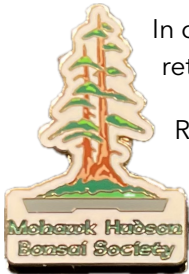

THE TWIG

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

Message from our Club President



In contemplating the past year as President of the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society, I found myself returning to the theme of *gratitude*.

Research indicates that gratitude is beneficial, resulting in more contentment, kindness, and compassion. In other words, we are our best selves when we are grateful, yet research also shows that people don't tend towards gratitude but away from it. The issue, it seems, is that of attention. Just like when we walk or ride a bike, we are much more aware of *headwinds* - those things impeding our progress - than *tailwinds* - those things boosting us forward.

Consequently, we end up feeling resentful and/or entitled instead of grateful. The trick is to acknowledge the headwinds but focus on the tailwinds.

The most obvious headwind our club faced this past year has been the loss of our dear friend and teacher, Pauline Muth. Fortunately, her legacy left us with a powerful tailwind. Held deep in our hearts and minds are her nuggets of wisdom, colorful sayings, and sense of wonder that pulls us forward.

In addition to the personal loss, Pauline's passing left us displaced, disconnected, and potentially lacking in bonsai instruction and provisions. Dave and Lori Hodgetts, however, came through and DJH Bonsai and 1793 Tarrytown Road now represent the physical and metaphorical hub of MHBS. Dave and Lori graciously tolerate the episodic chaos that descends upon their home, and, thanks to them, our club has a gathering place as well as access to quality bonsai education, trees, and supplies. It is difficult to overstate their generosity and our good fortune.

The uncertainty associated with charting a new path forward was a formidable headwind as well and something I was acutely aware of when I was invited to the role of MHBS President. Despite this, I couldn't help but marvel at the talent, enthusiasm, and camaraderie within the club. Propelled by this tailwind, MHBS continues to thrive. We have initiated social media outreach, optimized our website, and held first-rate workshops and events and, as a result, participation and membership have grown. Pauline Muth's Celebration of Life and the 2023 Club Show were especially poignant and illustrate the power of our club in bringing communities together by sharing our warmth, skills, and creativity.

The upcoming year will, undoubtedly, bring its own unique challenges and opportunities for our club and for each of us personally. As for MHBS, I know that we are well positioned to make the best of it and will continue to offer innovative and interesting activities and events. As for us individually, I hope we can draw encouragement and comfort from our club and that we have far more tailwinds than headwinds.

Thank you for your support and friendship. Happy Holidays and best wishes for a joyous and prosperous New Year.

Bill Papura, President, Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society

Looking Ahead

January 28, 2024

Make two wooden grow boxes - great for that first repot out of a nursery pot on your tree's journey to becoming a bonsai tree. Sunday after club meeting. Registration and materials fee. Led by Jon Stewart.

February 25, 2024

Bring Your Own Tree workshop.
Location TBD.

March 24, 2024

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, 2024

MABS Spring Festival, Harrisburg-Hershey PA. [Registration open](#).

April 28, 2024

TBD

May 9-12, 2024

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

May 18-19, 2024

Note dates! Frank Mihalic returns for a Saturday full-day workshop, Sunday half-day workshop and Sunday demonstration.

June 30, 2024

BYOT 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, 2024

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

November Activities

November Virtual Presentation

Club members both at DJH and at home enjoyed a Zoom presentation on November 19 by Danish bonsai artist Morten Albek. He spoke with us from his Kisetu-en nursery where he grows bonsai mainly for education. Morten talked about the



many elements of growing shohin bonsai, the pros and cons, the need for patience when creating shohin from nursery stock, and suggestions for displaying shohin bonsai trees. After his presentation, he fielded questions from attendees.

[Members can follow this link to enjoy the video of Morten's presentation.](#)

November Club Meeting

At the meeting on November 19, minutes were approved as corrected and Treasurer report given.

For 2024, when our program features a visiting guest artist, we will have both a full-day workshop on Saturday as well as a half-day morning workshop on Sunday. The club meeting and guest artist demo will then follow lunch. We hope this makes it more convenient and affordable for club members to participate in workshops with well known bonsai artists.

The cost calculation for 2024 workshops will remain the same. (The artist's actual fee is divided by the maximum number of participants plus 20%, subject to a minimum cost of \$50 for a half-day and \$100 for a full day. There is a 20% discount for club members under 21 years old).

A motion was made to charge non-members an additional \$25 for either a Saturday or Sunday workshop. Motion passed.

