

THE TWIG

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Meetings & Activities

April

4/26

@DJH Bonsai

Mark Arpag Workshop

Full day

@DJH Bonsai

4/27

@DJH Bonsai

Mark Arpag Workshop

1/2 day

12:00 pm meeting

demo and raffle

May

5/18

@DJH Bonsai

Frank Mahalic

details to come

Club show prep

June

6/14 -15

Club Show

@ Saratoga Springs Library

details to come

6/22

@DJH Bonsai

Young Choe Workshop

1/2 day

12:00 pm meeting

Demo & Raffle

Up and coming... a weekend with Mark Arpag

Longtime friend of the club Mark Arpag will be with us the weekend of April 26th-27th for workshops and a demonstration.



Sunday, DJH Bonsai will host our club meeting at 12:00 pm followed by luncheon, and a demonstration by Mark. The demo tree will then be raffled to the group.



Registration is open on our website [here](#).

Saturday Full-day Workshop \$100.00

Sunday Half-day Workshop \$50.00

Meetings & Activities 2025 continued...

July

7/27

@DJH Bonsai

12:00 pm Meeting

August

8/31

@DJH Bonsai

12:00 pm Meeting

September

9/12-13

ABS learning seminars

Rochester, NY

9/14-15

9th National

Bonsai Exposition

Rochester, NY

9/27

@DJH Bonsai

Jon Romano Workshop

Full Day

9/28

@DJH Bonsai

Jon Romano Workshop

1/2 Day

12:00 pm meeting

demo & raffle

October

10/26

@DJH Bonsai

12:00 pm Meeting

November

TBD

December

Holiday Party TBD

MABS Spring Festival

Bonsai friends from far and wide joined together for a weekend of fun at the Mid Atlantic Bonsai Society's Spring Festival. Guest artists included Peter Chan, Mark Fields and David Easterbrook.

MHBS participated in the exhibition with the 4 wonderful displays seen below.



Shimpaku Juniper

Juniperus chinensis 'Itoigawa'

15 yrs. in training (app. 35 yrs. old.)

Tokoname pot, American stand

Sandstone accent

Owner: Dave Hodgetts "Professional"

(DJH Bonsai)

Shohin Display;

a. Eastern White Cedar

Thuja occidentalis

2.5 years in training (app. 12 yrs. old)

Sara Rayner pot

Owner: Bill Papura "Practitioner"

b. Korean Hornbeam

Carpinus coreana

15 years in training (app. 15 yrs. old)

Koyo pot

Owner: Jonathan Stewart "Practitioner"

c. Kusamono (see card)

4 years in training (app. 4 yrs. old)

David George pots

Owner: Tara Hopkins-Papura "Practitioner"

d. Japanese Red Pine

Pinus densiflora

3.5 years in training (app. 6 yrs. old)

Josh Jeram pot

Owner: Bill Papura "Practitioner"

Shohin Stand by David Knittle





Two Tree Display:

a. Korean Hornbeam

Carpinus coreana

10 years in training (app. 25 yrs. old)

Nick Lenz pot, Stand by J.M.Stewart Guitars & Fine Woodworking

b. Japanese White Pine

Pinus parviflora

10 yrs. in training (app. 10 yrs. old)

Sarah Rayner Pot, David Knittle stand

Dwarf Sweet Flag grass accent

Owner: Brandon Herwick "Practitioner"

Eastern White Cedar

Thuja occidentalis

5 years in training (Unknown age)

Josh Jeram Pot, Stand by J.M.Stewart Guitars &

Fine Woodworking

"North American Pitcher Plant, Roundleaf Sundew,

Canada Mayflower, Rose Pogonia Orchid,

Sphagnum Moss" accent

Owner: Julian Shepersky "Practitioner"



April 17th, 2025



April 17th, 2025



Bonsai by Month

April Indoors

Increased temperatures and daylight hours yield vigorous growth, requiring thoughtful fertilization, to manage internode length and foliage size, and judicious pruning to maximize ramification. Trees in the greenhouse can be placed 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 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. Some species, such as trident maples, tolerate this well, but Japanese maples and hornbeams can be less forgiving. Watch for wire damage on rapidly growing trees and continue to monitor for pests and disease.

April Outdoors

Mid spring is here and the hardy trees from winter storage can typically stay out on the benches. At this time of year full sun all day is fine. As buds start to swell, trees that require it are repotted, given a transplanting solution soak and growth hormone, and then protected from frost. Wait until you see signs of new growth before fertilizing newly potted trees.

On trees that do not need repotting, fertilization starts when the buds begin to swell. Regardless of their stage of development, my regimen includes biweekly foliar feeding with kelp or kelp/fish emulsion, in addition to NPK pellets. Flowering trees benefit also from the application of superphosphate. I find a calendar invaluable for keeping track of both my fertilization and pesticide/fungicide schedules.

