



COLORADO SPRUCE - RALPH SCHROEDER IN MEMORIAM

RMBS

October 2021

Volume 53 Issue 10

President's Message

by David McPeters

Hints of autumn are in the air with shorter days and cooler nights, the annual show is over, and the last day of summer was the 22nd. Time to switch gears and prepare for winter. Like spring it is a busy time of year between preparing indoor spaces for tropicals, preparing to put the trees staying outdoors into winter protection, and doing fall work on trees like Ponderosas.

Earlier in the year I was concerned that COVID would negatively impact the show. I need not have worried. All of you who participated, whether displaying trees or stones, volunteering, or just coming to see the show made it another great show and a strong restart of our live show tradition. Thank you!

The show pictures can be found [here](#). There are excellent pictures of the show and of the gardens.

Thanks to Mike Green Photography for another year of great photos.

The 2022 RMBS board election is approaching. The nomination committee (Stephen Lee, Dan Kingery, and Normando Rodriguez) have compiled the list of candidates. Normally the list is presented by the committee at the October monthly meeting. However, this year our October meeting is in concert with Ryan Neil's Tuesday live stream. The candidate list will be emailed to members as a separate email in early October. Additional nominations will be accepted by email. The vote will be held during the November Tuesday meeting.

That is all for this month. Enjoy the great weather.

David
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2021 RMBS Annual Bonsai Show

The 2021 annual show held on Labor Day weekend was a success and great restart after COVID. Forty-seven members displayed trees and stones. Many new members had displays. An exciting trend is that we have members from a growing expanse along the front range, with displays by members from Wyoming to New Mexico. Trees displayed included native conifers, deciduous species, and tropical species. Members and guests complimented the show, the diversity of trees, the quality of trees and the beauty of the stones.

The demonstrations were well attended as they focused on presentations geared toward less experienced bonsai enthusiasts. The demos by our guest artist, Kora Dalager, and Derick Starkey were for a more advanced audience and well attended.



Artist of The Year Dusty Kraft displayed a beautiful Ponderosa Pine. Dusty started his bonsai journey in 2006 and became 'serious' about it in 2012. His favorite species are natives, ponderosa and limber pines, and spruce. Congratulations to Dusty as the 2021 Artist of the year.



The show relies on members turning out to set up on Friday, work through the weekend, and take down on Sunday. Once again, the turnout was excellent.

The Friday night event was a success. Base on member feedback from 2019 it was planned to be less formal and to be more of a social event. After COVID the chance to reconnect in person with old friends and new was a welcome opportunity.





Guest Artist: Kora Dalager:

RMBS member Samantha Holm has been pursuing a goal of having more women participate in bonsai, especially at the local level. She proposed that the club sponsor a woman bonsai artist as a guest artist for our show. She recommended Kora Dalager who is not only a skilled and knowledgeable bonsai artist from California, she also has a special interest in bonsai display.

Kora is also a travel agent and has accompanied Bill Valavanis on over 20 trips to Japan leading tours of bonsai exhibits such as Kokufu, visiting and studying bonsai gardens, as well as some private collections and enjoying oriental culture.

Kora traveled to Denver via automobile on her way to the U.S. National Exhibition in Rochester New York where she was a critiquing artist and also an award sponsor.

It was a great pleasure to follow Kora around our tent as she met with some RMBS members to discuss their bonsai and the accompanying accent plant. She offered great insight into the shape and color of the accent pot, the size of the plant material as well as the orientation to the bonsai.

During several demos on creating various accent plants, she explained that the correct term for an accent plant should be "shitakusa" which should be on a less formal stand than the bonsai. She had a

variety of free form pieces of very thin wood, called a jita, which is most suitable. She was very interested in the size of the accent plant in relation to the bonsai which should be in proper proportion to the main focus – tree, stone, or scroll and it should round out the exhibit to form a complete impression of the season or location where the tree came from.



