

# MIRAI

## Welcome to Defining Techniques

### What do Defining Techniques courses look like?

1. Students will sign up for 3 day session(s) at Mirai depending on the scope of knowledge they wish to learn. Each 3 day session will have a list of topics that are appropriate to cover at that time of year. These sessions are NOT species specific. These are cumulative sessions to address bonsai work appropriate for that time of year. Students are NOT limited to the number of sessions you attend each year. Our goal is to provide self-directed opportunities to help you improve in areas you are weak and to push your skills in the process.
2. 10 days prior to your session you will receive a digital lecture tailored to the topics we are going to be working to execute technically in your session. You will also receive a curriculum of Mirai Live content you are expected to not only watch, but also have practiced the techniques involved to develop as much familiarity as possible. If students come to class without having watched the lecture and practiced the necessary skills, the scope of work given in class will be significantly reduced.
3. 3 days prior to your session we will have a live Q and A session via Zoom to shore up your knowledge and define the focus of your time at Mirai
4. The day you show up the workshop will be prepared with workspaces for your trees, or with trees Mirai has prepared for you to advance your technical abilities based on what you defined as your focus in the live Q and A. We will strictly focus on the act of technical application. PLEASE UNDERSTAND, YOU ARE HERE TO MASTER TECHNIQUE and you are here to WORK.
5. All 3 days will be hands-on. Students can focus on one scope of work, or on multiple scopes of work across multiple species. However, once a student begins a piece of work it

is expected that the student will FINISH THE WORK. Again, you are here to master the technique, and that means you will need to dedicate yourselves to that objective.

## **FAQ's**

1. Can I bring my own trees?

**Absolutely! We encourage you to bring your trees and advance your technical skills on your own work. HOWEVER, we do ask that you bring only trees you can accomplish the work on and no more than that. Defining Techniques classes are NOT a time for Ryan to critique and provide broad feedback on your Bonsai collection.**

2. Am I limited to the number of courses I can take in a year?

**NO! In fact, the new system creates more opportunities to study, provides more information for each session, and is designed to improve and maximize your ability to advance as far as you want to go as a Bonsai practitioner. Please, take as many classes as you'd like.**

3. Are there beginner classes, intermediate classes, or advanced classes?

**Defining Techniques classes are homogenous across all skill sets. However, advanced students will be tasked with assisting beginner and intermediate students to improve their skills. Like it or not, teaching demands mastery of technique, and Mirai's advanced students are expected to offer mentorship during class to help them advance their own understanding.**

4. How many students will be in each class?

**5 students maximum with no exceptions. Over the course of Defining Concepts class size continued to grow because Mirai did not want to stop the progress of student's improvement. This did develop into a difficult dynamic. With the new system being limitless in the number of courses a student can take, and being self-directed in regards to timing, there is no limitation to educational advancement thus eliminating the increase in class size.**

5. How much does a 3-day session cost?

**\$1200. This includes a guided curriculum, comprehensive lecture, Live Q and A session, and 3 full days of hands on technical application without lecture or Q and A interruption.**

# 2021 Class Schedule

## Week #1:

Dates: Friday, January 8 - Sunday, January 10

Focus: Repotting fundamentals including soil prep, top dressing prep, tool prep. Focus on repotting of Field Grown Pine, Coastal Cypress, Coastal Oak - Build technical proficiency in the handling of field-grown pine roots and their transition to a Bonsai container for the first time. Learn the nuances and soil compositions for different species of field-grown pines and expand your technical understanding of how to handle Cypress and Oak in this dynamic time of repotting to begin the season.

Notes: Although the focus of this session is on repotting, the fundamental component is on an as-needed basis. For example, you will probably sift soil, but the education is not on sifting soil. This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 1 class**

## Week #2

Dates: Monday, January 18 - Wednesday, January 20

Focus: Repotting fundamentals including soil prep, top dressing prep, tool prep. Focus on repotting of Field Grown Pine, Yamadori Pine - Further your ability to handle complex field grown stock. In addition, learn the nuances and differences to handling Pine Yamadori.