Continued on page 3

November Club Meeting (con't)

The holiday party is coming up Sunday December 3 with both a silent auction for trees and a mystery auction of bonsai goodies. Activities planned for 2024 so far include a build-a-grow box project on January 28, BYOT on February 25 (location to be determined), and selection of trees and displays for MABS club display on March 24. The MABS Spring Festival is April 19-21.

The Nominating Committee put forth these names for officer openings: Lori Hodgetts for Treasurer and Jon Stewart for Outreach Director. These are 3 year terms and will be voted on at our December meeting.

The two by-law amendments that were introduced in October were put up for vote. The amendment to specify that the President and Treasurer are authorized to manage our club bank accounts was unanimously approved. The proposed dues for 2024 that were introduced in October were put up for vote: Individual membership \$45 (up from \$40) and Household membership \$60 (changed from \$45 for two family members). The motion was unanimously approved. An amendment to add "Lifetime" to the honorary membership clause was unanimously approved.

Executive Board Meeting November 6

A quorum of the Executive Board met virtually on November 6 to discuss guest artist workshop format and fees for 2024. It was decided to move to a Saturday full-day workshop plus Sunday half-day workshop (followed by club meeting and demo) when a guest artist visits. It was also decided to stay with the current formula pricing for guest artist workshops. These items will be brought up to the membership at the November 19 meeting.

There is a desire to solicit feedback from our membership on activities and events. The activities committee will work on a draft.

The 2024 November meeting is fine the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 24) and the 2024 Holiday Party will be Sunday December 8.

Next Exec Board meeting in January 2024.

December Activities

December Club Meeting

Our December club meeting was held December 3 before the festivities of our Holiday Party. November minutes were approved and Treasurer report given.

Review of upcoming activities: January 28 build-a-grow box project, February 25 BYOT (location to be determined), and March 24 selection of trees and displays for MABS club display. The MABS Spring Festival is April 19-21.

Elections were held for the two officer openings that were introduced at the November meeting. Unanimously elected for 3-year terms were Lori Hodgetts as Treasurer and Jon Stewart (incumbent) as Outreach Director.

President Bill Papura presented to Myron Muth an Honorary Lifetime Membership to MHBS.

We are seeking 2 volunteers to serve on the Oversight Committee to audit the club bank account for 2023. The audit must be completed by March 31, 2024. If interested, please [contact Bill P.](#)

2024 dues were reviewed and can now be submitted to the club Treasurer.

2023 Holiday Party

Our holiday party this year was held at McGreivey's in Waterford. After enjoying a very nice meal and dessert, Tom again served as our auctioneer for the mystery auction. Four items were also sold in our silent auction. Our holiday party is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, bringing in funds to help offset guest artist fees as well as other club expenses. Thank you to Lori Hodgetts for planning the party and thanks to all for coming to the party, donating items, and for bidding with gusto! Happy Holidays to all!!!



2023 Holiday Party (con't)



DECK THE HALL

with lots of jolly

Meet Your Newly Elected Club Officers

Lori Hodgetts

Treasurer (3 yr term)

Lori helps to run DJH Bonsai with her husband Dave, from their home in Feura Bush. She is not a bonsai practitioner but enjoys going to shows and conventions, and especially enjoys the many friends she has met through MHBS.



Jon Stewart

Outreach Director (3 yr term)

Jon is the owner and operator of J.M. Stewart Guitars and Fine Woodworking, a guitar repair and restoration shop, that also makes custom bonsai stands. He and his partner Arika, live in Scotia NY.



Myron Muth Receives Honorary Lifetime Membership



At our December club meeting, MHBS President Bill Papura presented our first Honorary Lifetime Membership to Myron Muth in recognition of his support and contributions to our club over the years.

Myron was always there supporting Pauline as she hosted and led our club. Even after her death, Myron continued to host club meetings at PFM into early 2023. He and Tari Lee continue to attend club events and have donated generously to auctions and sales that benefit the club.

Thank you Myron for all you have done and continue to do for our club and for the art of bonsai.

2024 Membership Dues

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

Pay by check: Mail a check made payable MHBS to Rob Gordon ([address on page 9](#)). If paying for a Household membership, please provide the names of each individual on the membership.

Pay by credit card: We can now accept credit card payments through PayPal. Focus your phone camera on this QR code and touch the yellow link that pops up. A PayPal screen to Donate to MHBS will open.



Once there, enter the One-Time dues dollar amount and keep the drop down arrow on Membership Dues. Please consider checking the box to cover the PayPal transaction fee. If you already have an account with PayPal, touch the yellow Donate with PayPal button. If paying for a Household membership, please provide the names of each individual on the membership.

