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RMBS

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## President's Message

by Andy Berry

April 2020 President's Message RMBS:  
Pandemic

***"You have power over your mind—not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength."—Marcus Aurelius***

Hello RMBS. I hope you are all staying safe and vigilant in these trying times. Thanks to Todd Schlafer for tuning me in to the quote for this month: I find it a fitting one. Under these extraordinary circumstances, I will forgo the usual message, and rather provide you all with informational updates as we get them.

First, ***all RMBS gathering will be postponed until further notice.*** At this time, we have been notified by the Denver Botanic Gardens that our usual venues will not be available through May. We have cancelled our monthly meetings for April and May, as well as the repotting seminar that was scheduled for mid-April. The Colorado Springs group will also defer gatherings and meetings until the situation is safe to resume.

***RMBS will do it's very best to continue to provide you with the information that was slated to be presented at these meetings. These materials will be available on our website [rmbonsai.org](http://rmbonsai.org), under the "education" tab. We will likely send these materials electronically to the membership***

via email in a metered fashion over the next couple months.

Additionally, ***the members-only forum has been made public and the password protection has been removed. I would encourage everyone to check out the forum,*** and post about your experiences with your bonsai over this period of social isolation to connect with one another. There are already some very thought-provoking discussions on rooting ficus cuttings, developing root over rock bonsai and an aesthetic discussion of old pine trees, to name some of the newest topics.

We will be moving away from the traditional information-dump of the monthly newsletter, and rather sending periodic pieces over the next couple months to keep us engaged and thinking about bonsai and one another.

Bonsai is the perfect reflective activity during this time of anxiety and social isolation and will provide us all with grounding in the season and its scope of work. I, for one, am excited for the coming repotting season and to get out there and spend some time with my trees as I am able.

***Please stay safe out there, continue to practice diligent hygiene / social distancing, and follow the direction from the State Department of Health.*** Know that we are here with you and we will all get through this singular experience in our lives together.

Your brother in bonsai,

Andy Berry

(p):303-910-5756 (e):  
[andrbo304@gmail.com](mailto:andrbo304@gmail.com)

## Note to members

During the next month we will be sending out additional articles including some travelogues from the group from RMBS who recently attended the Kofuku Bonsai Exhibit in Tokyo, Japan.

If you have something you would like to share with the club please send to me so I can add it to the website and/or email it out to the membership.

Pat Deutschman

Secretary/newsletter editor  
[rmbsquestions@gmail.com](mailto:rmbsquestions@gmail.com)

