



RMBS

July 2021

Volume 53 Issue 7

"47 RONIN" SUBALPINE FIR FOREST BOB KATAOKA PACIFIC BONSAI MUSEUM

## President's Message

by David McPeters

I am happy to announce that Denver Botanic Gardens is now allowing in person meetings in the new building, the Freyer-Newman Center, and will allow us to hold our annual show on the pavilion next to the UMB Bank Amphitheater.

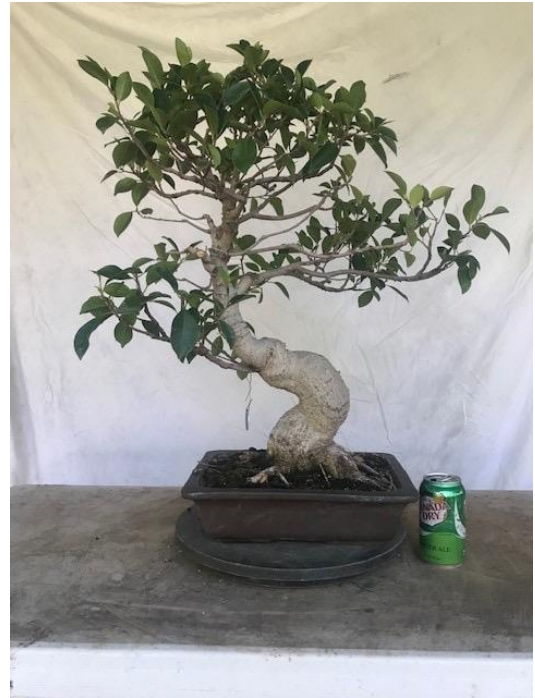
Our July meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> is our first hybrid meeting, both in person in the Freyer-Newman Center Strum Family Auditorium and broadcast on Zoom and YouTube. Please join us. Hybrid meetings are more complicated to run effectively, and we can expect some bumps along the way. We will have a moderator to help facilitate interaction between those in the auditorium, those online, and the presenter. Some of

you are familiar with this from your work life. For those attending in person, park in the garage across York Street, enter through the sliding gate south of the gift shop, then walk through Boettcher Memorial Center and up the stairs on the far end to the Auditorium. For this initial meeting there will not be a raffle, nor will we have snacks and drinks. We are only allowed bottled water in the auditorium. You should bring your own for this meeting.

After the July meeting I would appreciate your feedback on whether we should hold hybrid meetings when the presenter is remote. Do we want to meet at the auditorium and watch the presentation there?

Annual show planning has started for the first weekend of September, Labor Day weekend. Darrell Whitley is the show chairman. I am looking forward to participating at the show. It is always a lot of fun. I encourage all members to participate through volunteering, attending, and most importantly exhibiting a tree or trees. New members or those with less experience often are hesitant to exhibit a tree. I experienced this myself, questioning whether what I had was 'good enough.' RMBS' tradition has always been that all levels of practitioners are welcome and encouraged to exhibit. There will be two more Saturday workshops before the show. One in July and one in August. These are excellent opportunities to get advice on how to prepare your tree and a display for a show. I found going through the process of preparing to be a valuable learning experience.

Switching topics: I am fortunate to have a Ficus in my collection originally owned by Frank Hiraoka. Frank was a senior club member, Denver Bonsai Club, who regularly came to the RMBS annual show. He passed away in 2014 and Larry Jackel took care of it since then. In 2014 Larry 'reduced it to a stump' and then allowed it to grow out. I started working on it in late 2019 at the Chatfield Wednesday workshops, wiring and pruning to start working on the design. Then COVID. Larry removed the wire in late 2020. Earlier this year Larry gave it to me.



It has not been repotted for some time and that is the first order of business now that it is pushing new growth. Those hot days of June gave it a kickstart. The root mass was a dense, solid, impenetrable block of roots and substrate. See below. There are new white roots pushing out along the edges of the pot. It was impossible to tease out the roots. The substrate had either completely decomposed or was originally mostly organic. There was a layer of medium sized pumice on the bottom. Time for some surgery. I first cut a thin slice off all sides and the bottom to get rid of the dead roots lining and those circling the pot. Then I used a technique I learned from Matt Reel to deal with dense mats of roots on collected material. It consists of cutting wedges out of the existing root ball, repotting, and then at the next repot addressing the remaining old substrate.



The photos below are after 45 minutes of work and show the material removed and the wedges that were cut.



Finally, I repotted it in a mixture of equal parts pumice, akadama, lava, turface, and shredded bark. This is not my usual mix for Ficus which is generally equal parts pumice,

akadama, lava, and shredded bark. However, my supply of akadama is almost exhausted so I work with what I have at hand. This mix will be moisture retentive and free draining, a requirement for ficus in Colorado. The pot is not its long-term home but is meant to allow the root mass to grow and extend laterally. It was the right size for the need.



The future for this ficus is to let it recover and grow this year. Then indoors under lights next winter. Depending on how it has recovered, some structural wiring and pruning next spring/summer. Otherwise give it another summer outdoors to grow.

David  
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*RMBS Board of Directors News- by Pat Deutschman*

## WE WILL BE MEETING IN PERSON!

Please join us for our next meeting – **Tuesday July 6, 2021 at the Denver Botanic Gardens.** We will be meeting in the new auditorium in the newly constructed Freyer-Newman Center. Please see attached to the email an article in this month's "Modern in Denver" about this beautiful building.

