



DAN WEIDERRECHT - LIMBER PINE

RMBS

September 2022

Volume 54 Issue 9

President's Message

by David McPeters

It is Showtime!

I hope everyone is ready for the show and excited about attending for at least part of the weekend. So far, the weather forecast looks perfect. The folks working to get everything ready are finishing up. And based on the registrations there will be many great trees, stones, and kusamono. There are some nice items for the auction Friday night. Lots of trees this year. Also, some very nice pots.

Deciding to put a tree in the show for the first time can be daunting. When do I start? How do I create an acceptable display? Is it good enough? Like everything else one of the best ways to learn is to do. Our show has always been intended for members of all levels of experience to display their art. I hope some of the newer members have taken the plunge and have registered something to display.

I enjoy walking through the show, looking at each display, and just enjoying it. My first thought is usually whether I like it or not. I do not have to know why or use a technical analysis. Very subjective of course. Why I like it or not comes next. I often find that viewing my displays at the show brings a different reaction than when I have set them up at home in preparation. My 'best' displayed with everyone else's best pushes the analysis up a level. Sometimes adjustments can be made real time. Others are noted for future work.

Preparing for the show caused an insight or new thought. There is a lot of discussion in Bonsai about the difference and even the acceptability between different aesthetics. Does one follow the Japanese tradition? What about the emerging American tradition? The naturalistic approach? This just shows that the art and practice is vibrant. But when

it comes to displays, I do not hear or see the same amount of divergent opinion. A lot of times it falls back to a tree on a stand, with an accent, and a scroll. I am not disparaging that. It can be beautiful. I just wonder if there is not opportunity for other compositions. I know in past shows there have been a couple of displays that pushed boundaries. I would like to see more. After all, it is your art. I am pretty sure there are a couple this year. My challenge to members is to think about alternatives that communicate their aesthetic, match their lifestyle, and create something beautiful.

David

Here are a few general reminders for volunteers, exhibitors, and auction item donors.

1. If you plan to show a tree, suiseki, and/or kusamono, **are they registered?** Please register by Sunday, August 28. David McPeters has sent multiple emails with the links to register each of these.
2. Volunteers, **please confirm - or change - your schedule** with Pat at rmbsquestions@gmail.com.
3. **Free parking** is available in the parking garage. There is also street parking available.
4. If you volunteer at the show Saturday and/or Sunday, please **wear your RMBS shirt & name badge**, if available. We'll have peel & stick-on name tags, too.
5. To minimize plastic waste, we're asking attendees to **bring a water bottle** as RMBS is **not** providing water in plastic bottles. We threw out over 150 plastic bottles last year; most were 1/2 full & it was a waste of \$\$ & resources. There's a water station outside of the tent as well as cafes on site if you wish to purchase water.
6. Please **minimize personal stuff** in the tent so as not to clutter up the exhibition area and to reduce theft or misplacement of items. Personal stuff can be stored at the back of the tent behind the curtain or perhaps in the car.
7. **For people donating items for the auction**, please **make it clear the item is for the auction and have your name on it** so that the auction sheet can be matched to it.

8. For Friday set-up volunteers, Subway Wraps will be provided for **lunch** along with various snacks. **Snacks and drinks** will be provided Saturday and Sunday.

EXHIBITORS

1. Please drop off your items after 8am Friday, Sept. 2. at DBG. You can pull into the cutout just south of the garden's entrance to unload. There will be volunteers there to assist you while you park your car or drop off your tree.
2. If you drop off your item(s) and will not be there to set it/them on a table, please **leave a clear description of each item with your name on it** so that the tree plate can be matched to it and the display components remain together. Consider placing masking tape with your name on it on the bottom of your tree stands, Shitakusa, etc.. Should display pieces become separated, it will allow you to get your item back more easily.
3. For exhibitors, please **do not water trees & plants on the display tables**. Move your item off the table to water it so as not to stain the tablecloth. If your tree is too large to move, please bring a towel to place under the stand to catch any water.
4. If you are exhibiting a tree and/or a Kusamono & will not attend the show each day, don't forget to **designate someone to take care of your plants each day**.
5. Exhibitors that won't be at the show 4pm Sunday when the show, please **make arrangements for what happens to your tree(s) when the show ends**. Do not presume others will handle it.
6. **If you need assistance or have questions next weekend**, please reach out to Connie Garrett at 303-819-1916 or David McPeters at 720-470-7199.
7. **Attached is a "poster" for the show** that you're welcome to send to others as well as the **Friday evening invitation**. Thank you for being part of this year's event!

