



RMBS

July 2019

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July President's Message

by Andy Berry

"Heat Protection for Bonsai"

"I will master something, then creativity will come." –Japanese Proverb

Big things are happening this year at RMBS. We are gearing up for our most ambitious exhibition of bonsai excellence to date, in celebration of our 50th year. In addition to experiencing some exquisite bonsai and suiseki, our show this year will feature an expanded RMBS history display, heritage trees, silent auction and a catered Friday night gala with invited guests and dignitaries. Please see Mike Britten's article this month for more information regarding this landmark event. It is my pleasure to announce, after months of preparation, that our new RMBS website is live!

Rmbonsai.org is beautiful and modern with a sleek user interface that is easy and enjoyable to navigate. This new site has expanded content including bonsai galleries, blog, a members-only section with educational materials, mentorship resources, and a forum to buy and sell items and get answers to horticultural questions from experienced members. We are also exploring adding an RMBS webstore which would allow you to purchase RMBS branded items and pay dues electronically. This monumental feat could not have been accomplished without Ray Gordon (raygordoncreative.com) who donated all his time and expertise. Please tour the site and enjoy! Updated content will be added nearly every week.

As the above proverb suggests, creating something new and exciting with the art of bonsai can only come once one has attained a certain level of mastery. The more and more I practice bonsai, I find it is **horticultural mastery** (the act of building health and strength in a tree) that allows the bonsaiist to mold the composition into subtle beauty without setting the tree back significantly. **An essential element to our horticultural practice is understanding how and when to protect your bonsai from a heat event.**

In the Rocky Mountains, late spring and early summer can bring heat spells with temperatures rising to the high 90F degree range. **Although late spring temperatures are certainly not the 100F+ days we experience in the height of summer, they might be some of the most dangerous days for the containerized trees in your garden.** Here is the reason: certain species may not have finished the process of hardening off their foliage to prevent extreme evapo-transpiration which will wither the plant. Once hardening off (needles darken in color, their constitution is harder / sharper and do not pull off easily) is complete in late summer, these species can tolerate such high temperatures without missing a beat. Bonsai repotted in the spring may still be actively building fine root systems and containers subjected to high heat will cook the nascent roots and cause die-back. Remember, not everything needs heat protection. Established junipers and pines thrive off high heat and sunlight during this period.

Here is a list of the bonsai in my garden which I consider heat protection for during these periods:

- 1) Elongating species (spruce, fir, larch, hemlock, redwood) which have unhardened (new) growth
- 2) Deciduous (maples especially) and flowering species of most varieties
- 3) Trees which were recently repotted (late spring)
- 4) Any tree in a small container, or a container relatively small in relation to the foliar mass (will experience excessive drying in the heat)
- 5) Any trees showing weakness or poor growth for any reason (disease, recent collection, heavy work)

Strategies for heat protection are often intuitive and easy to accomplish. First, **move the tree and container to a dappled sunlight or shady location** (often on the perimeter of your garden, under larger trees and bushes). Don't forget structures like a house or shed can cut down on the intense afternoon sunshine if you put the tree next to it. This will not only decrease water loss but can also cool the pot and roots by restricting them from intense heat. A light-colored cloth, t-shirt or piece of wood can be placed over the pot and moistened to keep the container a few degrees cooler in the hot sun. Larry Jackel also uses synthetic mats under the pots to hold extra moisture for the trees at the bonsai pavilion which cannot be moved from display areas to shadier locales. **Putting the container on the ground will moderate heat and cool the root systems.** This is often as simple as placing on the ground below the bench. Gravel or mulch

bunkers this time of year give extra protection and help prevent water loss (make sure they are free draining). **Shade structures or shade cloth can diminish intense heat, while maintaining airflow and sunshine necessary to maintain strong growth.** I use 30% shade cloth (cheap to purchase online and available at your local garden center) stapled to 2x2" boards to make a mobile shade that I can deploy as needed. Make sure the cloth is at minimum 3-4 feet above the trees to allow them ample airflow and diffusion of light through the cloth. **Misting of foliage and frequent watering can also help your bonsai through those heat spells and keep them happy and advancing forward.** As with (almost) everything with bonsai, you must balance heat protection for appropriate trees with exposure to ample sunlight to allow for their growth and photosynthesis. For this reason, it is often incorrect to leave these trees in shady or nonoptimal locations for the rest of the summer. Once the spell has past, or the growth hardens off, bonsai should be moved back to as much light as

they are able to tolerate based on species and condition.

