



RMBS

December 2018

Volume 50 Issue 12

December President's Message

by Andy Berry

"Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid only of standing still."—Chinese proverb

December and the holiday season are a time to give thanks for the past year and a time for thoughtful reflection on our trials and accomplishments. It is a time to look back at how far we have come and to look toward the future and its possibilities. It is an opportune time to refocus our goals. In this message, I would like to touch on each: ***thanks, reflection and upcoming goals.***

First and foremost, ***I would like to thank the outgoing executive board members.*** They have built a legacy at RMBS and have indeed left big shoes to fill. I appreciate that many of them agreed to continue to serve for 2019, as their leadership is paramount. I

want to extend my sincere gratitude to our outgoing president ***Tom Anglewicz*** for his outstanding dedication to RMBS and his steadfast leadership over the last 3+ years. It is such dedication that is the lifeblood of RMBS. Tom, congratulations on the 49th annual show, it was inspiring and wonderful! Lastly, thanks to the ***current executive officers and the RMBS membership*** for their passion for the art of bonsai and their contributions to RMBS. I look forward to working closely with all of you and continuing to enrich our community.

This ***time of reflection*** allows me to (hopefully) come to know myself more truly but is also an opportunity to get to know you all better and engage with those of you who I have not yet met. I am a Colorado native and have a young family (my wife Lindsay is

a CO native also). We have a 5-year-old (spitfire) of a daughter Elizabeth and a 17-month-old son Nash (a sweet guy, he just learned to walk and climb and needs a lot of supervision). We live in east Denver, not far from the Botanic Gardens. I also have a relatively young career. I just graduated from my residency in internal medicine at the *University of Colorado* and I am a new staff physician at the *Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center* and an Instructor of medicine at the *University of Colorado*. Incidentally, I am not far into my bonsai journey having started in 2014 and consider myself a novice-intermediate level practitioner (I probably always will). Like the practice of medicine, the art bonsai is a life-long pursuit with new insights to be learned daily.

I have **Patrick Allen** to thank for my “bonsai affliction,” having been inspired to come to the 2014 annual show after listening to his interview on NPR. After the show I bought a tree and told myself if I could keep it alive for a year I would get another. While I’ve lost some along the way, I now have more than 30. **Larry Jackel** has been a wonderful mentor and I appreciate his humor, friendship and philosophy. **Patrick Decicco, Will Kerns and Adam Johnson** have been an unending source of creativity, inspiration and horticultural knowledge. **Jerry Morris** is the sort of person who comes around once in a lifetime, and his generosity and dedication to conifers are daily inspirations. Many

others have shaped my bonsai journey thus far; please continue to do so!

Together we have achieved much over the last year: perhaps the most successful and inspirational annual show, our 49th. We have thoughtfully cultivated relationships with respected guest artists who are known throughout the world (one of our own included). We continue to dedicate our time to maintain the character pines at the City of Takayama Park, and the garden at the Denver Buddhist Temple. **For the coming year** I am thrilled to collaborate with all of you to make the 50th annual exhibition an awe-inspiring event. We are lining up the slate of guest artists and expanding workshops and study groups for 2019. We continue to advance mentorship in the club to improve our collective skill. We welcome any recommendations from you all about our upcoming schedule and seek fresh ideas.

If you are still actually reading this, please be assured that my future messages will not be as loquacious! **I will leave you with the charge to advance the mission of RMBS:** please help me inspire, educate and create appreciation for the art of bonsai in our community.

Your brother in bonsai,

Andy Berry

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2018 - 2019 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
RMBS Annual Holiday Party December Sun, Dec 2 nd , 10am – 2pm Hillcrest Condos, 9968 Appletree Pl, Thornton	<u>PARTY AND AUCTION</u>
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> January Tue, Jan 8 th , 6:30 – 9:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	<u>SHORT PROGRAM:</u> Preparing for the 2019 Show <u>LONG PROGRAM</u> John Anderson - Ute Spirit Trees
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> February Tue, Feb 5 th , 6:30 – 9:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	<u>LONG PROGRAM</u> Lou DeHerrera - Results of Soil Studies
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> March Tue, Mar 5 th , 6:30 – 9:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	<u>SHORT PROGRAM</u> Hoop Houses & Greenhouses - various RMBS members <u>LONG PROGRAM</u> Mike Britten - Bonsai Ecology
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> April Tue, Apr 2 th , 6:30 – 9:00pm Location Pending	<u>SHORT PROGRAM</u> Patrick Allen - Bonsai Stands <u>LONG PROGRAM</u> Darell Havener & Patrick Allen - Bougainvillea
<u>Saturday Workshop</u> April Sat May 13 th , 9:00 – 2:00pm Tom Anglewicz's home 254 Pine Tree Ln, Boulder, CO 80304	<u>WORKSHOP</u> Repotting, Pot Sale, & Pot Exchange
<u>Monthly Meeting</u> May Tue, May 7 th , 6:30 – 9:00pm DBG Plant Society Building	<u>GREEN ELEPHANT SALE</u>
<u>Takayama Park</u> May Sat, May 18 th , 9:00am – 1:00pm 500 South Colorado Blvd, Denver	<u>TAKAYAMA PARK</u>

The entire yearly calendar is online [here](#).

