

# 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

### *Club Meeting and Pottery Workshop with Josh Jeram*

**Sunday January 29 - 12:00 noon**

Location: PFM Bonsai

We will hold our first club meeting of the year starting at noon. The meeting will be followed by a workshop with local potter Josh Jeram. Josh will first demonstrate his pot-making techniques and then will help workshop participants create their own shohin bonsai pot or accent pot.

#### **Please note our new workshop registration process:**

- ✦ Due to space constraints and to allow maximum time with Josh, the workshop will be limited to 8 hands-on participants, though silent observers are welcome.
- ✦ To secure a workshop spot, send the workshop fee of \$40 **in advance** to Rob Gordon ([address on page 7](#)). Include 2023 dues if not already paid. Rob must receive payment by Wednesday, Feb 25. (We hope to accept electronic payments in 2023). No walk-ins or late registrations.

BYO lunch and, if you'd like, bring some food to share. Also consider bringing a tree just to show and share.

## Executive Board Meeting

Your club's Executive Board is responsible for "all affairs, business, governance, and general management of the Club." The Executive board is composed of the club's President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, immediate past President, Activities Director, Communications Director and Webmaster/ Outreach Director. They are required by our by-laws to meet at least once per year.

The Board met via the Teams virtual meeting platform on January 10, 2023. Here are some of the items discussed or decided by your Executive Board.

- ✦ The board is committed to provide members a form of online payment for dues, workshop fees, raffles, etc. A group will be formed to research what options are available that will work for our club.
- ✦ We will also look into the pros and cons of establishing our club as a not-for-profit entity.
- ✦ Workshop registration and pre-payment will now be required in advance of the event with no walk-in registrations. Most workshops will be limited to 8 participants.
- ✦ Bonsai trees, suiseki or kusamono which members would like to be considered to represent our club for the MABS Spring Festival at the end of March will be solicited and voted on via email. Watch your email at the end of the month for more details and be thinking now about items in your collection that you might want to be considered for the exhibit. A group shohin exhibit may be put together from the trees submitted in order to encourage and allow participation by more club members.

## Looking Ahead

### Sunday February 26 - 12:00 Noon

Club meeting followed by stand-making workshop with Jon Stewart.

### March 25-26

To be announced.

### March 31 - April 2

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, Parsippany NJ.

Buy raffle tickets at our January and February club meetings for a chance to win an Early Bird Registration for the MABS Spring Festival valued at \$180 (other festival options are available at additional cost).

### April 30

To be announced.

### May 28

Pauline's Celebration of Life

### June 8-11

American Bonsai Society 2023 Learning Seminars, Denver CO.

## Club Dues for 2023

Club membership dues for 2023 were due December 31, 2022. If you haven't paid yet, take a moment now to send your 2023 dues to Rob Gordon, 26 Crandall St. Glens Falls NY 12801. Current dues are \$40/individual or \$45/two named individuals.

Paying now will ensure that you can vote at club meetings, that you can be considered to exhibit at MABS and vote for our club's MABS exhibit submissions, and that you are able to participate in all our 2023 club activities (additional fees may apply).

## MABS - MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies

We're an acronym-filled society and the bonsai world is no exception. ABS. MABS. BCI. JBP. Even NPK. You might be hearing talk about MABS, especially this time of year. Are you going to MABS? Are you showing a tree at MABS? Where is MABS this year?

When I first started attending club activities, I thought MABS was just the name of a bonsai event somewhere. You go or you don't go. But MABS is more than just an event and it does matter to our club and to each of us as club members.

### *What is MABS?*

MABS is an acronym for the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies. It is the organization of eleven individual bonsai societies located in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States and their members. Our club is an affiliate and as a dues paying member of MHBS, you are also a member of MABS.

MABS and each of its member societies strive to help educate the public about the art of bonsai and to provide bonsai instruction and training opportunities. For MABS, this is accomplished primarily through an annual regional event that features some of the top bonsai artists in the world.

### *The MABS Spring Festival*

This year's MABS Spring Festival is March 31 - April 2, 2023 in Parsippany NJ. It will feature the bonsai artists Will Baddeley of Ipswich, United Kingdom, Todd Schlafer of Lakewood, Colorado, and Hugo Zamora Luna of Mexico City, Mexico.

The centerpiece of a MABS festival is an informative and entertaining series of demonstrations by the guest artists. As they work on a tree, they explain what they're doing and why, and answer questions from the audience. The artist-designed trees are then raffled off at the end of the demonstrations.