Finally, please join us Tuesday July 9th at 6:30pm in the Plant Society Building for our monthly program. International bonsai master Bjorn Bjorholm will be providing us with a bonsai lecture and demonstration. Bjorn is one of a few premier American bonsai professionals, and his presentations are always awe-inspiring and informative. He will be conducting a two-day workshop the weekend prior and it is fully booked. There is opportunity to attend as a silent observer for the cost of \$10 per day. Please contact Connie Garrett if you are interested. Come observe how mastery leads to creativity!

Your brother in bonsai,

Andy Berry

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andrbo304@gmail.com

2018 - 2019 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<u>Guest Artist Workshops</u> July Sat Jul 6 th and Sun July 7 th 8:30am – 3:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	<u>BJORN BJORHOLM</u>
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> July Tue, Jul 9 th 6:30pm – 9:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	<u>BJORN BJORHOLM</u>
<u>Show Tablecloth Workshop</u> July Sat, July 20 th , 9am – 3pm Gary Matsuda's home (His address will be sent just prior)	<u>SHOJI SCREEN WORKSHOP</u> THE TABLECLOTHS NEED TO BE UNROLLED, IRONED, AND REROLLED
<u>Saturday Member Workshop</u> July Sat, July 27 th , 9am – 1pm Paul Koenning's home (His address will be sent just prior)	<u>TRADITIONAL SATURDAY WORKSHOP</u>
<u>Guest Artist Workshops</u> Aug Sat Aug 3 rd and Sun Aug 4 th 8:30am – 3:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u>
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> Aug Tue, Aug 6 th 6:30pm – 9:00pm Central Christian Church	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u>
<u>Mt Goliath Fieldtrip</u> Aug Sat, Aug 17 th , 10am – 3pm Mt Evans Rd. Evergreen, CO	<u>BRISTLECONE PINE FIELDTRIP</u> TED ENGELMANN
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> Sept Tue, Sept 3 rd 6:30pm – 9:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	<u>LONG PROGRAM: BONSAI SHELTERS 101</u>
<u>Annual Show</u> Sept Fri Sept 6 th through Sun Sept 8 th Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL SHOW</u>
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> Oct Tue, Oct 1 st 6:30pm – 9:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> Nov Tue, Nov 5 th 6:30pm – 9:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	
<u>Annual Holiday Party</u> Dec Sun, Dec 1 st 10am – 2pm Hillcrest Condos 9968 Appletree Place Thornton, CO	

The entire yearly calendar is online [here](#).

RMBS ARTIST SPOTLIGHT – Patrick Allen

At RMBS we strive to create an inclusive community of artist focused on appreciation of bonsai and related arts. Getting to know each other is paramount in this endeavor. July's artist of the month is: **Patrick B. Allen**

Who Am I?

I am honored to be in July's Newsletter for the Artist Spotlight. I am a native Coloradoan, born in Leadville and spent my childhood in Buena Vista at the base of the Collegiate Peaks. We spent many wonderful days hiking in the mountains and enjoying the splendor of the outdoors.

After high school I joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany and had a great assignment and traveled throughout Europe, even reconnecting with my Austrian relatives. I continued my military service by staying in the Army Reserves and attended the Army's Officer Candidate School and helped by the G.I. Bill finished my undergraduate degree. I worked at Coors Brewing Company for 10 exciting years as one of its Human Resources Managers, then moved to Martin Marietta Defense Space Systems for 3 years and then to Woodward-Clyde Group (Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering). In 1996 I left corporate America and started an executive search firm with a focus on engineering and scientific professionals.

