



LIMBER PINE DEADWOOD

RMBS

July 2017

Volume 49 Issue 7

July President's Message

by Tom Anglewicz

Mindful Watering

Several years ago, when I was even more of a bonsai novice than I am today, I used to be baffled when bonsai professionals and teachers stated that watering was one of the most challenging aspects of bonsai, and that apprentices in Japan were not permitted to water trees until after their first year of apprenticeship, or longer. I thought, "This is silly; everyone knows how to water plants!"

Well, as the old saying goes, nothing is that simple. I learned, over time, that the subtleties of watering bonsai, properly and mindfully, are many. If we want to achieve optimum health for our trees, it's important that we pay attention to these considerations and implement them in our practice.

All plants need a balance of water and oxygen within their root systems to grow and to thrive.

But that balance is affected by a number of factors, both internal and external to the tree. Here are some things to consider:

Internal Factors

Internal factors are those that relate to the closed "system" of the tree itself. They include the size of the foliage mass, the size of the container, the type of soil mix, the age of the tree and, perhaps most important, the species of the tree. If we have a tree with a very large foliage mass, growing in a small, shallow container with well-draining bonsai substrate, it will likely need watering much more frequently than one with a smaller foliage mass in a larger container.

But that relationship between container size and foliage mass is significantly affected by the species of the tree. Are we dealing with a lush juniper or spruce that tend to want more water in the water-oxygen spectrum; or are we dealing

with a Ponderosa Pine that can generally afford to dry out more between watering? I find that, even between pine species, of which I am a keen observer, there are significant variations. Japanese Black Pines, or even Pinyon Pines, seem to like a wetter substrate than the Ponderosas. Chinese Elms don't want to dry out that much at all, and that seems to be the case for boxwoods as well.

So this is a process of observation, really looking at your trees and how they are responding to watering. It's an interactive process with the plants.

External Factors

External factors are those aspects of the environment in which our trees grow during the course of the year. Those considerations are a lot different between Portland, Los Angeles or Denver. Even the micro-climates in which we live, or where our garden is situated, have an effect. And, of course, they vary with the seasons.

Here in the Denver/Boulder area we pride ourselves on the fact that we have over 300 days of sunshine per year. And we live at elevations at or above a mile above sea level. That makes for some pretty intense sunlight, and when the outside temperature is 90 degrees and the relative humidity is 15-20%, you can only imagine what that does to the natural aspiration of bonsai.

If you have trees, such as sun-loving pines, growing in these conditions, as I do, you may need to water them twice a day. But, again, you need to measure that against the internal factors outlined above. Even in these conditions a Ponderosa Pine in a relatively large container MAY still only need to be watered every two days. If it becomes overcast in the afternoon, all bets may be off!

Ambient temperature, relative humidity, intensity of sunlight, desiccating wind, position in your garden – all of these environmental factors will affect an individual tree's need for water. Remember, also, that broadleaf plants in these conditions may require additional protection from the sun, either through location or the employment of shade cloth or panels.

The Challenges

I know that everyone cannot be available, throughout the day, to water individual trees on demand. This is especially challenging when we are off on vacation and turning over watering to a friend or neighbor who may not have this knowledge or concern. I hope that this discussion may serve to make you more aware of the subtleties that surround the watering of each of our bonsai. Check them in the morning, before you leave for work; check them again when you get home. Trees that look moist in the AM can be very dry by the end of the day.

And, by the way, I don't ever rely on predictions or evidence of rain as an indication that bonsai have been properly watered. If it has rained steadily for a day, as it may do in the spring or fall, that is very beneficial. A summer thunderstorm in the afternoon may or may not provide the soaking your trees need!

Tom

2017 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Date and Location	Agenda or Program
<p><u>Summer Barbecue</u> July Sat, July 8th, 11am till 3pm</p>	<p><u>LOCATION - CREEKSIDE PARK</u> 4400 E VIRGINIA AVE GLENDALE, CO 80246</p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> July Tue, July 11th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Gates Hall</p>	<p><u>LONG PROGRAM – BJORN BJORHOLM</u></p>
<p><u>Visiting Artist Workshop</u> July Sat, July 15th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>VISITING ARTIST – BJORN BJORHOLM</u></p>
<p><u>Visiting Artist Workshop</u> July Sun, July 30th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>VISITING ARTIST – YOUNG CHOE KUSAMONO & ACCENT PLANT WORKSHOP</u></p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> August Tue, August 1st, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>SHORT PROGRAM – TERRILL SAMUELSON</u> INSPIRATION TREE <u>LONG PROGRAM – YOUNG CHOE KUSAMONO & ACCENT PLANTS USING COLORADO NATIVE SPECIES</u></p>
<p><u>Saturday Workshop</u> August Sat, August 19th, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Windy Ridge Excursion</p>	<p><u>WINDY RIDGE</u> CLUB EXCURSION TO WINDY RIDGE TWIN FORKS PNR 6164 US-285, MORRISON, CO 80465</p>
<p><u>Visiting Artist Workshop</u> September Sat, Sept 2nd, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>VISITING ARTIST – MATT REEL</u></p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> September Tue, September 5th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>LONG PROGRAM – MATT REEL</u></p>
<p><u>Annual Show</u> September September 8th, 9th, and 10th Denver Botanic Gardens</p>	<p><u>RMBS ANNUAL SHOW</u></p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> October Tue, October 3rd, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>SHORT PROGRAM – DAVID MCPETERS</u> INSPIRATION TREE <u>LONG PROGRAM – BILL SAMPLE</u> POTTERY MAKING</p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> November Tue, November 7th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>WHITE ELEPHANT</u></p>
<p><u>Monthly Meeting</u> December Sun, December 3rd, Noon – 2:00 pm DBG Plant Society Bldg.</p>	<p><u>HOLIDAY PARTY</u> Page 3 of 5</p>

