



RMBS

September 2023

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Subalpine Fir - Mike Britten 2023 RMBS Artist of the Year

President's Message

by Paul Koenning

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Bonsai Outreach

The August Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society had a unique opportunity to teach a group about bonsai. A Colorado Housing and Finance Authority team that works with affordable rental housing reached out in hopes to learn and create a unique bonsai for each team member to enjoy in the home office. Patrick Allen helped alert us to this opportunity, and he and Rich Katz sources some wonderful ficus materials from Wigerts Bonsai Nursery, and Rich and I taught a fantastic beginner's course to the CHFA team.

The majority if not all of the beginning bonsai classes I have taught include students who sought out bonsai and were eager to learn. This was the first time I was involved in a class where a manager sought out the class for their team who was for the most part unaware of what bonsai is. The class was

very appreciative, and also terrified to begin working on their trees. While I often see students ready and eager to prune and wire a tree, it took a bit more instruction and examples for the class to gain more comfort working with the ficus materials. Additionally, the concept of trying to mimic old growth pushed by nature was a very new idea to most of the class. All of the students/ new bonsai practitioners left the class with huge smiles, and a wonderful little bonsai to begin their bonsai journey with. I think they will also have a new vision of trees in nature, and who knows, maybe a few will join the ranks of RMBS or make it to our annual show.

Speaking of the annual show, its almost show time! I hope you have been preparing your trees, and cleaning your pots to be ready. I for one am behind

schedule, but will be putting in some extra hours in the evenings this week to make sure I put my bonsai's best display forward. This has been a wild summer, so keep your bonsai sheltered, as the hail storms continue to keep us all on our toes.

Don't forget that volunteers and DBG members will gain access to the gardens for free during the annual show, but all others will need to pay admittance to the gardens to see the show.

This year the show will have close to 100 trees and several kusamono and suiseiki viewing stones to enjoy and study. The Friday night celebration will be a great time to catchup and socialize, and there will be some great auction items as well. Don't forget to bring a meal for yourself, drinks and a water bottle. I look forward to seeing all of you there and cannot wait to see all the beautiful bonsai you all have been working so hard to prepare for the show!

The week after the show, Saturday September 9th, I will host another workshop at my home in Aurora with a focus on pest inspection and preparing your bonsai for the winter months ahead. I for one lost more bonsai than I care to admit or dwell on last winter, but through observation and patience I have a solution to the issues I encountered, and I plan to share that and other obstacles I have encountered over the years. I hope you will come to the workshop to learn and share your own solutions you have come up with over the years.

Thank you to everyone showing a tree this year, and I can hardly wait to see you and your cherished bonsai at the show!

Paul





You're Invited to

**The 54th Anniversary Bonsai, Suiseki and Kusamono Exhibition
Friday Night Celebration
September 1, 2023 , 5-8ish pm
Denver Botanic Gardens: 1007 York St. Denver 80206**

Join the RMBS community for the September 1, Friday evening celebration before the annual show which will be Saturday, September 2, 9am-7pm and Sunday, September 3, 9am-3pm.



Friday Evening Events

Dinner: Please bring your own main course & BYOB. Dessert and non-alcoholic beverages (coffee, iced tea, lemonade, water) will be provided by RMBS.

Awards Ceremony: The Artist of the Year will be acknowledged along with other recognitions.
Get To Know Members Scavenger Hunt: Win prizes as you collect information and meet new people.

Silent Auction: Bid on items with a minimum value of \$25 donated by club members.

Live Auction: Join the bidding fun for high value items with auctioneer Larry Jackel.

Important Reminders

For Friday evening, please enter thru the Pinon Gate to avoid paying an entrance fee. For the show Sat. & Sun., you'll need to contact Pat at rmbquestions@gmail.com if you intend to volunteer time at the show so you can receive an entrance badge. If you don't have a badge or a DBG membership, you'll pay an entrance fee.

If you plan to show a Bonsai, Suiseki, and/or Kusamono, you must register it/them prior to Sunday, August 27

Hope you can attend!



RMBS PRESENTS

The 54th Anniversary Bonsai and Suseki Exhibition

**Featuring RMBS Artist of the Year:
Mike Britten**

**September 2, 9am-7pm and September 3, 9am-3pm
2023**

Denver Botanic Gardens: 1007 York St. Denver 80206



Ponderosa Pine, Artist: Mike Britten

RMBS show Volunteers Duties

We have about 50 volunteers committed to assisting with the RMBS annual show this year- thank you to everyone who stepped up! We know that a few of you will come and offer to help additionally.

