



RMBS

August 2023

Volume 55 Issue 8

Todd Schlafer- Colorado Blue Spruce demo ABS seminar

President's Message

by Paul Koenning

pjkoenning@gmail.com

Bonsai Fellowship

Welcome to the summer heat bonsai friends! This year gave us a lot of additional time to prepare for the summer heat and I hope you all took advantage of it and also enjoyed it as much as possible. It sure seems like the American Bonsai Convention just wrapped up but believe it or not it's now time to prepare for the coming annual show. If you have made it to our summer workshop series, thank you, and I hope you have a bonsai well on track to enter in this years show. Pull out your calendars, time the work on your bonsai to be ready on time, and we will all have a great time!

Coming up on the RMBS calendar:

- July 30th the bonsai, stone, and kusamono registration for the annual show opens
- August 3rd Todd Schlafer will be demonstrating in Gates hall at DBG on Pinion pines
- August 26th the summer workshop series continues at Patrick Allen's home
- September 1-3 the RMBS annual show takes place at DBG

As the president of the society, I have been working to consider every member's needs, while also reflecting on my own and how they have changed through the years with RMBS. My initial thoughts are that we all gather because of bonsai and the

desire to provide the best possible care for our wee little trees. While we have plenty of advice to offer it struck me that so much more than simply dispensing information happens along the way. I am an introvert so being happy in silence with a plant... or many plants, sounds great most of the time. Even my introverted sometimes awkward self has come to enjoy, embrace, and even need the comradery Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society provides. While I somewhat selfishly originally thought it was simply the thirst for knowledge related to bonsai that kept me coming back, I have come to realize that all the wonderful members dispensing that sought after knowledge have become friends along the way. We are all very busy and wrapped up in making sure we keep our bills paid and food on the table day to day, yet we find a way to sneak away from the daily responsibilities to join our fellow bonsai practitioners for more knowledge, and dare I say some great friendship!



I hope that you all have made some bonsai friends along the way and invite you to come make new friends at all or our events. Just a few Saturday's ago several members made the journey to my home as I hosted a Saturday workshop. I was barely able to focus, but helped several members with decisions and ideas for directions to take their trees as they transform them into bonsai. No work happened on my bonsai, but I had an absolute blast helping others, and answering as many questions as possible. Strange right? No more self-serving bonsai knowledge seeking, but rather socializing and spreading the knowledge I have amassed through the years, and I loved it! While the transition from

student, to practitioner, to teacher seems natural, it took me a lot of time to realize the comradery is as important as the bonsai trees. Who better to make fellowship with than people with the same crazy interests as ourselves? Thank you to everyone who made it out to my workshop, and for all the members that continue to give time, knowledge, and fellowship to our ever growing and changing society! We all do our founding members proud by continuing to gather, teach, and make incredible bonsai in the process! I hope you will all join us in fellowship at our coming events, and hope to count you among my bonsai friends.





RMBS PRESENTS

The 54th Anniversary Bonsai and Suiseki 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

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Show – September 1-3, 2023

There has been a lot of planning in place for our upcoming show Sept 1-3, 2023 at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Tree, Stone and Kusamono Registration will begin August 1 and close around August 27. Watch for the email with the registration links coming soon.

Due to the success at last year's show, once again there will be a dedicated display area for Suiseki and for Kusamono to be exhibited as a stand-alone piece and not used as an accent stone or plant for a bonsai.

As some of the bonsai trees have gotten larger and take up more display area than others, the registration process will ask you to estimate the amount of the display table your tree may need so we can plan the layout of tables and provide enough space to accommodate as many trees as possible.

There will be a designated secure area set aside for members to leave their watering cans, supplies, etc. out of the public view in the tent.

We have not finalized plans for the Friday Night Celebration, but will have both a silent and live auction. Please contact Connie Garrett at cagarrett@earthlink.net if you've items to donate. As at previous shows, we will have a social meal time so bring your own entrée and BYOB; RMBS will provide non-alcoholic beverages as well as desserts and appetizers.

Volunteers Needed

Get involved with your fellow RMBS members, meet new people, talk about their trees, your trees, learn, socialize, have fun! Our weekend show is a great opportunity to get together with others who share your passion for Bonsai.

Thursday, August 31 evening: 3-4 people needed to pick up the Tokonoma and tablecloths from Adam's in Boulder. A truck with a trailer will be needed.

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

Please let me know what days and time you are available and the type of duties you would be willing to perform. We will be issuing a schedule in the next few weeks. It is very helpful to know that all positions will be covered for planning purposes even though I know many of you are available to pitch in at any time you are present. Please send me an email to let me know where you can help out. RMBSquestions@gmail.com

Connie Garrett, Show Chair.

