



RMBS

May 2023

Volume 55 Issue 5

Rocky Mountain Juniper - Bjorn Bjorholm

President's Message

by Paul Koenning

President's message

Greetings from el Paso de Robles, or in English the pass of the oaks. If you ever have a chance to visit the area I highly recommend it, as it is filled with incredible trees, and wine too!;) Are you ready for more bonsai?

International bonsai artist Bjorn Bjorholm will be presenting at our monthly meeting on May 2nd at DBG in Gates Hall. This meeting will also be streamed online. Bjorn will be covering seasonal care of Junipers which will be packed with incredible information on how to better care for and enhance your junipers in your own collection.

Mark your calendars on May 20th to join us at Takayama Park to help continue our annual maintenance of the beautiful character pines planted in the park. This is a great way to help give back to the community, and to continue the strong

bond between Denver and our sister city of Takayama Japan.

What's happening June 8-10? OF course, you know and are already registered for the American Bonsai Society convention at DBG right? In case you were still sitting on the fence there are only 6 weeks remaining until show time, and I really hope you register for what you can and join us.

On May 2^{7th} from 9am until roughly noon we will continue our weekend workshop series with our next workshop hosted by Darell Havener. This is a great time to bring and work on your own trees while also socializing with fellow members. In addition, we will cover how to audit your own collection in search of a tree to show. I hope you will come and get inspired to display a tree in our annual show this September.

The Purple Pot Society has an incredible looking Kusamono/ ceramics workshop series with additional information provided later in this newsletter. Come join us for as much of this as you can, and now back to some bonsai inspiration from Paso Robles, CA.

While the town of Paso Robles is named after the coastal live oaks, like the one I am climbing, and blue oaks in the area, there is also many other species to admire including: coast redwood, Monterey cypress, big leaf maple, madrone, and manzanita. Most of these are not species we typically use for bonsai, except for redwoods, but inspiration for bonsai still abounds. I have to say that manzanita hold a special kind of magic, and on cold rainy days they really pop with inspiration!



Early in my obsession/ love affair with trees I realized that cloudy grey days were the best time to view fall color and some of the more subtle features and colorations on trees. For manzanita it really makes the red bark glow, and some rain adds a nice

glossy sheen as well. In addition, manzanita almost always have deadwood on the trunk and branches, and the wet weather really highlights the contrast between the two nicely. Add in a bit of lichen and the contrasting kaleidoscope of colors is hard to beat. The image below shows the striking contrasts very nicely, and to me is also reminiscent of the older practice of oiling peeled juniper bark before a show.



Another great aspect of manzanita for bonsai inspiration is that they rarely have straight trunks. It is far more typical for manzanita to emerge from the ground at a 20-40° angle, and then it's a wild guess as to what guided their initial growth. They twist and turn before ultimately reaching skyward. When I look at a grove of manzanita, which I highly recommend, I dream of taking as many seedlings as possible and working to create similarly angled trunks and twists as well. They really seem to live by their own rules, and only succumb to needing to grow upright as they mature and realize that photosynthesis is a requirement for their survival.



In Colorado we are only able to grow shrub form manzanita, which is a shame, but in California the tree form grows to 15 – 20 feet in prime conditions. I found one amongst an old live oak forest with an incredible trunk and root flair. I could stare at the photo of this tree daily for its beauty and inspiration. This manzanita has a roughly 2-foot diameter trunk, and the ridges, veins, and vasculature are incredible! Each and every old manzanita has an incredible story to tell, and even though I am not fully versed in their language I happily stare and absorb as much as possible in hopes of becoming fluent in their unspoken language.



So much inspiration and you have not even seen a full tree on its own! Often the tree form California manzanita are broad spreading woody plants that can be overly large shrub type plants, but when competing with surrounding canopies they more often take on a tree form. I have had the privilege to spade and move a few of these treasures and pause every time I get to see them in a landscape. Everything I have learned tells me this species is too

finicky to be used as bonsai, but if anyone happens to know the secret to domesticating this species and how to keep it happy in a pot please do share! Most often when I spade these trees, we capture the entire root ball, but there is one exception. The first image below is of a very angled trunked manzanita that I am still surprised we were able to get a tree spade around. Additionally, there were some very large root pops while spading this tree and I know we damaged a lot of the root ball. On top of all of that, this tree was spaded in July in the high heat. Maybe part of the trick to mastering this species is transplanting in the summer heat, but it should be practiced with nursery stock as opposed to mature and ancient trees. I hope you have enjoyed some of this tree and bonsai inspiration, and if you do ever make it out to the central coast of California make sure to check with me, and I will give you some hot spots to check out.





