



JAPANESE BLACK PINE TOM ANGLEWICZ

RMBS

March 2021

Volume 53 Issue 3

## President's Message

by David McPeters

March is almost here. The days are longer and warmer, sometimes, and trees are awakening. Now is the time in Colorado where keeping an eye on the weather is necessary. On those warm days when the sun is out, the birds are singing, and it feels like spring caution is called for. It is still too early to get started. The last frost date at my house is May 13<sup>th</sup>. And everyone has heard the stories of the sudden hard freezes we experience. All of which is to say, have patience, but if you try to beat the weather and start setting out trees or repotting make sure you have the space, environment, and ability to protect them in case history repeats.

I keep some trees in the garage over the winter. Just those that cannot be allowed to freeze, or those I am worried about desiccation of smaller branches if I leave them outdoors. I keep no more than 10 to 15 in the garage. The downside is they leaf out early. As I write this, I have one maple and one crabapple already leafed out and another maple, a ginkgo, and a burning bush with buds swelling. I am now in the

shuttle stage of spring taking them into the sun during the day and bringing them back in in the evening. One hazard of taking them out during the day are the deer. At this time of year, they zero in on green foliage. There is always something.

Here is a picture of the garage setup. The trees are wedged in with all the other things stored in the garage over winter. The lighting is from four 4-foot LEDs. I overwinter some non-hardy pine seedlings, a boxwood, and a rosemary in the garage.



If you like bonsai and cooking, rosemary can feed both passions.

There have been queries on the website forum and in the survey taken at the end of 2020 about seedlings. Seedlings are a fun and inexpensive way to create pre-bonsai. They are a longer-term project.

Here is a link to a forum post from March 2020.

<https://www.rmbonsai.org/forum/rmbs-forum/bjorn-bonsai-u>

It includes a YouTube video by Bjorn Bjorholm on creating a clump style bonsai from seedlings. The video inspired me to create one with some maple seedlings I had grown from collected seeds. His video takes you through the process step by step of starting the first year and then what to do the second year. Give it a try. Below is a current picture of the one I talk about in the forum post. It is the that has started to leaf out in the garage. You can see one of the seedlings died. Have fun!



To kick start the spring and provide season appropriate information for newer members we have two programs this month that will be of interest.

Tom Anglewicz will do a presentation on repotting at the Tuesday monthly meeting on March 2nd. Tom has done several of these over the past years. They are highly informative, and Tom is a master at repotting. He is excellent at explaining what he is going to do, how he is doing it and why. Usually, his presentations are in person but this year it will be virtual. I have seen the draft of the presentation, it is not one to miss.

Later in the month Paul Koenning will do a Zoom presentation on soils, also called substrates. This is a presentation he has done for the club before. Questions about Bonsai soils routinely come up particularly for those new to Bonsai. Paul's presentations are always professionally researched and informative.

You do not want to miss either of these presentations if repotting is on your plan for later in the spring.

If you have not already done so check out RMBS on Facebook and Instagram. The social media team has been posting a lot of interesting content. All are encouraged to participate.

Till April. Stay safe.

David

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## RMBS Presentation on Repotting Fundamentals – March 2, 2021 by Tom Anglewicz

The following is an outline for my presentation on repotting process and techniques, for the virtual RMBS meeting on March 2, 2021. The presentation will take the form of a series of still photos of the process, with live commentary during the Zoom meeting. The subject for repotting will be a twin trunk Colorado Spruce.

1. **Why do we repot and when do we repot?** Repotting a bonsai is a serious operation. How do we know when it's time to do so?
2. **Preparation.** In the culinary arts there is a French phrase, *Mise en Place*. Roughly translated, it means "everything in its place," and a whole lot more. What are the critical items we need to have "in their place" to proceed with repotting?
3. **Soils.** There is obviously much controversy about soil components for bonsai. Why is bonsai substrate different from normal potting soil? What are the functions of soil components? Why do we screen soil particles and differentiate their size?
4. **Container Selection.** What are the basic considerations in selecting a new container for a bonsai? How are these decisions influenced by both aesthetics and plant health? Why is it difficult to identify the right container before we remove the tree from its current container?
5. **Removing the Tree.** What is the correct sequence of operations to remove a bonsai from its existing container? What are the appropriate tools to accomplish this? How does the effort differ for established bonsai versus those in a growing box?
6. **Cleaning and Combing the Root Mass.** What is the appropriate sequence of operations to open up the existing root mass? Why should we remove matted roots at the bottom of the container? Why is it important to retain some of the existing soil? Why is a chopstick not really a chopstick?
7. **Selecting and Preparing the Container.** How do we determine the best available new container for a bonsai? Why is it important to make this choice once we have observed the modified root mass? How is this decision affected by both visual and horticultural

considerations? What are the key steps in preparing the selected container? What are our options for securing the tree?

