



GOLDEN GATE FICUS - DAVID MCPETERS

RMBS

June 2021

Volume 53 Issue 6

## President's Message

by David McPeters

"Time is an illusion" - Albert Einstein. The inspiration for this letter.

"I've been aware of the time going by  
They say, in the end, it's the wink of an eye  
When the morning light comes streaming in  
You'll get up and do it again, amen" – Jackson  
Browne, The Pretender – I used to hum this on those  
morning drives to work when I really did not want to  
go.

"Time flies like an arrow" My all-time favorite from  
school when studying computer understanding of  
language. - You can check it out here  
<https://allthingslinguistic.com/post/51834369484/structural-ambiguity-illustrations-from> Hint, it has a  
few more meanings than you might imagine.

I have been reading a book called "The Order of Time" by Carlo Rovelli. He is an Italian physicist, and the book discusses the nature of time, our perception of time, and what the theory of relativity and quantum mechanics say about time. It is written for the layman.

The nature of time is a slippery thing. Albert Einstein showed that it is relative. It is not a constant, the same everywhere. And it turns out that at the quantum level the very notion of past, present, and future do not exist. The equations describing quantum physics do not include a variable for time. And yet we humans perceive time as if it is something that flows in a single direction, consisting of memories of the past, awareness of this instant of present, and anticipation of the future.

I have mentioned in previous letters that one of the things I enjoy about bonsai, and plants in general, is that it keeps one in tune with the passage of the seasons, the passage of time. This yearly rhythm is comforting. It provides perspective. But there are many rhythms of time. Another is generational. I was reminded of this this past weekend at the Takayama Park event. I was talking to Darrell Havener and Wayne Berve. Darrell mentioned that Tom Tagert, an RMBS member who is no longer with us, was once the point person for organizing the event. And then he passed that responsibility to Darrell, who is now passing it to Wayne. The rhythm of generations.

RMBS is undergoing a changing of the guard, a generational rhythm. It is the natural evolution of any organization. Some of the original RMBS members are gone and others are less involved. At the same time, we see new, sometimes younger, members joining the club.

As president my goal is to grow the club, insuring that in 50 years' time RMBS is as strong and vibrant as it was at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. To carry on the tradition the older members built into RMBS as it exists today. In anticipating the future, I am left with questions.

- Who will the leaders of tomorrow be? This is a question I hear from the older members. They understand that those future leaders come from younger members deciding to contribute. They understand that without good leadership the club's future is uncertain.
- What will RMBS look like in the future? Part of the changing of the guard, enabled by technology, is that RMBS is no longer confined to a small area around Denver. We now have a larger reach and members all along the front range, even other states.

- Will "American" bonsai develop its own traditions that transcend generations? What role might RMBS play in establishing these traditions?
- On a personal note, what will become of my trees? In 50 years' time I will be gone. What has become of these trees that I enjoy and develop? I would like to think some still exist and are in someone's care.

I have many memories of 1969. They do not involve trees, but that is another story. My memories relating to bonsai start in 2002 in a class with Hal Sasaki. My memories of the years since 1969 tell me that the chance of anticipating what 2069 brings is nonexistent. I invite everyone who enjoys this thing called bonsai to join the RMBS journey in any capacity that brings you fulfillment and joy.

"Blessed are old people who plant trees knowing that they shall never sit in the shade of their foliage"  
– Hyacinthe Loyson.

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### Live- in person workshop!

RMBS member workshop hosted by David at his home **Saturday, June 5 from 9AM til noon**. Bring your tree(s) to work on with the group, or just come to meet with other RMBS members!

8425 Lightening View Drive  
Parker, CO 80134

720-470-7199

RMBS meeting presenter – Jerry Meislik

We are very excited to have bonsai expert and author Jerry Meislik appear via Zoom on Tuesday, June 1 at 7PM.

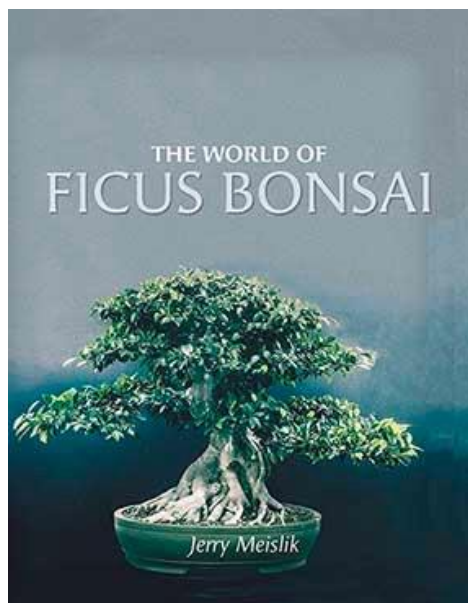
Jerry will tailor the talk to Ficus species and care that will work for the Colorado climate. He can answer questions from the group including tropical or sub-tropical species that people are trying to grow.

From his website: [bonsaihunk.us](http://bonsaihunk.us)

“Meet Jerry Meislik! Here's an unusual fellow who loves tropical bonsai but lives near the Canadian border where snow covers the ground a good part of the year. He gets outstanding growth on his favorite ficus (fig) bonsai due to the high-intensity halide lamps hanging from the ceiling. Who else keeps a collection on rolling multi-shelf food service carts?

