

# THE TWIG

<https://mohawkhudsonbonsai.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/MohawkHudsonBonsai/>  
[https://www.instagram.com/Mohawk\\_Hudson\\_Bonsai\\_Society](https://www.instagram.com/Mohawk_Hudson_Bonsai_Society)

## Next Club Date

### *Grow Box Project*

**Sunday January 28**

**Noon: Club Meeting & Lunch**

**1pm: Grow Box Project**

Location: [DJH Bonsai](#)

Join us for our January luncheon and first club meeting of the year on January 28. Afterward, Jon Stewart will guide a workshop to build your own grow boxes. Grow boxes can be an inexpensive option



Examples of grow boxes in use (our workshop boxes will differ slightly in design)

for a tree's first move out of a deep nursery pot. Pros like Sergio Cuan suggest if your tree "is weak or you need to accelerate its

development, take it out of its pot and put it into a grow box—it can do wonders for its health."

Participants will build two boxes (about 8"x8"x3" and 12"x10"x4"). The workshop is limited to 8 participants and pre-registration is required. (Silent observers are always welcome). Member cost is \$50 (\$40 for members under 21). Non-member cost is \$75. See [page 2](#) for our new registration procedures.

*Continued in right column>>*

## MHBS Member Survey

Your club activities committee has been hard at work planning activities for 2024. Most months are set, but we'd still like to hear from you, our club members, to find out what is on your mind. For instance, what guest artist(s) would you love to work with and/or see at work in a demonstration? What species do you want to learn, improve in, or work on? What bonsai-related projects would you like to do? Why do you or why do you not participate in club events?

You can find the [4-page survey](#) at the back of this issue of The Twig. You can print off those pages and complete it longhand to be mailed to Nancy Castillo (address on survey) or to bring to our next club meeting on January 28. You could also scan or take pictures of your completed survey and email it to Nancy (email address also on survey). Or if you have an app to fill out PDF forms on your mobile device, you could complete it that way and email your response to Nancy. I will also have blank copies of the survey at the January meeting.

Whatever works! The important thing is that we want to know what activities you'd like offered and how we can increase member participation and enjoyment. PLEASE, take a few minutes to fill the survey out—we really do appreciate it!

[Go to the survey](#)

### *Grow Box Project (con't)*

Please bring a drill driver with a Phillips head bit if you have one (some will be available to share).

Bring food to share for the luncheon. For the sale table, bring excess trees, cuttings, accents, pots, etc. Price your item, put your name on it, and place it on the sale table. 20% of the sale proceeds will benefit the club.

## Looking Ahead

### February 25

Bring Your Own Tree open workshop.  
Location: Faddegon's Nursery, Latham.

### March 24

Note date! Art of Display: bring trees for MABS Spring Festival club display. It's not too early to start thinking about what trees you might bring for display!

### April 19-21

Please join fellow club members at the MidAtlantic Bonsai Society Spring Festival in Harrisburg-Hershey PA. [Registration is open](#). Early bird rates still apply!

### April 28

TBD

### May 9-12

[ABS Learning Seminars](#), Grand Rapids MI.

### May 18-19

Note dates! [Frank Mihalic](#) returns for a Saturday full-day workshop, Sunday half-day workshop and Sunday demonstration.

### June 30

BYOT Open Workshop: Focus on Pines. June is a good time to work on pines! Time for hands-on work as well as group discussion.

### July 27-28

Mark Arpag returns for a Saturday full-day workshop, Sunday half-day workshop and Sunday demonstration.

### August 24-25

Field trip (destination TBD) on Saturday with trip show & tell on Sunday.

## New Workshop Registration Process

Our club can now take workshop registration fees via credit card!

As in the past, pre-registration with full payment is required and must be received in advance of a workshop. *A best practice, if you want to ensure you get a seat, would be to register and make payment immediately upon receipt of our newsletter.*

While we will still accept personal checks made payable to MHBS, paying by credit card reaches our Treasurer immediately whereas mailed checks may take days to arrive. *Workshop seats are assigned upon actual receipt of full payment.* Our Treasurer will reach out to you immediately if you are placed on the Wait List for a workshop.

If you have not paid your 2024 membership dues, you must include your dues payment with your workshop registration. See below for 2024 dues amounts. Guests (non-members) can register for an MHBS club activity but must include an additional \$25 fee in addition to the stated workshop fee.