Notes: Although the focus of this session is on repotting, the fundamental component is on an as-needed basis. For example, you will probably sift soil, but the education is not on sifting soil. This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 2 class**.

## Week #3

Dates: Friday, January 29 - Sunday, January 31

Focus: Repotting Yamadori Pine - Final week of Pine repotting and handling the most complex Yamadori pieces. Learn the intricacies of the most intense root manipulation and specifics of handling pines during repotting.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 3 class**. Students must have repotted at Mirai for at least one season before signing up for this session.

#### **Week #4**

Dates: Monday, February 8 - Wednesday, February 10

Focus: Repotting fundamentals including soil prep, top dressing prep, tool prep. Focus on repotting Junipers of all shapes and sizes including whips, filed grown stock, and Yamadori Junipers.

Notes: Although the focus of this session is on repotting, the fundamental component is on an as-needed basis. For example, you will probably sift soil, but the education is not on sifting soil. This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Juniper 1 class**

#### **Week #5**

Dates: Friday, February 19 - Sunday, February 21

Focus: Repotting fundamentals including soil prep, top dressing prep, tool prep. Focus on repotting Junipers and Yamadori Junipers of medium size. Smaller Junipers are not necessarily easier but we dive into the nuances of smaller Juniper handling specifically this week.

Notes: Although the focus of this session is on repotting, the fundamental component is on an as-needed basis. For example, you will probably sift soil, but the education is not on sifting soil. This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Juniper 2 class**

#### **Week #6**

Dates: Monday, March 1 - Wednesday, March 3

Focus: Repotting Yamadori Juniper. Final week of Juniper repotting handling the most complex Yamadori pieces. Learn the intricacies of the most intense root manipulation and specifics of handling Junipers during repotting.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Juniper 3 class**. Students must have repotted at Mirai for at least one season before signing up for this session.

#### **Week #7**

Dates: Friday, March 12 - Sunday, March 14

Focus: Repotting fundamentals including soil prep, top dressing prep, tool prep. Focus on repotting Elongating Species and Broadleaved Deciduous material. As we enter the

beginning of active growth we hit the optimal time to work on both genres in the repotting process.

Notes: Although the focus of this session is on repotting, the fundamental component is on an as-needed basis. For example, you will probably sift soil, but the education is not on sifting soil. This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Elongating Species 1 class** with the addition of Broadleaved repotting.

### **Week #8**

Dates: Monday, March 22 - Wednesday, March 24

Focus: Repotting fundamentals including soil prep, top dressing prep, tool prep. Focus on repotting Elongating Species and Broadleaved Deciduous material. As we enter the beginning of active growth we hit the optimal time to work on both genres in the repotting process.

Notes: Although the focus of this session is on repotting, the fundamental component is on an as-needed basis. For example, you will probably sift soil, but the education is not on sifting soil. This session would correlate to **Defining Elongating Species 2 class** with the addition of Broadleaved repotting.

### **Week #9**

Dates: Friday, April 2 - Sunday, April 4

Focus: Repotting Yamadori Elongating Species and larger Broadleaved trees. The final week of repotting for both genres, handling the most complex Yamadori pieces. Learn the intricacies of the most intense root manipulation and specifics of handling both genres during repotting.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Elongating Species 3 class** with the addition of Broadleaved repotting. Students must have repotted at Mirai for at least one season before signing up for this session.

### **Week #10**

Dates: Monday, April 12 - Wednesday, April 14

Focus: Spring work on Elongating Species, Juniper, and Broadleaved species including pruning, styling, and pinching. As we enter the growth phase of the season we see an

optimal time to be making aesthetic changes and to begin the growth management process. Different species begin growth at staggered times and this allows us to work on Spruce, Redwood, Larch, Hemlock, Doug and true Fir, Deciduous, Juniper, and Cypress to a varying degree. Timing and operations depend on the pace of the trees and their state of growth but we are sure to mix up a multitude of these techniques as we explore the broad concept of creation and development.

