



DOUGLAS FIR - TODD SCHLAFER

RMBS

2022

Volume 54 Issue

President's Message

by David McPeters

Spring is here and we are in those glorious days where the sun is out, the days are warm, the birds are singing, and green things are emerging everywhere. When I worked, I looked for any excuse to get outdoors for brief periods during the workday. I even went on smoke breaks with coworkers even though I do not smoke. There is something about this time of year that is so positive and so full of possibility, as I am enjoying each day, I wonder whether I will be able to next year. When one is young the answer is – of course and the next and the next as well. But life is uncertain, so enjoy each day for what it brings.

By now your trees are probably showing signs of waking up. You should have some semblance of a plan for what you intend to do with each tree this year. You should also have stockpiled necessary supplies for the year. At least, for me, when the tree activity starts, I have little time for much else. One reason is I also have vegetable and perennial beds

that awaken at the same time that require cleaning, mulching, and planting. I love it.

To kick the year off we start with the repotting workshop led by Tom Anglewicz in April. Keep an eye out for the date. If you are not experienced with repotting, or even if you are, I recommend this workshop. Tom's presentation will put you on the path to success.

We have had good interest in both the concrete and collecting workshops. There is still time to sign up. There are more than four people interested in both so selections will be by a random drawing.

As you are working with your trees in the coming months give thought to what you will display at the annual show this year. It is never too early to start. I always have five or six identified as possibilities and work on them in the coming months. By show time I have decided on the three I will display.

Connie Garrett is our show chair this year. The 53rd RMBS Bonsai Show will be Labor Day Weekend with the following schedule: Friday, Sept. 2 for set up and evening celebration, and Saturday, Sept. 3 - Sunday, Sept. 4 for the show to be viewed by the public. There are many ways to participate. You can show trees, suiseki, and/or kusamono. You can be on a committee to help with the preparations for the show. You can assist at the show and/or at the Friday celebration. For more information, etc., please reach out to Connie Garrett at 303-355-2684 or at rmbsshow2022@gmail.com. Know your contribution to the success of the show will be appreciated.

Finally, the monthly meeting on April 5th is a demonstration by Todd Schlafer. Todd's demonstrations are always enlightening, fun, and educational. Please join us at Denver Botanic Gardens for a great evening. There will be no virtual meeting this time. Evan Thomas is not able to attend. We do have members who have volunteered to video the demonstration and it will be published to our YouTube channel.

"I closed my eyes for a moment and focused on the sun's warmth. It was a good day. There were many things to think about, but in this moment, I wanted to embrace my surroundings and enjoy them. Sometimes the little things were the best parts of life, and they were always there in front of us, waiting to be noticed."

— **J. Aleong, A Most Important Year**

David
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Please see new information on upcoming workshops for RMBS members and also more information about our guest presenter on the following pages.

Open workshops. These are the traditional workshops the club has sponsored. They are open to members and nonmembers.

Members only workshops. These are new. The intent is to provide dues current members with valuable and interesting workshops as a benefit of their membership. General parameters are.

1. Participants must be current in dues
2. There is a limit to the number of participants that is set by the member giving the workshop
3. If demand for the workshop exceeds the limit participants will be selected by random lottery
4. The club will pay for reasonable costs associated with the workshop

Month	Open	Members only
March		
April	Repotting – Tom Anglewicz	
May		Linda Paul - Concrete slab/pots Saturday May 22 nd 9am - noon
June	Tropical – David McPeters	Mike Britten – Collecting Dates to be firmed up later (mid-May to mid-June) Estate garden tour – Paul Koenning – week of 6/6
July	Darell Havener	
August	Dan Kingery	
September 10th	Paul Koenning 8032 S Kewaunee Way Aurora, CO 80016	

Potential Saturday workshop topics/activities.

- Nursery stock outing to purchase suitable container trees
- Nursery stock styling
- Deciduous tree work
- Garden tour(s)

Concrete slabs/pots – Linda Paul

- Objective – Learn techniques for creating slabs/pots from concrete and become familiar with the materials.
- Limit to 4 members
- The club to furnish materials sufficient for each participant to create one small slab/pot. Not to exceed \$20 per participant.

Collecting

- The club to furnish one permit per participant at \$20 permit
- Limit to 4 people
- Three/Four events
 - Participants required to attend a premeeting (1-2 hour) that covers
 - Preparation, tools, materials, etc.
 - Legal requirements
 - Ethical considerations
 - What trees are / are not collectable
 - Evaluation of tree potential
 - Extraction and packaging techniques
 - Leave no trace
 - Potting techniques
 - Scouting trip to assess area
 - Locate potential trees and assess collectability and potential
 - Collecting trip
 - Follow meeting to pot up what was collected. Optionally cover this during collecting trip

Our guest presenter for the April 5 meeting will be Todd Schlafer. Todd has been a long time member of RMBS and is also a professional bonsai artist and instructor. Todd will be doing a demo on an Engelmann Spruce. His intent is to illustrate techniques for development and refinement of a collected tree that has natural, inherent very good structure. In other words, how do you enhance and expand the qualities of a tree that already has excellent natural form.

Todd Schlafer – in his own words

My interest in bonsai began on a trip to Spain when I purchased a bonsai seed kit. When the seed sprouted and then died soon after, I decided to explore nearby nurseries for older material. This eventually led me to Harold Sasaki, proprietor of Colorado Bonsai, who allowed me to volunteer at his nursery. I did everything from pulling weeds to eventually styling trees.

