



RMBS

October 2023

Volume 55 Issue 10

Mike Britten 2023 Artist of The Year

President's Message

by Paul Koenning

Fifty-four years of annual shows and you the membership of Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society brought out an incredible display of bonsai to celebrate! In total there were 95 trees, 10 stones, and 9 kusamono and each was a joy to take in, contemplate, and even realize progress bonsai and their owners have made from previous years. While the show is always a blur of activity, this year's bonsai and displays offered an amazing calm and focused pause. Bravo to everyone who submitted a bonsai, suiseki, or kusamono.

Mike Britten received a well-earned Artist of The Year award. Mike's trees wonderfully emulate our rugged alpine species, and always appear to perfectly mimic the landscapes where they were likely found. His work appears effortless, while also capturing the delicate nature of the high-altitude ecosystems and ecology where the species are found. Simply looking at Mike's bonsai and display's is a study in nature, balance, and composition. Thank you, Mike, for sharing your incredible bonsai with us, and we welcome hope for your continued instruction and tutorage whenever you are able.

Did I mention how many amazing bonsai there were this year? There were so many that we awarded three Emerging Artists of The Year including Pauline Ayersmenk who had three bonsai in the show including the pictured blue spruce, Christina Carfora Seaman with her incredible Brazilian rain tree and Vietnamese blue bell, and Matt Wright showing a lodgepole pine and Utah juniper pictured. We are honored that you shared your bonsai with us for the annual show and inspired by the incredible bonsai you have created. We hope to see these and additional bonsai in years to come!



Pauline Ayersmenk - Blue Spruce



Christina Carfora Seaman - Rain Tree



Matt Wright - Lodgepole Pine

There are so many thankyou's this year! Thank you to the show chair Connie Garrett, and her dedicated volunteers Jamie Harrington, and Andrew Chun! You leave large shoes to fill for next year's show, and I hope that you will help to both fill those shoes and offer help to next year's show chair. Thank you to our Past President David McPeters for devoting a lot of time to help keep show planning and execution running smoothly! Thank you to the entire RMBS board for all the volunteering and planning you helped with, and thank you to the entire membership, especially to all the volunteers who we could not function without.

Will Kerns and Tom Anglewicz are heading this year's board selection committee so please be sure to reach out if you would like to join the RMBS board cadre and help to continue ensuring RMBS remains an incredible society to be a part of. The cadre of board members are ready and eager to help guide new talent towards eventually charring their own departments and gaining management and leadership skills along the way. Is the 55th year calling you leave a mark on our society? While there are plenty of skills to be gained, it is also a wonderful way to help repay all the wonderful gifts RMBS has bestowed throughout the years.

Don't forget the coming meeting on October 3rd at Denver Botanic Gardens in Strum Auditorium. We will have a panel of local experts including Larry Jackel, Brian Adams, Darrell Whitley, and Samantha Holm. They will be discussing challenges ranging from horticultural skills to bonsai design challenges, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions and learn from their experience. I hope to see you there!

Paul Koenning
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MEMBERSHIP

By Patrick Allen – RMBS Membership Chair

New members continue to seek us out. We now have 140 members. Several have joined after our annual show. 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:

Sara Linden (Arvada)

Pablo Colomban (Denver)

Gilbert Verbit (Greenwood Village)

Adrian Martinez (Fort Collins)

John Kowalski (Aurora)

James Jennison

Steven Goldstein

Andrew Downing (Centennial)

Jeanne Bernard (Aurora)

Allan Belmore (Aurora)

Jeannie Waligoske

Marilyn Smith

Daniel McGlynn (Arvada)

Diana Lee (Denver)

Jeremy Koch (Nebraska)

Keagan Huntley (Colorado Springs)

Michael Coors (Evergreen)

Chip Lyon (Denver)

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 are 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 can take credit card payments live at our meetings. We have discontinued Venmo for online payment.

2023 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program	Workshop
<p><u>October Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, October 3 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens- Auditorium</p>	<p><u>PANEL DISCUSSION- CHALLENGES AND SHARING PRACTICES</u> LARRY JACKEL, BRIAN ADAMS, DARRELL WHITLEY AND SAMANTHA HOLM</p>	
<p><u>November Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, November 7 Denver Botanic Gardens – Auditorium</p>	<p><u>HENRY BASILE</u> FORMER “FIRST CURATOR’S APPRENTICE” AT THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION IN WASHINGTON DC</p>	
<p><u>December Monthly Meeting</u> Holiday party and auction Location TBD</p>		

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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*.

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