNA Auditorium: Introduction to the course, history of bonsai and bonsai chrysanthemums, introduction to bonsai styles, tour of National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, and course materials.

Lesson 2

Saturday, June 17th (Group A 10:00AM-12:00PM, Group B 1:00PM-3:00PM) **or**

Sunday, June 18th (Group C 10:00AM-12:00PM, Group D 1:00PM-3:00PM)

Small-Group Instruction in the Bonsai Museum Lecture and Demonstration Center:
Finalize design selections, potting, wiring, and pinching to begin initial design.

Lesson 3

Saturday, August 5th (Group A 10:00AM-12:00PM, Group B 1:00PM-3:00PM) **or**

Sunday, August 6th (Group C 10:00AM-12:00PM, Group D 1:00PM-3:00PM)

Small-Group Instruction in the Bonsai Museum Lecture and Demonstration Center:
Health check, hard pruning, and wiring, and pinching to balance foliage density and encourage flowering.

Lesson 4

Saturday, September 2nd (Group A 10:00AM-12:00PM, Group B 1:00PM-3:00PM) **or**

Sunday, September 3rd (Group C 10:00AM-12:00PM, Group D 1:00PM-3:00PM)

Small-Group Instruction in the Bonsai Museum Lecture and Demonstration Center:
Health check, repotting near-complete bonsai into ceramic bonsai pots, review of care to encourage optimal flowering, and principles of bonsai display.

Lesson 5

Saturday, November 4th (All students: 1:00PM-4:00PM)

Lecture in USNA Auditorium: Display set-up, viewing and discussion of individual displays.