

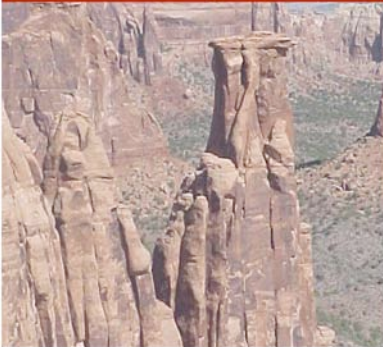


ROCKY MOUNTAIN BONSAI SOCIETY

September Newsletter

August 28, 2009
Volume 40 | Issue 8

Colorado Spotlight



Colorado Ntl. Monument

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WE ARE ON THE WEB & OUR ADVERTISERS

www.rockymtnbonsai.org

www.coloradobonsai.com

September 1st Programs

Checklist to get trees ready for the show!

By Paul Gilbert

Our Annual Show will be held at the Denver Botanic Gardens on October 10 and 11. One of the best ways to develop better trees is to show them (never be afraid of humble beginnings). Paul Gilbert will lead this short program on "Tree Preparation for the Show." Learn the 3 elements of a good bonsai display (tree, stand and companion plant)! Some say, "Ooow, can't show a tree I don't have a stand!" There are plenty of people who will help you with a stand and companion plant so those two things are not an excuse for failing to show a tree!

The second part of our program is the much and very often requested White Elephant Auction! Have a tree, pots, stands, suiseki, etc, etc. you want to sell bring it to the auction! Also bring your check book, you never know when you will find that "Gotta Have It" item. Sellers are asked to give 10% of the sales price to the RMBS.

Our Workshop this month is September 26 at 9 AM. This workshop will focus on – "Show Tree Preparation" – Putting the finishing touches on your tree can make the difference between a good display and a great display. Bring in a tree that you want to show and put the finishing touches on it. Make minor changes to branch placement, trim off the unbalanced growth, prepare the soil and prepare the pot for display.

us at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, September 1st 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.

LOOKING AHEAD:

The October Program is the President's Program! How to get started in Bonsai! This will be lead by our club president Steve Goodwin!

The November program will be led by Harold Sasaki! You won't want to miss what Harold is cooking up for this program!

RMBS President's Message



pick out 3-4 trees that might be 'worthy' of showing this year.... even if they all don't make it to the show I know that they will become the best trees in my collection just because I will give them the attention that they deserve.



St. Malo
Allens Park, Colorado



Inks Lake State Park

Bonsai and Mentors

This art form is like many that require years of experience to be really proficient at it. It seems to me like the best bonsai artists in our club and around the world developed their skills by being mentored, usually by two or more mentors. Also, it seems to me that there is a great willingness for mentors to step up and help newcomers to bonsai.

I know for me that there are at least ten people in the club that I would list as a mentor. One specific person who influenced me early on was Jim Robinson. Jim is always willing to offer a friendly smile to me when I came to club events. He gave many presentations at the club and showed many great trees at our annual show. I hope to show one of Jim's trees at this year's show (October 10 and 11).

About 6 months ago Jim sent me a printed copy of the history of the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society and my son was good enough to scan it and convert it into an electronic document. Jim also sent along revisions to this document which I've been able to add. I'm pleased that this is now available on our web site by going to the main page and clicking on the 'Club History' link. Please take the time to read this since it's a great way to get to know the history that makes our club what it is today.

Todd Schlafer, our newsletter editor, has also included a section of the history in the newsletter to wet your appetite. If you don't have access to a computer to view the history on-line then please see me at the next club meeting and I'll provide you with a printed copy. Also, if you get a chance please thank Jim Robinson for this valuable effort.

Yours in Bonsai,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve L. Goodwin".

Steve Goodwin

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The bold/normal font is Jim Robinsons intro and the italics are provided by the attributed persons.
Col. Robert Krueger wrote to me about how he learned about bonsai. He wrote: Ben Yamakishi and I became good friends so he invited me to accompany him on many bonsai collecting trips...

One funny experience we had, though not very safe, as the National Forest Rangers stopped us and asked what we were doing in this area. We showed our permits for collecting bonsai but they said we weren't wearing Orange Jackets. We asked why and they said this area is open to a special elk hunt and we were in great danger of being killed without orange jackets. We left the area immediately. Ben was like a mountain goat. In walking through the forest many times he would get so far ahead of me I couldn't see him. he said I was a slow walker but the area was heavy. Ben was famous for one of his favorite sayings. I heard him saying many times as we worked on recently collected trees. "No cut" was his saying and he was very ambitious as we worked on trees at home. He had a fascinating ability to bend and wire branches, and it was almost like killing the tree to cut a branch off. He would watch a single branch, almost constantly wiring and bending it, spending up to a year to a work a big branch into it's final shape.

Mary Ann and Malcolm Correll wrote A Short History of Bonsai in Denver, November, 1980.

"In 1955 there were several Japanese gentlemen who were been born in Japan but then lived in the Denver area. Three of them, Mr. Fukuhara, Mr. Sam Naka, and Mr. Kai Kawahara, had studied bonsai in Japan. Mr. Fukuhara, had a meeting of all the men at which they organized what they called the "Old Men's Club." We shall refer to this club as the "Senior Club." George Inai was president of the new club from its start in 1960 and Mr. Fukuhara and Mr. Kawahara served as sensai (instructors)."

In 1960, Mr. George Fukuma, a charter member of the Senior Club, who had been it's original vice president and treasurer, was elected president. Since its inception the Senior club had produced an annual bonsai show and had exhibited some of their fine bonsai at various celebrations within the Denver Japanese community--the Doll Festival, the Cherry Blossom Festival, etc. A wider interest was developing not only among Nisei, who were not eligible to join the Senior Club, but also among people of non-Japanese heritage. George Fukuma and Sam Naka organized classes first for Nisei and late for non Japanese enthusiasts. George owned a store and shop that featured bonsai materials and supplies and he offered classes both at his shop and at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

The earlier bonsai shows had generally been at the Denver Buddhist Temple but in October, 1969, the show was held at the Simpson Methodist Church in Westminister, a western suburb of Denver. At this show a list was collected of people interested in forming another bonsai club. And on November 20, 1969 the Denver junior 'Bonsai Club was formed under the leadership of George Fukuma and Leo Murakama, one of the Nisei. Leo was elected president of the new club and George was its instructor. Membership in the junior Club was open to Nisei, to Niese women, and to non-Japanese. Thirty-six members started the new club. Its membership has fluctuated slightly up and down from forty. Only Sam and Mary Ann Heacock and 'Bob and Louise Krueger from among the charter members remaining in the club."

RMBS Fall Bonsai Show October 10th – 11th

Before you know it our fall show in October will be upon us. Start getting your trees ready or make your plans to attend. This will be the first Fall show The RMBS has had in a long time, and could be one of the best.





Editorial Note

I would like to dedicate the remainder of this year's newsletters to the previous editor Patrick Allen. As you know He returned to military service for a one year deployment to Afghanistan. I always looked forward to receiving the Newsletters and he has done an amazing job. I look forward to keeping the Newsletters going for him.

Patrick we miss you and send pictures.

- Todd -

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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

ANODIZED ALUMINUM WIRE
FOR SALE

Paul Gilbert had an opportunity to purchase a large quantity of anodized aluminum (brown in color) from a wire factory. He will have 500 gram rolls available in multiple sizes at our next meeting for \$10.00 per roll.