



RMBS

August 2021

Volume 53 Issue 8

President's Message

by David McPeters

As an expatriate southerner, I really like Colorado mornings. Walking out into a cool sunlit morning is much better than walking out into the hot humid blast furnace I grew up in. Mornings are one of my favorite times to be in my garden. I water, weed, and sometimes just sit. When I worked out of my home office, I made a point of spending a half hour in the garden before work, weather permitting, to get grounded for the day. I still do that.

The morning is full of possibilities, not burdened by the realities of the events of the day. This time of year, preparing for the annual show I need to be looking for possibilities to put in the show or identifying finishing touches on selected trees. And it is difficult this year. Due to a variety of circumstances, I find I am having difficulty identifying trees for the show. Several that I had selected to work on in the spring will not be ready. One ponderosa was attacked by sawflies. Fortunately, I got that remedied quickly but still lost

a good part of the foliage on an important branch. I realized another just wasn't far enough along. Another I applied detail wiring and when finished realized there was too much wire for a show. A bonsai show is not like a smart phone introduction. You can't show a photoshopped picture or prototype that isn't complete. And so it goes. I hope your preparations are underway. We will have a Saturday workshop on August 28th at Paul Koenning's house. One final chance to tune some trees for the show.

We are less than six weeks to the show. Planning is progressing. Some key points. The Friday evening event is going to be more of a social time. We will present awards. But it is intended to allow members and their guests to mingle, enjoy the show, and strategize on the silent auction. Connie has already sent out the first solicitation for donations for the silent auction.

The gardens policy on food is very strict this year. They are requiring that any food be wrapped as single servings. Our planning hasn't gotten to a solution. The board meets this Sunday, and we will exit the meeting with a plan. Stay tuned.

As in 2019 Mike Green will be photographing all the trees and stones on Friday and Saturday. New this year we will have a guest artist doing demonstrations. Sam Holm has arranged for Kora Dalager to attend and do demonstrations on Kusamono. Sam is also lining up members to do demos during the weekend.

One word of caution. You have seen that COVID infection rates are going up and some states have already imposed new COVID restrictions. The gardens have made clear that if new restrictions are imposed, they will have to reevaluate their policies. Larry Jackel is on top of this for the club.

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for emails on the logistics of getting your displays into and out of the gardens, calls for volunteers as the weekend work schedule is completed, and reminders about tree and stone registration. One small change, the show will end at 3:30pm on Sunday instead of 4:30.

I hope to see you there. The weekend will be a good time to reconnect face to face, catch up with old friends, and make some new ones!

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Bonsai workshop for RMBS members held at David McPeters backyard. Thank you David for hosting at your home!



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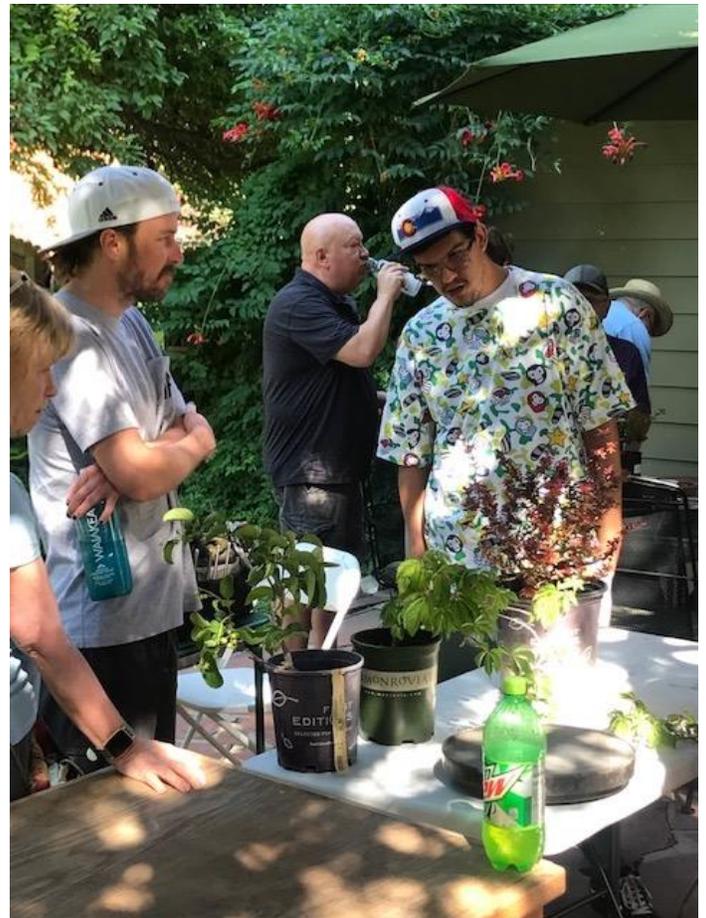


Next RMBS workshop –Saturday, August 28th. 9am till noon.