Cheers!

Connie Garrett, 2022 Show Chair

cagarrett@earthlink.net

303-819-1916 mobile

The 53rd Anniversary Bonsai, Suiseki, and
Kusamono Exhibition

Friday Night Celebration
September 2, 2022 , 6-8ish pm

Denver Botanic Gardens: 1007 York St. Denver
80206

Join the RMBS community for the September 2,
Friday evening celebration before the annual show
which will be Saturday, September 3, 9am-7pm and
Sunday, September 4, 9am-4pm.

Friday Evening Events

**Dinner: Please bring your own main course &
BYOB;**

Appetizers (a variety of mini rolled Calzones),
dessert (German Chocolate Cake, Carrot Cake), non-
alcoholic beverages (coffee, iced tea, lemonade,
water) will be provided by RMBS.

Awards Ceremony: The Artist of the Year will be
acknowledged along with other recognitions

Silent Auction: Bid on items with a minimum value
of \$25 donated by club members

Live Auction: Join the bidding fun for high value
items with auctioneer Larry Jackel

Important Reminders

If you plan to show a Bonsai, Suiseki, and/or
Kusamono, you must register it/them prior to
August 28

If you intend to volunteer time at the show, please
contact Pat at rmbsquestions@gmail.com

Hope you can attend!

SAGA OF THE SHED

As many of you may have observed, there are a lot of physical components that are necessary to build our annual bonsai show. They include the *tokonoma* that features the work of the Artist of the Year, the shoji screens that form the backdrops for tree and stone display, leg extenders for the display tables, tablecloths and runners, and a variety of smaller items.

For the past several years, all of these items, most of which are stored in large plywood crates, have been generously stored at the home of RMBS member Gary Matsuda. Earlier this year Gary informed us that he would be moving his residence and could no longer store the show paraphernalia.

The club considered renting a storage unit which was estimated to be at least \$1,000 per year, a significant ongoing dent in our annual budget.

We found that we could purchase a shed of the right size fairly economically, but it would obviously need a site. We were very fortunate that Adam Johnson and his wife, Monica, agreed to place the shed on their property in Boulder County. We ordered the shed, which is manufactured by Lifetime, through Costco, and arranged delivery at Adam's homestead.

After some false starts, the shed components finally arrived in two large cardboard crates. In the meantime, a request went out for a small team of members to assemble the shed, and a date of Sunday, August 14th, was established for construction. In anticipation of that effort, I

met with Adam on the previous Thursday and we inventoried all of the parts and pieces to make sure that they were all there. The count was perfect and everything was in good condition.

To quote the oft-cited phrase related to large holiday kids' toys, "some assembly was required." That was an understatement. Actually, a lot of assembly was required! The saving grace was that Lifetime provided us with a detailed, step-by-step instruction manual that was very thorough. They also provided internet access to a video that made the process appear very simple (of course the guy in the video had probably built a hundred of these!).

We knew that the shed came with its own internal floor, but it was only after reading the first paragraph of the directions that it became clear that the shed absolutely had to be erected on a dead flat and level surface, either a concrete slab or a treated wood platform. This had both of us running off to Boulder Lumber with Adam's truck to purchase the 2x6 framing members and plywood "subfloor" that were called for in the directions.

To be totally honest, I was pretty nervous about our ability to both construct the wood platform and erect the shed components within the designated Sunday, but we were going to keep a stiff upper lip and give it our best.

On Sunday morning, I showed up with my tools, homemade coffee cake from Florentina, bottled water and beer for later. Then our crew arrived: Shane Milek, Allan Belmore and Andy Stemple. With Adam and me, that made five workers. What we

quickly learned, by observing the designation on his truck, was that Allan is the owner of Colorado Deck and Landscape. He is a professional deck builder! With his tool belt in place and seasoned expertise, Allan proceeded to make quick work of building our wood platform. With the help of other crew members, what I thought would take several hours was accomplished in about one!



With the “foundation” platform in place, we proceeded with the step-by-step process of erecting the shed. With the exception of a few operations, such as Shane’s careful assembly of the roof trusses, most of the work needed to proceed sequentially, with me reading the next set of instructions from the manual. Everything went pretty smoothly, and we kept working until Florentina showed up at noon with sandwiches, chips, pickles, tomatoes, home grown lettuce, cookies and lemonade. A good reason to take a break! At that point, the floor and walls of the shed were in place.