In March 2003 I was called to active military service and was privileged to be assigned to duty at the Pentagon. In 2005 I was the military officer in charge escorting 15 members of congress for a 3-week congressional delegation to China. While in Lushan a small village south of Jiujiang City in the Jiangxi Province I was amazed with how many "near perfect" 20 plus bonsai trees at the hotel we stayed at.

In May 2009 I volunteered for a one-year combat assignment in Afghanistan. It was very important to finish my 37-year military career with my Army Special Forces Regiment. I worked with the Afghan people in the Kabul province and my command came upon a girls' orphanage and school in a dilapidated neighborhood on the outskirts of Kabul

City. We adopted this orphanage/school named Save Afghan Children. By far the best thing I have ever done in my life was to bring hope and education to the 73 girls who lived there, and to the Hazara neighborhood. Somehow it helped lessen the pain and sorrow of losing 43 men out of a 4,000-person command.

I sponsored and adopted an Afghan family; the young father was a Marine Corps translator and the wife was an educator and mid-wife with the Hazara tribe. They live in Sheridan at a Habitat for Humanity home I helped build in 2017. They will be receiving their U.S. citizenship this September. Now retired, I am enjoying the Art of Bonsai and plan to attend Bjorn Bjorholm's school in Nashville, TN. Also, crafting my skills at Fly Fishing to catch a native greenback cutthroat trout. Compliments to the Colorado Fish and Wildlife service for reintroducing it to our state.

How Did You Get Interested in Bonsai?

In 1999 I grew my business and had a beautiful office space in Cherry Creek. I also became interested in the Chinese concept of Feng Shui (the art of placement). A Feng Shui designer I used recommended many Asian furniture pieces. Live well cared for plants were also a part of the design. This took me to Bonsai Nursery on south Federal, where I purchased a beautiful Ficus philippinensis Root over Rock bonsai. I took very good care of this bonsai and had it showcased in my office. Clients and candidates loved the plant. It relaxed them and me while we worked out business contracts. I was hooked and my friends at Bonsai Nursery suggested I check out the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society. I did so and Darell Havener was the

president, Larry Jackel was the Program Director and our friend Jim Robinson and his wife Marge were in the audience. I knew this was the community I wanted to be associated with. What a great journey it has been and a really wonderful bunch of people to share the art of bonsai. I really enjoy the community outreach project that Darell has championed all these years, the Takayama Park.



What Was Your Biggest Challenge?

Confidence. I went through a year or more of not working on a tree or repotting one without someone to guide me through the process. I had a really nice Japanese Black Pine which I bought from John Kirby when he was one of the artists at our 2012 ABS BCI Bonsai Convention. I left it in the original container, watered it daily, etc. and it DIED! When I pulled it out of the pot, the soil was solid clay. That taught me to have more confidence and Just Do It. I am still struggling with "seeing the tree within the tree." Working with some really great artists like our own Todd Shafer and great visiting artists like Bjorn, I believe I will gain this ability.

What Are You Most Proud Of?

I have narrowed my bonsai collection to eight trees; Limber Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Japanese Black Pine, Japanese White Pine, Japanese Red Pine and Sharps Pygmy Maple.

I am most proud of going out into the community and talking about bonsai. I have gone to 3 nursing homes to give a class on bonsai, then gifting the finished tree to someone in the audience. I am also

very proud of documenting our unique history, going back to the beginning with the Denver Bonsai Club in 1946 and those Japanese Americans who settled in Denver after the unbelievable insult of their internment in WWII. I am working closely with Harold Sasaki and Gary Matsuda making documents and pictures available for the new website and the 50th anniversary. I try to always tell new board members "we owe it to those who came before us."

My Favorite Species

I love the Limber Pine that I received from Todd Schlafer who was the incoming RMBS president and I was the outgoing president. It is hard to choose, but this is my favorite bonsai tree. Still, the Japanese Black Pine is a close second.

What Surprised You Most About the Art

How much I have enjoyed the continual learning process. It is like the bonsai itself "always in training." The art has also really promoted my Mindfulness training. It keeps me in the moment, and I feel mentally is very healthy.

Where / who do you derive inspiration for bonsai?