Paul Koenning's house.

9631 Burberry Lane
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Bring your trees to work on, your questions you want answered, your expertise to share with others, or just join the group for some RMBS intera



HAIL! By Tom Anglewicz

We have lived in the foothills above Boulder for over ten years. During that timeframe we have experienced a number of strong thunderstorms, sometimes with heavy rain. Occasionally a storm would also contain hail stones, but typically those have been small enough in size to not do significant damage. That all changed a few weeks ago.

On a Friday afternoon several weeks ago the sky turned very dark, there was lightning and thunder, and then a substantial downpour that very quickly turned to hail. As Florentina and I scrambled to move bonsai and other plants, and to cover plants that were just getting hold in our newly expanded and fenced vegetable garden, the hail accelerated and grew in size. Some stones were the size of a quarter. We were both clad in just rain jackets with hoods and being pelted by this stuff was seriously painful.

Florentina did a terrific job of covering the veggies and tomato cages with inverted plastic pots and large plastic lawn trash bags. The bonsai benches on the north side of our house contain broadleaf deciduous and evergreen trees. The benches have PVC pipe frames that support a twenty-foot-long shade cloth. Unfortunately, I had not secured the bottom edge of the shade cloth to the feet of the benches (it is outfitted with a series of simple tie-downs), so the hail was weighting down the cloth and forcing it onto the bonsai underneath. Because the large hail was coming so fast, it took both of us struggling mightily to dump the hail off and relieve the pressure. The situation (and my language) was not pretty.

I stood in my kitchen looking out to the adjacent deck where nearly all of the coniferous bonsai are totally exposed to the sun and sky during the summer months. Even though the deck was now totally covered with hail, it looked like most of the conifers were fairly resilient and the hail stones were essentially bouncing off of their foliage. That proved to be a false perception. Of course, potted flowering plants and hanging baskets, all of which were looking terrific, were decimated. In the time available, and given the severity of the hail, there was little we could do to save them.

When the storm had passed, every horizontal surface was covered in hail stones. It literally looked like the aftermath of a snowstorm. It was almost impossible to walk on the stuff, like walking on a bed of marbles. In shaded areas of the neighborhood the ice remained for the next two days, in spite of rising temperatures.

When I was finally able to raise the shade cloth over the trees on the north side, I was pleased to see that damage to the deciduous and



broadleaf evergreens was not extensive. A small Hokkaido Elm lost two of its branches. Another small Chinese Elm also lost branches. A large Portulacaria that I have been growing for about fifteen years, and which was not under the shade cloth, was completely defoliated; but, in the intervening weeks, it is growing a whole new flush of growth. A large coastal live oak, also exposed, was similarly defoliated, though I am seeing some signs of new leaf buds emerging and I am hopeful.

Over the next few days, I continued to examine the conifers for damage. In many cases the damage was not immediately apparent. Pinyon Pines, which live under an eave of the house on the east side were protected overhead and did not suffer. A very large Bougainvillea in that same location was grazed by the hail, but I have since taken off its spent bracts, pruned it and it is looking fine. On initial inspection, my two mature Prostrata Junipers looked to be in good shape, but over the next couple of weeks I realized that they were shedding pieces of foliage that were not immediately obvious. This is not a big problem; they are due for some selective minor pruning anyway.

Ponderosa Pines and Limber Pines came through the event virtually unscathed. I think they are just so resilient that even the large hail stones were bouncing off their foliage. I saw no evidence of damage. The Japanese Black Pines are another matter. Most of them had been decandled in early June; but I had not, for the most part, done the concomitant needle plucking. The hail did that for me.

Some shoots on the JBP's were destroyed completely, some needles were broken in half, and some were blown off entirely. Over the last week I have been working with each of the Black Pines, carefully removing dead or broken needles and trying to balance the energy in each one by making the density of needles uniform across the tree. I have two very large field grown JBP's. One of them has some lengthy lower branches that I was letting run with the hope of generating backbudding to which I could eventually cut back. Those branches were apparently pummeled and have lost a lot of foliage. I am just watching to see if they will come back.

Typically, we don't fertilize Black Pines after candle cutting so as not to encourage long needles and internodes in the second flush of growth. However, given the punishment and loss of needles, I am giving these trees some fertilizer to hopefully encourage more vigor moving forward. I believe that some of the JBP's may have been set back a year as a result of this storm, but I just want them to survive and continue to grow.

We had not seen hail like this in the entire ten years that we've lived here. A few days later, I spoke to a neighbor who said that they had not experienced such hail in the 25 years that they've lived here. I was always under the impression that severe hail occurred mostly in the flatlands, but I guess that's not the case anymore. After the storm subsided, I looked at the weather on my iPhone, and it said, "Severe Thunderstorm predicted for Boulder" and it gave the time of a half hour earlier. Too bad I didn't look at it before this happened!