Notes: This will be a heavy session of wiring. Students will be expected to have watched and rehearsed the Mirai wiring methodology. We will not be teaching wiring, instead, we will be improving your wiring and mixing in growth management with wire and design applications.

### **Week #11**

Dates: Friday, April 23 - Sunday, April 25

Focus: Spring work on Elongating Species, Juniper, and Broadleaved species including pruning, styling, and pinching. As we enter the growth phase of the season we see an optimal time to be making aesthetic changes and to begin the growth management process. Different species begin growth at staggered times and this allows us to work on Spruce, Redwood, Larch, Hemlock, Doug and true Fir, Deciduous, Juniper, and Cypress to a varying degree. Timing and operations depend on the pace of the trees and their state of growth but we are sure to mix up a multitude of these techniques as we explore the broad concept of creation and development.

Notes: This will be a heavy session of wiring. Students will be expected to have watched and rehearsed the Mirai wiring methodology. We will not be teaching wiring, instead, we will be improving your wiring and mixing in growth management with wire and design applications.

### **Week #12**

Dates: Monday, May 3 - Wednesday, May 5

Focus: Spring work on Elongating Species, Juniper, and Broadleaved species including pruning, styling, and pinching. As we enter the growth phase of the season we see an optimal time to be making aesthetic changes and to begin the growth management process. Different species begin growth at staggered times and this allows us to work on Spruce, Redwood, Larch, Hemlock, Doug and true Fir, Deciduous, Juniper, and Cypress to a varying degree. Timing and operations depend on the pace of the trees and their state of

growth but we are sure to mix up a multitude of these techniques as we explore the broad concept of creation and development.

Notes: This will be a heavy session of wiring. Students will be expected to have watched and rehearsed the Mirai wiring methodology. We will not be teaching wiring, instead, we will be improving your wiring and mixing in growth management with wire and design applications.

### **Week #13**

Dates: Friday, May 14 - Sunday, May 16

Focus: Air layering Juniper, Broadleaved Deciduous, and Elongating Species. Approach Grafting Juniper branches and roots. Live vein reduction on Junipers. Pinching and growth management on Elongating Species. We will dig into the propagation of grafting stock and medium or small-sized material for both our Junipers and deciduous material. We may also have the chance to air-layer material for raft or shohin creation on species in the Elongating Species category. In addition, we will take the opportunity to graft branching and roots on several Yamadori Junipers to improve the success of the material as Bonsai as we further work on live vein reduction and growth management as a continuation of previous weeks.

Notes: This class is not about production, it is about accuracy. Students will be expected to both take part, as well as find value in observing the intricacies of each project since every tree will demand a customized approach. We will intermix operations to keep us busy but be prepared to take part in every aspect of grafting from support to execution.

### **Week #14**

Dates: Monday, May 24 - Wednesday, May 26

Focus: Air layering Juniper, Broadleaved Deciduous, and Elongating Species. Approach Grafting Juniper branches and roots. Live vein reduction on Junipers. Pinching and growth management on Elongating Species. We will dig into the propagation of grafting stock and medium or small-sized material for both our Junipers and deciduous material. We may also have the chance to air-layer material for raft or shohin creation on species in the Elongating Species category. In addition, we will take the opportunity to graft branching and roots on several Yamadori Junipers to improve the success of the material as Bonsai as we further work on live vein reduction and growth management as a continuation of previous weeks.

Notes: This class is not about production, it is about accuracy. Students will be expected to both take part, as well as find value in observing the intricacies of each project since every tree will demand a customized approach. We will intermix operations to keep us busy but be prepared to take part in every aspect of grafting from support to execution.