I am sure some of you have similar inspiration to share that helps to inspire your bonsai design. If you feel so inspired, I encourage you to write up an article, and we would love to include it in our monthly newsletter, as well as on our website. I look forward to learning from your unique bonsai perspectives, and experiences!

Presidents Message

pjkoenning@gmail.com

Just received some sad news. Walter Bucks wife Annie passed away on April 27. Cards of condolence can be sent to:

19044 E. Pinewood Drive Aurora, CO. 80016

6 Weeks to go!

American Bonsai Society Learning seminars
Denver Botanic Gardens June 8-10

The weekend schedule is [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Artist's biographies are [here](#).

Apply to exhibit [here](#).

Register to volunteer [here](#).

RMBS encourages all members to review the schedule of events and register to attend at least one day to experience a national convention, meet bonsai artists from all over the United States, attend a workshop(s)- even as a silent observer for no additional fees. The Director of the National Arboretum, Washington DC will be in attendance as well. This opportunity does not come along often!

Upcoming workshops:

Takayama Sister City Park annual tree trimming project on **May 20th**- details on next page.

Saturday, May 27 at Darell Heavener's home, Lakewood. The focus will be on working on your trees and selecting tree(s) to show. The address will be sent to anyone requesting to attend.

Kusamono/Ceramics Workshop Series

May 4, May 13, May 28, June 6. See previous email for information, contact Samantha Holme to register or for more information about dates and specific classes RSVP to: samtolve@gmail.com

I encourage you to think about registering a kusamono (or two) to the ABS show in June. Here is the registration [form](#) (due May 13th). There will be cash prizes awarded to the best 2 or 3 kusamonos. This will be the first ABS Convention with a juried kusamono display and I really want to make a great impression!

Saturday, June 24 Urban bonsais! Hosted by Patrick Allen. Learn about the tricks and tips of caring for, weathering, displaying, working on bonsai in an urban setting such as a townhouse or an apartment. Also relevant for all members regardless of growing conditions.

From the Archives



Takayama Park along Cherry Creek Drive North just west of S. Colorado Blvd. was dedicated Sunday. Among those participating in the ceremony were, left to right, Mrs. AT Haley, in Japanese kimono, chairwoman of the Denver Takayama Sister Cities Communities, TS Nakamura, president of Japanese Association of Colorado, Mayor Tom Curigan and Mrs. RW Cleghorn, president of the Denver People-to-People Corp. Takayama and Brest France, are Denver's sister cities. Brest Park, on the other side of Cherry Creek is dedicated to the French city.

City of Takayama Park
RMBS Community Outreach Event

Please join us and Denver Takayama Sister City Committee (DTSCC) volunteers on Saturday, May 20th at 9:00am for a semi-annual park maintenance. Parts of the maintenance includes “candling” of the five (5) bonsai character trees. This candling removes the new growth buds and helps direct the tree’s growth. Trash cleanup and weeding is also involved.

The City of Denver dedicated this park in 1967 to be a living reminder of the warm relationship between the cities of Denver, CO and Takayama, Japan. RMBS and DTSCC have been involved with maintaining this beautiful park for the past twenty-five plus years.

In addition to maintaining the park, in 2018 RMBS and Denver City Parks Department moved several big boulders from the Red Rocks area and carefully placed them near the bonsai character trees. It looks wonderful.

The park is located at **3700 Cherry Creek N Dr Denver, CO 80209** which is across from the **Waterway Carwash**. Please bring gloves and a hat. **Water and refreshments will be provided by DTSCC.**



MEMBERSHIP

By Patrick Allen – RMBS Membership Chair

We're continuing to grow. As of this newsletter we now have 179 members. Many are new to bonsai, and others have moved to Colorado and have bonsai collections.

