



COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE - TODD SCHLAFER

RMBS

January 2022

Volume 54 Issue 1

## President's Message

by David McPeters

Happy New Year! Here is wishing each of you a year filled with peace, health, and joy.

Bonsai contributes to each of these in my life. And it turns out that the evidence suggests this is true for all who practice bonsai. Mike Britten found and passed along this article on bonsai.

*Practitioners' Experiences of the Influence of Bonsai Art on Health*, published online in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. The article may be found [here](#).

The authors solicited three hundred practitioners and two hundred and fifty-five responded. There is interesting information on the demographics of the responders. More interesting are the specific answers the authors share from responders. Many will resonate. Some may surprise.

The 2022 board is kicking off the year with its first meeting in late January. We are planning to have a

full year including in-person Tuesday evening meetings, Saturday workshops, and visiting artists workshops. We will continue to have remote access to the Tuesday meetings for those who cannot travel to Denver Botanic Gardens. We will not have a meeting in January 2022.

As president I am focusing on five areas this year.

- Programs – Tom Anglewicz is lining up another year of great programs for our Tuesday meetings. I have seen the latest draft of meetings and I think you will really enjoy each of them.
- Education – You have seen the announcement of the classes sponsored by DBG. Rich Katz is developing a plan for classes sponsored by RMBS. The current plan is a series of three classes to take the participant through the first year with a tree. Stay tuned.

- Saturday workshops – I would like to have the club hold at least one Saturday workshop a month from March through September. These are held at a member's house on a Saturday of their choosing. I will host one and am looking for others to volunteer to host as well. Please consider hosting one.
- The annual show - Connie Garrett is the show chair this year and Darrel Whitley is co-chair. Having a co-chair is a new approach and intended to provide a smooth transition and transfer of knowledge from the previous chair to the current chair. Thanks to Connie for being willing to tackle a large and important job for RMBS. Thanks to Darrel for being willing to put in another year toward the show.
- Social media. During COVID social media allowed us to stay in touch with members and it even resulted in attracting new members. Many thanks to Evan Thomas and Andy Berry for their behind the scenes work. This year we need to not only continue, but to grow our social media presence and usefulness. I am hoping there is a member who has dreams of being a blogger. We could use you!

As always, input from the members is the driver for the objectives the board takes on. We welcome your input and will attempt to address it.

Segue.

As sometimes happens, life got in the way of my bonsai in October and November. As a result, the time I spent on my indoor tropicals decreased. Then at the end of November, what is this? Spider mites? Here is a picture of a small ficus that was infested. It did not occur to me to turn this into a topic until I had already knocked off most of the dying or dead leaves. So believe it or not it looks better in the picture than when I noticed it. With ficus the dying leaves may stay a shade of green, although dull, that can obscure what is going on unless you really look. I wasn't.



When this happens, my remedy is to hit the tree with a water spray in the sink to knock off dead leaves and hopefully some mites. Then spray with a home remedy to kill the remaining mites. There are a lot of products you can buy to use on mites, but I do not want to use them indoors. My home remedy is one recommended by Mike Horine. A half and half mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol. I also add in a tablespoon of mild dish soap. Drench the foliage once a day for three days. Then monitor and repeat if necessary. If you have a minor problem, you can use a Q-tip and alcohol and swab each of the places infested. Otherwise for an infestation a spray works best.

The best remedy is vigilance and thorough inspection. Inspect trees regularly. By this I mean investigate the tree all the way to the trunk for pests or the signs of their presence. A trick I have found for a more casual inspection is to spray the foliage with water and soap. I cannot always see the webs of spider mites, but spraying will make them very visible.

In the spirit of making lemonade from lemons I used this as an opportunity that results in the picture below. I defoliated and heavily pruned. Yes, I am breaking a few rules. I reason that if the tree is going to recover and push new leaves, I might as well take advantage and have them push where I want them. I have removed all the branches growing up and down, reduced to two branches at each junction,

pruned off branches I do not want, and removed all the leaves and the growth tips.



This will go back in my grow room where there is a lot of light, it stays warm, and there is good humidity. I have done this enough times to feel reasonably confident that it will survive. I would not do this at this time of year to a ficus that is doing well.

Update on 12/26/21. The work and photos were from 12/02/21. Currently the tree is the same as the photo above. It has not pushed any new leaves, yet, but the small, undignified branches are still green. Call me less confident but it stays in the grow room.

Happy New Year! I hope to see everyone online or in-person in the coming year. Stay safe.

David  
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Update on Presentation by Ryan Neil to RMBS

Ryan did a demo for our online meeting several months ago. The presentation can be seen on the You Tube link below, and the finished tree styling is updated as well- see note and link.