Suthin Sukosolvisit, Bjorn Bjorholm and Kathy Shaner were the guest artists at the 2022 Festival

## MABS (con't)

The guest artists also conduct workshops that give individuals the opportunity to work in a very small group setting with these talented world class bonsai artists. Folks who don't want the hands-on experience can sign up to be a silent observer of the workshops.

There is an exhibition of bonsai trees, suiseki, and kusamono representing each of the member clubs. Pictured to the right are the trees that represented our club at last year's festival. Here's a link to all the trees shown in the [club exhibit display](#) at the 2022 festival.

Critiques provide a wonderful learning opportunity for attendees. Small groups walk through the exhibit with one of the guest artists as they express their thoughts and observations on some of the exhibit trees.



Bjorn Bjorholm during his critique at the 2022 Festival

Trees that represented our club at the 2022 Festival. Clockwise from top left: Korean Hornbeam by Dave Hodgetts, Dwarf Hinoki Cypress by Sandy Kizskiel, Eastern White Cedar by Tom Kizskiel and Colorado Spruce by Dave Hodgetts.



And of course the vendor area is one of the most fun reasons to attend the festival! Trees in all stages of development, pots, tools, wire, stands, books, soil, scrolls, companion plants, and even bonsai jewelry are all available for purchase from a wide variety of vendors.

Each year the festival is held in one of the six states that are home to MABS affiliates. This year's festival is in New Jersey. The location of future festivals is unknown at this time.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## MABS (con't)

### *MABS and Our Club*

As an affiliate, our club provides two representatives to serve as directors on the MABS board, plus an alternate. According to our by-laws, the two representatives are our President and Vice President. In addition, Rob Gordon of our club currently serves as the MABS Treasurer.

Besides providing these representatives, our club also has responsibilities to help make the Spring Festival successful. Currently our club is in charge of registration for the festival which includes the registration form, registration packets, setting up and tearing down the registration table as well as staffing it throughout festival hours. Our club is also assigned one hour for two of our members to watch over the exhibit.



David and Noel Payton helped work the registration table in 2022.

The festival exhibit displays trees from each MABS affiliate club. Our club and all the other ten affiliates are asked to display three to four bonsai trees, suiseki and/or kusamono that owned by their members.

### *How Our Club and YOU Benefit from MABS*

The most obvious benefit of being a member of MABS is your invitation to attend and participate in the Spring Festival each year. Within just a few hours' drive, you can learn from international bonsai artists, appreciate exquisite trees maintained by other regional hobbyists, shop for new bonsai toys, and enjoy the fellowship of others from nearby states who share your passion for bonsai.

What might not be widely known is that each MABS affiliate organization receives funds from the after-expenses proceeds of the Spring Festival. The funds are allocated to affiliate clubs based on how many of their members (and spouses) attend and participate in workshops.

Funds that are dispersed from the MABS Spring Festival are typically the second largest source of revenue for our club. These funds help finance our club activities throughout the year, allowing us to bring bonsai artists to our area for workshops, demonstrations and lectures.

### *How You Can Help*

Here are some suggestions on how to help with the MABS Spring Festival. Besides experiencing the satisfaction of being involved and contributing to the success of the event, your involvement can help bring funds to our club for our 2023 activities.

#### ◆ Attend the Festival!

Enjoy the event, learn more about our hobby, meet up with fellow club members and meet new bonsai friends. And the more MHBS members who attend the festival and participate in workshops, the more money our club "earns".

Registration to attend all three days is just \$180. Workshop fees range from \$100-\$180 plus the cost of the tree. (These are Early Bird costs, paid before February 28th). Silent observer costs only \$25 and a critique is just \$30. There is a special hotel rate of \$95/night at the [Hampton Inn Parsippany](#).

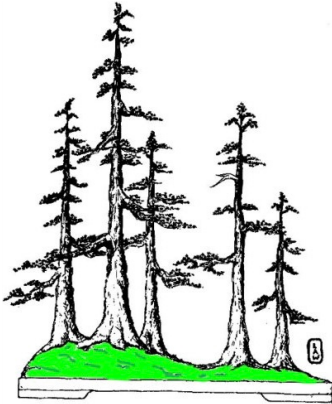
Don't miss the opportunity to buy raffle tickets to win a 3-day registration (optional activities extra). Raffle tickets will be sold at our January and February club meetings.



