

THE TWIG

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

Next Club Date

*Create Displays for the MABS
Club Exhibit plus Open Workshop*

Sunday April 7

- 9:30a: Create MABS Displays**
- Noon: Club Meeting and Brunch**
- 1pm: BYOT Open Workshop**
If needed, continue MABS Display activities

LOCATION: DJH Bonsai

With the cancellation of our March 24th meeting, we will MOVE UP our April meeting to SUNDAY APRIL 7.

We will use the morning to work together to select the trees, stands, jitas, and accents for our club displays at the 2024 MABS Spring Festival.

We'll break at noon for lunch and our Club Meeting.

After our meeting, the studio will be open for a BYOT workshop. And if needed, work will continue on the club display. Folks with trees selected for MABS can also use the workshop time to seek advice and work on final details of their tree.

Our club will bring four displays to the MABS club exhibit, including a collaborative display of 4-6 shohin and/or mame trees in the club's display stand.

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MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival

Letter from MABS President Carl Achhammer

Dear MidAtlantic Member Club,

Spring is here and MABS is close!

The MidAtlantic Bonsai Spring Festival was created to be a great learning experience for the beginner and for the more experienced of us. You are invited to attend even for one day! There is a discounted rate for first time festival attendees so newer hobbyists can fuel their passion. And the more club members that attend MABS means your club gets a bigger cut of the profits to fund your club's activities throughout the year. This is why the festival exists.

As you may know already we have a great line up this year with Sergio Cuan (USA), Boon Manakatipart (USA) and Rafa Torres (Spain) set to do some great demos, workshops and critiques.

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Next Club Date (con't)

All club members are encouraged to bring trees of any size that will be ready for display. Trees should be in their show pot and mossed or ready to be mossed. We'd like to have 20+ trees to choose from!

Also bring display tables, jitas, and accents that could be loaned to the club for the weekend display.

It is not imperative that you are going to MABS to have a tree considered (though we really wish you would attend MABS!)

We will have a luncheon at noon so please bring a food item to share. A sale table will also be available if you have trees, nursery stock, cuttings, accents, pots, or other items to sell. Be sure to price your item and put your name on it. 20% of the sale proceeds will benefit the club.

Even if you don't have any trees to bring for the MABS display, these sessions provide a great opportunity to learn more about bonsai display.

We hope you'll bring some trees but encourage you to attend even if you're not bringing any.

If you have potential show trees but are unable to attend the April 7 workshop, you could arrange to drop off your potential trees ahead of the meeting. You should have a completed [tree information form](#) at that time. You are in charge of your own drop off arrangements. The trees chosen to represent MHBS in the club display will be determined by member consensus at the April 7 meeting.

Letter from MABS President (con't)

MABS could use some final help in the next couple weeks coming up to the festival:

1. We need everyone to help spread the word about the festival. Please share the [festival flier](#) and [events links](#) on Facebook and other social media sites.
2. Be sure to like and follow the [MidAtlantic Facebook page](#). We will be posting returning and new vendor info as well as other favorable bonsai links. Please share these posts widely.
3. Feel free to print copies of the [festival flier](#) to hang at local coffee shops, garden centers, art spaces, workspaces, or any other venue where we may capture the interest of future bonsai enthusiasts.
4. We need a couple volunteers to monitor outside the lecture/demo rooms and to check passes. We need 1 person Sat @ 10am, 12pm, 1pm, and 3 or 4pm and Sun 9am and 10am. Contact [Bill Papura](#) if you can volunteer.
5. If any club has a photographer or two that would lend some time that would be great. Someone with some experience shooting in different lighting situations, novice or professional. It would be nice to have a dedicated person or 2 to get all the shots we need. Contact me at zenchaserbonsai@gmail.com.

MABS affiliate clubs and their members make these festivals successful each year. Remember all the members of the board have full time jobs and manage to put on a great show but we can always use extra help. We can always use extra volunteers before and during the festival so please step up to help if you can.

The MABS Board is always looking for ideas and comments to help us make the festival a better experience for everyone. Please feel free to reach out to me at zenchaserbonsai@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Carl Achhammer Jr.
MABS President

Note: Carl's letter was edited slightly for the audience

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Looking Ahead

April 19-21

Join fellow club members and other bonsai friends at the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival in Harrisburg-Hershey PA. Our club currently has 15 members attending!

Online and mail-in registration is available until April 12.

Walk-in registration is also available.