These are the jobs and responsibilities; I will be sending out a final schedule of volunteers later this week.

Friday morning: 3-4 people needed to help pick up the Tokonoma and tablecloths from Adam Johnson's house in Boulder.

Friday, September 1, 9am-4pm: Show set up, a lot of moving parts – all hands needed!

Friday Night Celebration, September 1, 4-9pm: Assist with auction, set up and help with food or drink service, clean up, set up chairs after event in the demonstration area

Friday afternoon and some time on Saturday, September 1-2: Assist with photography – help move trees from their display area to the photo area, ensure the proper identification of orientation, etc.

**Saturday, September 2, 4 hour shifts 9am – 8pm;
Sunday, September 3, 4 hour shifts 9am-4pm**

Greeters: Welcome visitors, provide information and directions, monitor front desk area.

Security: Roam tent to watch trees and stones for safety and security, water trees as requested, answer questions from visitors

Tour Guides: Experienced RMBS members take small groups of visitors through the show

Demonstration assistance: Help set up and take down demo displays, greet visitors, assist speaker as needed

Sunday, September 3, 4pm-completion

Break down show: Knock down tables and displays, pack Shoji screens and other club show materials, clean area

Collect and pack tablecloths and runners

Return the boxes of display items and Tokonoma to Adam Johnson's house in Boulder- Still need a few helpers. Leave DBG late afternoon.

A few things to know:

You must have a "volunteer" badge or be a member of DBG to be able to enter without paying the entrance fee. Badges will be available in Friday to be picked up. Friday night celebration is the exception- enter through the Pinon Gate.

Please see the flyer for the Friday night celebration attached below for food and drink info. We have some really nice auction items as well including some outstanding trees.

Please check in with the Greeter desk when reporting for your volunteer duty.

Review the email sent out with the information about identifying your tree, kusamono, or stone for the photographer.

If you are not going to be present for the show and have a tree on display, please make arrangements with one of the volunteers to water it for you.

There will be live demonstrations all weekend led by RMBS members. Click on the link below for the schedule

<https://www.rmbonsai.org/annual-exhibition>

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

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Dues info.

Annual membership renewals were due July 1. Individual membership is \$50 per year, a family membership is \$75 per year.

Please create an account on the [RMbonsai.org](#) website under membership. Once you have entered your contact information you will be directed to the payment page where you can enter credit card information or use PayPal. Your account will then be active and will be the method for renewal next year.

If you have already paid your dues you will not be able to create an account on the website yet so don't worry about trying to do that yet.

[Rmbonsai.org](#) RMBS website – headers: News & Events, Galleries, Join, Blog, Forum, Education

Create account for membership renewal

Other resources

[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)
[First Branch Bonsai](#)
[RMBS Facebook Page](#)

For those of you who want to pay by check - please send a check to:

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society

c/o Membership Renewal **PO BOX 2095 Littleton, CO. 80161** **This is our new mailing address.**

Please be sure to include your phone # & **email address** with your check so we've up to date contact info for you.

We also have the ability to take credit card payments live at our meetings. We have discontinued Venmo for on line payment.

2023 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program	Workshop
<u>September – Annual show</u> Friday Sept 1- Sunday Sept 3 Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>ANNUAL SHOW</u>	
<u>September Workshop</u> Saturday, September 9 Paul Koenning host		PAUL KOENNING WINTER PREP AND PEST INSPECTION
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 3 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens- Auditorium	<u>PANEL DISCUSSION- CHALLENGES AND SHARING PRACTICES</u> LARRY JACKEL, BRIAN ADAMS, DARRELL WHITLEY AND SAMANTHA HOLM	
<u>November Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, November 7 Denver Botanic Gardens – Auditorium	<u>HENRY BASILE</u> FORMER “FIRST CURATOR’S APPRENTICE” AT THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION IN WASHINGTON DC	
<u>December Monthly Meeting</u> Holiday party and auction Location TBD		



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Backcountry Bonsai

www.backcountrybonsai.com

We're located on the west side of the Denver Metro area, near I-70 and Youngfield.

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