



RMBS

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PONDEROSA PINE STYLED BY BJORN BJORHOLM, UNDER THE CARE OF TOM ANGELWICZ

President's Message

by Andy Berry

RMBS President's Message August 2020

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Collection Update

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."—Marian Wright Edelman

2019 saw the celebration of our 50th Anniversary Bonsai Exhibition, and the dedication of a new collection of bonsai during our awards ceremony on Friday September 6th, 2019. The "Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Collection" was an idea hatched early that year by Adam Johnson and Tom Anglewicz when repotting a lodgepole pine that had been styled by visiting artist Ryan Neil of Bonsai Mirai. They wondered how this tree could make a bigger impact for both the RMBS membership and the public at large.

This lodgepole pine (styled by Ryan Neil), and a ponderosa pine designed by Bjorn Bjorholm became the first bonsai to represent RMBS and the spirit of our first 50 years of formal display and enjoyment of the art of bonsai. It seems fitting that both species are Rocky Mountain natives.

The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Collection will be curated and cared for by our members with the intent of being an educational resource for RMBS (we will further the style and refinement of these bonsai) and also a collection that may be displayed in whole or part to advance the enjoyment and appreciation of bonsai for our community. We anticipate adding bonsai specimens in the future and codifying the mission and vision for these artworks and how they might add value for everyone involved.

Here is an update on each tree two-years out from professional styling. They look Amazing.

RMBS Bonsai #1 Lodgepole Pine (*pinus contorta*):

By Adam Johnson, RMBS member and current caretaker

This lodgepole pine was initially collected by RMBS members Jeff Sczechowski and Larry Jackel in 2013. This tree was part of Jeff's collection when he moved from Colorado to California and gifted some of his larger specimens to RMBS members. I have cared for the tree since the time of Jeff's departure. In May 2018 this tree was chosen as a subject for a demonstration by visiting professional artist Ryan Neil from International Bonsai Mirai. Ryan's aim was to keep the "lodgepole pine nature" of this very straight trunked tree (which is a natural habit of this species).



RMBS Lodgepole pine prior to styling May 2018

To accomplish his vision, Ryan wanted to showcase the naturally occurring deadwood on the main trunk. A bulky upper branch which serves as an offshoot of the primary trunk formed an odd u-shape. Rather than hiding this unusual feature, Ryan performed a wedge-cut on this thick branch, and guy-wired this to the main trunk to create a more acute angle. This made a secondary trunk with an identical inclination to the main line of the composition. Ryan used 4-gauge wire to complete the heavy bends and form a graceful spreading canopy with the larger branches. The nearly straight angle of inclination emanating from the trunk on major branches is characteristic of the species. Ryan completed the work by balancing the energy of the tree by needle plucking and additional foliage management.

Ryan Neil styles the RMBS lodgepole pine, May 2018.



Since this time, the tree has grown very well and has put on nice masses of foliage. The Lodgepole has been treated with the established single-flush short needle pine technique and has responded with health and vigor. The bonsai was potted into a suitable ceramic training pot from the rectangular plastic container in spring of 2019.



The completed scope of Ryan's work for 2018



Following repotting into suitable ceramic training container May 2019.

This tree continues to build ramification and grace. The secondary trunk wedge-cut has healed very nicely and is almost imperceptible unless you know where to look. The tree continues to generate back-budding and will have some additional deadwood work and carving performed on the stumpy branches that were left low on the trunk during initial collection of this tree.