The thing is, even if I had looked at my phone beforehand, there is just not that much one can actually do. Everything happened so fast and furiously, and it's almost impossible to protect or move trees that are totally exposed to the weather, especially heavy ones, when you are being pelted by the hail. We have talked about erecting some type of overhead structure that could support shade cloth over the whole main deck for this type of emergency, but that is an expensive major project. With climate change, I just hope this does not become a regular occurrence!

Natural Convergence

A MEETING OF TWO ARTFORMS

BONSAI BY PAUL KOENNING
PAINTINGS BY JENNA KOENNING



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

1007 York Street • Denver • Colorado
Outdoors in the Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion

AUGUST 7TH - AUGUST 15TH, 2021

Included with admission to the gardens

- ARTIST MEET & GREET -

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 5PM - 8PM
Free Admission (tickets not required)

We are excited to announce an upcoming outdoor exhibit at the Denver Botanic Gardens featuring Bonsai trees by Paul Koenning and landscape paintings by Jenna Koenning. Placed within the Bill Hokosawa Bonsai Pavilion, the trees and paintings will be paired in a distinctive exhibit that honors the traditions of the Bonsai artform while contemporizing the display with landscape paintings.

The show runs August 7th through August 15th and is included with admission to the gardens (adults \$15 / seniors \$11.50 / children & students \$11). Please be sure to purchase your tickets online prior to visiting the gardens since COVID-19 admission restrictions may still be in place through August:

<https://www.botanicgardens.org/tickets-log>

Please join us for the Artist Meet & Greet on Saturday, August 7th from 5-8pm (free admission, tickets not required).

We cannot wait to share our unique artistic vision with you!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS MONTH?

Preparing your trees and also pots for the annual show!

Paying your RMBS dues!

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



Some scenes from past shows.



Annual Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society show

The show is planned for the weekend of Sept 3-5 at the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) in the large tent.

We will be subject to any changing rules and restrictions imposed by DBG as a response to Covid outbreaks.

Volunteers will need a name badge, which will be given to you at the tent.

Set up will be Friday during the day. The yearly program, dinner, auction, will be somewhat reduced per new policies of DBG – more to come in the next week as the RMBS board discusses options.

Tree and Stone registration will begin in the next week, email instructions will be forth coming.

Show chair, Darrell Whitley will need volunteers for set up and break down Friday and Sunday, and also members to be present during the show to offer information and guidance to visitors. Please contact him with your interests. darrell.whitley@gmail.com

Every member is highly encouraged to show a tree even if you are a novice – its great fun to participate!



2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<u>August Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, August 3 7PM Zoom on-line	<u>MICHAEL HAGEDORN</u> "BONSAI HERESY, 56 MYTHS EXPOSED USING SCIENCE AND TRADITION"
<u>September Monthly Meeting</u>	
<u>RMBS annual show</u> Friday-Sunday September 3-5 Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS</u> SHOW, DEMOS
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 5, 7PM <u>Denver Botanic Gardens and also on-line</u>	<u>RYAN NEIL</u> BONSAI MIRAI LIVE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIVES
<u>October presentation follow up</u> Wednesday, Oct 6, 7PM-8PM Zoom	<u>EXCLUSIVE RMBS MEMBERS Q & A WITH RYAN NEIL</u> <u>ONE HOUR</u>
<u>November Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, November 2, 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens and Zoom	<u>DARRELL WHITLEY</u> SUISEKI



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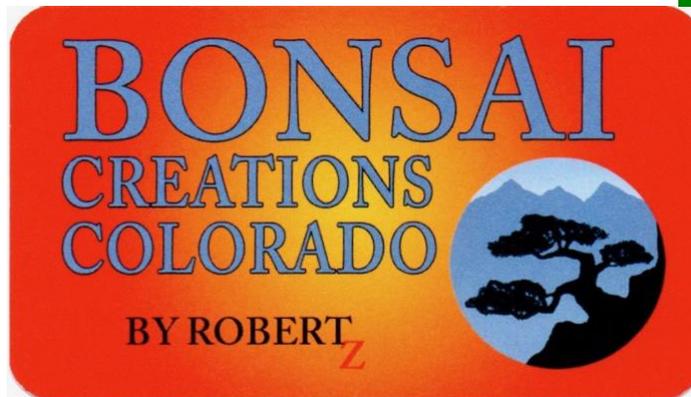
Specializing in Character and Colorado Native Collected Trees, Finished Bonsai, Starter Plants, Pots, Soil, Books, Tools, Wire, Private Lessons and Online Native Spruce sales.

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



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