ANNUAL SHOW UPDATE

At the recent RMBS Executive Board of Directors meeting, we began planning in earnest for our 50th anniversary show next Sept. 7th and 8th. The Board agreed RMBS should continue to encourage all RMBS members to display quality bonsai at the show. With that in mind we plan to offer learning opportunities for members, especially members who may not have shown a tree before, to maximize the potential of their show trees. We are still fleshing out the details, but there will likely be a presentation(s), workshop(s), mentoring, and other bonsai display learning opportunities coming this spring and summer.

If you are considering showing a tree(s) next September, you are probably already thinking about which trees in your collection you might show. It makes sense to focus one or a few trees now because each member will likely be limited to 3 entries (as we were last year) AND because bringing a tree (especially a large tree) to its maximum potential can take a lot of time and effort.

What trees do you really enjoy that you think can be show ready in 9 months' time? Identify these now and make a plan. What bonsai techniques will you need to apply in the next 9 months: repotting, wiring, pruning, pinching, preparing the top dressing, etc.?

What about your display? Is the tree(s) in a compatible pot or should you be looking for a new pot in time for spring repotting? Do you have a stand that highlights the tree? Winter is a good time to look for pots and stands (including at RMBS auctions). Also think about what sort of accent plant would best complement your tree(s); do you have good options or will you need to find the perfect accent plant next spring or summer?

As you consider entering a tree in the show, especially if it your first entry in a bonsai shows, ask more experienced RMBS how they prepare bonsai for a show. There are some outstanding bonsai

artists in RMBS and they are more than willing to share their knowledge and tips.

Mike Britten, Show Chair

MEMBER FORUM

Winter Tool Maintenance – Mike Horine

Winter time is a great time to inventory, clean and replace your Bonsai tools if necessary. Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society member Bob Randell is somebody who could be called a role model for caring for his Bonsai tools. Bob's tools are organized well in his tool bag and they are ready to be used at any time because Bob takes great care of them after he is done using them. I lent Bob a folding saw to do some heavy root pruning and Bob returned it to me all clean and well oiled for its next appointment sawing root balls in two. After each use Bob wipes his tools clean of dirt and debris and oils each tool. [Camellia oil](#) is traditionally used to oil tools with. [Masakuni-oil](#) is another option for use on Bonsai tools. [Tsubaki-oil](#) is another name for Camellia oil and is commonly used for hair and skin treatment.

Before oiling your tools for the winter, you should remove all rust, sap and anything else on your tools. Rust can be removed using [Navel Jelly](#) and some [4 ought steel wool](#). Sap can be removed by using [Purell](#) and steel wool on your tools as well as your hands. Clogged wood working bits can be cleaned by soaking the bits in Purell and then using a brass brush to clean out the wood bits. You can also soak the bits overnight and the wood bits will be at the bottom of the soaking dish no need to brush. I like to have 2 wood bits available with one bit soaking to be replaced with a clogged bit and then you can just keep right on working and not have to wait. A blow torch is another way to clean your wood working bits.

[WD-40](#) and [4 ought steel wool](#) can be used together to clean pots with water stains on them. Spray the pot with WD-40 and wait around 10 minutes and then use the steel wool on the pot. You may have to repeat this process for heavily stained pots. WD-40 is good for softening hard water stains on plumbing to.

Don't neglect your tool bag, lots of unintended stuff end up in your tool bag by the end of the summer.

Empty out the bag and dump all the needles, branches, bits of wire etc etc.

Fall and winter is also a good time to [order and replace the brushings](#) in your Dremel tools. I just hate to be working on something and the Dremel dies because the 2 brushings wore out. Here is a [video](#) describing the process to change them. Be sure to keep some spares on hand.

There are many great articles and videos on taking care of your Bonsai tools. Here are some of the best:

[Basic bonsai tool care](#)

[Bonsai Channel - Tool Care](#)

[Bonsai Tools](#)

[BONSAI TOOL CARE](#)

[Care of Bonsai Tools](#)

[How To Care for Your Bonsai Tools](#)

[How to Sharpen Concave Cutters](#)

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, 2018. 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

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.

Resources for Members:

Other internet resources:

[RMBS Web Site](#)

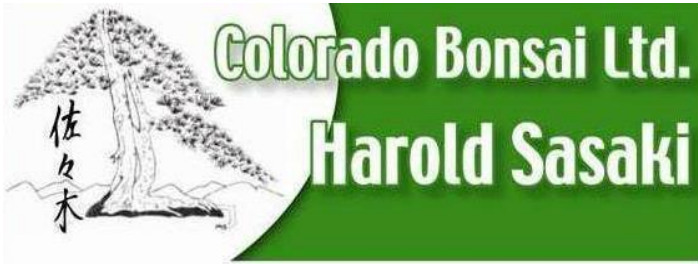
[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)

[First Branch Bonsai](#)

[S&S Bonsai](#)

[RMBS Facebook Page](#)

[Mike Horine Website](#)



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We're located on the west side of the Denver Metro area, near I-70 and Youngfield.

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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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