RMBS Lodgepole pine as it appears in July 2020

RMBS Bonsai #2 Ponderosa Pine (*pinus ponderosa*):**By Tom Anglewicz, RMBS member and current caretaker**

This Ponderosa Pine was collected by former RMBS member Jeff Szechowski and Larry Jackel in either 2013 or 2014. In early 2016 Jeff and his family were preparing to move to California, and Jeff had three large Ponderosas that he wanted to get into bonsai containers. He brought all three trees, including this one, to my home in April of that year and we repotted them. I had a large mica pot that we put this tree into, with good bonsai soil. Because this pine had a long, horizontal major branch, Jeff thought that it resembled the profile of the RMBS "logo" tree originally styled by Bob Kataoka. He offered to donate the tree to RMBS and suggested that it might be developed as a "clone" of the logo tree. I offered that that might be possible but that we would have to see what options the tree presented once it was ready to be worked. The tree was left in my care.



RMBS logo tree. Ponderosa pine, artist Bob Kataoka displayed circa 1980s.

I allowed the tree to grow for the balance of 2016 and all through 2017. It grew vigorously and showed good health. No work was done during this period except to remove third-year needles that naturally drop in the fall. The tree was heavily fertilized from spring through fall. Jeff had indicated that he was comfortable with either Larry or me styling the tree; but, since Bjorn Bjorholm was to be in Colorado in 2018, I suggested that we have Bjorn style the tree as his demo to the club. Jeff concurred, and the initial styling took place on July 10th, 2018. I conveyed to Bjorn Jeff's idea of making this tree a clone of Bob Kataoka's much earlier design but emphasized that he should style the tree as he saw fit. He studied photos of the Kataoka tree and acknowledged that a similar design direction might be possible for this one.

To my surprise, and probably that of others, one of Bjorn's first moves was to remove and jin the long, horizontal signature branch that originally suggested the comparison to our logo tree! I suspect that he immediately saw that this branch was just too long to be a valuable part of the overall composition. Instead, he did a major bend on a second branch that placed it in a similar position on the opposite side of the pine. Then he proceeded to wire out the remaining branches to create the semi-cascade form that became the eventual design, everything in much better proportion.

Tree prior to initial primary styling 2018



After the demo I took the tree back home, and it has been growing nicely since. Though it has an initial structural styling, the tree is still largely in development. I have continued to fertilize it, spring through fall. It has developed back buds and increased foliage mass, which, with single-flush long-needle pines will eventually result in shorter needles. If the tree continues to thrive, I will repot it again in spring of 2021, hopefully into a container worthy of its quality. The container also needs to be smaller in size, assuming that we can safely reduce the root mass. This wonderful Ponderosa should hopefully be ready to show in another two years.





RMBS ponderosa as it appears July 2020. First photo is Bjorn's chosen viewing side.

I hope you all appreciate how far these two bonsai have come in just two years; it is magnificent. Thank you to Tom and Adam for their thoughtful care of these bonsai and I am certain they will bring RMBS and the public joy for years to come.

Your brother in bonsai,

Andy berry

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2020 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<u>Aug Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday Aug 4 th 6:30-9:30 PM Location On Line via Zoom	<u>SHORT PROGRAM:</u> <u>LONG PROGRAM: JIM DOYLE</u> THE ART OF BUNJIN
<u>August Workshop</u> Aug 22 and 23 Location : Home of Dan Kingery. Participants must wear a mask.	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u>
<u>September Monthly Meeting - to be held in August</u> Tuesday, August 25 Location TBD	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u> VISITING ARTIST DEMONSTRATION
<u>RMBS Virtual Show and Exhibit</u> September 19-27	<u>DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS</u> <u>RMBS WEBSITE</u>
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 6 Location: On Line via Zoom	<u>SHORT PROGRAM:</u> <u>LONG PROGRAM: DANNY COFFEY</u>
<u>November Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, November 3 Location: TBD	<u>SHORT PROGRAM:</u> <u>LONG PROGRAM: JAN CULEK</u>

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, 2020. 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

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

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](#)

[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)

[First Branch Bonsai](#)

[S&S Bonsai](#)

[RMBS Facebook Page](#)

[Mike Horine Website](#)



First Branch Bonsai
Todd Schlafer in Denver, Colorado

2020 3 Day Workshops Now Available!
May 1-3, May 22-24 & June 19-21



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