8. **Planting the Tree.** How should the new bonsai soil be placed? What's the best way to "settle" the tree into its new home? What are the techniques for anchorage wire and other methods to secure the tree? What is "bulk fill"? When we refer to "chopsticking", what are we talking about? How should it be done?
9. **Completing the Process.** What does it mean to "contour" the soil? Why is a "gutter" important? What is "top dressing", how is it made, and why is it useful? How should it be applied? How about watering the tree as a final step? What about aftercare, especially in a cold climate?



Tom repotting a RMBS member's tropical at a workshop 2018.

Tom Anglewicz, a retired Architect from San Diego, CA, has been a member of RMBS since 2011 and has been its President 2016-2018. Tom currently studies under Ryan Neil of Mirai Bonsai, and has also been a student of Ted Matson. His specialty is Japanese Black Pines. In February 2020 he and Florentina traveled to Japan on a tour led by Bjorn Bjornholm with several other RMBS members to attend the Kokufu-ten Bonsai exhibit.

## 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](#)

[S&S Bonsai](#)

[RMBS Facebook Page](#)

[Mike Horine Website](#)

## 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 472361 Aurora, CO 80047-2361

**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.

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1. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.
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**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: Rocky Mountainbonsaisociety

## 2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<b><u>March Monthly Meeting</u></b> Tuesday, March 1 7PM Zoom online	<b><u>TOM ANGLEWICZ</u></b> REPOTTING TECHNIQUES PRESENTATION AND DEMO
<b><u>April Monthly Meeting</u></b> Tuesday, April 13 * 7PM Zoom online	<b><u>SERGIO CUAN</u></b> DECIDUOUS TREES
<b><u>May Monthly Meeting</u></b> Tuesday, May 11* 7PM Zoom online	<b><u>TODD SCHLAFER</u></b> DEMO
<b><u>June Monthly Meeting</u></b> Tuesday, June 1 7PM	<b><u>JERRY MEISLIK</u></b> FICUS AND OTHER TROPICAL TREES
<b><u>July Monthly Meeting</u></b> TBD	
<b><u>August Monthly Meeting</u></b> TBD	
<b><u>September Monthly Meeting</u></b>	
<b><u>RMBS annual show</u></b> Friday-Sunday September 3-5 Denver Botanic Gardens	<b><u>SHOW SITE TO BE DETERMINED BY DBG</u></b> TENT OR BONSAI PAVILION AS CONDITIONS ALLOW



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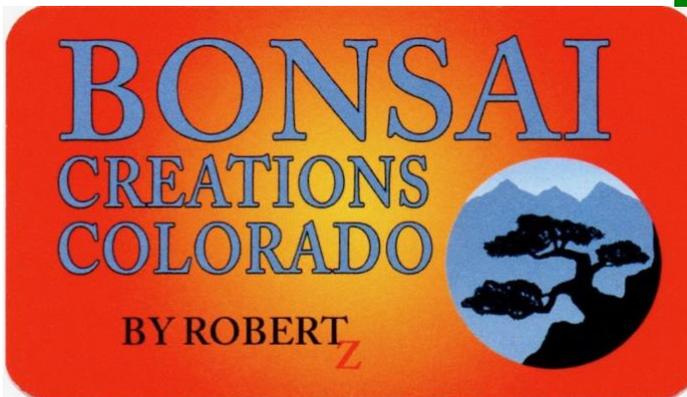
Specializing in Character and Colorado Native Collected Trees, Finished Bonsai, Starter Plants, Pots, Soil, Books, Tools, Wire, Private Lessons and Online Native Spruce sales.

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](mailto:co.bonsai.ltd@gmail.com)



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