

THE TWIG

<https://mohawkhudsonbonsai.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/MohawkHudsonBonsai/>
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Next Club Date

Frank Mihalic Workshops and Demonstration

◆ *Silent Auction of Donated Bonsai Pots & Magazine Giveaway*

Saturday May 18 and Sunday May 19

Sat 9:00a-5:00p: Full Day workshop

Sun 9:00a-Noon: Half Day workshop

Sun Noon: Club Meeting & Brunch followed by Frank Mihalic demo and auction of demo tree

LOCATION: DJH Bonsai

We are happy to welcome back Frank Mihalic for a fun weekend of bonsai activities.

From 9a-5p Saturday, Frank will lead a BYOT workshop. The full-day workshop cost is \$100 and is limited to 8 participants.

On Sunday, Frank will lead a half-day workshop from 9a-noon. The cost of the half-day workshop is \$50 and is also limited to 8 participants. For either workshop, club members under age 21 can take 20% off the workshop fee.

Our club meeting and luncheon start at noon on Sunday followed by a demonstration by Frank and raffle of his demo tree.

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MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival

Julian Shepersky Wins Accent Award at MABS



Congratulations to MHBS member Julian Shepersky who won The Young Choe Best Accent Award at the 2024 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival!

Julian's beautiful accent plant was shown alongside his American Larch, which is pictured on page 2.

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Next Club Date (con't)

We will also have a silent auction offering a large number of bonsai pots that were recently donated to the club by Stanley Maurer. Stanley was a member of a MABS affiliate club and had visited PFM Studio in the past. Winning bids for these pots must be paid for at the end of day Sunday (PayPal, cash or check).

We also have a large quantity of bonsai magazines (donated by PFM Bonsai and past MHBS members) that will be free to club members in attendance either day.

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

Workshop Details & Registration

Frank Mihalic is no stranger to MHBS. He is skilled in all bonsai tree species and is a very prolific workshop leader. You will be able to work with Frank on many trees of any variety during your workshop time.

Both workshops are limited to eight participants and pre-registration is required. Silent observers are always welcome. Member cost for a full-day Saturday is \$100. Member cost for a half-day Sunday is \$50. Members under 21 get a 20% discount. Non-member cost is the workshop fee plus \$25. If you are not current on dues, please pay them before registering.

[Use this link to register and pay for the Frank Mihalic workshops.](#)

Alternatively, you can mail a check for workshop fees (and dues if applicable) to Treasurer Lori Hodgetts (address on [page 10](#)). Registrations are on a first-come basis so [online registration](#) is best.

MABS Spring Festival (con't)



Julian Shepersky's American Larch
with his award-winning accent

What a wonderful honor for Julian to be recognized for his artistry amongst dozens of beautiful accents shown by many long-time bonsai practitioners. The club exhibit featured 36 displays of trees and accents by members of the eleven different bonsai clubs that comprise the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies.

The last MHBS member to take an award at MABS was Tom Kiszkiel, who also won the Best Accent Award.

Julian, who attends Albany High School, is our youngest club member yet he has created and maintains many exquisite trees and accents. He has studied under Pauline Muth and currently studies with Dave Hodgetts.

Bravo, Julian, on your well-deserved award!! We are so proud of you.

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MABS Spring Festival (con't)

Thirteen MHBS club members made the trip down to Pennsylvania to enjoy the 2024 MABS Spring Festival. Attendees enjoyed workshops and demonstrations by guest artists Boon Manakitivipart, Sergio Cuan, and Rafael Torres. Demo trees were raffled and silent auctions held throughout the event and the awards banquet with live auction was on Saturday evening.

A highlight of every MABS Spring Festival is the Club Exhibition, where all affiliate clubs display trees owned by club members. The three guest artists walked the tree exhibit to provide valuable critiques of some of the trees. This year, MHBS had four displays featuring seven trees.

Thank you to these club members for showing a tree or trees in this year's event:

Dave Hodgetts (2 trees) ~ Nancy Castillo ~ Bill Papura ~ Jon Stewart ~ David Payton ~ Julian Shepersky



CLUB SHOHIN DISPLAY

Top Right: Sawara Cypress 'Tsukumo' by Nancy Castillo

Middle Right: Mugo Pine by Bill Papura

Bottom Right: Japanese Quince 'Chojubai' by Jon Stewart

Left: Korean Rose by Dave Hodgetts

MABS Spring Festival (con't)



Chinese Quince by Dave Hodgetts



Hinoki Cypress by David Payton

MABS Spring Festival (con't)

Guest Artists Boon Manakitivipart, Sergio Cuan and Rafael Torres are pictured during their workshops, demonstrations, or critiques.



MABS Spring Festival (con't)

Club members enjoying this year's Spring Festival.



Looking Ahead

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 his demo tree.

August 24-25

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

September 27

Tentative: Club show tree and display preparations.

