



RMBS

June 2016

Volume 48 Issue 6

June President's Message

by Tom Anglewicz

What is American Bonsai?

Within the professional bonsai community, there has recently been a lot of discussion, and debate, about what constitutes "American Bonsai," and what distinguishes it from traditional Japanese bonsai. Much of this dialogue was accelerated by *The Artisans Cup* exhibit that took place last September at the Portland Art Museum. Ryan Neil sought to use that exhibit as a vehicle to promote the premise of a developing American bonsai aesthetic, and to illustrate that premise with outstanding trees from across the nation.

RMBS's VP for Education, Bob Randall, asked several of us to contact a number of bonsai professionals and to pose the following questions:

- 1 – How would you define the American Bonsai Movement and how does it differ from the established Japanese approach to the Art Form?
- 2 – Where do you see the American Bonsai Movement trending?
- 3 – Can you list the horticultural practices, styles, species, exhibiting techniques etc., if any, which are specific to the American Bonsai Movement?
- 4 - Are there any other thoughts or opinions, apart from the above, that you may have relative to this discussion?

The responses to these questions, from eight different bonsai artists, will be the subject of a panel discussion that will constitute the long program for our June 7th RMBS meeting.

This promises to be a stimulating and informative discussion that compares and contrasts the traditional Japanese cultural approach to the art form with cutting edge thinking that is happening in the U.S. and some European countries as well. For example, here are some corollary questions and topics that have arisen from my review of responses from three of the bonsai artists in question:

Is the “American Bonsai Movement” real, or is it just hype?

How has the traditional Japanese culture of rules and inviolate standards tended to restrict creative exploration, versus the natural American proclivity for freedom of expression?

In Japan, there is almost no remaining opportunity to legally collect yamadori, or

trees from the wild. In contrast, in the U.S. we have an abundance of collected stock. How has this affected our bonsai opportunities?

The U.S. is a huge country in contrast to Japan. How has this factor, and the resultant range of available plant species, affected the diversity of bonsai exploration?

Some bonsai artists have created bonsai expressions and displays that really push the envelope. Is this good for the art form, or do we reach a point where the fundamental concept of bonsai ceases to celebrate the tree and becomes something else – performance art?

We’ll explore these and many other subjects in our panel discussion on June 7th. Please join us for what promises to be an exciting dialogue about the present and future of “American Bonsai”!

Tom Anglewicz

2016 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> June Tue, June 7th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>SHORT PROGRAM</u> BOUGAINVILLEA AS BONSAI – DARELL HAVENER <u>LONG PROGRAM</u> AMERICAN BONSAI MOVEMENT MODERATED PANEL OF MEMBERS</p>
<p><u>Viewing Stone Show</u> June Wed June 18th through Thur June 19th DBG Gates Hall</p>	
<p><u>Saturday Study Group</u> June Sat, June 25th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion</p>	<p><u>AIR LAYERING DECIDUOUS AND TROPICAL</u> DAVID MCPETERS</p>
<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 Page 3 of 7 DENVER, CO 80209</p>

June Program



Photo Courtesy Of Robert Yarbrough

SHORT PROGRAM:

Bougainvillea as Bonsai with Darell Havener

The Bougainvillea is a tropical flowering plant that is fast growing, loves the heat, tolerates cool temperatures and

easy to care for; a perfect plant for a bonsai tree, but not so fast.... There are some tricks and variations to this much sought after tropical plant for use as a bonsai.

Past RMBS President and RMBS Artist of the year, Darell Havener has mastered how to grow Bougainvillea as a Bonsai, here in Colorful Colorado.



Darell Havener
RMBS Past President

He will walk us through what has worked for him and will be bringing in a couple of his Bougainvillea Bonsai. Darell has also asked that members bring in their trees, no matter what state they are in so we can discuss them. Please don't be ashamed of what you have and remember you will be amongst friends!!

MAIN PROGRAM: American Bonsai Movement with Panel Members

There has been much discussion about the American Bonsai movement and a few of our more advanced members have been following it and will discuss what it means.

In the 1950's, John Naka and Yuji Yoshimura were both trained in Japan in the art of bonsai. They came back to America and heavily influenced the art as they both were trained in it.

To quote Walter Paul: "Japanese bonsai is about discipline, knowing rules, respecting rules, respecting masters, respecting the old ones, not

sticking out your head, not trying to be something special, something different etc. This has made Japan successful. But in art it is a burden. Japanese bonsai is not treated as an art form. It is a well-defined craft. This is changing right now in America. In the Eastern view a good artist is one who does what he was taught so well that his master could have done it. In the Western view an artist is one who tries very hard and successfully to find something new, to be different, to excel, to be a rebel. This is the contrary of what one should do in Japan". Walter Paul discussed this in some detail in 2015 when he was hosted by RMBS member, Adam Johnson at his Boulder residence in 2015.



Walter Paul

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

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 PH
[Water PH](#)

A basic wiring video
[Basic Wiring](#)

And an article on the narrow leaf Ficus by Bonsai Mary
[Narrow leaf Ficus](#)

[5th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition 2016](#)

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](#)

TAKAYAMA PARK CLEAN-UP – COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our dearly departed friend, Tom Taggart, would have been proud of RMBS on-going efforts to care for the Takayama Park, which was led by Darell Havener.



Thomas D. Taggart
NOV 1925 – FEB 2016
Denver Bonsai Club & Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society

Most of the Ponderosa Pine character trees were trimmed. We ran out of time and had to leave one for this fall.

Volunteers from Japan America Society of Colorado and the Takayama Sister Cities organizations joined us again in this most worthwhile community



2016 – Young and Older Volunteers,
Working Side by Side

outreach project. RMBS had two projects going on the same day and we were short on advanced Arborists, but Darell did a great job being in several places at once providing instruction. Many of us left with a more in-depth understanding of trimming Ponderosa Pines and we had a great time getting to know each other as we worked side-by-side.

Thanks to all, and a “Job Well Done”!



2016 – A “Job Well Done”!



Spring, 2016 – Group Shot of Takayama Park Clean-up Volunteers

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We carry many trees that you will not see on our website. We suggest coming by to see them. We only ask that you call ahead and make an appointment to make sure we will be there.

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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