Visiting Artists

Saturday, July 15th 9:00am – 5:00pm

Bjorn Bjorholm Workshop

This workshop by Bjorn is limited to RMBS registered members. Cost is \$75 for a workshop seat and \$10 for silent observers. The workshop is limited to 8. If interested in a seat, please contact Todd Schlafer at rschlafer@aol.com.

Bjorn is considered to be one of the most talented American Bonsai Artists since returning from his 6-year apprenticeship in Japan, studying with Japanese bonsai master Keiichi Fujikawa.

Sunday, July 30th 9:00am – 5:00pm

Young Choe – Kusamono & Accent Plant Workshop

Kusamono artist, Young Choe studied traditional art-ink painting and calligraphy-in her native Korea before she moved to the United States. She obtained her BS in Horticulture from the University of Maryland. While volunteering at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, she was able to bring her artistic talent together with her knowledge of horticulture to create Kusamono. She traveled to Japan to study this unique art form with the master Kusamono artist, Keiko Yamane, a former student of Saburo Kato. In the world outside the Museum, she worked with native plants at the USDA, NRCS, National Plant Materials Center in Beltsville, Maryland. Also, she was a propagation horticulturist at the US National Arboretum. Young currently works at the US National Arboretum.

Check out her website [here](#).

July Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 11th 7:00 – 9:00pm

RMBS is pleased to host Bjorn Bjorholm as a 2017



Visiting Artist. Bjorn Bjorholm was born and raised at the foothills of the Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee in the United States. He was first introduced

to bonsai at the age of thirteen, and by sixteen he had helped found the Knoxville Bonsai Society and the regional Tennessee Bonsai Exhibition. After finishing university in 2008, Bjorn began a formal bonsai apprenticeship under Keiichi Fujikawa, owner of Kouka-en nursery in Osaka, Japan. During his apprenticeship, Bjorn's works were featured in the Kokufu-ten, Sakufu-ten, and Taikan-ten exhibitions, as well as in many international exhibitions in the US and Europe. In 2015, Bjorn received certification as a bonsai professional from the Japanese Bonsai Association and launched his business, Bjorvala Bonsai Studio, which provides bonsai, related art, and services to the global community. Bjorn is in the process of moving back to Tennessee to establish his own bonsai business.

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, 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:

Summit Bonsai – Dusty Kraft is offering a discount to RMBS members on pre-sifted soil.

He has set up a special code for a 5% discount on the pre-sifted soil he sells online. The code is "RMBS5". It can be entered at the checkout on the website, www.summitbonsai.com.

If anyone wants to come to save on shipping, it would be best that they contact Dusty directly at summitbonsai@gmail.com or [\(970\)405-0331](tel:(970)405-0331). They can pick it up in Greeley or he can meet them somewhere if his schedule allows.

Resources for Members:

Here is a good article on recent research on mycorrhiza

[mycorrhizal fungi](#)

Other internet resources:

[RMBS Web Site](#)

[Colorado Bonsai Ltd.](#)

[First Branch Bonsai](#)

[S&S Bonsai](#)

[Summit Bonsai](#)

[RMBS Facebook Page](#)

[Mike Horine Website](#)



First Branch Bonsai

world class raw stock & bonsai
from the rocky mountains
www.FirstBranchBonsai.com

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)
Near Olympic Training
Center



Colorado Bonsai Ltd. Harold Sasaki

**The Rocky Mountain Region's most
comprehensive Bonsai Nursery**

Open by appointment call: 303-232-8700

Specializing in Character and Colorado Native
Collected Trees, Finished Bonsai, Starter
Plants, Pots, Soil, Books, Tools, Wire, Private
Lessons and Online Native Spruce sales.
Do you need a gift for a hard-to-shop for
bonsai enthusiast? We offer Individual
Bonsai Instruction Sessions and we have
Gift Certificates!! Use them for *anything*
(supplies, classes, etc.) and at *any time*.

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

Dusty Kraft
Owner

summitbonsai@gmail.com
(970) 405-0331

SUMMIT BONSAI

www.summitbonsai.com