September/October TBD

MHBS Club Show

October 27

TBD

November 24

BYOT workshop. Wintering your trees discussion.

December 8 (tentative)

Club holiday brunch and fund-raising auction.

April 7 Club Meeting

February club meeting minutes were approved (no meeting in March) and treasurer's report given.

Review of upcoming events including Frank Mihalic in May for two workshops, Mark Arpag in July for two workshops, a field trip and workshop with John Romano at New England Bonsai on Saturday August 24 followed on Sunday August 25 with a club meeting and field trip/workshop show & tell.

Members are encouraged to make the trip to the MABS Spring Festival. Please bring items to donate for the auctions. Inge Zimmerman is having an open house Friday evening—all are invited.

Our club website has been upgraded for three years. PayPal capabilities have also been expanded.

Oversight committee audit has been completed and report submitted to the Executive Board.

Volunteer needs include a committee to work with Dave H. and Jon S. on our fall club show and for the Nominating Committee which must be formed no later than September.

Executive Board

Your Executive Board met virtually on April 10. January minutes were approved and treasurer report given.

Workshop fees and demo tree cost for Frank Mihalic's May workshop were agreed upon. The donation by Stanley Maurer of 75+ pots will be made available first to club members via auction or raffle at future club meetings. Discussion on early workshop registration was again tabled.

The 2023 financial audit was recently completed and recommendations accepted as well as a suggestion to require profit and loss reporting to the Executive Board twice per year by the club Treasurer. Thank you to Carol Frey and David Payton for completing this year's audit.

David and Noel Payton will be stepping away from our club's MABS registration activities after many years of service. We will be looking for 3-4 volunteers to assume these registration activities for next year's MABS festival.

Sharing the World of Bonsai

Back in March, MHBS member Brandon Herwick visited with the South Colonie Sand Creek Middle School's Eco Club to introduce them to the world of bonsai.

Using the club's theme of "Every Tree Tells a Story", Brandon shared the history of bonsai, important bonsai terms and care considerations. He then had students pick their favorite tree, create a story about the tree and share the story with the group.

Their stories spoke to the environment they thought the tree came from and what environmental influences the tree may have gone



through. The stories the students came up with were both fun and thoughtful.

Students then repotted, trimmed, wired and shaped their tree, a dwarf jade (*Portulacaria afra*).

The Eco Club of Sand Creek Middle School and advisor Donna Davidson should be applauded for their interest, questions, thoughtfulness, curiosity and eagerness to learn and act.



Thank you Brandon for igniting young people's interest in the wonderful hobby of bonsai.

New Volunteer Opportunities Available

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 with the club Vice President and Activities Director. 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 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.
- ✦ We're looking for 1-2 persons to plan the December Holiday Party.
- ✦ 3-4 volunteers will be needed for the 2025 MABS Spring Festival registration responsibilities. Our goal is to have a committee named by November 1. This group will prepare/update the registration form, prepare individual registration packets, and help manage the registration table at the festival.

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

Bonsai Calendar by Dave Hodgetts

May Indoors

High temperatures on sunny days require maximum ventilation in the greenhouse, for the benefit of both the plants and humans. Vigorous growth continues, as does fertilization and pruning to manage internode length and foliage size and build ramification.

Temperate trees can be moved 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 4-5 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. Species, such as trident maples, tolerate this well, but Japanese maples and hornbeams can be less forgiving. Developing tropical trees can stay in the greenhouse for that extra boost of heat and humidity.

Watch for wire damage on rapidly growing trees and continue to monitor for pests and disease. Clean the greenhouse as you empty it, in preparation for any propagation you may be planning later in the growing season.

May Outdoors

Late spring, and most repotting and new planting are finished. Desiccation can be a problem for new, fragile roots and tender foliage, especially on warm, windy days. Shade from both sun and wind, and careful monitoring of soil moisture are required for newly planted/repotted trees. Too much water increases the potential for root rot.

This is also a busy time for fungi and insects, and systemic treatments can be highly beneficial. Topical products require foliage to be absorbed, but granular products can be applied to the soil surface prior to the emergence of foliage, making the chemicals readily available for absorption by the waking root system and getting a jump on the problem. I typically apply the fungicide first, followed 2 weeks later by the pesticide. Once the foliage has emerged, topical products can be applied, and I keep a variety on hand for specific pests. I once thought treating "as needed" (to minimize my and the trees' chemical exposure) would suffice, but have come to realize that preemptive treatment, especially against pine needle cast and juniper blight, are necessary in my garden.

Fertilization continues, as determined by each tree's developmental status.

Now is a good time to review your species-specific pruning plans so that you don't miss any important windows of opportunity. (I let my spruce buds get away from me last year. They won't do that again!) Lastly, rapid growth on recently wired trees can quickly lead to scarring and should be carefully monitored.

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, 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			10