



Colorado Spotlight



Estes Park

Newsletter Highlights:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Informal Upright | 1 |
| Presidents Message | 2 |
| Bonsai Seasons | 3 |
| Our Advertisers | 6 |

**WE ARE ON THE WEB
& OUR ADVERTISERS**

www.rockymtnbonsai.org

www.coloradobonsai.com

Go look at the NEW website for the 2012 BCI/ABS convention that The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society is hosting at <http://www.Bonsai2012.org>

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BONSAI SOCIETY

May Newsletter

April 27th, 2010
Volume 41 | Issue 5

Informal Upright



The May 4th program will start with a formal display and discussion by Don Willis. Don is a long time member of the RMBS and will have an interesting tree to show us. The long program will be a presentation / discussion of the Informal Upright Style by Darrel Whitley. Darrel is an accomplished bonsaiist with a good eye for the wild trees of the Rockies. This will be the first of several presentations on styles of bonsai and it should be a good place to start as many of the trees we see in the mountains and in our collections are of the Informal Upright Style.

The Saturday Study Group, hosted by Paul Gilbert will be held on May 1 at Arborland Nursery. Stay tuned by checking the RMBS website for more details in the near future.

Kathy Shaner will be making two visits to our club this summer. The first will be at the show on June 19 - 20 and the second will be a workshop / demo on August 21 - 22. Stay tuned for more details!

Join us at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 4th at The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs located at 1556 Emerson Street.

Parking is available on the street in front of the building and limited off-street parking in back

RMBS President's Message



Paul Gilbert - President

"I have always loved our bonsai show/celebration on Father's Day weekend. It is kind of the weekend that causes the discipline to help match tree, pots, stands, accent plants."



Breckenridge, CO

Getting The Best Out Of Ourselves And Our Trees

May is one of the most exciting months for bonsai! Plants are getting leafed out. Last average day of frost (May 15 for Denver) and getting the best out of our trees and ourselves starts now, (it's much easier to get the best out of our trees☺).

May is a great time to really look the trees over, styling some new ones, wiring that stray branch and fine tuning the trees you want to show on Father's Day weekend. I have always loved our bonsai show/celebration on Father's Day weekend. It is kind of the weekend that causes the discipline to help match tree, pots, stands, accent plants. Without a show we might never get some of that accomplished. Most of all, whether you are beginner or expert, plan to show a tree on Father's Day weekend. It is a part of helping our trees (and ourselves) be the best they/we can be. (I know I'm borrowing from the Army.) There is something about showing a tree that puts the tree in a different light. When I show my trees, I see things about them, I absolutely could not see while they were sitting in my back yard. I've shown trees and then immediately restyled them after the show on the advice of friends and something I hadn't seen before. Other trees looked even better than I thought it did. So show a tree you will be glad you did.

This year we have been about making meaningful bonsai connections. We have several people who are looking for mentors. Mentoring is so important because you can't teach someone else without getting a little better yourself. Who wants to get better? We are needing some mentors (encouragers). Talk to me for more information.

Our first workshop was outstanding. Thank you Jerry Morris for hosting! The April workshop is May 1 at Arborland. Arborland is one of the most interesting nurseries with plenty of bonsai type material. It is located 6 miles south of Greeley on Hwy. 60. Our focus is New Mexican Privet, (if you are not interested in NM Privets, bring your own tree to work on.) Darrel Havener and yours truly will be leading.

Our 2012 Convention *Visions of the American West* is moving closer and closer. The convention Task Team will be meeting at 6:30 prior to each RMBS meeting. If you would like to be a part of one of the teams vendors, raffles, registrations, hospitality we would love to have you as a part.

Gang, thanks for being a part of the terrific group of people we call Rocky Mountain Bonsai. You rock!

Warmheartedly,
Paul

General Classification of trees used for care and instruction

General Classification of trees used for care and instruction

'Winter Hardy' group of trees

- Left outdoors all winter
- Handles extended temperatures below 0 °F
- Ponderosa, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Burning Bush, Siberian elm.

Tropical and Mediterranean trees

- Maintained in the greenhouse or indoors during the winter
- These trees all will stay above 45 °F.
- Chinese elm, some boxwood, and all ficus.

Everything else falls into the **'Protected'** group

- newly collected native trees
- dormant nursery stock purchased within the last 6
- hardy trees that received significant changes over the last 6 months
- Japanese maples, trident maples, Chinese elm.
- Dormant but can't handle the harsh winters.

May – Care and Instruction

General Comments

Continue with trimming actively growing indoors trees. The first new growth of new leaves is growing on winter hardy deciduous trees and buds are swelling on coniferous trees.

