

THE TWIG

<https://mohawkhudsonbonsai.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/MohawkHudsonBonsai/>
https://www.instagram.com/Mohawk_Hudson_Bonsai_Society

Next Club Date

Bring Your Own Trees

Open Workshop @ Faddegon's

Sunday February 25

Noon: Club Meeting (BYO lunch)

1pm: Open Workshop

NOTE LOCATION: Faddegon's Nursery
 1140 Troy Schenectady Rd, Latham

It's BYOT workshop time! Bring your own bonsai trees and enjoy working on them in the wonderful setting of one of Faddegon's Nursery greenhouses.

Faddegon's is one of the area's largest garden nurseries with three all-season greenhouses filled with houseplants, orchids, and more, as well as garden supplies and a wonderful gift area. They open at 10am on Sundays so come early to wander around this wonderful setting before our meeting starts at noon.

Open workshops are a hallmark of our bonsai club - they are opportunities to do seasonal work on your trees alongside other club members, offering or receiving assistance to/from each other and having fun! There is no charge for this open workshop and no registration is required.

As always, bring plenty of trees to work on, even more than you think you can get to. **IMPORTANT:** Bring all your own supplies as there will be no bonsai-specific supplies available for purchase.

January Activity & Club Meeting

January Grow Box Workshop

Jon Stewart led January's wooden grow box workshop project. Following discussion of their uses and benefits for bonsai trees, participants then assembled two grow boxes to take home.



January Club Meeting

President Bill Papura started with a welcome to our five guests. Minutes were approved and Lori Hodgetts provided her first report as Treasurer.

We now have a full roster of club officers. Jon Stewart resigned as Outreach Director to become Activities Director and Guy Pastena has assumed the Outreach Director role.

February activity will be a BYOT workshop at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham. In March, we'll work to put together our club display for the MABS Spring Festival. April will be a BYOT workshop, followed by Frank Mihalic's 2-day visit May 18-19.

Reminder to submit the Activities survey that was in the January Twig as soon as possible to Nancy Castillo.

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Looking Ahead

March 24

Note date! Art of Display: bring trees for the MABS Spring Festival club display. Start thinking about which trees you might bring to include in our club display at MABS!

April 19-21

Join fellow club members and other bonsai friends at the MidAtlantic Bonsai Society Spring Festival in Harrisburg-Hershey PA. Registration is open. Early bird rates apply until March 15!

April 28

BYOT Open workshop

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 - New!

Saturday field trip to New England Bonsai Garden and workshop with John Romano. Field trip show & tell on Sunday.

January Club Meeting (con't)

We invite and encourage club members to attend the MABS Spring Festival coming up April 19-21. See three talented guest artists at work, visit the large vendor area, attend the banquet, meet up with friends. Early bird registration discount ends March 15.

A proposed by-law revision was introduced that would require a review of our by-laws every three years. This revision will be voted on at the February club meeting.



Executive Board

January 9 Meeting

The January 9th Executive Board meeting addressed the topic of the workshop registration process with credit card payments now in place. Those wanting to pay via credit card will be directed to our club website. Checks are still also accepted, mailed to Lori Hodgetts. Website registration will continue to evolve to improve and enhance the process.

January 22 Meeting

Minutes from past meetings were approved.

To address the Activities Director opening, the following actions took place in accordance with by-laws Article IV Section 3 and Article VI Section 5:

- Jon Stewart resigned as Outreach Director to accept an appointment for the Activities Director position.
- Guy Pastena accepted an appointment for the Outreach Director position. Brandon Herwick with Jon Stewart will manage MHBS social media platforms.

Nancy recommended amending our by-laws to require a periodic full review of club by-laws. After discussion, motion made and passed to recommend to the membership a by-laws review every 3 years.

Incoming club emails will be handled by Jon and Lori (membership-related). Discussion of MABS Spring Festival.

Motion made and passed to upgrade our Wordpress website account.

Meet Your New Club Officer



Guy's Chicago Hardy Black Fig from the 2023 Club show

At the January 22 Executive Board meeting, Guy Pastena was appointed to fill the Outreach Director position.