### **Week #15**

Dates: Friday, June 4 - Sunday, June 6

Focus: Pines, Pines, Pines, some Elongating Species, and partial defoliation on Broadleaved Species. We will be post-flush harden pruning short-needle single-flush Pines, decandling multi-flush Pines, cleaning up five-needle Pines, and doing post-flush hardening work on our Elongating Species like Spruce, Hemlock, and Fir. This is a magical time of year to learn pruning as a way to enhance our Bonsai's shape.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 1 class.**

### **Week #16**

Dates: Monday, June 14 - Wednesday, June 16

Focus: Pines, Pines, Pines, some Elongating Species, and partial defoliation on Broadleaved Species. We will be post-flush harden pruning short-needle single-flush Pines, decandling multi-flush Pines, cleaning up five-needle Pines, and doing post-flush hardening work on our Elongating Species like Spruce, Hemlock, and Fir. This is a magical time of year to learn pruning as a way to enhance our Bonsai's shape.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 2 class.**

### **Week #17**

Dates: Friday, June 25 - Sunday, June 27

Focus: Pines, Pines, Pines, some Elongating Species, and partial defoliation on Broadleaved Species. We will be post-flush harden pruning short-needle single-flush Pines, decandling multi-flush Pines, cleaning up five-needle Pines, and doing post-flush hardening work on our Elongating Species like Spruce, Hemlock, and Fir. This is a magical time of year to learn pruning as a way to enhance our Bonsai's shape.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 3 class.**

### **Week #18**

Dates: Monday, July 5 - Wednesday, July 7

Focus: Junipers, Junipers, and some more Junipers. 'Tis the season for Juniper work. We will be devoted to all aspects of Juniper design from live vein cleaning and deadwood maintenance and design, to styling raw stock, to refining Mirai's best. Come ready to clean, wash, prune, and wire Junipers of all shapes, sizes, and varieties.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Juniper 1 class.**

### **Week #19**

Dates: Friday, July 16 - Sunday, July 18

Focus: Junipers, Junipers, and some more Junipers. 'Tis the season for Juniper work. We will be devoted to all aspects of Juniper design from live vein cleaning and deadwood maintenance and design, to styling raw stock, to refining Mirai's best. Come ready to clean, wash, prune, and wire junipers of all shapes, sizes, and varieties.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Juniper 2 class.**

### **Week #20**

Dates: Monday, July 26 - Wednesday, July 28

Focus: Junipers, Junipers, and some more Junipers. 'Tis the season for Juniper work. We will be devoted to all aspects of Juniper design from live vein cleaning and deadwood maintenance and design, to styling raw stock, to refining Mirai's best. Come ready to clean, wash, prune, and wire junipers of all shapes, sizes, and varieties.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Juniper 3 class.**

### **Week #21**

Dates: Friday, August 6 - Sunday, August 8

Focus: **ADVANCED** heavy bending and subsequent design on Pine and Juniper. August in the Pacific NW is a great time to do heavy bending and make big moves on the structure of most types of Pine and Juniper. For students who have earned their stripes at Mirai, this is an advanced opportunity to further your skills and dig into some of the bigger work under Ryan's guidance.

Notes: This class requires you to have been a student at Mirai for at least 3 years and at least one of those years was spent studying either Juniper or Pine.

### **Week #22**

Dates: Monday, August 16 - Wednesday, August 18

Focus: **ADVANCED** heavy bending and subsequent design on Pine and Juniper. August in the Pacific NW is a great time to do heavy bending and make big moves on the structure of most types of Pine and Juniper. For students who have earned their stripes at Mirai, this is an advanced opportunity to further your skills and dig into some of the bigger work under Ryan's guidance.

Notes: This class requires you to have been a student at Mirai for at least 3 years and at least one of those years was spent studying either Juniper or Pine.

### **Week #23**

Dates: Friday, August 27 - Sunday, August 29

Focus: **ADVANCED** heavy bending and subsequent design on Pine and Juniper. August in the Pacific NW is a great time to do heavy bending and make big moves on the structure of most types of Pine and Juniper. For students who have earned their stripes at Mirai, this is an advanced opportunity to further your skills and dig into some of the bigger work under Ryan's guidance.

Notes: This class requires you to have been a student at Mirai for at least 3 years and at least one of those years was spent studying either Juniper or Pine.

