



DOUGLAS FIR DAN WEIDERRECHT - ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2022

RMBS

October 2022

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President's Message

by David McPeters

Another great show is history. It is wonderful each year to see the show come together through members efforts. The trees, stones, and kusamono where beautiful and inspiring. We are fortunate to have the show at Denver Botanic Gardens. The attendance at the gardens Saturday and Sunday was about 8,500 people. Based on the time I was there a good percentage of those spent time with us. Again, thanks to all the volunteers who make it happen. Imagine having to write an instruction manual describing how put the show up and then run it for two days. It is a good thing we have experienced members. We are still much quicker at tearing it down than putting it up!

You can view the results of the post show survey [here](#).

Congratulations to Normando Rodriguez and Zahari Metchov, this year's winners of the Emerging Artist award.

In October you will receive the candidate list for the 2023 board. The committee is working to identify candidates. If you have any interest serving on the board, please let Terril Samuelson Terrilsam@gmail.com or Lou DeHerrera Deherrerag@msn.com know.

Our by-laws say the following for the election process.

The Executive Board shall be elected in the fall of each year. The Nominating Committee shall present the slate to Club members one meeting prior to the election. Nominations from the floor, with prior consent of the nominees will be accepted at the time of election. Officers shall be elected by a majority ballot and assume office at the first meeting of the new calendar year.

We do not have a Tuesday meeting in November since the October meeting with Jennifer Price is toward the end of October. This year the list of

candidates will be presented by email in October. We will hold the election at the Holiday party scheduled for the first Sunday in December.

I am proposing a dues increase starting with the July 2023 fiscal year. The individual membership will increase from \$35 per year to \$50 per year. The family membership will increase from \$50 per year to \$75 per year.

The justification is that our costs have gone up across the board in the last couple of years.

- For the annual show this year the payment to Butler for the tables and pipe-and-drape went up \$400 and the cost for the food for volunteers on Friday and the Friday night celebration went up \$50.
- Starting in 2023 we will pay DBG \$300 for each classroom reservation. Two visiting artists workshops and three classes for our beginner bonsai series will cost \$1,500 next year.
- Airfares for visiting artists, the society pays for the airfare, have gone up about 30%.
- Member dues pay for operating expenses (DBG yearly dues, PO Box, PayPal, website fees) and subsidize visiting artists and members only workshops. They also help cover onetime expenses such as the \$2,000 we spent this year to buy and set up a shed to store the annual show materials.

Our by-laws say the follow with respect to setting the dues.

Annual dues shall be set by a majority vote of those members present or by a 2/3 majority vote of the board. Changes in dues must be submitted to the membership at a meeting prior to the vote by the membership.

The 2022 Executive Board has approved this increase by a greater than 2/3 majority.

We will vote on this increase at an in person meeting early next year.

Today is Sunday the 11th of September, and it was 39 degrees this morning. Time to prepare for cold weather. I spent the last week cleaning the indoor plant spaces, checking grow lights and replacing

bulbs, planting trees that will become part of the landscape and others still in pots to protect the root mass. It is not too soon to move trees that will spend the winter outdoors to their winter location. Next Saturday I will make a trip to the Douglas County slash mulch site for a couple of yards of mulch to bury conifers. And finally new is the time to start keeping an eye on the long-range forecast in case we have an arctic blast coming this way.

Save the date for our holiday party, Sunday December 4th at Hillcrest Condominium, 9969 Appletree Place in Thornton 80260. RMBS will supply turkey, ham, and drinks. Members supply potluck side dishes. In addition to the meal, we will have a white elephant sale. More information to come as the date approaches.

David



This year's Heritage Tree display was devoted to Jerry Morris's trees as a tribute to his memory and legacy. Thank you Larry Jackel for bringing these trees, that are now part of the permanent collection at DBG, to the show.

September Meeting, Tuesday Sept 27.

The meeting will be live stream only, presenting Ryan Neil of Mirai Bonsai. The auditorium will not be available to us for this viewing.

Some photos from the show.



Connie Garrett – 2022 Show Chair



Silent Auction





**RMBS 2022 ARTIST OF THE YEAR:
DAN WIEDERRECT**

What is your profession?

I am a full-time caregiver and dad with a part-time bonsai business. I co-own and operate Backcountry Bonsai with my good friend Steve Varland. We started the business in 2012 to help fuel our obsession with bonsai. Bonsai, as with many hobbies, can get expensive if you're in as deep as I am.

How did you get into bonsai?

There were two gentlemen in our small town who taught a beginner course at the community college every spring. Shortly after our marriage my wife suggested we attend their class. I was skeptical, stating: "What on earth is that, and why would I be interested?". Well, now here we are ... lol. She may regret that suggestion some days. During that class they brought in another local hobbyist to show his collected trees from the mountains. He turned out to be Steve Varland, my now business partner.