You can still use this link even if you haven't set up an account with PayPal. Follow the instructions above, but instead touch the Donate with Debit or Credit Card button. You will be asked for one-time payment and personal information on the next screen. If paying for a Household membership, please provide the names of each individual on the membership.

2024 membership dues are due December 31, 2023 to enjoy the benefits of membership all year long.

Bonsai Calendar by Pauline Muth

December Indoors

Keep everything neat and clean.

Repot semi-tropicals in anticipation of new growth in January. Style the trees and wire. Tropicals are losing leaves. No fertilizer.

December Outdoors

Cover the winter storage area after the first snow fall. Sleep. Rest. Read.

A Quote for the Season

Last leaf has fallen

Tree will sleep and I will dream

Spring is tomorrow

~ John Naka

2022 MHBS Club Show Album - Reduced Price!



An album dedicated to Pauline Muth and showing every tree that was displayed in our 2022 Club Show is available for sale. Featuring professional quality photographs by Sean Lamoureux, the soft cover album has 27 pages and measures 8-1/2"x11". The price of the album has been reduced to \$25.

Albums are available to purchase at club meetings and workshops (cash, check or PayPal) or any time at DJH Bonsai.

Volunteers Needed

As mentioned in our Volunteer Recognition (next page), 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 2024.
- We are also looking for 2 volunteers 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!

2022-23 MHBS Volunteer Recognition

Our club survived a major blow late last year with the loss of our teacher and friend Pauline Muth. To this day, we still feel the loss. And as Pauline would wish, the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society lives on. She would be thrilled that we have not only survived, we have thrived. We regrouped and reorganized. We formalized some processes and instituted new ones. We have grown our membership, with 10 new members just this year. We believe that we have emerged as a stronger club.

How did this happen? Clubs rely on the active participation of their members to move forward. Whether it is planning an event, managing club funds, working the club show, arranging a guest artist visit, creating a website post or even just liking a post on social media, there is work to be done and by necessity, we turn to our members to do that work.

So as the year draws to a close, let us recognize and take a moment to thank the folks who made major contributions to MHBS over the past 16 months. We appreciate each and every one of them!!

We hope you all will feel inspired and consider volunteering for club committees, positions and projects when the opportunities arise. The club and its members needs the knowledge and skills you can bring to the table. Here's to a great 2024 for the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society as we enter our 56th year!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the HEART" ~ Elizabeth Andrew

2022 Departing officer - Sandy Kiszkiel

2022 By-laws committee - Guy Pastena, Patricia Tatich, Nancy Castillo

2022-23 Club Show venue access - JoAnn Ryan

2022 Club show - Tom Kiszkiel, Sandy Kiszkiel

2022 Club show album - Nancy Castillo, Sean Lamoureux

2022 Nominating committee - Tom Kiszkiel, David Payton, Dorothy Raymond

2022/early 2023 Club meeting host - Myron Muth

2023 Officers - Bill Papura, Dave Hodgetts, Vera Rabovsky, Rob Gordon, Nancy Castillo, Jon Stewart,
Tom Kiszkiel

2023 Oversight committee - David Schaffer, Nancy Castillo

2023 MABS Board members representing MHBS - Bill Papura, Dave Hodgetts

MABS Treasurer - Rob Gordon

MABS registration - David Payton, Noel Payton, Nancy Castillo

Website (new design, re-launch, and posting) - Guy Pastena

Online Payment launch - Guy Pastena, Jon Stewart, Rob Gordon

2023 Club show - Tara Papura, Arika Adams

2023 Holiday party - Lori Hodgetts

2023 Nominating committee - Sandy Kiszkiel, Dave Hodgetts, Patricia Tatich

2023 Departing officer - Rob Gordon

2023 Club meeting hosts - Dave Hodgetts, Lori Hodgetts

(My apologies in advance for any inadvertent exclusions to this list.)

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. 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 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 and suggestions 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 2023

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	Rob Gordon 26 Crandall St. Glens Falls NY 12801	518-796-8339	robertrgordon@gmail.com	2023
Activities Director	Open			2024
Communications Director	Nancy Castillo	518-321-6913	twocat@nycap.rr.com	2025
Webmaster & Outreach Director	Jon Stewart	518-879-9789	stewarjm192@gmail.com	2023
Immediate Past President	Tom Kizkiel	845 687-9115	kiszclove00@aol.com	
MABS Directors representing MHBS	Bill Papura and Dave Hodgetts			