The timing, type, and frequency of the NPK pellet fertilizer you use should be determined by the tree's growth cycle and stage of development. For example, applying nitrogen to a refined tree or one undergoing refinement, before their new foliage has hardened off, is counterproductive, yielding large leaves and long internodes. On the other hand, a tree in early development, when internode length and leaf size are not a concern, should be fed heavily throughout the growing season.

Forest plantings, penjing and root over rock projects can all be assembled now, before the plant material buds out, and must then be protected from frost.

This is a good month for styling trees, although major cuts on deciduous and broadleaved evergreens are best left until the first flush of growth has hardened off, and heavy bends on conifers are best left until Fall. Newly wired trees should be protected from frost and, as growth can be rapid at this time of year, they should also be monitored to prevent wire damage, which may be irreversible on deciduous and broad-leaved evergreen species.

Rub off any unwanted new buds on deciduous and broad-leaved evergreen material. The remaining buds are left to grow and when each shoot has 8 to 10 leaves and the leaves have hardened off, it will be time to cut back to 2 or 3 leaves, using directional pruning, to create/increase ramification. (Species specific differences apply to this process, do your homework!)

MHBS Club Meeting - March 30 2025

Meeting minutes

Club members voted unanimously to approve meeting minutes for February.

Treasurer's report

Balance \$14,672.35. No bills outstanding.

Activities

No new events have been added to the calendar.

Mark Arpag workshops in April priced at \$100 full/\$50 half. Arika will send email to club members that registration is open April 1. Website will have online payment options.

The Young Choe workshop in June will likely be one half-day session; Jon will confirm that as well as maximum number of participants.

Webmaster

Club website has been updated for Spring.

The club Google drive has been moved from Guy's personal account to the club account. Link was emailed to the board members and the old drive will be deleted after the meeting.

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society Spring Festival

All workshops and critiques are full.

MABS is seeking donations of bonsai items or cash for the auctions.

Oversight Committee

Volunteers still needed to audit financials for 2024. Report was due on March 31.

Club Show Committee

Volunteers needed. Show poster anticipated to be completed by the end of April.

New Business

2026 MABS Spring Festival will again be in Hershey, on April 17-19. Other venues in NJ and CT were too expensive to consider. Guest artists will be Jonas Dupuis, Peter Warren, and possibly Shinji Suzuki.

The February meeting at Faddegon's was well attended, leading to a discussion on possible future Intro to Bonsai workshops being held there.

The club will consider subsidizing workshop fees or material cost for members. Exec board will discuss at their next meeting.

Next meeting 4/27 noon-4pm at DJH Bonsai.

Submitted by Lori Hodgetts

Our Mission

Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society

Founded in 1968, we are the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society. Our purpose is to generate interest in and educate the public about the art of Bonsai, as well as to , offer education for all skill levels, provide opportunities to practice the art, and form friendships with other enthusiasts.

Membership is open to all, dues are \$45 for an individual and \$60 for a household. You can pay your 2025 dues from the Membership Online Payment page of our [website](#).

We meet on the last Sunday of each month, at 12:00 pm January through November (See calendar for dates) at DJH Bonsai in Feura Bush, NY (unless otherwise indicated in the TWIG).

Meetings are social gatherings as well as educational opportunities and typically consist of the club meeting, potluck snacks and then an activity. Activities vary and may include BYOT (bring your own tree) workshops, member led tutorials, critique and display help as well as season and species specific instruction.

The club also hosts many Guest artists through the year. Visits typically include a full-day workshop on Saturday, a half-day workshop on Sunday morning, followed by the club meeting, luncheon, a demonstration on a donated tree by the artist and raffling of the finished material. Workshop and/or material fees may apply. If you have any suggestions for club activities please reach out to Jonathan Stewart our Activities Director.

[MHBS Constitution and By-laws](#) , Social Media and 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. We encourage club members to share pictures or videos that can be posted in the TWIG, on social media and our online sites. Send pictures and videos via email to mohawkhudsonbonsai@gmail.com

Odds and Ends

♦ Please remember, current membership is required to register for workshops. You can pay online [here](#), or contact our treasurer Lori Hodgetts LHodgetts46@gmail.com

MHBS EXECUTIVE BOARD & CONTACT INFORMATION				
Position	Name	Phone	Email	Term
President	Bill Papura	207-408-3909	billpapura@yahoo.com	2025
Vice President	Dan Bee (they/them)	339-204-1312	danny.bravo.cso@gmail.com	2027
Secretary	Nancy Castillo	518-321-6913	twocat106@gmail.com	2027
Treasurer	Lori Hodgetts 1793 Tarrytown Rd Feura Bush NY 12067	518-369-7243	LHodgetts46@gmail.com	2026
Activities Director	Jonathan Stewart	518-879-9789	stewarjm192@gmail.com	2027
Communications Director	Arika Adams	518-813-0695	arikaadams@gmail.com	2026
Webmaster & Outreach Director	Guy Pastena	518-227-0198	MHBS.outreach@gmail.com	2026
Immediate Past President	Tom Kiszkiel	845-687-9115	kisclove00@gmail.com	
MABS Directors MHBS reps	Bill Papura & Dan Bee			