



KUSAMONA - YOUNG CHOE

RMBS

August 2022

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## President's Message

by David McPeters

If you have practiced bonsai long enough eventually friends and family will have asked 'how many bonsai do you have?' This question is easy aside from getting into the details of bonsai, pre-bonsai, etc. In my house it is usually met with an eye roll and comments about 'too many.'

That question is not very different from 'how many bonsai should you have?' This question is much more difficult and varies widely among individuals. There are many variables that go into the answer. To list a few: How much time do I want to devote to bonsai? How much space do I have for them? How much money do I have available to acquire and care for them? Do I want to have multiple species? Do I want trees at different stages of development for each species? Do I have someone to care for them when I am on vacation?

My personal goal is to have enough and of distinct species that I can work on something year-round. I know I have too many of one species when all I do

for some of them is provide sun, water, shelter, and fertilizer. And this applies to the whole collection. The more I have the more time I spend caring for them and that means less time to develop them.

Here are my top ten signs you have too many bonsai.

1. You never have time to style them because you spend all your available time caring for them.
2. There is so much to do, you cannot decide what to do first.
3. Your significant other institutes the 'one comes in, one goes out rule.'
4. You find a tree you had forgotten for several years growing happily in a back corner of the yard.
5. The staff at your local nursery knows you by name.

6. The DEA drives by your house because of all the plant light leakage.
7. You consider parking one of your cars in the driveway over the winter instead of the garage to allow more space for bonsai.
8. The UPS driver knows you as the person who receives regular shipments of dirt.
9. The local beavers start raiding the bone pile in your yard for their dams.
10. And finally, you feel overwhelmed and no longer enjoy bonsai.

Bonsai are subject to the newest shiny toy phenomenon just like other hobbies. And it is hard to resist acquiring something new, different, or challenging. After all learning how to care for and style a new acquisition is part of the fun. Not to mention being the one to bring something rare or weird to an event. But in the end the objective is to create a piece of art and anything that prevents that is probably a sign of 'too many bonsai.' So, is the answer 2, 3, 5, 13, 89, 233, ... bonsai? The answer is up to you.

Sometimes an idea must be heard to several times to be understood and put into action. One such idea I have heard from different artists and club members is paraphrased as 'it is better to take a risk that might destroy a mediocre tree if it results in a much better tree if successful.' For the past year or two I have been unsatisfied with the results I am getting with my ficus. This summer has seen a lot of restyling. As an example, here is a Benjamina I have had since 2019. I have been working on the branches and the crown. I like the base with interesting aerial roots coming off the trunk. At the next repotting, the plan was to pull those in to bond with the trunk. But from the two lower branches up there is a straight uninteresting trunk with no branches for about six inches. Overall, a poor to mediocre tree. What to do?



Time for a trunk chop.



Then whittle it down, apply cut paste, and wire the branch on the right to become the lead. Have patience for a few years.



Not one to throw away possibilities (see above about enough bonsai) I have cuttings to work with. The two smaller ones will be rooted in Turface. The larger one will be rooted after applying a technique I have used with smaller diameter trunks. The technique is intended to start the base flair and raise the probability of getting multiple strong roots. Often when I root a Ficus cutting, I get one good strong root and several smaller ones. You can see from this picture that the top of the previous tree (large cutting) was an ugly trunk chop that still required and will require a lot of work.



Here is the technique. Drill a hole and make two cuts to create four separate sections.



Insert wedges to push the sections apart, saw them off flush with the trunk, and root in Turface. When I have done this previously, I get one good strong root off each section.

I place all the cuttings into 5-gallon plastic buckets and put a white kitchen trash bag over the top. This helps keep the humidity high and there is enough light through the trash bag. If the cutting is successful, within one month new growth will push, sometimes aerial roots, and sometimes roots out the bottom of the pot.

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### **Dues for 2022-2023**

We will start collecting due for the coming 2022-2023 membership period that begins on July 1, 2022. You can bring a check to the meeting or pay on line, info on website under Resources for Members section.



## Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Show

There has been a lot of planning in place for our upcoming show Sept 2,3,4, 2022 at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Tree, Stone and Kusamono Registration will begin August 1 and close around August 23. Watch for the email with the registration links coming soon.

A few changes this year include a separate dedicated display area for Suiseki and for Kusamono that a member wants to exhibit as a stand-alone piece and not used as an accent stone or plant for a bonsai. This is a new idea and will be interesting to see what the participation is.

As some of the bonsai trees have gotten larger and take up more display area than others, the registration process will be asking you to estimate the amount of the display table your tree may need so Tom Anglewicz can plan the layout of tables and provide enough space to accommodate as many trees as possible. Our show has always been carefully balanced and trees are very specifically displayed with precision.

There will be a designated secure area set aside for members to leave their watering cans, supplies, etc out of the public area of the tent.

We have not finalized plans for the Friday Night celebration, but both a silent and live auction are in the works and we are working on some sort of social meal time event. More on that soon.

### Volunteers Still Needed

Get involved with your fellow RMBS members, meet new people, talk about their trees, your trees, learn, socialize, have fun! Our weekend show is a great opportunity to get together with others who share your passion for Bonsai.

