



RMBS

February 2017

Volume 49 Issue 2

## February President's Message

by Tom Anglewicz

### Dog Days of Winter

Tomorrow Florentina and I are off to Southern California for a few days. On Thursday we're going to spend the better part of the day at The Huntington Gardens in Pasadena. We'll meet up with Ted Matson, our former teacher and old friend who is now the curator of the bonsai garden at The Huntington. It will be pleasant to spend some time with Ted, and he has promised to give us a behind-the-scenes tour of the bonsai collection. That should be a lot of fun!

I'm sure that just being in SoCal will be a stark reminder of how much less challenging it was to grow and develop bonsai in San Diego, versus our current home here in Boulder. Winter was never much of a

problem. Sure, we got some occasional rain, the days were shorter and temperatures a bit lower; but we were not dealing with cold frames, greenhouses and significant winter protection for our trees. To a great extent, we could work on our trees all year round.

Don't get me wrong; I love living in the foothills of Colorado. We came here by choice with our eyes open. We can grow and work with a lot of trees here that simply cannot survive in Southern California, and that's exciting. But the winters can be brutal; and part of their challenge for people like me who are not content to sit back, read and wait for the spring is: what can I do with my bonsai during these months?

For those of you in our club who are asking yourselves the same question, here are some suggestions:

First, prepare yourself for the coming spring. Make sure that your tools are sharpened and in good order. Consider replacing some that may have seen better days; there are great online tool sales this time of year. Make sure that you have an adequate supply of copper and aluminum wire; there is nothing worse than deciding to rewire a tree only to find out that you don't have the appropriate sizes.

This is a good time of year to prepare for repotting season. For me, that means several things. Soil is the first consideration, so this is a good time to mix up a large batch of prepared bonsai soil, as well as drainage mix that will be ready when you need it. I recently spent an entire day doing just that in my garage. Take a hard look at your trees, and make some decisions about which ones will need repotting in the late winter or early spring. Tag them, and give some thought to the size and shape of pots those trees will need. If you don't have appropriate containers now's the time to acquire them, from vendors or other club members.

Also, make sure you have an adequate supply of repotting essentials, such as drainage screen, bamboo chopsticks (not the ones from the Chinese restaurant), soil patters, etc. If you have the right protected conditions, this may even be a good time to grow moss; Kyoto moss spores are available from Stone Lantern.

I find that February and March are good months for repotting some conifers, notably pines, provided that you have a protected environment to put them in after repotting. We are fortunate to have a heated greenhouse, and last year I built a heating

bed within the greenhouse to stimulate new root growth on repotted trees. The combination of those two components make for excellent after-care. You can achieve similar results by hanging grow lights and building a heating bed in your basement or garage, provided there is some protection from severe outside temps.

Finally, the winter is a good time to focus your attention on bonsai that can be grown indoors during the winter months, such are our friend the Ficus and other tropical species. Florentina is our in-house propagator, and she has succeeded in nurturing the development of a number of tropical plants through the winter, including Ficus, orchids and even bougainvillea, using grow lights. Many of these plants go back outside and flourish during the summer months, but even the greenhouse is too cold for them in the winter.

So, the bottom line of this message is that there is plenty of bonsai work to do during the dog days of winter if we put our minds to it. And remember, spring is only a few months away!

Tom Anglewicz

## 2017 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

| Date and Location   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b><u>Monthly Meeting</u></b>                      <b>February</b><br/>                     Tue, February 7th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm<br/>                     DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p> | <p><b><u>SHORT PROGRAM – JERRY MORRIS</u></b><br/>                     TREES OF THE WEST<br/> <b><u>LONG PROGRAM – LARRY JACKEL</u></b><br/>                     THE KENNET COLLECTION</p> |
| <p><b><u>Monthly Meeting</u></b>                      <b>March</b><br/>                     Tue, March 7th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm<br/>                     DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>       |  |

### **February Monthly Meeting**

The short program is going to be a presentation of pictures taken by Jerry Morris during his lifetime of traveling and looking for old and odd plants. I have had several great trips with Jerry to Utah and Nevada and several other places and Jerry always had his camera with him. From some of those images he has created a book titled Remarkable Trees. Jerry has thousands of tree images and he is going to put together a presentation of some of these trees and give us some insight and share his knowledge on these trees. Jerry is known all over the world for trees and brooms he has cultivated.

The long program is going to be a visual presentation of possibly one of the best collections in the world. The Kennet Collection. Larry Jackel was at Natures Way last summer teaching a bonsai workshop and was able to spend some time and photograph much of the collection which he is going to share with us. This is really a great opportunity to see what other parts of the country are doing and the level of excellent bonsai that is in the US.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

All memberships renew this summer on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. 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 \$15 per bag.

There is still Akadama available for sale from last year's order. There are 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](mailto:adamhjo@yahoo.com) and I can send you pictures.

### Resources for Members:

Looking forward to the spring here are a couple of articles and sites you might find useful.

A good article on grow boxes and training pots can be found at [Grow Boxes](#)

Tips on the correct way to anchor wire [Wiring](#)

A nice collection of videos by various master artists [Videos](#)

A blog on potting soils [Soils](#)

And finally a nice picture of a natural exposed root style [Exposed Root](#)

Other internet resources:

[RMBS Web Site](#)

[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)

[First Branch Bonsai](#)

[S&S Bonsai](#)

[RMBS Facebook Page](#)



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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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