Use this link to register and pay for the January Grow Box Project Workshop. Use the drop-down menu to choose workshop payment with or without a dues payment. Please consider checking the box to cover PayPal fees. Alternatively, you can mail a check for workshop fees (and dues if applicable) to Treasurer Lori Hodgetts (address on [page 4](#)).

## 2024 Membership Dues

Dues for the 2024 club year are now due. Individual membership is \$45 and a Household membership is \$60.

**Pay by credit card:** Use the [Membership Online Payment](#) page of our website or focus your mobile device on this QR code and touch the yellow link that pops up.



Please consider checking the box to cover the PayPal transaction fee.

**Pay by check:** Mail a check made payable to MHBS to Lori Hodgetts ([address on page 4](#)). If paying for a Household membership, please provide the names of the individuals on the membership.

2024 membership dues were due December 31, 2023. Please pay at your earliest convenience to enjoy the benefits of membership all year long.

## Bonsai Calendar by Pauline Muth

---

### *January Indoors*

Semi-tropicals and some hardy trees are budding out in response to the increasing length of daylight. Repotting of these trees must be done as the buds swell or before. Begin fertilizing these trees including trace elements and iron. The new rapid growth requires lots of trimming to insure good ramification. Sunny days are a wonder in the greenhouse but be careful of dark days that will cause weak development on the trees.

Tropicals are holding their own under lights. In the greenhouse, tropicals are still losing leaves. By the end of the month small signs of new life have appeared.

White pines and other young pines kept in the greenhouse are still prunable and wireable. Do not repot older pines but young trees can be potted without radically disturbing their roots.

Pruning of greenhouse specimens can still occur while they are in dormancy. It is a good time to wire trees without leaves.

Sharpen tools, check the pot and soil supply for spring planting. Winter is a good time to sketch dream trees as you observe nature in its winter coat of snow.

### *January Outdoors*

Check the plants in winter storage. Freezing weather in a protected shelter usually will not harm bonsai but dehydration will.

Some winters include periods of freezing and thawing as the outdoor temperatures change. If the temperatures have been changing, check to see if water is needed. Larch left on the ground under evergreens also need to be checked if thawing has occurred.

Check for rodent damage.

## Volunteers Needed

---

To succeed and grow, our club relies on the active participation of members in many volunteer capacities. We believe all our members possess skills and capabilities that could be put to good use running the many facets of our club.

- We are still in need of an Activities Director. There is a committee already in place to support that director— all the committee needs is someone to take the helm! Once elected, the current term ends in 2024.
- We are looking for 1 more volunteer to conduct the 2023 audit, due March 31, 2024. If you can balance a checkbook, you have the skills needed for the Oversight Committee. This is just a 3-month commitment.
- If you have design skills, we are looking for an individual to help us by redesigning our club brochure/rack card.

If you can help in any of these areas, please contact [Bill Papura](#). Thanks so much for considering these openings!

## The Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society

We are the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society and our purpose is to generate interest in and educate the public about the art of Bonsai as well as to increase Club members' enjoyment of the hobby, offer education for all skill levels, provide opportunities to practice the art, and form friendships with other enthusiasts. MHBS was founded in 1968 - we celebrate our 56th anniversary in 2024!

We welcome anyone expressing interest in the art of Bonsai and the stated purposes of the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society. 2024 membership dues are \$45 for an individual and \$60 for a household.

We typically meet on the last Sunday of each month at 12:00 noon, January through October (dates may vary with holidays) at DJH Bonsai in Feura Bush, NY (Albany area). Guest artist visits typically include a full-day workshop on Saturday, a half-day workshop on Sunday morning, followed by the club meeting and the guest artist demo. Workshop and/or material fees may apply.

[MHBS Constitution and By-laws](#)

## The Twig and Club Social Media

All links in the Twig are live and can be followed to the resource listed (websites, social media accounts, email addresses, etc.). Your feedback, suggestions, and contributions are always welcome.

Links to our website and social media accounts are located on page one of the Twig. To keep those accounts active and interesting, we encourage club members to share pictures or videos that can be posted to our online sites. Please send them via [email to Jon Stewart](#). For your security, on public sites your name will not be displayed with the tree image unless you request.

