



CHINESE ELM JIM LANTIS

RMBS

February 2021

Volume 53 Issue 2

President's Message

by David McPeters

It is Tuesday January 26th and finally it is cold and snowing. Fifty plus degree days in January throw me off. But then that is front range weather. January is a slow month for me when it comes to bonsai. Trees are stored and waiting for spring. Pots and supplies are ordered. All that remains is to care for them through the winter until they emerge in the spring. Did I say I miss the Wednesday study sessions at Chatfield Gardens? I have acquired two new trees this winter; a Harland Boxwood that was regifted to me and a dwarf Japanese Maple I bought via auction from Bill Valavanis. Both are spending the remainder of the winter in the garage waiting for Spring.

The board met on January 24th to start planning for the year. Of course, there is still a lot of uncertainty about when we can begin to meet in person. We are taking the approach that eventually we will be able to hold in person monthly meetings, workshops, and the traditional show at Denver Botanic Gardens. So, we are planning as if that will happen and we will be sure to communicate when those events will begin. For now, monthly meetings will remain virtual.

Among the things we are planning are:

Tom Anglewicz has put together a robust schedule of monthly meeting topics. And he is planning a series of virtual presentations

from artists. We do hope to have in person workshops again later in the year.

Bob Randal is reinstating the Beginning Bonsai class with Larry Jackel as the instructor assisted by other experienced members. Additionally, he is exploring restarting a mentoring program.

Pat Deutschman is going to begin publishing the newsletter on the website in a browser and mobile friendly form. If you have ideas for the newsletter or would like to write an article, contact Pat at

RMBQuestions@gmail.com

Andy Berry is in charge of the boards objective to leverage social media to insure people interested in bonsai can find us and to deliver content and value to you the members. He could really use the help of someone who has experience with social media marketing. The club currently has the [website](#), a [Facebook](#) page, an [Instagram](#) page, and a [YouTube](#) channel. Members are encouraged to follow them and to promote them on their personal social media.

David

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Guest artist February

Bjorn L BJORHOLM

EISEI-EN OWNER



Bjorn L BJORHOLM, owner of Eisei-en, is a bonsai professional and instructor who spent six years as an apprentice under Master Keiichi Fujikawa at Kouka-en bonsai nursery in Osaka, Japan before receiving certification as a bonsai professional by the Nippon Bonsai Association. His tenure as an apprentice at Kouka-en was followed by three years as artist-in-residence at the same location, making him the first foreign-born working bonsai professional in Japan. During his time in Japan, Bjorn's works were featured in the Kokufu-ten, Sakufu-ten, and Taikan-ten exhibitions, among many others.

In addition to his work in Japan, Bjorn travels the world, from Europe to Asia to Latin America, teaching bonsai art and providing services to private clients and international organizations. He operates intensive bonsai schools with affiliate nurseries in Spain and the United States, while also working with international bonsai organizations.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS MONTH?

We are starting a new section of the newsletter to keep readers informed about what members are doing with their bonsai in the coming month as well as a place to ask and answer questions by some of our worldly experienced experts.

Our first installment is from Larry Jackel, long time member of RMBS and the bonsai guru at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Larry's only caveat is that he has world class facilities, two giant green houses and dozens and dozens of bonsai to care for.

February: Winter protecting trees

Native trees: Many bonsai artists use a "cold frame" for wintering which is usually a transparent frame that is protective but still lets in light, or if using an open exposure, create a "bunker" made out of wooden frames, like a box, filled with gravel or mulch. Either way, bury your trees in their pots below the ground level and then mulch or cover with pea gravel to the top of the pot. The objective is to keep the fragile and vulnerable roots from freezing. You want to make sure the root system does not get dried out. Snow is a great source of moisture, so let your tree get covered with snow and add some more to keep it moist. Larry gauges the need to water by the



depth he can push his finger down into the pea gravel. If the ground is frozen, he doesn't get more than an inch or so deep, in that case no need to water. Protection from the wind is very important and they don't need to be getting much in the way of direct sunlight during the winter dormancy time. Resist wanting to get started on trimming and repotting! Don't be too early with moving trees into the sun and out of cold frames or bunkers, as the most damage to a tree occurs in March and April when we beautiful weather and then sudden harsh cold.



Bob Kataoka's concrete bunkers



A sign that a tree has freeze damage- the tree blooms out in the spring, there is just enough energy in the trunk to push out needles or buds but then it dies suddenly- that is evidence of the roots being frozen. We saw that happen last year with the 40-50 degree temperature shift in one day and massive late spring snow storm. Reports of RMBS members losing trees was not uncommon.



Backyard cold frames with lids



Other methods of wintering: Trees that can tolerate low temperatures can be kept in a garage or shed as they are in their dormant stage so don't need light. Some recommend to water weekly, but if the garage or shed gets below freezing, don't water. Some members use a remote thermometer with a humidity monitor under the mulch to know what the conditions are.

Tropicals and trees that need protections from freezing temps: Trees kept in a greenhouse or inside will get the best light from being near a south facing window, but if that is not possible, use a grow light. Remember to turn the containers often to get even exposure to the light source. Continue a regular watering schedule. Larry recommends turning the pot a quarter turn in the same direction daily. Keep a close eye on leaves and soil for insects. Things you can do with your trees during this time period- some trees can be repotted that are in a protected environment like a green house, or inside. No trimming is recommended unless needed. Clean off the soil and repot. Deciduous trees can be pruned and thinned while there are no leaves present- giving one a clear view of the structure. Make small, not major, cuts.



Local greenhouse maintained at above freezing temperature.

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 271043 Louisville, CO 80027

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>February Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, February 2 7PM Zoom online	<u>PRESENTATION BY BJORN BJORHOLM</u> BROADLEAF EVERGREENS AND Q&A
<u>March Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, March 1 7PM Zoom online	<u>TOM ANGLEWICZ</u> REPOTTING TECHNIQUES PRESENTATION AND DEMO
<u>April Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, April 13 * 7PM Zoom online	<u>SERGIO CUAN</u> DECIDUOUS TREES
<u>May Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, May 11* 7PM Zoom online	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u> DEMO
<u>June Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, June 1 7PM	<u>JERRY MEISLIK</u> FICUS AND OTHER DECIDUOUS TREES
<u>July Monthly Meeting</u> TBD	
<u>August Monthly Meeting</u> TBD	
<u>September Monthly Meeting</u>	
<u>RMBS annual show</u> Friday-Sunday September 3-5 Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>SHOW SITE TO BE DETERMINED BY DBG</u> TENT OR BONSAI PAVILION AS CONDITIONS ALLOW



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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*.

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 



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