



This tree was stolen last week. If anyone sees it please call 720-309-0060.

LIMBER PINE TODD SCHLAER

RMBS

September 2020

Volume 52 Issue 9

President's Message

by Andy Berry

RMBS President's Message September 2020

RMBS 51st Annual Exhibition: Evolution and Flexibility

"Whatever is flexible and living will tend to grow; whatever is rigid and blocked will wither and die."—Lao Tzu

Hello RMBS,

Just a quick message this month. I wanted to let you all know how proud I am of the RMBS community. **I am very excited that in this year of uncertainty, we have come together in new and inspiring ways. It is a testament to the spirit of our membership, the determination of our board and the love we all share for the art of bonsai.**

We have been able to keep our slate of educational programs for 2020 uninterrupted, including guest and professional artist presentations from all over the nation. It has been so stupendous to see you all (virtually) on the Zoom platform and catch up with RMBS members who we have not seen in some time and members attending from (far) outside the Denver area. Thank you all for your patience while we increase our technical ability and capacity to record high-quality live-stream

video during these meetings. Remember that you can watch our monthly meeting content at any time on the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society YouTube channel.

Last week one of our members mentioned they were leafing through the ABS journal and were stunned at the number of club exhibitions that have been cancelled this season. We strive to be facile and flexible at RMBS. Our executive board (especially show chairman Paul Koenning), is working hard to produce the very first RMBS virtual exhibition. We laid the foundation for our capability to host such a show with the design and implementation of our new website last year. **Starting September 20th, we will display nearly 100 bonsai and suiseki composition for your enjoyment and study.** In the spirit of RMBS, this will be a celebration of bonsai (not a competition). Additionally, we will have pre-recorded bonsai demonstrations and a professional quality video walkthrough of the select bonsai displayed live-and-in-person at the Denver Botanic Gardens during the show. Remember admission to DBG is ticketed this year and you will need to make a reservation if you want to attend. Make sure you visit RMBonsai.org September 20-27th to experience all our content, as there is too much to mention here.

Here are a couple sneak-peeks.



Professional photographer Mike Green working his magic in the "pop-up" photo booth.

Lastly, I wanted to take a moment to say hello and welcome to our new members. Despite the global pandemic, and without the ability to meet in person, we have gained MANY new members (some moving from afar like Chicago and New Mexico)! Hello and welcome! We are so glad to share in your bonsai journey. I promise we will get to see each other in person sometime soon. Maybe even work on a tree or two.

Stay safe out there.

Your brother in bonsai,

Andy Berry

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Rocky Mountain Bonsai Societies 51st Annual

Show Update

By Paul Koenning

First of all, the membership deserves a huge thank you for being flexible with our changing plans, and for providing incredible bonsai for this year's show! The show committee is busy poring over the photography of your bonsai as they make selections for trees to be displayed at Denver Botanic Gardens this year, and you have not made their decisions easy. Lots of fantastic bonsai to choose from! The virtual show is being assembled as well, and some updates and important dates are detailed below.

Bonsai photos need to be [uploaded here](#) by **September 1** in order to be considered for showing at the physical show at Denver Botanic Gardens. Late photo submissions are welcome up until **September 11** to be included in the virtual show and hard copy commemorative book. We are working on pricing for this commemorative book, and you will have the ability to order and pay for your book on our website during and after the show. While the photography of your bonsai makes up a significant portion of the show, we have a lot more in store for you to enjoy when the show goes live on the website, RMBonsai.org, on the afternoon of **Sunday September 20th**.

There are two demonstrations in the process of being recorded and edited now, with three of our artists contributing. Vince Lee is providing a bonsai demonstration on olive bonsai, and Todd Schlafer and Will Kerns will be working together on Bob Kataoka's juniper. Both demonstrations will highlight a few of the talented artists within our membership, and Bob Kataoka's "Thermopolis" juniper will help tap into the historical roots of the society.

In addition to the virtual gallery there will be some bonsai provenance and evolution stories to help capture the stories of some of the bonsai and artists within the membership. Some of the submissions are in, and we welcome more content if you have a story to contribute. Need some inspiration? Check out the [bonsai evolution story](#) put together by Paul Koenning in the RMBonsai.org forum [here](#). In contrast, a provenance story would deal more with the origins, birthplace, or storied past of a bonsai; such as originally from Japan or styled by prominent artists. Please refine and edit your story before [uploading them here](#) no later than **September 11th**. Stories should be added into the bonsai stories folder, and please include your and your bonsai's information so that we can pair your story with your tree's photo.