**Friday 9AM-4PM** Show set up, a lot of moving parts

**Friday night celebration-** assist with auction, help with food or drink service, clean up

### Friday afternoon and some time on Saturday

Assist with photography – help move trees from their display area to the photo booth, ensure the proper identification of orientation, etc.

**Saturday 4 hour shifts 9AM – 8PM**

**Sunday 4 hour shifts 9AM-4PM**

Greeters: Welcome visitors, provide information and directions, monitor front desk area.

Security: Rove tent to watch trees and stones for safety and security, water trees as requested, answer questions from visitors

Tour Guides: Experienced RMBS members take small groups of visitors through the show

Demonstration assistance: Help set up and take down demo displays, greet visitors, assist speaker as needed

### Sunday 4PM-completion

Break down show: Knock down tables and displays, pack Shoji screens and other club show materials, clean area

Collect and pack tablecloths and runners

Many have already signed up at our live meetings but there are still spots to be filled.

Please let me know what days and time you are available and the type of duties you would be willing to perform. We will be issuing a schedule in the next few weeks. It is very helpful to know that all positions will be covered for planning purposes even though I know many of you are available to pitch in at any time you are present.

Please send me an email to let me know where you can help out.

[RMBSquestions@gmail.com](mailto:RMBSquestions@gmail.com)

Pat Deutschman

RMBS Secretary

Updates to meeting dates and workshops

Due to scheduling conflicts with our guest artists, the remainder of the year will be on a different schedule than our usual 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday meeting dates. Please refer to the Schedule of Meetings on the following pages. Here are a few highlights for August and September:

**Saturday, August 27** workshop at the home of Dan Kingerey. We will be sending our more info before these dates with the addresses and any needed things to bring.

The August workshop will be focused on getting your trees ready for the show!

### Young Choe workshop - Kusomono

**August 20 (Saturday)** workshop at the Denver Botanic garden 9 AM -3 PM.

**August 21 (Sunday)** workshop with RMBS's Women's study group.

**August 23 (Tuesday)** Regular monthly RMBS meeting The club presentation will run from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. Denver Botanic Gardens

Regarding plant material and other items for the workshop and demo, she wants attendees to bring their own plants even though she will purchase more plants from the Harlequin Gardens. It's better to have more plants so they can create as many kusamono as they can. They can find some ideas on her website ([KusamonoChoe.com](http://KusamonoChoe.com)), Facebook, or Instagram

**Friday, Sept 2- Sunday September 4** RMBS annual Show at Denver Botanic Gardens

**Tuesday, September 27** RMBS monthly meeting. Live Stream with Bonsai Mirai, Ryan Neil.

Plans are in the works to have a Green Elephant Sale and swap meet possibly in November.

Evan Thomas is moving out of the country and will be posting some of his bonsai for sale.

Upcoming Sales and Swap Meet

## 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.

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: Rocky Mountainbonsaisociety

## 2022 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<u>August Workshop</u> Saturday, August 20, All Day Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>YOUNG CHOE</u> <u>CREATING KUSAMONO</u>
<u>Sunday, August 21</u> <u>Woman's group workshop</u> <u>Location TBA</u>	<u>YOUNG CHOE</u> <u>CREATING KUSAMONO</u>
<u>August Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, August 23, 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>YOUNG CHOE</u> <u>CREATING KUSAMONON</u>
<u>August Members workshop</u> Saturday, August 27 Dan Kingery home	<u>MEMBERS WORKSHOP</u> <u>PREPARING FOR THE SHOW</u>
<u>Annual RMBS Bonsai Exhibit</u> Friday Sept 2 – Set up and member's event Saturday Sept 3-Sunday September 4 - exhibit open Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>ANNUAL SHOW</u>
<u>September Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, September 27 Live Stream	<u>RYAN NEIL</u> <u>ROCKY MOUNTAIN PINES</u>
<u>October Workshop</u> Saturday, October 22, All Day Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>JENNIFER PRICE</u>
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 25, 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>JENNIFER PRICE</u>



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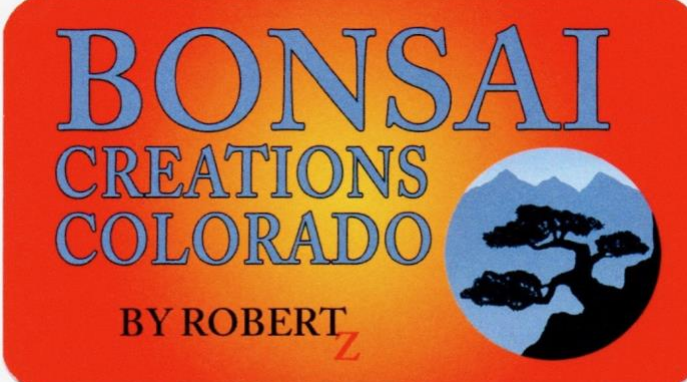
Do you need a gift for a hard-to-shop for bonsai enthusiast? We offer Individual Bonsai Instruction Sessions and we have **Gift Certificates!!** Use them for *anything* (supplies, classes, etc.) and at *any time*.



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

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