

# 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

### *BYOT Open Workshop*

#### ♦ *Part 2 Silent Auction of Donated Bonsai Pots*

**Sunday June 30**

**10:00a-Noon: Open workshop**

**Noon-3:00p: Club Meeting & Brunch;**

**Open workshop continues**

**2:00p: Silent Auction ends**

**LOCATION:** DJH Bonsai

Have you neglected some needed tasks on your trees? Do you have questions or need assistance on what to do next with your trees? Do you have pines or azaleas in your collection?

Bring 'em in for this month's open workshop to get the hands-on time and the assistance you might need to help move your trees forward. It is an ideal time to work on deciduous seasonal pruning and thinning, post bloom care on azaleas, as well as black pine candle care.

Workshop hours will start 10am at DJH Studio. Dave Hodgetts will discuss black pine candle care at 11:00a. The club meeting and luncheon will start at noon followed by hands-on workshop time until 3-4p as needed. This is an open workshop so feel free to come and go as you wish. No need to register.

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## May Workshops & Demonstration

Frank Mihalic of Wildwood Gardens in Chardon OH returned to MHBS at the end of May for two workshops and a 3-tree bonsai demonstration.

Ten club members worked with Frank over the two workshop days getting advice and direction on dozens of trees and working with him to create the initial design of multiple nursery trees.



Frank, Brandon and Nancy with a tableful of trees they worked on during the Saturday workshop

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### Next Club Date (con't)

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.

Part 2 of the silent auction of the Stanley Maurer donated bonsai pots continues at this meeting. The auction opens at 10am and will close at 2pm. Winning bids must be paid for at that time by PayPal, cash or check.

### Tips from the Pros

I picked up these tips from bonsai pro Sergio Cuan at this years' MABS Spring Festival.

- ♦ While working on a tree, step back often to look at the whole picture.
- ♦ It can be helpful to work against an uncluttered background.
- ♦ One of his favorite tools: photography! Pictures can pick up design deficiencies or weaknesses better than the eye. Take pictures IN PROCESS while working on a tree, not just beginning and ending.
- ♦ He uses the Procreate App to sketch out trees on a tablet. The app also allows you to sketch over a current picture of a tree to design how you'd like to see it in the future.



### May Workshops & Demonstration (con't)



Kishu Juniper nursery stock before and after.



Some of the Sunday workshop participants:  
Dave, Rob, Josh, Adriano and Sandy

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### *May Workshops and Demonstration (con't)*

Frank is known for working quickly on trees so our club benefitted from his demonstrations on THREE trees - Hinoki Cypress, Kishu Juniper, and Japanese Black Pine. Congrats to the three winners of demo trees!!



Congratulations to Tom, Rob, and Patricia!!!

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## Looking Ahead

### 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.

Workshop cost will be \$120 for Saturday full-day and \$60 for Sunday half-day. Registration will open July 15.

### August 24-25

Saturday: Field trip to New England Bonsai Garden. Includes tour of the greenhouses and afternoon workshop with John Romano. Workshop cost will be \$50 plus nursery material cost, as well as shared travel expenses. See page 5 for additional details.

Sunday: Field trip show & tell.

### 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.

## May Workshops and Demonstrations (con't)

On Sunday, we also held a silent auction of half of the bonsai pots that were donated to our club by Stanley Maurer. Many happy club members left with a new bonsai pot or two and the club raised \$850 to be used for future club activities and guest artists.

The second half of the donated pots will be auctioned at the June 30 club meeting and workshop.



## May 19 Club Meeting

Welcome to new members Rich and David. April minutes were approved and treasurer report given.

Review of upcoming activities: June BYOT workshop, July Mark Arpag workshops, August field trip to New England Bonsai Garden for workshop with John Romano. Club show details are being worked out.

Recap of MABS Spring Festival in which club member Julian Shepersky received the award for best accent.

Online workshop payments worked well. Club rack cards are being created to increase outreach.

Need volunteers for the Nominating Committee as well as club show volunteers. Also need 3-4 people to take over our club's responsibilities for 2025 MABS registration. David Payton provided a summary of what that entails.

## New Members

We are very pleased to welcome the newest members of the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society:

~ David Schilke      ~ Daniel Tuttle      ~ Corey Krug

~ Dan Bee              ~ Zachary Tipnis

## August Field Trip Workshop and Show & Tell

Our August 24-25 club activity comes in two parts: a field trip and workshop at New England Bonsai Gardens on Saturday followed on Sunday with a show & tell session presented by the workshop attendees.

