

## **A Roadmap to an Aesthetic Pruning (AP) Career – AP Classes, Resources and Opportunities**

Here are the various components of an Aesthetic Pruning (AP) education and career. We've listed them in loosely sequential order. However, we hope you'll get involved in the Pruning Club and the APA while you're still learning the basics!

### Merritt College Horticulture classes

Give your work a solid foundation. Key subjects include arboriculture, pruning basics, soils, disease, and tree ID. The Horticulture department can be found at [www.merritt.edu/lanht/](http://www.merritt.edu/lanht/).

### Aesthetic Pruning class series

Offered on Saturdays at Merritt College, each fee-based class focuses on a particular skill-set, such as Japanese gardens, conifers, or flowering shrubs. The classes and schedule are described in detail at [thepruningclub.org/classes](http://thepruningclub.org/classes).

Merritt College's AP Award honors a focused academic effort. Class requirements can be found at [thepruningclub.org/classes](http://thepruningclub.org/classes).

Merritt College Aesthetic Pruning Club was founded by Dennis Makishima in 1989. We are an enthusiastic, welcoming community offering:

- Pruning events in public gardens where we practice our skills and give back to the community. Events are listed on the website: [thepruningclub.org/events?category=Events](http://thepruningclub.org/events?category=Events);
- An online mailing list for member communications (contact [petethepruner@earthlink.net](mailto:petethepruner@earthlink.net));
- Potlucks that happen twice a year on Merritt's campus—please join us!
- Bonsai workshops throughout the year, for all experience levels;
- Margie Potts AP Scholarship, awarded to a student who wishes to take Merritt College's yearlong AP series of classes, and whose application demonstrates a need and an educational commitment to learning the craft. Visit [thepruningclub.org/scholarships](http://thepruningclub.org/scholarships) for more information.
- The Find a Pruner listing helps new professionals advertise their services to the public.

Hands-on Class provides an opportunity for a small group of students to practice AP concepts with instructors in garden settings. Requirements for acceptance include an application and completion of 16 AP classes. Contact an AP instructor for more information.

Aesthetic Pruners Association (APA) focuses on supporting professional aesthetic pruners through certification, public outreach, and building relationships. The organization is expanding throughout North America. There are student memberships available.

- The APA Website features a calendar of organization and affiliates' events, an online mailing list, and a Professionals Forum for topic-specific conversations: [aestheticprunersassociation.org](http://aestheticprunersassociation.org).
- Certification by the APA is accomplished by application and testing. Details on becoming an APA Certified Aesthetic Pruner® (CAP) can be found on the APA website.
- New Professionals Meetings provide members with information about starting a business.
- Tree Talks and Tree Walks range from lectures on diseases to field trips to specialty collections and neighborhood walks.
- Annual membership meetings include reports from leadership as well as topical presentations.
- The APA Directory lists members' contact information as a way for the public to find and hire APA Certified Aesthetic Pruners®.
- Affiliates of the Aesthetic Pruning professional community benefit from and contribute to our growth.
- Sachiko Umehara Scholarship helps students pay for horticulture & pruning courses at Merritt College.

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) offers a wide range of valuable lectures and workshops. Website: [isa-arbor.com](http://isa-arbor.com)