



RMBS

July 2016

Volume 48 Issue 7

July President's Message

by Tom Anglewicz

A Passion for Pines

I'm not sure how, when or why it happened; but at some point in my bonsai practice I began to have an affinity for and fascination with pines. Initially I guess this probably stemmed from seeing photos of magnificent traditional Japanese pine bonsai, usually two-needle black or five-needle white pines.

When we lived in San Diego the climate was very conducive to growing Japanese Black Pines (*Thunbergii*) because they are coastal pines and do best in a temperate climate. So I began to acquire and work with Black Pines and still have several of those trees here in Colorado, though they now spend the winters in our greenhouse. My understanding of Black Pines in those early days was pretty rudimentary, but I managed

to keep them alive and do some basic design work.

Upon moving to Colorado, I wanted to learn more about native species, and I was intrigued by the potential to work with the amazing variety of pine trees that grow here: Ponderosa, Bristlecone, Lodgepole, Pinyon, Limber, and others. I was especially impressed with collected pines from the mountains (the Japanese term *yamadori* literally means "from the mountain"); and I wanted to acquire, learn more about and work with these trees. I knew that they behaved differently from my Black Pines, and I wanted to learn how to develop them as bonsai.

I first met Ryan Neil in Japan when he was still an apprentice to Masahiko Kimura in 2008, and we continued to follow his bonsai

career when he returned to the States. After I saw him style a large pine at the 2012 ABS/BCI Convention here in Denver, I decided to take classes with him specifically to develop my knowledge of pine as bonsai. I am now in my third year of pine study with Ryan at Bonsai Mirai, his garden and studio; and those three years of study and hands-on practice have vastly expanded my understanding of pine horticulture and its relevance to their development of bonsai. In addition, I have experienced physical examples of pine bonsai at Mirai that I would never have imagined possible.

Since pines are, indeed, my primary bonsai passion, I'd like to share some of the basic fundamentals I have learned at Mirai as my contribution to the "president's choice" program at our July RMBS meeting. I hope that this presentation will be informative and will possibly inspire more of our members to explore the fascinating world of pines as bonsai.

On another note, I wanted to offer a couple of thoughts about our June panel discussion on the future of "American Bonsai." I received a few comments from members about the topic and the presentation. Most were positive, but a couple questioned whether this type of discussion is relevant and useful to all members.

I understand that many members look to our monthly meetings as opportunities to learn more about how to develop and care for their trees. That's important. But I believe that it's also important, from time to time, to challenge ourselves and to look at the bigger picture of what bonsai is and where it is

going. That was the purpose of this discussion.

Based on my studies, I am convinced that there are some significant developments occurring in American bonsai, especially with collected material here in the West, and that these directions are challenging the traditional Japanese formulas and images that we have mimicked for a long time. Bonsai is a reflection of the environment from which the tree originates, and the culture within which it is developed. Both of those factors are different in the American West than they are in Japan.

In retrospect, I wish that we had included visual images in our discussion of American bonsai to make clearer some of the ideas that were presented. In the future, we will remember that bonsai is a visual art and must be presented accordingly.

Tom Anglewicz

2016 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> July Tue, July 5th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>PRESIDENT’S PROGRAM</u> TOM ANGLEWICZ</p>
<p><u>RMBS Summer Picnic</u> July Sun, July 10th, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm</p>	<p><u>CREEKSIDE PAVILION</u> INTERSECTION OF VIRGINIA AND CHERRY CREEK IN GLENDALE</p>
<p><u>Saturday Study Group</u> July Sat, July 23rd, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion</p>	<p><u>REPOTTING TROPICAL BONSAI</u> DAVID MCPETERS</p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> August Tue, August 2nd, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>SHORT PROGRAM</u> WOOD CARVING AND JIN – LARRY JACKEL <u>LONG PROGRAM</u> COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE TRIMMING/PINCHING – LARRY JACKEL</p>
<p><u>Saturday Study Group</u> August Sat, August 20th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion</p>	<p><u>INDIVIDUAL TREE EVALUATION</u> RMBS PANEL</p>
<p><u>47th RMBS Annual Bonsai Show</u> September Friday September 9th through Sunday September 11th</p>	
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> September Tue, September 20th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Note is the 3rd Tuesday DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>VISITING ARTIST PROGRAM</u> BJORN BJORHOLM – KNOXVILLE TN WWW.BJORNBJORHOLM.COM</p>
<p><u>Saturday Study Group</u> September Sat, September 24th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion</p>	<p><u>ADVANCED WIRING TECHNIQUES</u> TODD SCHLAFER</p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> October Tue, October 4th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>VISITING ARTIST PROGRAM</u> WALTER PALL – MUNICH GERMANY WALTER PALL</p>
<p><u>Community Outreach Event</u> October Sat, October 22nd, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Takayama Park</p>	<p><u>TAKAYAMA PARK CLEAN-UP</u> 3875 CHERRY CREEK N DRIVE DENVER, CO 80209</p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> November Tue, November 1st, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>WHITE ELEPHANT SALE</u></p>
<p><u>Holiday Party</u> December Sat, December 11th, 11:00am – 2:00pm DBG Plant Society Bldg</p>	