## MABS (con't)

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- ✦ Help with our club's registration responsibilities. Help stuff registration packets (whether you're attending or not.) Work an hour or two at the festival registration desk. Help open the registration desk or close it when the festival ends. See David Payton for how to help with these activities.
- ✦ Volunteer to be one of two MHBS members who watch over the exhibit room from 1:00 - 2:00p on Saturday. Let Dave Hodgetts know if you are interested.
- ✦ Start preparing a tree, suiseki, or kusamono now to be considered for the festival exhibit. All sizes of trees will be considered. Smaller mame and shohin-sized trees from multiple club members may be used to create a multi-tree club display.  
Watch for an email later this month to find out how to submit your item for consideration. We will vote via email in February for the items that will represent our club at the festival exhibit.



### MABS Website and Facebook Page

Website <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org>

Facebook <https://m.facebook.com/midatlanticbonsai/>

### The member clubs of MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies

- [Bergen Bonsai Society](#) (Northern NJ area & Rockland County NY)
- [Bonsai Society of Greater Hartford](#) (Greater Hartford CT area)
- [Bonsai Society of The Lehigh Valley](#) (Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton PA area)
- [Brandywine Bonsai Society](#) (Southeastern PA, Wilmington DE areas)
- [Deep Cut Bonsai Society](#) (Mid-South NJ & Shore NJ area)
- [Great Swamp Bonsai Society](#) (North & Central NJ)
- [Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society](#) (Capital District NY)
- [Pennsylvania Bonsai Society](#) (SE Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey)
- [Pioneer Valley Bonsai Society](#) (Western Massachusetts)
- [Susquehanna Bonsai Club](#) (Harrisburg, Lancaster, Southcentral PA, Central PA)
- [Yama Ki Bonsai Society](#) (Connecticut)

## News from PFM

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### Monday Workshops

#### January-February schedule

January 16	4 pm - 9 pm
January 23	4 pm - 9 pm
January 30	4 pm - 9 pm
February 6	4 pm - 9 pm
February 13	4 pm - 9 pm

Drop by anytime during workshop hours to check and work on trees in Pauline's collection or to work on your own trees. Pizza and wings at 6pm (donations for pizza always appreciated).

Please text Myron at 518-728-6856 by 4:30pm on each day you're going to attend.

### Sunday May 28

Pauline Muth's Celebration of Life

## News from DJH

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**Saturday January 14** - Intermediate Class to start. (It's not too late to sign up if you'd like to. Dave can run catch-up sessions if you miss the first one or two lessons.)

**Saturday January 28** - The graduates of Pauline's last Intermediate Class have formed a Bonsai Study Group and plan to continue their education, in part, at DJH Bonsai. The initial meeting and work session is scheduled for January 28th.

New project for 2023:

Dave plans to grow and sell plant varieties traditionally used in bonsai, or newer/improved cultivars, that are typically not easy to find. He will start with temperate species and expand into tropicals once the greenhouse is completed, all being well, later this year.

## Bonsai Calendar by Pauline Muth

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### 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 ensure 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

Checks 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.

## The Purple Pot Society

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The Purple Pot Society  
Women's Bonsai Group

The Purple Pot Society is a women's bonsai group whose mission is to support, encourage, and inspire female bonsai artists and advocate for diversity and inclusion within the bonsai community.

Purple Pot Society Board members will moderate a round table discussion on "Women in Bonsai" featuring Kathy Shaner, Jennifer Price, and Karen Harkaway at the 2023 ABS Learning Seminars in Denver. [Find out more](#) about this relatively new group and consider becoming a member - everyone is welcome regardless of gender.

## 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 member 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 55th anniversary in 2023!

We welcome anyone expressing interest in the art of Bonsai and the stated purposes of the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society. Membership dues are \$40 for an individual and \$45 for a couple or two family members. We meet on the last Sunday of each month at 12:00 noon, January through November (dates vary with holidays).

[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). We encourage club members to share personal bonsai stories or pictures from your collection (tree progressions are always interesting and educational) to help make your newsletter informative as well as fun. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

Links to our website and social media accounts are located on page one of the Twig. If you have pictures or videos you would like to share on our public resources, you can send them to Larry Mossey. For your security, on public sites your name will not be displayed with the tree image unless you request.

## MHBS Officers

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	Rob Gordon 26 Crandall St. Glens Falls NY 12801	518-796-8339	<a href="mailto:robertrgordon@gmail.com">robertrgordon@gmail.com</a>	2023
Activities Director	Brandon Herwick	518-256-8908	<a href="mailto:brandon.herwick@gmail.com">brandon.herwick@gmail.com</a>	2024
Communications Director	Nancy Castillo	518-321-6913	<a href="mailto:twocat@nycap.rr.com">twocat@nycap.rr.com</a>	2025
Webmaster & Outreach Director	Larry Mossey	518-368-7960	<a href="mailto:LAMossey@gmail.com">LAMossey@gmail.com</a>	2023
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			