April 28 - CANCELLED

Meeting and activity CANCELLED. See details of April meeting on page 1.

May 9-12

ABS Learning Seminars, Grand Rapids MI.

May 18-19

Note dates! Frank Mihalic full-day workshop on Saturday and half-day workshop on Sunday morning. The club meeting and luncheon at noon Sunday will be followed by a demonstration by Frank and raffle of the demo tree.

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 full-day workshop on Saturday and half-day workshop on Sunday morning. The club meeting and luncheon at noon Sunday will be followed by a demonstration by Mark and raffle of the demo tree.

August 24-25

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

Additional MABS Request

Throughout the festival, fund raising silent auctions are conducted in the demonstration hall. All items auctioned are donated by attendees and the proceeds help increase the pool of funds that is ultimately redistributed to clubs like ours.

If you have excess pots, books, magazines, tools, jitas, stands, or anything bonsai-related, please bring them to the MABS registration desk when you check-in. Your gifts will be added to the fun assortment of items in the silent auctions.



Some goodies from last year's silent auction

Thanks in advance for your gift!

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 various facets of our club. We are currently seeking the following volunteers:

- ✦ 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
- ✦ A Nominating Committee is formed each year to prepare a slate of candidates for the club officer positions up for elections for the coming year. We will be looking for three volunteers for the Nominating Committee, which must be formed no later than September. The slate of candidates is presented at the November club meeting.

If you can help, please contact Bill Papura. Thanks so much for considering these opportunities!

Bonsai Calendar by Dave Hodgetts

April Indoors

Increased temperatures and daylight hours yield vigorous growth, requiring thoughtful fertilization, to manage internode length and foliage size, and judicious pruning to maximize ramification. Trees in the greenhouse can be placed outdoors once the daytime temperatures are above 40 F, but to avoid having to repeatedly move them in and out due to the risk of frost, many don't put them out until the nights are completely frost-free. In Zone 5 this is sometimes not until Memorial weekend.

When the trees are moved outdoors, avoid placing them in full sun, as the leaves are likely to burn. Some leaf loss is almost inevitable, resulting in a form of defoliation, which weakens the tree. Some species, such as trident maples, tolerate this well, but Japanese maples and hornbeams can be less forgiving. Watch for wire damage on rapidly growing trees and continue to monitor for pests and disease.

April Outdoors

Mid spring is here and the hardy trees from winter storage can typically stay out on the benches. At this time of year full sun all day is fine. As buds start to swell, trees that require it are repotted, given a transplanting solution soak and growth hormone, and then protected from frost. Wait until you see signs of new growth before fertilizing newly potted trees.

On trees that do not need repotting, fertilization starts when the buds begin to swell. Regardless of their stage of development, my regimen includes biweekly foliar feeding with kelp or kelp/fish emulsion, in addition to NPK pellets. Flowering trees benefit also from the application of superphosphate. I find a calendar invaluable for keeping track of both my fertilization and pesticide/fungicide schedules.

The timing, type, and frequency of the NPK pellet fertilizer you use should be determined by the tree's growth cycle and stage of development. For example, applying nitrogen to a refined tree or one undergoing refinement, before their new foliage has hardened off, is counterproductive, yielding large leaves and long internodes. On the other hand, a tree in early development, when internode length and leaf size are not a concern, should be fed heavily throughout the growing season.

Forest plantings, penjing and root over rock projects can all be assembled now, before the plant material buds out, and must then be protected from frost.

This is a good month for styling trees, although major cuts on deciduous and broadleaved evergreens are best left until the first flush of growth has hardened off, and heavy bends on conifers are best left until fall. Newly wired trees should be protected from frost and, as growth can be rapid at this time of year, they should also be monitored to prevent wire damage, which may be irreversible on deciduous and broad-leaved evergreen species.

Rub off any unwanted new buds on deciduous and broad-leaved evergreen material. The remaining buds are left to grow and when each shoot has 8 to 10 leaves and the leaves have hardened off, it will be time to cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, using directional pruning, to create/increase ramification. (Species specific differences apply to this process, do your homework!)

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 to our membership 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. You can pay your 2024 dues from the [Membership Online Payment](#) page of our website.

We meet on the last Sunday of each month at 12:00 noon, January through October (dates may vary with holidays), usually 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 luncheon and a guest artist demo and raffle. 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 Kiszkiel	845 687-9115	kiszclove00@aol.com	
MABS Directors representing MHBS	Bill Papura and Dave Hodgetts			5