There will be a video welcome, narrated show walk through, and artist of the year interview to help bring the physical Denver Botanic Gardens display, and the show in its entirety,

to life in the comfort of your own home. We are working on an auction that will take place after the show and hope you will join us in all of the fun. You can begin making your reservations to see the physical show at the [Denver Botanic Gardens here](#) on September 5th. Remember that reservations are limited, so if you want to go make reservations early.

RMBS is in need of volunteers to help be on site during the show, and for watering of trees. The most needed times will be weekends and evenings, and we will be circulating a sign up for volunteers shortly. This would be a great way to see the show without needing to make reservations by the way;) See schedule following this article.

For the bonsai being selected to be shown at Denver Botanic Gardens, we have created guidelines that we are using, and they are listed below for your review.

1. **Diversity of Species** – In order to illustrate to the public, the range of the bonsai art form, include examples of diverse species, including conifers, deciduous, broadleaf evergreens, topicals and succulents.
2. **Diversity of Members** – With the exception of the Artist of the Year, only one tree per member will be selected for the pavilion display. Every effort should be made to include works by newer members as well as established ones, depending on quality of the submission.
3. **Representative Quality** – Does the submitted tree represent an exemplary quality of the species in question? This relates to the inherent character of the tree as a bonsai subject for that particular species, not the resulting design.
4. **Design Excellence** – Given the material at hand, did the bonsai artist produce a design direction that exhibits creativity, insight and understanding of the potential inherent in the subject species? This may be exhibited through the creation of a fine example of "traditional" bonsai design, or that of a more innovative approach.
5. **Overall Display – for the tie breaker** - In the overall display of each tree for the show photography, did the bonsai artist illustrate an understanding and sensitivity to how all of the components work together to enhance and complement the subject bonsai? Appropriate size and character of container, good selection of stand, appropriate size and character of accent plant or figurine, along with its jita or comparable element; overall composition of these components?

Our online presence has been continuing to gather steam as we have transitioned our format, and it's the exposure of your unique trees that is driving it! We are really excited to present this year's show to everyone in the membership and around the globe, and hope that you will plan out a block of time the week of the show, **September 20-27**, to dive into all of the content and help add to our online comradery.

Paul Koenning

RMBS Show at Denver Botanic Gardens Volunteers needed.

Friday afternoon/evening, Sept 18 All trees to be exhibited at DBG will be dropped off at the Plant Society Bldg. driveway, help will be appreciated re-arranging the Bonsai Pavilion along with Larry Jackel.

Saturday morning Sept 19 A special video of the exhibit and interview with the Artist of the Year

Each shift will ask for one or two volunteers to oversee watering, security for the exhibit, greeter, docent for the exhibit, represent RMBS and opportunity to enjoy the trees!

Saturday Sept 19:	9AM-12	12-4PM	4PM- closing or as needed
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Sunday Sept 20:	9AM-12	12-4PM	4PM- closing or as needed
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Monday-Friday Sept 21-25:	12PM-4PM	4PM-closing or as needed
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Saturday Sept 26	9AM-12	12-4PM	4PM- closing or as needed
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Sunday Sept 27	9AM-12	12-4PM	4PM- closing or as needed
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Please email rmbsquestions@gmail.com With your preference as to date and time.

The volunteers will go through the main ticket gate and will be admitted without the need for a ticket. Please wear your RMBS name badge.

2020 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<u>September Monthly Meeting - to be held in August</u> Tuesday, August 25 Location TBD	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u> VISITING ARTIST DEMONSTRATION
<u>Annual RMBS Show</u> September 20-27	<u>DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS</u> AND ALSO RMBONSAI.ORG
<u>October Workshop</u> Sunday, October 4	<u>DANNY COFFEY</u>
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 6 On Line via Zoom	<u>SHORT PROGRAM:</u> <u>LONG PROGRAM: DANNY COFFEY</u>
<u>November Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, November 3 On-Line via Zoom	<u>SHORT PROGRAM:</u> <u>LONG PROGRAM: JAN CULEK</u>
<u>December Monthly Meeting</u>	

Resources for Members:

Other internet resources:

[New RMBS Web Site](#)
[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)
[First Branch Bonsai](#)
[S&S Bonsai](#)
[RMBS Facebook Page](#)
[Mike Horine Website](#)



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**BONSAI
CREATIONS
COLORADO**

BY ROBERT **Z**



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