How did you learn and who have you been influenced or taught by?

Wyoming was a bit of a bonsai desert when I first started. Aside from those three gentlemen mentioned above there were no other resources available nearby. I spent hours upon hours scouring the internet, in forums, and reading books. I would occasionally make the trip to Denver with our small club to visit the Bonsai Nursery on Federal and Harold Sasaki's Colorado Bonsai where he would spend time teaching in between our shopping. We also traveled together to Brussels Bonsai in MS once to learn from various professionals. My first encounter with the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society (RMBS) was at the 2012 Denver convention held in conjunction with the American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Clubs International. In 2013 I began traveling to Portland Oregon to study with professional bonsai artist Michael Hagedorn.

I now host various professionals at my home in Wyoming who come to buy trees and work on our private collections with us. RMBS has also been a huge resource; the passionate community and variety of members who eagerly share and learn from each other is inspiring, and it's been a pleasure to serve on the board. RMBS consistently hosts excellent professionals, giving us the chance to learn from the best without the cost of traveling to them or hosting them individually. The professionals I've worked with most consistently have been Todd Schlafer, Ryan Neil, Bjorn Bjorholm, and Michael Hagedorn. There are many others I've

worked with and a multitude of others I count as influences in my own bonsai journey. Additionally, I find myself studying trees everywhere I go, whether it's the river bottoms, mountain tops, or anywhere in between, there is an unending wealth of inspiration all around us.

These days there are incredible resources available for on-line bonsai learning as well, through Bonsai Mirai, Eisei-en, Bonsai Empire, and several others. They help me to stay sharp and inspired through the long winter season.

What is your philosophy on bonsai?

I believe that bonsai can be anything from a peaceful hobby to an obsessive artistic pursuit. One can find beauty in the simplest of trees with a graceful trunk and slender branching as well as in an ancient tree bearing the scars of life high on a mountain side. Bonsai should tell a story; not of us and nature, but of us together, both being part of nature. We are both living beings, sharing life on this planet. Bonsai is a story of that relationship.

What current developments in this art form excite you, and what's on your "Bonsai Bucket List"?

Really the improvements with Live Streaming and social media have opened up the world of bonsai, quite literally. We can now learn from artists worldwide. The ability to see what others are doing and creating is fuel for creativity and allows us to celebrate in each other's successes. There are a great number of people pushing the envelope of not only styling trees but also how bonsai are displayed, which I love to see.

I would love to visit the big shows both in Europe and Japan; particularly the Trophy in Belgium and the Kokufu ten in Japan. Those are the big ones but there are many others here and overseas that I'd love to see in person. I have yet to make it to our US National Exhibition in NY, although I was lucky enough to have trees exhibited in that show last year in 2021. There are also several great bonsai gardens I'd love to see in person. Of course, I plan to keep improving my own collection and garden. An excellent Japanese maple is high on my bucket list of trees to acquire. You can find me here: IG: @backcountrydan, and www.backcountrybonsai.com or email backcountrybonsai@gmail.com

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

2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
	<u>ANNUAL SHOW</u>
<u>September Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, September 27 Live Stream ONLY, no meeting or viewing at Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>RYAN NEIL</u> <u>ROCKY MOUNTAIN PINES</u>
<u>October Workshop</u> Saturday, October 22, All Day Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>JENNIFER PRICE</u>
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 25, 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>JENNIFER PRICE</u>
<u>December Holiday Party</u> <u>Sunday, December 4</u> Hillcrest Condominium Asso. 9968 Appletree Place, Thornton 80260. <u>Time TBA</u>	<u>PARTY, WHITE ELEPHANT SALE</u>

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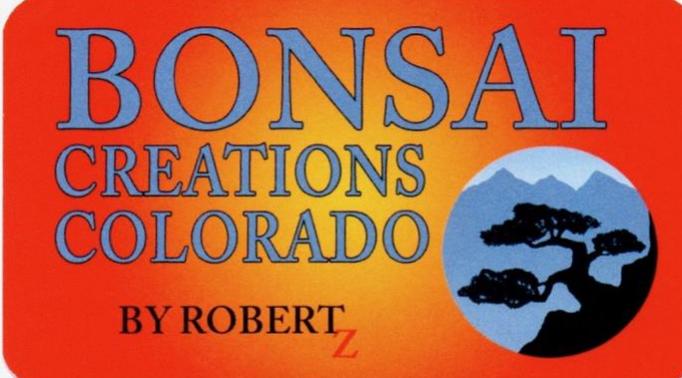
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