## MHBS Officers 2024

Position	Name	Phone	Email	Term Ends
President	Bill Papura	207-408-3909	<a href="mailto:billpapura@yahoo.com">billpapura@yahoo.com</a>	2025
Vice President	Dave Hodgetts	518-380-4508	<a href="mailto:djhodgetts@aol.com">djhodgetts@aol.com</a>	2024
Secretary	Vera Rabovsky		<a href="mailto:Vera.rabovsky@gmail.com">Vera.rabovsky@gmail.com</a>	2025
Treasurer	Lori Hodgetts 1793 Tarrytown Rd Feura Bush NY 12067	518-369-7243	<a href="mailto:LHodgetts46@gmail.com">LHodgetts46@gmail.com</a>	2026
Activities Director	Open			2024
Communications Director	Nancy Castillo	518-321-6913	<a href="mailto:twocat@nycap.rr.com">twocat@nycap.rr.com</a>	2025
Webmaster & Outreach Director	Jon Stewart	518-879-9789	<a href="mailto:stewarjm192@gmail.com">stewarjm192@gmail.com</a>	2026
Immediate Past President	Tom Kizkiel	845 687-9115	<a href="mailto:kiszclove00@aol.com">kiszclove00@aol.com</a>	
MABS Directors representing MHBS	Bill Papura and Dave Hodgetts			

# MHBS MEMBER SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire to help us better plan future activities and programs.

Please return to Nancy Castillo by the end of January

- in person at January 28th club meeting
- snail mail to Nancy at 106 LaFlamme Rd Middle Grove NY 12850
- via email to [twocat@nycap.rr.com](mailto:twocat@nycap.rr.com)

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Which **guest artists** would you like to see in a demonstration and/or attend a workshop with in the next two years?

Rank # or Yes/No	Artist name	Potential topic (if multiple topics listed, circle topic of most interest to you)	Would you attend a free demo/presentation?	Would you attend a workshop w cost?
	Mark Arpag	Eastern White Cedar or Bonsai display		
	Jim Doyle	Conifers or Japanese Maples or Literati		
	Jennifer Price	Deciduous		
	Young Choe	Kusamono		
	David Knittle	Build a bonsai stand or Yamadori		
	Mike Lane (virtual)	Tropicals or Shohin		
	Rick Garcia	Azalea		
	Kris Springer	Larch or Yamadori		
	John Romano	Shohin or Literati		
	Sergio Cuan	Deciduous		
	Carmen Leskoviansky			

Add any artist not named above who you would be interested in visiting our club.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# MHBS MEMBER SURVEY

What **species** of bonsai tree would you be interested in learning more about? Rank your top choices. Choose as many as appeal to you. Also, circle the species name if you would need to buy the bonsai material to learn with.

Rank # or Yes/No	Species	Rank # or Yes/No	Species
	Juniper		Portulacaria
	Pine		Serissa
	Larch		Azalea
	Elm		Quince
	Crabapple		Pyracantha
	Hornbeam		Bougainvillea
	Hinoki		Ficus
	Eastern White Cedar		Boxwood
	Maple		Cotoneaster
	Olive		

Add any species not named above that you would be interested in learning more about.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are the most numerous species of trees in your collection?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## MHBS MEMBER SURVEY

What bonsai **technique or topic** would you be interested in learning more about? Rank your choices. Choose as many as you are interested in.

Rank # or Yes/No	Topic
	Wiring refresher
	Repotting refresher
	Making more trees - air layering, cuttings
	Grafting
	Pot selection exercise - how to choose the right pot for a tree
	Forest planting
	Root-over-rock
	Penjing (landscape scene w trees, rocks, plants, and/or figurines)
	Literati
	Trunk chopping

Add any bonsai technique or topic not named above that you would be interested in learning more about.

---

---

---

## MHBS MEMBER SURVEY

What **hands-on project** would you be interested in? Rank your choices. Choose as many as you are interested in.

Rank # or Yes/No	Topic
	Build a bonsai stand (what type? _____)
	Make a ceramic bonsai pot and/or make an accent pot
	Make a turntable
	Clean and maintain my tools
	Kintsugi (epoxy version)

Add any hands-on project not named above that you would be interested in learning more about.

---



---



---

### GENERAL

If applicable, what are the main reason(s) you choose to not participate in club programs and activities? Check all that apply.

- Topic not of interest (list examples \_\_\_\_\_)
- I don't know anything/enough about the presenter
- Too expensive
- Cannot do both Saturday workshop AND Sunday club meeting
- I can only come on Saturday
- I can only come on Sunday
- I attend whenever I can but I just can't do them all
- Things come up or I have other plans
- I don't quite feel welcome
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

What club activities and/or programs have you liked the most?

---



---



---

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY.

Please return asap to Nancy Castillo. Contact information on page 1.