"Kusamono" are considered the top dog, the focus of the exhibit along with a scroll,

figurine or suiseki to complete the display. It can be a tall, mixed planting or all the same plant. They are usually displayed on a mat, flat board or tray.



She also did a demonstration creating a "Kokedama" which is a planting in a moss ball where the moss takes the place of a pot.

Several of her creations are now on display at the Denver Botanic Gardens in the Bonsai pavilion.



RMBS members enjoying the show.



Derick Starkey and Dave Reagan



Christine and Stephen Lee



RMBS President David McPeters



Show Chair Darrell Whitley



Tom Anglewicz

October Program: Ryan Neil, Bonsai Mirai!

"Ryan Neil grew up in Colorado and as a young teenager trained under and was mentored by Hal Sasaki. He went on to study horticulture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, then apprenticed under the legendary Masahiko Kimura in Japan. The rugged trees of the Wild West eventually beckoned him back, and he opened Bonsai Mirai in Oregon in 2010. Since then, he's become one of the most respected bonsai artists of our day."

As Ryan describes it:

Mirai in Japanese means 'future.' It refers not to the immediate future, but to a distant dream, a romantic thought, the future yet to come, ever out of reach, unobtainable, and continually evolving.

Led by bonsai professional Ryan Neil, what started as an idea has expanded to a movement. We are on a mission to create a new era in bonsai, where compositions reflect the vast array of native landscapes and cultures that are formed in their midst.

Bonsai Mirai is a company, a place, a practice, an ecosystem of creators. We create trees that connect you - to your culture, natural surroundings, and to the spirit of the individual.

RMBS members will be viewing a live presentation of Bonsai Mirai on Tuesday, October 5 as our regular monthly meeting. He will be discussing and demonstrating using Rocky Mountain native trees. The highlight of our meeting with Ryan will occur the next night, Wednesday, Oct 6 where Ryan will be on line exclusively with RMBS members to answer questions. Our time is limited to one hour so we ask members to respectfully limit their questions to allow all present the opportunity to talk to Ryan personally. More details to follow.

Congratulations to Todd Schlafer and Dan Weiderrecht

RMBS members Todd Schlafer and Dan Weiderrecht had trees entered in this year's U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY. Not only is this a very high honor, Todd's tree and accent plant won the "Best tree and accent plant combination"!



Douglas Fir – Todd Schlafer



Ponderosa Pine - Back Country Dan

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

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

Have you paid your dues yet? Only members in good standing can participate fully in club activities!

Other resources

[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)
[First Branch Bonsai](#)
[S&S Bonsai](#)
[RMBS Facebook Page](#)
[Mike Horine Website](#)

2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 5, 7PM On-line Bonsai Mirai	<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 TBD	<u>DARRELL WHITLEY</u> SUISEKI
<u>December Monthly Meeting</u> Sunday December 5 Luncheon Thornton – time and location to be announced	<u>ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION</u> <u>LUNCHEON</u>

We are currently in the planning stages for the annual December party. Past parties included a full buffet style meal supplied by members and the club, live auction, awards, raffles, and lots of laughs. Be sure to put this one on your calendar!



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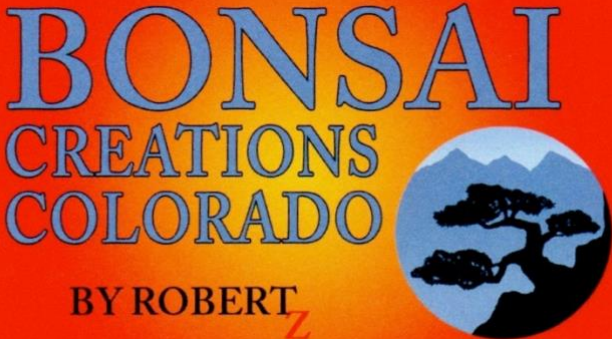
Open by appointment call: 303-232-8700

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



**BONSAI
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 COLORADO**
 BY ROBERT *Z*

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