



BOXWOOD - BOB RANDALL

RMBS

December 2021

Volume 53 Issue 12

President's Message

by David McPeters

Winter. For some a time for sleeping, dreaming, and planning. For some a dark and difficult time with the waning of the light. Each person finds their own way to traverse the period till spring and the awakening of the earth. Many with the help of ritual. The period between Halloween and Valentine's Day is filled with holidays and all the rituals they come with, or we attach to them. They reinforce our sense of community and provide comfort in a sometimes-fraught world. They connect us with our past, help us make sense of today, and give us hope that we are contributing to the future.

We practice them because we are raised that way, or we are taught the practice in our later lives, or in some cases because we develop them either intentionally or by chance. Sometimes rituals and habits are thought to be the same though they are not. Rituals tend to be rigidly defined with precise steps that are not to be modified. Some believe if precisely practiced rituals will result in a hoped-for

outcome. Habits are less formal and do not have the rigidity of a ritual. With apologies to the Doobie Brothers, I suspect that in some cases what were once habits are now ritual. Or they got it right and what were once vices are now habits, and subsequently rituals.

Bonsai has its share of vices, habits, and rituals. You can tell that they are by the response to anyone having the audacity to question them. Interestingly the responses to these questions can be as contentious as similar challenges to religious, political, or social 'wisdom' in our society. Michael Hagedorn and Ryan Neil do not shy from challenging the accepted bonsai wisdom. For example, Michael in his book *Bonsai Heresy* and Ryan in his podcasts where he delves into the science behind container culture. Beginners often want to know how to successfully grow a species as if there are instructions like those written on a bag of fertilizer. Or they want to be told the rules of

styling, which are written into numerous books although few agree. The reality is that unlike agriculture, bonsai culture is not science, yet, but is more art and experience. And when it come to the artistic aspect there are always radicals who reject the past and create their own style, only to have that copied, codified, and turned into a habit or ritual. Each of us spends our bonsai journey in the midst of this, learning, practicing, refining, and rejecting these habits and rituals. And in doing so we achieve that sense of community.

Happy holidays, be safe, spring is coming!

David

dlimcpeters@msn.com

720-470-7199

Upcoming Events - including 2022 schedule

Our December meeting, **Tuesday, December 7** will be an online Zoom meeting with an open forum format. Members are invited to ask questions, seek advice, share stories or concerns, respond to questions, and give best advice to each other. Please feel free to have your tree handy or a photograph if you would like to share it with the members or ask specific questions about styling, disease, repotting, winter care, etc. We have had this open forum style once last year and it was very well received. We also encourage our more experienced members to participate as a panel of experts.

Please review the Schedule of Meetings and Activities a few pages below. Tom Anglewicz, program chair, has been working very diligently to finalize the scheduled presenters for 2022. We have posted February-June on the calendar. The most welcome news is the majority of our meeting will be live and in person at the Denver Botanic Gardens, a few will be available only on-line as the speaker must present from a remote location.

We have a return of some very popular professional bonsai artists and also some great presentations by our own RMBS members. This should be a very exciting and fun year! Presently RMBS is working with the staff of the Denver Botanic Gardens in arranging for and reserving adequate space for our meetings and will also allow us to have live demos when needed. Since we do not have final confirmation from DBG, the dates posted on our calendar are all tentative, awaiting approval.

RMBS News: Pat Deutschman, editor

Report of the 2021 annual Bonsai Show

The RMBS show was a huge success, well attended by members of the public and a welcome respite from our long isolation! The income from the auction offset the expenses so it was basically a break even.

Survey results from members include: the show layout was excellent; the quality of the trees was superb; the large format trees were a big hit. Areas in need for improvement: communication with a menu on the webpage to consolidate all important information; a desire to have a wider variety of demonstrations- some beginner, some longer ones for advanced bonsai artists; better organization of volunteers and the greeter's station. There were many requests for a return of a live auction and also a food service Friday night. The Board of Directors reviewed the survey and also identified a need to purchase a video camera and audio devices to ensure recording of all demos including our live meetings. Connie Garrett has been elected as the 2022 show chair, with Darrell Whitley serving as co-chair and mentor.

One note- before 2020, the club was meeting in person monthly. All announcements regarding the show, sign up sheets for volunteers, etc. were done in person, not via email. Since the pandemic our entire method of communication had to rely on electronic media - which presents its own challenges. Hopefully, as we begin to meet in person once again, we can have more interaction as in the past and resolve the one-way information flow.

The By-Laws have been amended and the proposed changes have been reviewed by the Board of Directors. The complete document will be attached to the January newsletter for your review to be voted on my membership at our February meeting.

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>December Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, December 7 7PM On Line via Zoom	<u>MEMBERS OPEN FORUM</u> QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION PROBLEM SOLVING BONSAI DISCUSSION
<u>Tentative 2022 Schedule</u>	
<u>January Monthly Meeting</u> Cancelled	
<u>February Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, February 1 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>MIKE BRITTEN</u> BONSAI CONTAINERS
<u>March Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, March 1 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>PAUL KOENNING</u> SPRING WORK FOR BONSAI
<u>April Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, April 5 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u> LIVE BONSAI DEMO
<u>April Workshop</u> Todd Schlafer – time and location to be announced	
<u>May Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, May 3 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>YOUNG CHOE</u> <u>ACCENT PLANTS</u>
<u>May Workshop</u> Young Choe – time and location to be announced	
<u>June Monthly Meeting</u> On line via Zoom	<u>BJORN BJORNHOLM</u> "VIRTUAL" PRESENTATION

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Harold Sasaki

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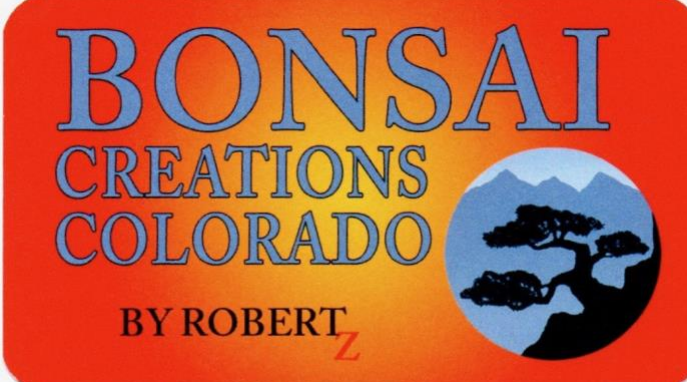
Do you need a gift for a hard-to-shop for bonsai enthusiast? We offer Individual Bonsai Instruction Sessions and we have **Gift Certificates!!** Use them for *anything* (supplies, classes, etc.) and at *any time*.



First Branch Bonsai
world class raw stock & bonsai
from the rocky mountains
www.FirstBranchBonsai.com

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
CREATIONS
COLORADO**
BY ROBERT Z

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