My friend and instructor Harold "Hal" Sasaki. I took a class from Hal very early in my bonsai study and he has always offered more than just learning about bonsai. We discuss the spirit of the tree and for me that is very inspirational. Thank you Hal!



DISTINGUISHED MEMBER PROFILES – Patrick Allen

COL Robert Krueger, USA (Ret.)

(March, 11th, 1920 – February 28th, 2014)

Colonel Krueger was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1940, attended Officer Candidate School and became a commissioned officer in the Army Air Corps. He completed 32 years of military service obtaining the rank of Colonel. During his service he commanded the U.S. Air Force Base, Camp Drake Japan. Colonel Krueger, known as "Bob," to his friends, became interested in Bonsai while living in Japan. In 1968, Bob and his family made their home in Denver Colorado. In 1969, Bob became a chartered member of the Denver Bonsai Club. He befriended Mr. George Fukuma, the founder of George Fukuma Imports at 2550 Stout Street. Mr. Fukuma store carried bonsai pots and supplies from Japan and he was the founder of the Denver Senior Bonsai Club. The Denver Senior Bonsai Club was taught in Japanese. Colonel Krueger was fluent in the Japanese language and worked hard to start and English-speaking bonsai club. This club was originally known as the Denver Junior Bonsai Club. The name was changed to the Denver Bonsai Club, later renamed to the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society. Bob served as the Society's president in 1976. He was known for his expertise with cultivating rare Japanese Maples and other hard to get bonsai plants. He was awarded the RMBS Artist of the Year award in 1988.



Robert Krueger in His Denver Greenhouse
~ 1995

James T. Robinson, PhD

(September 8th, 1923 – February 18th, 2013)

Dr. Robinson, known as Jim to his many friends, was born and raised in California. He attended University of California Berkley and graduated from Whittier College. In 1943 he joined the U.S. Navy where he was a naval aviator and instructor. Finishing his military obligation, he returned to California and received his M.S. in Biology from Whittier College and went on to Stanford University to receive his PhD in Science Education in 1964. In 1969 he moved to Boulder, Colorado. Jim's interest in Bonsai began in 1966. When he moved to Boulder he found George Fukuma's store in the "yellow pages" sought him out and bought several bonsai pots from him. They became friends and Jim joined the Denver Junior Bonsai Club. He became its president in 1970 and again in 1991. He received the Bob Kataoka Memorial Award "Bonsai Artist of the Year" in both 1989 and 1997. The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society honored Dr. Robinson's many contributions by naming the "James T. Robinson, PhD Emerging Artist of the Year" in his memory.



Jim Robinson with Slanting Bougainvillea Bonsai
June, 2004

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

Membership Renewal:

RMBS has adopted a policy where all membership renewals occur on July 1, and cover the succeeding 12 months, ending on June 30th.

All memberships renew this summer on July 1st, 2018. Individual memberships are \$35 per year and family memberships are \$50 per year.

You may pay via cash or check at any monthly meeting or mail your check to the address below. If you mail your check please be sure to include your email address and telephone number.

PAYMENT ADDRESS:

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society
c/o Membership Renewal
PO Box 271043
Louisville, CO 80027

Discounts Available to Members:

We have an account established with Way to Grow Gardening Supply in Denver. You can receive discounts on some items up to 15%. You will need to tell them you are a member of RMBS.

Resources for Members:

Other internet resources:

[New RMBS Web Site](#)

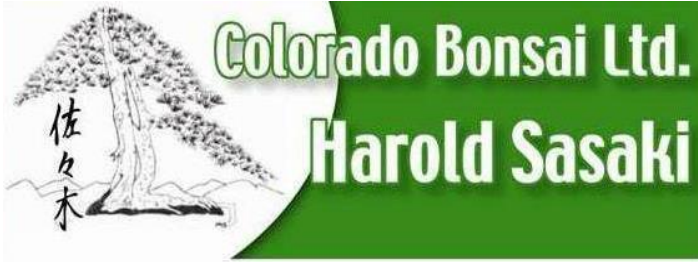
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