July Program

President's Program

An annual event is the President's Program, which is always a surprise bonsai related topic chosen by that year's RMBS president. Not only entertaining, but quite informative. Tom is one of the society's accomplished bonsai artists and has numerous trees in his collection. He spent several years in southern California and has taken multiple classes from American Bonsai Artists such as Ryan Neil. In addition to a beautiful mountain home outside of Boulder, he built a very nice greenhouse. Please join us in July to see what bonsai tree or subject he will present.



NEWS FOR MEMBERS

Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 10th, 11:00am – 3:00pm
Creekside Park Pavilion; 440 East Virginia Avenue,
Glendale, CO 80246

RMBS is hosting our 1st, and what we hope will be, "annual" Summer Picnic. The society will be providing the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments. We will be asking the members to bring their favorite summer side dishes, pasta salads, fruit salads, beans, sodas, etc., etc. The park is one of Glendale's finest and is located adjacent to the real Cherry Creek. It has a covered pavilion with picnic tables, benches and many old growth shade trees. Please stay tuned for more details, via email as this event comes together. Family and friends are invited. Also we will have items to raffle.



Membership Renewal:

RMBS has adopted a policy where all membership renewals occur on July 1, and cover the succeeding 12 months, ending on June 30th.

All memberships renew this summer on July 1st, 2016. Individual memberships are \$35 per year and family memberships are \$50 per year.

You may pay via cash or check at any monthly meeting, or mail your check to the address below. If you mail your check please be sure to include your email address and telephone number.

PAYMENT ADDRESS:

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society
c/o Membership Renewal
PO Box 271043
Louisville, CO 80027

Akadama and Pumice for sale by RMBS

There is still Pumice available for sale from last year's shipment. It is stored at the gardens and you can pick it up at a meeting. Contact Larry Jackel or Adam Johnson. The price is \$12 per bag.

The board approved a purchase of Akadama earlier in the year. Todd Schlafer will be making the purchase and storing the bags. There will be both medium and small size available. All will be in 14 liter bags at a cost of \$48/bag. Todd, and others, have ordered and used Akadama from this supplier. It is very good quality. Contact Todd and he will bring it to the next Tuesday meeting where you can pick up and pay.

Discounts Available to Members

We have an account established with Way to Grow Gardening Supply in Denver. You can receive discounts on some items up to 15%. You will need to tell them you are a member of RMBS.

Classified Ads:

YAMADORI – native Rocky Mountain yamadori trees for sale or trade. Well established trees from \$75 for beginner trees to \$1,000+. Cash or trade. Please email me adamhjo@yahoo.com and I can send you pictures.

Resources for Members:

A good article by Michael Hagedorn on water hardness

[Water Hardness](#)

Spring Cleaning an Elm

[Elm](#)

Another source for potting materials etc

[Repotme.com](#)

Other internet resources:

[RMBS Web Site](#) – A member's only section is being added to the web site. Stay tuned for more information.

[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)

[First Branch Bonsai](#)

[S&S Bonsai](#)

[RMBS Facebook Page](#)

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

About that masthead picture. Apologies for imposing my image into the picture. Who says Redwoods are not native to Colorado! That is a petrified Redwood stump. I can't believe I have lived in Colorado all this time and just visited last weekend. Check it out here.

[Florissant](#)



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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