My obsession with collecting trees formed shortly thereafter, as Jerry Morris, invited me on a collecting trip to Utah. I learned very quickly that basic design principles did not necessarily apply to collected material with sparse foliage and unconventional branches. Therefore, in 2012, I decided to further my studies with Ryan Neil to learn how to style and develop material of this caliber.

People often ask me, “Is working on bonsai relaxing and Zen-like?” Refining trees and foliage maintenance most certainly is. But creating the initial design of a collected tree isn’t remotely relaxing. However, it’s one of the most fulfilling aspects of bonsai design. Watching the tree flourish following such work can be unbelievably rewarding.

Full time Bonsai Professional and Bonsai Nursery
www.FirstBranchBonsai.com

- Past President of the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society
- Participated in Generation Bonsai which is held in Heidelberg Germany
- Featured in the Bonsai Magazines: Bonsai Focus, American Bonsai Society, International Bonsai Magazine.
- Was a featured artist several times on the Bonsai Empire live Q&A on Facebook
- Was featured on the Bonsai Mirai Livestream in 2017 & 2018
- Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society’s Artist of the Year - 2010
- Won Best North American Species award for my Colorado Blue Spruce at the National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, New York - 2016
- Recipient of the Malcolm Corel Award, an honor given to a member of the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society from their peers – 2017
- Won Best Tree and accent plant award for my Douglas Fir at the National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, New York - 2020
- Is the Curator at the Greater Des Moines Botanic gardens in Des Moines, Iowa and the Clark Collection in Fresno, CA.

To view my portfolio and see a sample of the collected material I have to offer, please visit my website, Instagram and facebook page:

[instagram.com/todd_schlafer_bonsai](https://www.instagram.com/todd_schlafer_bonsai)

[facebook.com/todd.schlafer](https://www.facebook.com/todd.schlafer)

FirstBranchBonsai.com

Todd travels throughout the United States visiting bonsai clubs, has been a featured artist on the Bonsai Mirai Live stream and leads instructional workshops and classes.

Achievements

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.

With **PayPal**, you can send money or make a payment to anyone with an email address or mobile number.

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

Log onto your PayPal account.

1. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page.
2. Enter rockymountainbonsaisociety@gmail.com
3. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note (if needed) and click **Continue**.
4. Select "Sending to a friend."
5. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
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>March Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, March 1, 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens-Freyer Newman Auditorium	<u>PAUL KOENNING</u> SPRING WORK FOR BONSAI SUCCESSFUL BONSAI CULTIVATION
<u>April Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, April 5, 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>TODD SCHLAFER</u> LIVE BONSAI DEMO
<u>May Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, May 3, 7PM On line via Zoom	<u>BJORN BJORHOLM</u> <u>VIRTUAL DEMO AND PRESENTATION</u>
<u>June Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, June 7, 7PM Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>WILL KERNS</u> TBD
<u>July Workshop</u> Saturday July 2, all day <u>Denver Botanic Gardens</u>	<u>SERGIO CUAN</u>
<u>July Monthly Meeting</u> Tuesday, July 5 Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>SERGIO CUAN</u> DECIDUOUS BONSAI
<u>August Workshop</u> Saturday, August 20, All Day Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>YOUNG CHOE</u> <u>CREATING KUSAMONO</u>
<u>August Monthly Meeting</u> <u>Tuesday, August 23, 7PM</u> Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>YOUNG CHOE</u> <u>CREATING KUSAMONON</u>
<u>Annual RMBS Bonsai Exhibit</u> Friday Sept 2 – Set up and members event Saturday Sept 3-Sunday September 4 - exhibit open Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>ANNUAL SHOW</u>
<u>September Monthly Meeting</u> <u>Tuesday, September 27</u> Live Stream	<u>RYAN NEIL</u> <u>ROCKY MOUNTAIN PINES</u>
<u>October Workshop</u> Saturday, October 22, All Day <u>Denver Botanic Gardens</u>	<u>JENNIFER PRICE</u>
<u>October Monthly Meeting</u> <u>Tuesday, October 25, 7PM</u> Denver Botanic Gardens	<u>JENNIFER PRICE</u>

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Harold Sasaki

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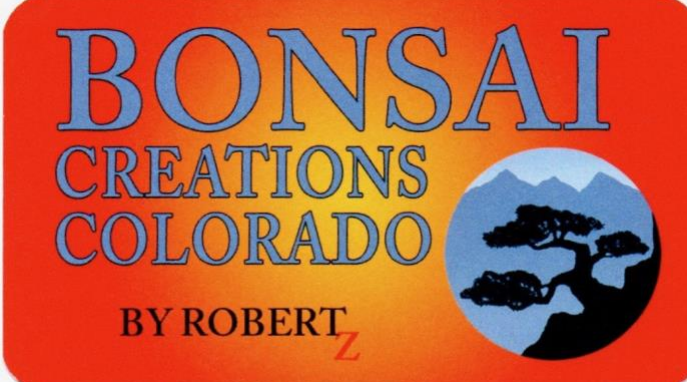
Do you need a gift for a hard-to-shop for bonsai enthusiast? We offer Individual Bonsai Instruction Sessions and we have **Gift Certificates!!** Use them for *anything* (supplies, classes, etc.) and at *any time*.



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



BONSAI
CREATIONS
COLORADO

BY ROBERT **Z**

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