Our presenter will be RMBS member Will Kearns who will be discussing "forest plantings as bonsai". Will is a very knowledgeable bonsai artist who is also a very engaging speaker.

This will be the first opportunity since March 2020 to meet in person so this should be a great homecoming experience as well! For those who are unable to make the meeting at DBG, it will be video recorded and shown on the RMBS You Tube channel and we will also attempt to show live via Zoom if our equipment can keep up.

Our August meeting will be remote, only on Zoom as our presenter will be in California and DBG could not accommodate our meeting date and time. September will be devoted to the live RMBS bonsai show at Denver Botanic Gardens. October will also be remote as we will be joining Ryan Neil for his weekly presentation at Bonsai Mirai in Oregon and then have a one on one with him the following night for RMBS members only.

There will be two in person workshops for members to work on trees, see the calendar

for details. The first one will be July 17, location to be announced.

We are in discussion about whether to hold live meetings even if the presenter is remote to allow for more socialization and opportunities for members to network, have plants or pots for sale or exchange, access our library and meet new members.

New policies at DBG will affect our club. When we meet in the auditorium we will not be allowed to bring in snacks or drinks, water only. We cannot use the auditorium for demos. In the case of live demos we will be looking for other options that will allow us to bring in live plants and make our usual mess!

Our annual show will be the weekend of Sept 3-5 in the tent at the Denver Botanic Gardens. We will need lots of volunteers to assist with the set up and break down, greet visitors, provide security for the trees and stones on display and take groups on a "tour" of the exhibit. Please set aside time to participate.

A timed entry system is still in place at DBG that requires visitors to pre-purchase tickets. Volunteers will need to be registered and have an official name tag.

We all look forward to seeing you next week- FINALLY!

# *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)

**RMBS membership dues**

**July 1 begins our new membership year.**

**Please renew your dues via PayPal or Venmo, instructions below. You can mail or bring a check to our live meeting as well.**

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS MONTH?

Join our RMBS meeting in person at 6:30PM for casual discussion and questions you have about trees, horticulture, seasonal changes, etc.

### 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. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.

1. Enter rockymountainbonsaisociety@gmail.com
2. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note (if needed) and click **Continue**.
3. Select "Sending to a friend."
4. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
5. 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
<b><u>July Monthly Meeting</u></b> Tuesday, July 6 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens: Freyer-Newman Center Strum Family Auditorium and broadcast on Zoom and YouTube	<b><u>WILL KEARNS</u></b> FOREST PLANTINGS AS BONSAI YOSE UE
<b><u>July workshop</u></b> Saturday, July 17 Location to be announced	<b><u>INFORMAL WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS</u></b> WORK ON YOUR TREES
<b><u>August Monthly Meeting</u></b> Tuesday, August 3 7PM Zoom on-line	<b><u>MICHAEL HAGEDORN</u></b> "BONSAI HERESY, 56 MYTHS EXPOSED USING SCIENCE AND TRADITION"
<b><u>September Monthly Meeting</u></b> TBD	
<b><u>RMBS annual show</u></b> Friday-Sunday September 3-5 Denver Botanic Gardens	<b><u>SHOW SITE TO BE DETERMINED BY DBG</u></b> TENT OR BONSAI PAVILION AS CONDITIONS ALLOW
<b><u>October Monthly Meeting</u></b> Tuesday, October 5, 7PM Bonsai Mirai.com	<b><u>RYAN NEIL</u></b> BONSAI MIRAI LIVE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIVES
<b><u>October presentation follow up</u></b> Wednesday, Oct 6, 7PM-8PM On-line Zoom	<b><u>EXCLUSIVE RMBS MEMBERS Q &amp; A WITH RYAN NEIL</u></b> <b><u>ONE HOUR</u></b>
<b><u>November Monthly Meeting</u></b> Tuesday, November 2, 7PM TBD	<b><u>DARRELL WHITLEY</u></b> SUISEKI
<b><u>December Monthly Meeting</u></b> Annual Holiday party? More info to come	



**First Branch Bonsai**  
 world class raw stock & bonsai  
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**Colorado Bonsai Ltd.**  
**Harold Sasaki**

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

**Open by appointment call: 303-232-8700**

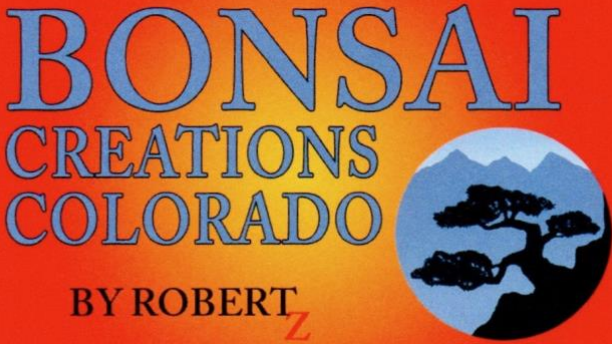
Specializing in Character and Colorado Native Collected Trees, Finished Bonsai, Starter Plants, Pots, Soil, Books, Tools, Wire, Private Lessons and Online Native Spruce sales.

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](mailto:co.bonsai.ltd@gmail.com)**



**BONSAI**  
**CREATIONS**  
**COLORADO**  
 BY ROBERT *Z*

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