Winter Hardy

We are reaching the end of the optimal repotting time for Deciduous trees since they are now actively growing. The start of the month is a good time to repot your coniferous trees

Protected

By now, your protected trees should be outdoors with your other winter hardy trees if that can handle some cold mornings that might bring frost. Deciduous trees might lose their leaves in a hard frost, so it's best to bring them indoors on cold nights.

Tropical/Mediterranean

By now you are aggressively pinching back new growth to maintain your design. Healthy tropical plants kept at temperatures over 50 degrees at night will begin growing aggressively.

| BONSAI SEASONS | General Care Chart | | May - Denver, Colorado |
|-------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| <u>Care Group:</u> | Winter Hardy | Protected | Tropical/ Mediterranean |
| <u>Preparation Work</u> | | | |
| <u>General Location</u> | Outside with pots buried. Protect from wind. | Start moving hardy plants out of bunkers and | In house or greenhouse. |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | dormant but tender plants Elm, Maples) into greenhouse or lighted location. | |
| Light | Boxwoods and other evergreen deciduous – shade Evergreen Conifers – full light Dormant Deciduous – full light | Evergreens – full light Deciduous – full light | Less need for additional light source if trees are in sunshine all day. |
| Wind Protection | Always protect from wind. | Always protect from wind. | Moderate air movement. Fans recommended. |
| Water | Check soil moisture on trees receiving sunlight and water as needed. | Check soil moisture on trees receiving sunlight and water as needed. | Daily on sunny days. Check watering requirements on cloudy days. |
| Fertilizer | Begin bi-weekly fertilizing as buds begin to swell or junipers begin actively growing | Begin bi-weekly fertilizing as buds begin to swell or junipers begin actively growing. | Weekly for growing plants. Monthly for plants exhibiting no new growth. |
| Major Bending | Yes – Just before growth is the best time to do major bending. Growth will 'set' the changes in place | Yes – Just before growth is the best time to do major bending. Growth will 'set' the changes in place | Only on actively growing plants. |
| Pruning small branches | Yes – cut back any long growth on dormant plants in preparation for spring growth. | Yes – cut back any long growth on dormant plants in preparation for spring growth. | Yes on actively growing plants. |
| Wiring | Yes – on soon to be growing branches. Watch for wire cuts on fast growing branches. | Yes – on soon to be growing branches. Watch for wire cuts on fast growing branches. | Yes – Watch for wires cutting into bark as branches rapidly grow in the spring. |
| Bud Pinching | Yes on actively growing plants. | Yes on actively growing plants. | Yes on actively growing plants. |
| Repotting | Yes – Repot confers | Yes – Repot deciduous trees that are still dormant. | Yes – The next couple months are ideal re-potting times for tropicals about to begin aggressive growth. |
| Design consideration | Yes - Remove major branches or smaller branches. Leave | Yes - Remove major branches or smaller branches. | Only on actively growing plants. |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
| | buds on ends where growth is wanted. | Leave buds on ends where growth is wanted. | |
| Carving or Woodwork | Yes. | Yes | Yes |

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2010 Bonsai Program

Special Note: All 2010 short programs will be a formal display and discussion of the presentation.

| Date/Time | Display Discussion | Meeting Topic | Saturday Study Group |
|---|--------------------|--|--|
| Saturday May 1st | | | Saturday Study Group At Arborland nursery 22465 State Highway 60 Milliken, CO 80543 (970) 587-2258 *See note Below |
| Tuesday May 4 th 7:00PM to 9:00PM Garden Clubhouse 1556 Emerson | Don Willis | Informal Upright Discussion <i>By Darrel Whitely</i> | |
| Saturday May 29th | | | Saturday Study Group At Les Siroky |

* The May 1st Workshop will be lead by Darell Havener and Paul Gilbert and will focus on New Mexican Privets. Arborland has a supply of New Mexican Privets to choose from for around \$20.

Want to save the club \$12 a year? Getting your newsletter by email saves that much! To get your newsletter letter by email, notify Todd at rschlafer@aol.com

CLASSIFIEDS:

One of the new features of our newsletter is a classified ads section. If you have something to buy, sell or trade simply send it to Paul Gilbert Paulylnpaul@msn.com or Todd Schlafer rschlafer@aol.com. Of course you are always welcome to donate 10% of the transaction cost to RMBS. Happy trading.

Thank You For supporting our Sponsors



Becoming a member of a larger bonsai family of enthusiasts is fun and rewarding and expands your knowledge of bonsai and stone appreciation.

Membership is only \$40.00 per year. For further information check out the website at <http://www.bonsai-bci.com> or email bcibizness@cox.net.



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Beginning Bonsai Class

Saturday May 22nd 9 AM - 1 PM.

To Register Call: 303-232-8700

We are located on the west side of the Denver Metro area, near I-70 & Youngfield.

Email us at: 2sasaki.m.h@gmail.com

www.ColoradoBonsai.com