If you meet these new members at a RMBS event, please welcome them and see if they need any help with the Bonsai trees, tell them how you deal with Colorado's weather, or just share with them how you got started. They will appreciate the comradery and help!

Please welcome our new members:

Will Koning

Andrew Herrmann

Marc Wilson

Christopher Lannen

Elizabeth Munson

Avery Lee

Christopher Floyd

RMBS HERITAGE PAGE

By Patrick Allen – RMBS Membership Chair

Mr. George Fukuma, one of the founders of the Senior Bonsai Society works on one of his trees. Photo taken in 1972.



Summer 1972
Mr. George Fukuma

RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

[Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society | Facebook](#) Post and view photos from RMBS members, post questions, comment

[Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Forum](#) RMBS website forum has articles of interest

[Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society \(@rocky_mountain_bonsai_society\) • Instagram photos and videos](#) View or post photos

[Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society - YouTube](#) RMBS meetings recorded appear here, other videos of interest including RMBS show

[Rmbonsai.org](#) RMBS website – headers: News & Events, Galleries, Join, Blog, Forum, Education

Other resources

[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)
[First Branch Bonsai](#)
[RMBS Facebook Page](#)

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Dues info.

Annual membership renewals were due July 1. Individual membership is \$35 per year, a family membership is \$50 per year. Since we are currently following social distancing measures, please send a check to:

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society

c/o Membership Renewal **PO BOX 2095 Littleton, CO. 80161** **This is our new mailing address.**

Please be sure to include your phone # & email with your check so we've up to date contact info for you.

To pay electronically you must have your own **PayPal** account or **Venmo** account set up and linked to a credit card or bank account. It's very easy to do on their websites.

With **PayPal**, you can send money or make a payment to anyone with an email address or mobile number.

From your **computer**, Smart Phone or iPad here's how to send money:

Log onto your PayPal account.

1. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.
2. Enter rockymountainbonsaisociety@gmail.com
3. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note (if needed) and click **Continue**.
4. Select "Sending to a friend."
5. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
6. Review the information and click **Send Payment Now**.

Venmo is an APP available only for smartphones or iPads. You can set up a Venmo account through the app and pay directly from there.

The name of the account in Venmo to send to is: RockyMountainbonsaisociety

2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program	Workshop
<u>May 2023 Monthly meeting</u> Tuesday, May 2 7PM Virtual- on Line/ Gates Hall	<u>BJORN BJORHOLM</u>	
<u>May Workshop</u> Saturday, May 27 Darell Havener host		DARELL HAVENER REVIEWING BONSAI TO CHOOSE FOR SHOW
<u>June 8,9,10 2023 ABS Convention</u> Denver Botanic Gardens	ANNUAL AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY CONVENTION AND SHOW	
<u>June Workshop</u> Saturday, June 24		URBAN BONSAI PATRICK ALLEN
<u>July Workshop</u> Saturday, July 15 Paul Koenning host		PAUL KOENNING FINAL WIRING AND PRUNING
<u>July 2023 Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, July 4 Denver Botanic Gardens- Gates Hall	<u>TBD</u>	
<u>August 2023 Monthly Meeting</u> Thursday , August 3 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens- Gates Hall	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u>	
<u>August Workshop</u> Saturday, August 19 David McPeters host		DAVID MCPETERS POT CLEANING AND USE OF MOSS
<u>September – Annual show</u> Friday Sept 1- Sunday Sept 3 Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>ANNUAL SHOW</u>	
<u>September Workshop</u> Saturday, September 9 Paul Koenning host		PAUL KOENNING WINTER PREP AND PEST INSPECTION
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 3 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens- Auditorium	<u>SERGIO CUAN</u>	



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Do you need a gift for a hard-to-shop for bonsai enthusiast? We offer Individual Bonsai Instruction Sessions and we have

Gift Certificates!! Use them for *anything* (supplies, classes, etc.) and at *any time*.

We're located on the west side of the Denver Metro area, near I-70 and Youngfield.

Email us at: co.bonsai.ltd@gmail.com