On Saturday August 24, we'll travel to New England Bonsai Gardens and attend a workshop with John Romano. NEBG is located in Bellingham, MA and features eight greenhouses and an extensive bonsai garden shop. They are recognized as one of the nation's largest, most beautiful and comprehensive bonsai nurseries. John Romano has been teaching bonsai classes and private students at New England Bonsai Gardens since 2000. He heads the Kaikou School of Bonsai, a two year intensive program of bonsai study and practice.

There will be 8 workshop spots available. The workshop cost is \$50 plus the cost of material (estimated at \$125 to \$150). Attendees will choose from assortment of shohin-sized junipers and Japanese black pines that have been selected especially for us.

We will drive over to Bellingham to arrive at NEBG around 10:00a and spend about an hour touring the gardens and bonsai shop. NEBG has generously offered a 10% discount on purchases made that day from the greenhouses or bonsai garden shop.

The workshop with John Romano will begin at noon and run until about 3:00p. Attendees should bring their own tools including wire, and also pack their own lunch, snacks, and beverages.



Then, on Sunday after our club meeting and brunch, workshop attendees will share their workshop learnings and experiences, their trees and purchases at a show & tell session for fellow club members.

Final details are still being worked out at this time. We also hope to work out carpooling arrangements once we have heard from interested club members.

If you have questions and/or would like to pre-register to save a workshop spot, please contact Jon Stewart via email by August 1. Provide your phone number, whether you have a preference for juniper or black pine, and whether you'd be willing to drive. Fees will be collected later.

## Looking to Volunteer?

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.
- ✦ We are 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

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### *June Outdoors*

Whilst full sun is indicated for many species, none benefit from cooked roots. Shade cloth can help decrease both foliage damage in sensitive species (particularly maples) and unacceptable pot temperatures. 30 to 40% shade cloth has been advocated by many and is typically employed from June to September. (As of 5/25/24, Michael Hagedorn, one of my Go-to guys for bonsai information, had just posted an article on this very subject). Other methods which provide shade for our pots can also be useful.

As temperatures rise, water requirements increase, and your trees may require watering more than once (or twice) a day. When possible, I check my trees every 3 to 4 hours, but when I am not present I have found a layer of sphagnum moss on the soil surface helps prevent the soil from drying out quite so fast. Warm and windy days are especially demanding and shelter from the wind can help. Automated watering systems may have a role in certain circumstances, but are no substitute for hand watering, which can be titrated according to your observations and judgement. In addition, automated systems may be prone to unanticipated gremlins, with potentially catastrophic results.

When I must rely on others to water due to my absence, I always stress they cannot kill the trees by overwatering them (given the substrate I use). Underwatering has been a much bigger problem in my experience.

Candle pruning and needle plucking on single and double flush pines continue, if not completed yet.

June is typically the last point at which partial outer canopy defoliation can be performed on those deciduous species that tolerate it. For those species which do not, growing out and trimming back, to encourage ramification and smaller foliage continues, as does leaf removal or cutting to permit more light access to the interior foliage. Rotating one's trees periodically permits equal foliage sun exposure.

Fertilization continues, as determined by the tree's species and developmental status. Systemic antifungal application continues, and topical antifungals remain on hand for use as needed, i.e. for tip blight (Phomopsis). Likewise, topical insecticides are used as needed.

### **Notable Quote**

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"Bonsai is a long game full of risks and rewards, moments of breezy joy and acute heartache, growth and dieback, ego and non-ego, clarity and confusion, impulse and intention, patience and pig-headedness.

When I really think about it, and I quite realize it's overthinking, when distilled into its essence, bonsai is really something like a complex relationship. The tree has needs - water, sunlight, substrate, a space to grow—and you satisfy them. You have needs—yearning to take care of something, to be creative, to matter—and the tree satisfies them. It is really more of a co-creation, where each being enriches the other, rather than a one-sided thing where man is the creator. In that way, godwilling, both beings end up the better for it."

~ Cole Wilmot, on Facebook. Used with permission.

## 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	<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	Lori Hodgetts 1793 Tarrytown Rd Feura Bush NY 12067	518-369-7243	<a href="mailto:LHodgetts46@gmail.com">LHodgetts46@gmail.com</a>	2026
Activities Director	Jon Stewart	518-879-9789	<a href="mailto:stewarjm192@gmail.com">stewarjm192@gmail.com</a>	2024
Communications Director	Nancy Castillo	518-321-6913	<a href="mailto:twocat106@gmail.com">twocat106@gmail.com</a>	2025
Webmaster & Outreach Director	Guy Pastena	518-227-0722	<a href="mailto:MHBS.outreach@gmail.com">MHBS.outreach@gmail.com</a>	2026
Immediate Past President	Tom Kiszkiel	845 687-9115	<a href="mailto:kiszclove00@aol.com">kiszclove00@aol.com</a>	
MABS Directors representing MHBS	Bill Papura and Dave Hodgetts			7