

THE TWIG

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

Mark Arpag Weekend July 27-28

♦ *Two Workshops*

♦ *Tree Demonstration & Raffle*

Saturday 9a-4p: Full day workshop

Sunday 9a-Noon: Half day workshop

**Sunday Noon: Club Meeting & Brunch,
Mark Arpag demonstration with
raffle of demo tree**

LOCATION: DJH Bonsai

We are excited to welcome Mark Arpag back to MHBS for a weekend of bonsai fun.

From 9a-5p Saturday, Mark will lead a BYOT workshop. The full-day workshop cost is \$120 for 8 lucky participants.

On Sunday, Mark will lead a half-day workshop from 9a-noon. The cost of the half-day workshop is \$60 and will also accommodate 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 Mark and raffle of his demo tree.

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,

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June BYOT Workshop

The June BYOT workshop was nicely attended. BYOT workshops provide time to just get work done on trees or to discuss a tree with Dave Hodgetts or with other club members.

Since June is the time to be working on pines, Dave led a well-timed discussion on the care of black pines. After the club meeting and brunch, open workshop and friendly conversation continued.



Next Club Date (con't)

cuttings, 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

Mark Arpag's workshops have always been well attended. He is perhaps most known to us for his work on Eastern White Cedar. He excels at finding that special something in each tree he studies and loves working on literati-style trees.



Mark won the Finest Classical Bonsai award at last year's Nationals. With our Club show only two months away, this presents a perfect opportunity to discuss and work on your show trees with Mark.

Both workshops will accommodate eight participants and pre-registration is required. Silent observers are always welcome. Member cost for the full-day Saturday is \$120. Member cost for the half-day Sunday is \$60. 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 Mark Arpag workshops.](#)

Alternatively, you can mail a check for workshop fees (and dues if applicable) to Treasurer Lori Hodgetts (address on [page 5](#)). Registrations are on a first-come basis so [online registration](#) is best.

June 30 Club Meeting

Welcome to new members Corey and Dan. May minutes were approved and treasurer report given. Our club's distribution from MABS was \$3,348.24. Funds are distributed based on attendance and participation by each affiliate club's members.

Review of upcoming activities: July Mark Arpag workshops, August field trip to New England Bonsai Garden for half-day workshop with John Romano.

Our club show location and date have been secured. The show will return to the Saratoga Springs Public Library on September 14-15.

If you take pictures at club events, please consider sharing them for use on our club website, Instagram, Facebook or the Twig. Send them to [Outreach Director Guy Pastena](#).

We still need volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Lori and Sandy volunteered for the club show. Still need 2-3 people to join Bill P. in taking over our club's responsibilities for 2025 MABS registration.

Secretary Vera Rabovsky has submitted her resignation due to time constraints. We will be looking for a replacement. Thank you to Vera for your volunteer service.

Silent Auction Results

At our May and June club meetings, we held silent auctions of the bonsai pots that were generously donated to our club by Stanley Maurer.

We are pleased to share that we raised nearly \$1,500 for the club, which will be used for future club activities and guest artists. Thank you to the many club members who purchased pots - we can't wait to see one of your trees in your new bonsai pot. Bring it to a club meeting to share!



Looking Ahead

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. *Register now if interested.* See article to the right for additional details.

Sunday: Field trip show & tell.

NEW! September 14-15

MHBS Club Show in the Harry Dutcher Community Room of the Saratoga Springs Public Library.



Tom Kiszkiel's Pyracantha at the 2023 Club Show

September 27

TBD

October 27

TBD

November 24

BYOT workshop. Wintering your trees discussion.

December 8 (tentative)

Club holiday brunch and fund-raising live and silent auctions.

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.

Register now by contacting Jon Stewart via email.

Deadline is 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.

Bonsai Calendar by Dave Hodgetts

July Outdoors

As temperatures rise, watering and shade management become ever more important. When possible, check trees every 3-4 hours during the day. A layer of sphagnum moss on the soil surface helps prevent it from drying out quite so fast and both 30% shade cloth and direct shading also help. Direct shading of the pots can also prevent temperature-related root damage. Warm and windy days are especially demanding and shelter from the wind can help.

Water each tree until it comes out the drain holes. If water pools on the soil surface or runs right off, water must be allowed to sink in and then rewatered as many times as necessary. Automated watering systems may have a role in certain circumstances, but are no substitute for hand watering. Automated systems may also be prone to unanticipated gremlins, with potentially catastrophic results.

Larch continue to push new growth. On refined trees, the new growth can simply be pinched in half once it reaches 1-1/2 to 2" inches long. On trees in development, leave the new growth to harden off. At that point buds are visible, and you can choose between cutting back to an opposing pair of buds, which will typically result in a bifurcation, or cutting back to a bud pointing in the direction you want the branch to grow.

The second flush of growth on broad-leaved deciduous material can be pruned back to two leaves when hardened off utilizing directional pruning. To increase light reaching inner foliage, each remaining outer leaf may be cut in half. On Japanese maples, one of each pair of outer leaves is typically removed. Rotate each tree periodically to permit equal sun exposure.

Remove inner foliage on junipers that has yellowed and died. Extending foliage tips, or lion's tails, can be cut back, being careful to leave some of this year's foliage at each branch tip.

Tropicals can be repotted as they hit mid-summer dormancy.

In general, fertilization continues, as determined by the tree's species and developmental status. The application of antifungals is discontinued for July, although they remain on hand for use as needed. Insecticide application continues.

As Pauline used to say, Keep growing.

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:

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 2-3 more volunteers are 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!

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	Open			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