



RMBS

November 2016

Volume 48 Issue 11

November President's Message

by Tom Anglewicz

Winter Really Is Coming!

A few days ago I felt very silly changing out the tires on both of our vehicles for their winter snow tires. Who would have thought that the high temperature on that day, near the end of October, would be 81 degrees! Nevertheless, winter is coming, one of these days pretty soon; and we need to be doing everything we can to prepare our bonsai for cold Colorado weather.

When we moved to Boulder almost six years ago, I brought a number of bonsai from San Diego, virtually none of which could tolerate a Colorado winter. Early on we made the decision to build a greenhouse, and it has been a godsend for protecting not only delicate, non-native bonsai, but also other potted and flowering plants that Florentina

and I cultivate outdoors during the warm summer months.

It's important to note, also, that some coniferous bonsai that we grow and love to work with come from climate zones that are not compatible with harsh winters and very low temperatures. Good examples, are Japanese Black or Red Pines and Prostrata Junipers, but I am even experimenting with keeping Pinyon Pines in the greenhouse through the winter, when they are in very shallow bonsai containers.

Our greenhouse has a thermostatically controlled heater, and I try to set it so that the low temperature, usually at night, does not go too much below 35-40 degrees. Of course on a bright sunny day, even in mid-winter, the temp in the greenhouse can easily get up to 70 degrees. I have also built

a heating bed on one of the benches to provide additional warmth for bonsai that are just getting established in new containers and to stimulate root growth for trees that are weak or struggling.

Before plants go into the greenhouse for the winter, I try to clean them up, removing dead foliage, dead branches and any weeds that are growing in the soil. It's also a good idea to check the wire on bonsai and to remove any that appears to be digging into the branches. That goes for trees that are going into the cold frame as well.

Which brings me to the subject of cold frames and the over-wintering of native trees, a subject that I am continuing to learn about as a relative Colorado newbie. I know that many of our members have a variety of proven techniques for dealing with native trees through the winter. Most of them involve removing trees from elevated benches, making sure that containers are in contact with the ground for additional warmth, and then mulching around the containers with bark or gravel. It's also a good idea to protect the foliage mass from strong winds if possible. Snow apparently acts as an insulator for the container and the foliage as long as its weight does not break branches.

A cold frame will accomplish all of these objectives. When we built the greenhouse, I elected to also construct a cold frame along the long dimension of the house and depressed into the ground about three feet. The "floor" of the cold frame has a bed of about six inches of pea gravel, which enables me to "bury" bonsai containers up to their rims with the gravel surround. The frame

has a series of large doors on top, clad with the same translucent polycarbonate that skins the greenhouse. Doors can be propped open when the outside temperature is warm, like now, and closed at night to keep out critters.

So far, through several winters, I have found that this cold frame design has worked successfully for native pines and spruces. I find, however, that watering is always a challenge. Because the containers are buried in the gravel and the surrounding gravel will retain a certain amount of moisture, it's sometimes difficult to know when the trees need additional watering. That is especially true when trees are already in the frame, as mine are now thanks to some help from two of our Boulder area members, and the weather has been consistently warm.

Given the fact that these trees are really slowing down for the winter, I tend to be a bit conservative and not water until I'm pretty sure that the planting medium has dried out a bit.

Anyway, those are some of my thoughts about preparing bonsai for the winter. I welcome your thoughts on the subject as well. As my teacher, Ryan Neil, a Colorado native, has said more than once, doing bonsai in Colorado is not easy. Maybe that's why his garden and practice are in Oregon!

Tom

2016 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location		
<u>Monthly Meeting</u>	November	<u>WHITE ELEPHANT SALE</u>
Tue, November 1 st , 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.		
<u>Holiday Party</u>	December	
Sun, December 4 th , 11:00am – 2:00pm DBG Plant Society Bldg		

November Monthly Meeting

The meeting in November is our annual White Elephant Sale. We will also vote on the slate of 2017 officers presented at the October meeting.

The White Elephant Sale is a fundraiser for the club. We will have a live auction. Larry and Todd will again be the auctioneers. As in the past 10% of each sale is given to the club. You may also choose to donate the entire amount to the club. These funds are used to support club activities throughout the year.

Please bring items for the auction. Trees, pots, stands, tools, and books are always popular items. We will be checking in items as you arrive.

The slate of officers for 2017 are:

- President:** Tom Anglewicz
- Vice President and Director of Education:** Bob Randall
- Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair:** David McPeters
- Treasurer:** Adam Johnson, CPA
- Immediate Past President:** Todd Schlafer
- Program Chair and Community Outreach:** Todd Schlafer
- Annual Show Chairman:** Larry Jackel
- Librarian:** Stan Tarum
- Member at Large:** Chris Rausch, MD
- Member at Large:** Stephen Lee
- Member at Large:** Mike Horine
- Member at Large:** Charlie Sisk
- Member at Large:** Terril Samuelson
- Member at Large:** Wayne Berve
- Members at Large (Annual Viewing Stone Show Co-Chairs):** Allan Hills & Darrell Whitley

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.

Shoji Screens for sale

The club is selling the Shoji screens we used in past years at the annual show. These are the screens that have black frames and white panels. The price is \$50 OBO. If you are interested please contact Todd Schlafer at rschlafer@aol.com or 720-309-0060.

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:

Here is a good video on growing aerial roots on Ficus and in Canada!

[Ficus aerial roots](#)

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](#)

S&S Bonsai

Always Growing

What We Have For You.....

- Bonsai Trees
- Bonsai Pots
- Bonsai Tools
- Training Wire
- Bonsai Soil
- Bonsai Books
- Gift Certificates
- FREE Saturday Study Groups (Once a month)
- And more.....

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.

S&S Bonsai
1024 Bonfoy Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO
80909

719-633-9110
(Open by appointment only)

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First Branch Bonsai

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from the rocky mountains

www.FirstBranchBonsai.com

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