Jerry is an enthusiastic hobbyist and the most knowledgeable about growing high-light tropical bonsai in cooler climates.”

Jerry's new book – “The World of Ficus” is available for sale directly from the author for a signed copy. RMBS has obtained 6 copies for sale, let David McPeters know asap if you would like to reserve one.



**At long last it is here! The World of Ficus Bonsai by Jerry Meislik. I have been learning more and more about Ficus and how incredible**

**they are for bonsai and for growing in your home. I have expanded and added new material to create an enlarged and updated book on using Ficus for bonsai. The book is 324 pages loaded with great information and over 300 full color pictures.**

**It also contains information on 40+ Ficus species suitable for bonsai as well as listing another 40+ species that are not likely to be easy to use for bonsai.**

**The book is available in softcover, hardcover or as a PDF or Kindle version. It can be ordered online from either:**

**[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)**

**[Friesens.com](http://Friesens.com)**

Report: Work day at Takayama Park – May 22

If you haven't seen it, the City of Takayama Park at South Colorado Blvd. and North Cherry Creek Drive is a beautiful and scenic small park that is a symbol of the friendly, 61-years-old relationship between Denver and our city's second Sister City, Takayama.

If you've seen it, you may have joined us for our annual cleanup when we pick up litter, pull weeds and trim trees at City of Takayama Park.

There were probably 20 people, but only 5 RMBS members. Darrell Havener provided expertise and guidance on working on the trees. We focused on decandling and some pruning. There will be another session in the fall when we will work on needle management. This as an annual event the Society participates in.



## WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS MONTH?

Join our RMBS meeting on line at 6:30PM for casual discussion and questions you have about trees, horticulture, seasonal changes, etc.

### 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. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.

1. Enter rockymountainbonsaisociety@gmail.com
2. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note (if needed) and click **Continue**.
3. Select "Sending to a friend."
4. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
5. 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

## 2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

| Date and Location   | Agenda or Program  |
|---|--|
| <u><b>June Monthly Meeting</b></u><br>Tuesday, June 1 7PM<br>Zoom on-line meeting         | <u><b>JERRY MEISLIK</b></u><br>FICUS AND OTHER TROPICAL TREES                                      |
| <u><b>July Monthly Meeting</b></u><br>Tuesday, July 6 7PM                                 | <u><b>WILL KEARNS</b></u><br>TBA   |
| <u><b>August Monthly Meeting</b></u><br>Tuesday, August 3 7PM<br>Zoom on-line             | <u><b>MICHAEL HAGEDORN</b></u><br>"BONSAI HERESY, 56 MYTHS EXPOSED USING<br>SCIENCE AND TRADITION" |
| <u><b>September Monthly Meeting</b></u><br><u><b>TBD</b></u>                              |  |
| <u><b>RMBS annual show</b></u><br>Friday-Sunday September 3-5<br>Denver Botanic Gardens   | <u><b>SHOW SITE TO BE DETERMINED BY DBG</b></u><br>TENT OR BONSAI PAVILION AS CONDITIONS ALLOW     |
| <u><b>October Monthly Meeting</b></u><br>Tuesday, October 5, 7PM<br>Bonsai Mirai.com      | <u><b>RYAN NEIL</b></u><br><b>BONSAI MIRAI LIVE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIVES</b>                       |
| <u><b>October presentation follow up</b></u><br>Wednesday, Oct 6, 7PM-8PM<br>On-line Zoom | <u><b>EXCLUSIVE RMBS MEMBERS Q &amp; A WITH RYAN NEIL</b></u><br><u><b>ONE HOUR</b></u>            |
| <u><b>November Monthly Meeting</b></u><br>Tuesday, November 2, 7PM<br>TBD                 | <u><b>DARRELL WHITLEY</b></u><br><b>SUISEKI</b>  |
| <u><b>December Monthly Meeting</b></u><br>Annual Holiday party? More info to come         |  |



### First Branch Bonsai

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[www.FirstBranchBonsai.com](http://www.FirstBranchBonsai.com)



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Open by appointment call: 303-232-8700

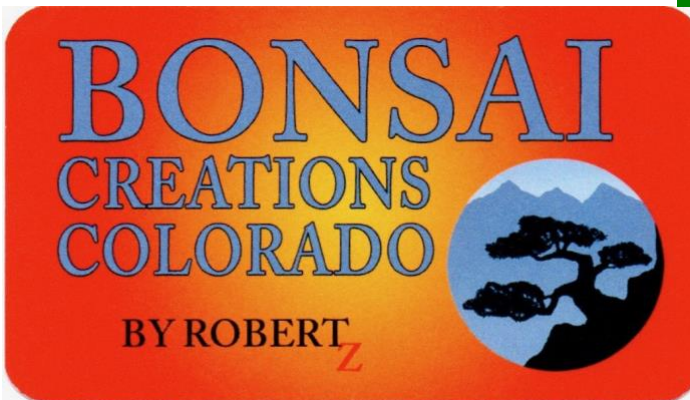
Specializing in Character and Colorado Native Collected Trees, Finished Bonsai, Starter Plants, Pots, Soil, Books, Tools, Wire, Private Lessons and Online Native Spruce sales.

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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