MEMBERSHIP

By Patrick Allen – RMBS Membership Chair

New members continue to seek us out. Several joined at the ABS Seminar. Many are new to bonsai, others have had bonsai, but did not know about RMBS.

If you meet these new members at a RMBS event, please welcome them and see if they need any help with the Bonsai trees, tell them how you deal with Colorado's weather, or just share with them how you got started. They will appreciate the comradery and help!

Please welcome our new members:

Joshua Betancourt

Trenton Fergen

Charles Kessler

Caleb Leighton

Max San Miguel (returning)

Membership Dues will start being collected in June. Renewal date is July 1, 2023 for a one-year membership that ends June 30, 2024. It is very helpful if members would submit membership dues for this time period only. Payment information is on the following page. New dues amount is: \$50 for single membership, \$75 for family.

Please set up an account on the membership page of RMbonsai.org.

Payment can be made on line at the RMbonsai.org website, membership page. We will now be able to take any credit card payment in person via Square. A check or cash is always accepted.



August Workshop- Thursday August 3

Denver Botanic Gardens 7PM

Gates Hall

Please note the meeting date is not Tuesday, but Thursday due to some conflicts with the Denver Botanic Gardens.

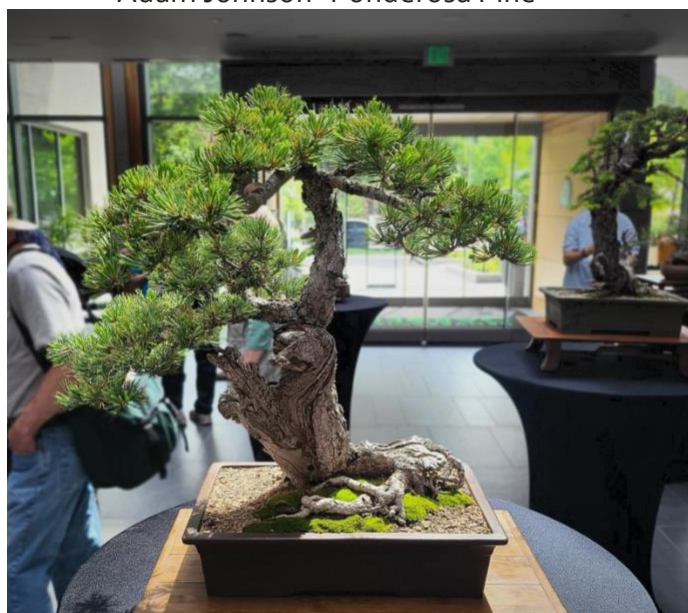
The presenter will be RMBS member and professional bonsai artist Todd Schlafer!

Todd will be doing a demo on Pinon Pine and is always happy to answer any questions on bonsai in general as well. If you have ever seen a Todd demo you know how interactive and entertaining he is! We don't get the opportunity to host him as often as we have in the past due to his busy travel schedule so don't miss this opportunity to learn from an expert.

American Bonsai Society 2023 Learning Seminar- Artists of the Years exhibit



Adam Johnson- Ponderosa Pine



Kai Kawahara - Limber Pine



Mark Mills- Pond Cypress



Jim Robinson – Willow Leaf Ficus

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

Create account for membership renewal

Other resources

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

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.

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 payments.

2023 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program	Workshop
August 2023 Monthly Meeting Thursday , August 3 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens- Gates Hall	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u> <u>PINON PINE</u>	
August Workshop Saturday, August 26 Patrick Allen host		PATRICK ALLEN BONSAI IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT LIGHTING, OUTSIDE SPACES, WINTERING PREPARING POTS FOR SHOW
September – Annual show Friday Sept 1- Sunday Sept 3 Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>ANNUAL SHOW</u>	
September Workshop Saturday, September 9 Paul Koenning host		PAUL KOENNING WINTER PREP AND PEST INSPECTION
October Monthly Meeting Tuesday, October 3 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens- Auditorium	<u>TBD</u>	
November Monthly Meeting Tuesday, November 7 Denver Botanic Gardens – Auditorium	<u>TBD</u>	



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



Colorado Bonsai Ltd.
Harold Sasaki

**The Rocky Mountain Region's most
comprehensive Bonsai Nursery**

Open by appointment call: 303-232-8700

Specializing in Character and Colorado Native Collected Trees, Finished Bonsai, Starter Plants, Pots, Soil, Books, Tools, Wire, Private Lessons and Online Native Spruce sales.

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*.

Where Passion meets Quality & Respect



Backcountry Bonsai

www.backcountrybonsai.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