After lunch, we installed the entry doors, placed the end gables and began installing the roof panels. At that point, we hit our first major glitch. Toward the back of the shed the roof panels refused to align with the adjacent components, as they had so far.



A lot of rumination ensued about why this was happening, but we knew that one of the rear corners of the shed had given us trouble and still did not seem to be positioned quite right. Finally, Allan made the call to remove some of the screws holding the roof panels in that area (there are literally hundreds of screws holding this structure together); and he was physically able to shift the position of the last roof truss to straighten things out and enable us to fasten the remaining components into place. A big sigh of relief!

At that point, and after making little adjustments to the door latching mechanism, we were done. All of this by 2:30 in the afternoon! We happily sat and broke out the brews, after which Adam gave us a tour of his bonsai, which are very impressive!

One of my final concerns was the weather resistance of the shed (very important for the contents). Last night and this morning we got some substantial rain. Adam went out to the shed and reported that there are zero roof leaks, which is very reassuring. I think we have a storage shed for our annual show that will serve us well into the future, and with virtually no maintenance!



Kusamono Workshops with Young Choe

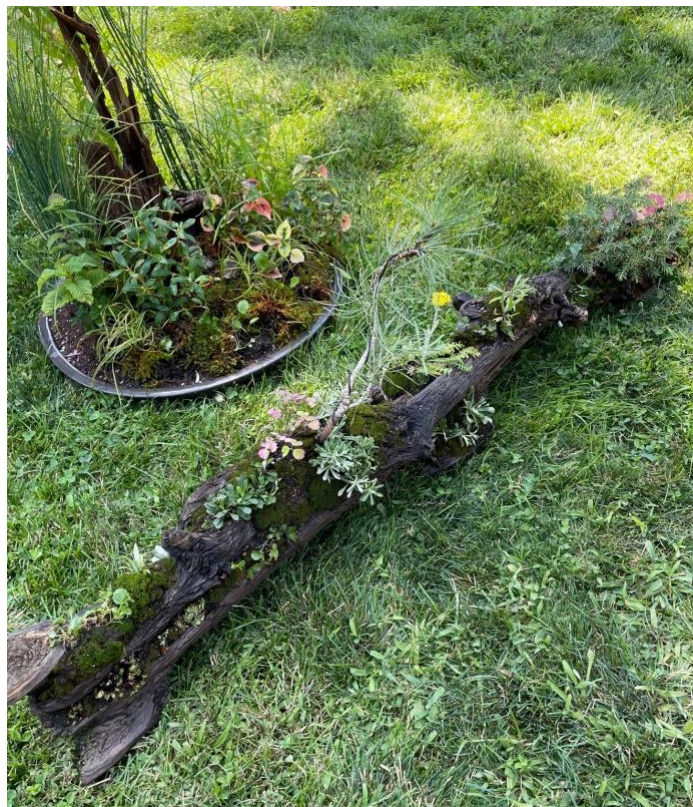
Denver Botanic Gardens



Our Denver "branch" of the Purple Pot Society had a kusamono workshop with Young Choe while she was in town visiting the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society. Participants creating their own kusamono and worked together on two group projects. The first project was a montane kusamono planted on a 52" long old Juniper fence post. The second was a wetland kusamono in a 16" pot without drainage featuring a hollow stump. We will be showing the finished kusamono in RMBS's show during Labor Day weekend at the Denver Botanic Gardens.



Group Project #1: Old Juniper fence post vessel with potential montane plants.



Group Project #2: wetland plant kusamono with a hollow stump. Pot is a 16" diameter tray without drainage holes.

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

2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<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>

Where Passion meets Quality & Respect



Backcountry Bonsai

www.backcountrybonsai.com



First Branch Bonsai

world class raw stock & bonsai
from the rocky mountains

www.FirstBranchBonsai.com



Colorado Bonsai Ltd.

Harold Sasaki

**The Rocky Mountain Region's most
comprehensive Bonsai Nursery**

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

BONSAI
CREATIONS
COLORADO

BY ROBERT 



Bonsai Creations Colorado LLC
1615 County Road 308
Dumont CO 80436
970-363-9977
Bonsaicreationscolorado.com