### **Week #24**

Dates: Monday, September 6 - Wednesday, September 8

Focus: Black Pine field-grown styling and Ponderosa Pine paradise. That's right, September marks the moment in the year when we get to dedicate ourselves to the two species of pine that continue their growth until early fall. We will focus on initial work for field-grown Black Pines in development, the pruning aspects of continuing Pine development, and secondary and tertiary stylings of developed Ponderosa Pines.

Notes: This session will require students to be proficient with the use of heavier gauges of copper wire.

## **Week #25**

Dates: Friday, September 17 - Sunday, September 19

Focus: Black Pine field-grown styling and Ponderosa Pine paradise. That's right, September marks the moment in the year when we get to dedicate ourselves to the two species of Pine that continue their growth until early fall. We will focus on initial work for field-grown Black Pines in development, the pruning aspects of continuing pine development, and secondary and tertiary stylings of developed Ponderosa Pines.

Notes: This session will require students to be proficient with the use of heavier gauges of copper wire.

## **Week #26**

Dates: Monday, September 27 - Wednesday, September 29

Focus: Elongating Species pruning, styling, and creation. Yes, oh yes, the onset of Fall marks the beginning of a major season for Spruce, Hemlock, Thuja, Hinoki, and Cryptomeria work. We will be focusing on new tree creation while we also take advantage of the timing to further refine and utilize the fruits of the summer's growth.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Elongating Species 1 class**.

## **Week #27**

Dates: Friday, October, 8 - Sunday, October 10

Focus: Elongating Species pruning, styling, and creation. Yes, oh yes, the onset of Fall marks the beginning of a major season for Spruce, Hemlock, Thuja, Hinoki, and Cryptomeria work. We will be focusing on new tree creation while we also take advantage of the timing to further refine and utilize the fruits of the summer's growth.

Notes: This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Elongating Species 2 class**.

## **Week #28**

Dates: Monday, October 18 - Wednesday, October 20

Focus: OPEN SEASON. The heart of October and early November is perhaps the most diversified moment of work in the entire season. We will be doing every aspect of Juniper styling, fall pruning of Deciduous whose leaves have expired, the styling of Elongating

Species, and anything else we haven't gotten around to from the perspective of Pines and Broadleaved work. This will be a design-heavy session.

### **Week #29**

Dates: Friday, October 29 - Sunday, October 31

Focus: OPEN SEASON. The heart of October and early November is perhaps the most diversified moment of work in the entire season. We will be doing every aspect of Juniper styling, fall pruning of Deciduous whose leaves have expired, the styling of Elongating Species, and anything else we haven't gotten around to from the perspective of Pines and Broadleaved work. This will be a design-heavy session.

### **Week #30**

Dates: Monday, November 8 - Wednesday, November 11

Focus: Multi-flush Pine shoot selection, strength balancing, and refinement design. Finally, a season dedicated to the most important period of the year for Multi-flush Pines. Learn nuances to styling full and highly ramified Black and Red Pine to further their refinement.

Notes: This session will require a focus on secondary/tertiary wiring....like, you'll be wiring all day long. This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 1 class**.

### **Week #31**

Dates: Friday, November 19 - Sunday, November 21

Focus: Multi-flush Pine shoot selection, strength balancing, and refinement design. Finally, a season dedicated to the most important period of the year for Multi-flush Pines. Learn nuances to styling full and highly ramified Black and Red Pine to further their refinement.

Notes: This session will require a focus on secondary/tertiary wiring....like, you'll be wiring all day long. This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 2 class**.

### **Week #32**

Dates: Monday, November 29 - Wednesday, December 1

Focus: Redwood fall styling and the finality of Multi-flush Pine shoot selection, strength balancing, and refinement design. We will be mixing up the species in this final course of the year to include the beginning of the redwood season. Learn nuances to styling full and

highly ramified Black and Red Pine to further their refinement and further build your skills around the handling of Redwood fall design creation.

Notes: This session will require a focus on secondary/tertiary wiring...like, you'll be wiring all day long. This session would correlate to **Defining Concepts Pine 3 class**.

Questions? Email [info@bonsaimirai.com](mailto:info@bonsaimirai.com).