The video is live on YouTube and can be seen at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtMKL2iDvBI>. The transformation has been added to the end of the stream in the Mirai Live library as well at this link: <https://live.bonsaimirai.com/library/video/rocky-mountain-native-material-work>.

Thanks again for sponsoring this stream and enjoy!

This past October Don Willis passed away. He was a long-time member of 35+ years and the Artist of The Year in 2015.

The July 2015 newsletter had this write up on Don.

**Don Willis is the 2015 Artist of the Year.  
Congratulations Don!**



*Born in Colorado, Don was a computer programmer for a Colorado state agency, Don is now retired.*

*He saw bonsai first at the club show in 1985 and joined the club in 1986. Don's bonsai collection includes maple, elm, hackberry,*

*hawthorn, apple, buckthorn, pine, spruce and others. He continues to do his share of killing trees. He served as club treasurer for about five years. Being an active member of this club is very important to him not only for bonsai, but also for the friendly and welcoming members he enjoys working with.*

*His family includes his wife Gail, two daughters and spouses, and grandkids Kayla, Jade, Michaela, Trevor and Alivia.*

*"The first time I saw bonsai I knew I had to do this, the trees really grabbed my interest. There is something in Bonsai that touches me. Maybe it's the awe of the gnarled and scarred trunk of a little spruce at tree line. Maybe it's the wonder of a lonely pine on a mountain ledge, barely clinging to life, year after year.*

*I had no idea of what was involved in bonsai, but I read a couple beginner-type books, and gained some confidence. There is a lot to learn in bonsai, but if you just follow the logical steps, you and your trees will progress". Consider joining the club and find out what's going on. Look around and decide what kind of trees you would like to learn about. I recommend starting with only two or three species and learn all about them. Also, find a mentor in the club that can help you at the beginning, check with a club member. Attend our first club meeting after the show, the club president will have a lot to say about the club and doing bonsai. He should have something about programs*

*on potting, trimming, etc. All are welcome and you'll find we all like to talk about bonsai.*

*I hope some of you will be as inspired as I was to learn about bonsai and maybe try it for yourself.*

The picture below is the Washington Hawthorne he displayed as Artist of The Year in June 2015. Don displayed four more trees at the 2015 show; a Crab Apple started from nursery stock, an American Elm started from seed, a Shimpaku Juniper from nursery stock, and a collected Ponderosa Pine.



**Remembering Don**

I knew Don from talking to him at club meetings and the annual show. He was always willing to answer questions from a newbie and was very welcoming. This contrasted with the experience I had with another club and helped convince me to keep attending.

Patrick Allen had the same experience. He appreciated Don's patience when he started with a Home Depot juniper.

Larry Jackel relayed how he appreciated the 'Willis Report.' After each annual show Don would provide Larry with an inventory of the trees that had been displayed that year.

Darrell Havaner told of his collecting adventures with Don. He also appreciated Don contributions as a board member when Darrell was President.

I am sure there are other stories and fond memories.

Don will be missed.

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society, Officers and Board of  
Directors 2022

President: David McPeters  
Vice President: Paul Koenning  
Secretary: Pat Deutschman  
Treasurer: Normando Rodriguez  
Immediate Past Pres: Andy Berry  
Program Chair: Tom Anglewicz  
Show Chair: Connie Garrett  
Show co-Chair: Darrell Whitley

Members-At-Large

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Dan Wiederrect  
Evan Thomas  
Nicholas Box  
Wayne Berve  
Samantha Holme  
Darrell Whitley

Email: [rmbsquestions@gmail.com](mailto:rmbsquestions@gmail.com)

Website: [RMBonsai.org](http://RMBonsai.org)

## 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.

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From your **computer**, Smart Phone or iPad here's how to send money:

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1. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.
2. Enter rockymountainbonsaisociety@gmail.com
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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>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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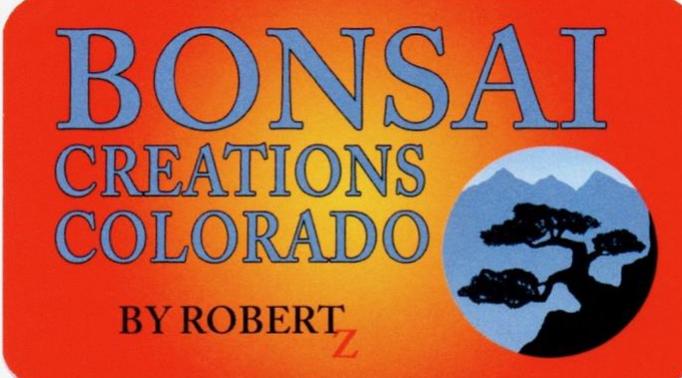
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