Guy first got interested in bonsai back in college but took a break from it due to school and family. He returned to the art in 2018 after discovering MHBS and Pauline Muth's studio and classes.

Guy revamped our club website and has been maintaining it since 2023, and in 2022 he helped draft our club's by-laws.

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival

The 2024 MABS Spring Festival is coming up April 19-21 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, 604 Station Rd., Grantville PA.

Featured artists are Boon Manakitivipart, Sergio Cuan, and Rafael Torres. Throughout the weekend, the guest artists conduct multiple demonstrations, with the artist-designed trees raffled at the end of the demonstrations. Guest artists conduct small group workshops and also offer valuable comments and suggestions during their critiques of the club exhibit displays.

The vendor area is a great place to shop for trees and bonsai supplies and the Saturday evening banquet offers a chance to dine with bonsai friends and bid on auction items.

The club exhibit area displays trees from each MABS affiliate club, with each club asked to display three to four items. As we did last year, in addition to stand-alone trees, our club display will include our shohin display stand purchased from Pauline's estate. All MHBS club members are encouraged to bring trees of all sizes for display consideration to our MABS display workshop on March 24.



Our club shohin display at the 2023 MABS Spring Festival

Our club benefits financially from the after-expenses proceeds of the festival, according to how many club members attend. These proceeds are one of our largest sources of revenue each year and help finance club activities throughout the year.

Registration for the Spring Festival is open and an Early Bird Discount is available until March 15. There are currently seven MHBS members attending.

Don't miss this fun and educational bonsai weekend! Check out the agenda and register soon on the MABS website.

2024 Membership Dues

Dues for the 2024 club year were due December 31. 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. Thank you!

Pay by check: Mail a check made payable to MHBS to Lori Hodgetts ([address on page 5](#)). If paying for a Household membership, please provide the names of the individuals on the membership.

Please pay at your earliest convenience to enjoy the benefits of membership all year long.

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 currently seeking the following volunteers:

- ✦ If you have design skills, we are looking for an individual to redesign our club brochure/rack card.
- ✦ Help plan our 2024 Club Show this fall. Also, if you have contacts and/or ideas for a potential location for the club show, we'd love to hear about them.

If you can help, please contact [Bill Papura](#). Thanks so much for considering these opportunities!

Bonsai Calendar by Pauline Muth

February Indoors

Growth is incredible and heartwarming in the greenhouse. Hours are spent trimming the new growth. Trees like elms and pomegranates respond to the increasing light rapidly and cannot be neglected. The major problem is inconsistent light. Stormy and cloudy days can develop weak growth. Artificial light can be of great help. Set it up to lengthen the natural light available.

Tropicals are showing growth as the month progresses. Trimming may be needed. Begin fertilizing tropicals in growth.

White pines kept in the greenhouse have bud swell. This marks the end of major pruning of pines. Repotting of pines kept indoors can begin. Do not forget to add spores to pine soil.

Prepare the work area for the heavy repotting schedule of the upcoming months. Prepare the pots needed with screening and tie wires to save time in spring. Stock a supply of fertilizers and mycorrhizoid spores.

February Outdoors

Trees are still in storage and we can have some of our worst storms. Check carefully for drying but otherwise keep in storage.

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 a 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 Brandon Herwick](#). 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	billpapura@yahoo.com	2025
Vice President	Dave Hodgetts	518-380-4508	djhodgetts@aol.com	2024
Secretary	Vera Rabovsky		Vera.rabovsky@gmail.com	2025
Treasurer	Lori Hodgetts 1793 Tarrytown Rd Feura Bush NY 12067	518-369-7243	LHodgetts46@gmail.com	2026
Activities Director	Jon Stewart	518-879-9789	stewarjm192@gmail.com	2024
Communications Director	Nancy Castillo	518-321-6913	twocat106@gmail.com	2025
Webmaster & Outreach Director	Guy Pastena	518-227-0722	MHBS.outreach@gmail.com	2026
Immediate Past President	Tom Kizkiel	845 687-9115	kiszclove00@aol.com	
MABS Directors representing MHBS	Bill Papura and Dave Hodgetts			