

# THE TWIG

[MHBS site](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

## Meetings & Activities

### 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

## Visiting Artist, Young Choe



Saturday, June 21st included two sessions of workshops where kusamono enthusiasts put together their own plantings, with Young's guidance. Many of which, featured collected native species.



**Meetings & Activities 2025  
continued...**

**October**

**10/26**

@DJH Bonsai

12:00 pm Meeting

**November**

**TBD**

**December**

Holiday Party TBD

## Young Choe, continued

Sundays activity with Young kicked off with a presentation on Kusamono pairing with Bonsai. Be sure to bring this knowledge to exhibition opportunities and the club show in the future!



The presentation was followed by a demonstration with the aid of club members. The two finished pieces were then raffled, and won by Brandon Herwick and Tara Papura (Tara graciously gifted her planting to Julian Shepersky).

Thank you Young for your guidance and expertise!





## We knew him when....

*A spotlight this month on member Julian Shepersky.*



Julian was recently featured in a Times Union article highlighting his plant-centered accomplishments. Subscribers to the paper can find the online article [HERE](#)

While many of us knew about Julian's prolific talent and interest in Kusamono, the article delves into his love and knowledge of **carnivorous** plants. This includes a hybrid American Pitcher Plant he invented through hand cross pollination (seen in the photo to the right).



Congratulations on your High School graduation Julian, and good luck on all of your future endeavors. We are certain this won't be the last time we will see your name published!

## CLUB EXHIBITION 2025

This years club show and exhibition was held at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Being our first summer show in a number of years, our roughly 200 guests were greeted by over 20 tree displays, 15 kusamono, a number of suiseki and a vast "training" area, that highlighted the season!

Inspired by our January 2025 presentation with Jonas Dupuich, we implemented voting at this exhibition. Votes were cast for a '*peoples choice*' award, and everyone who walked through the door was encouraged to participate.

There were also votes cast for a '*members choice*' award, to allow club members to vote for their favorite trees over the weekend.

The FIRST PLACE winner for BOTH categories went to David Hodgetts' Larch Forest.

We thank you again for all members who contributed material(s) and volunteered their time to make our annual club show a success once again.

Continue on to see photos from this years show, as well as a breakdown of votes.



The plan for our July Club meeting, much like the process described in our January club meeting with Jonas Dupuich, will be to evaluate a selection of the trees shown at our Exhibition. This activity will be a fun way for us to see how we, and others see our trees, and how we may move them to their next level of development!

### Peoples Choice Award

1st Place: #1 Larch Forest, David Hodgetts

2nd Place: #13 Tom and Sandy Kiskel

3rd Place: #4 Guy Pasteono

### Members Choice Award

1st Place: #1 Larch Forest, David Hodgetts

2nd Place: #13 Tom and Sandy Kiskel

3rd Place: # 3 Arika, Brandon, and Jon





2nd place winner of both the Peoples Choice and Member award goes to this lovely specimen Potentilla from the garden of Tom and Sandy Kiskiel



3rd place Peoples Choice:

Guy Pastenas' Serrisa



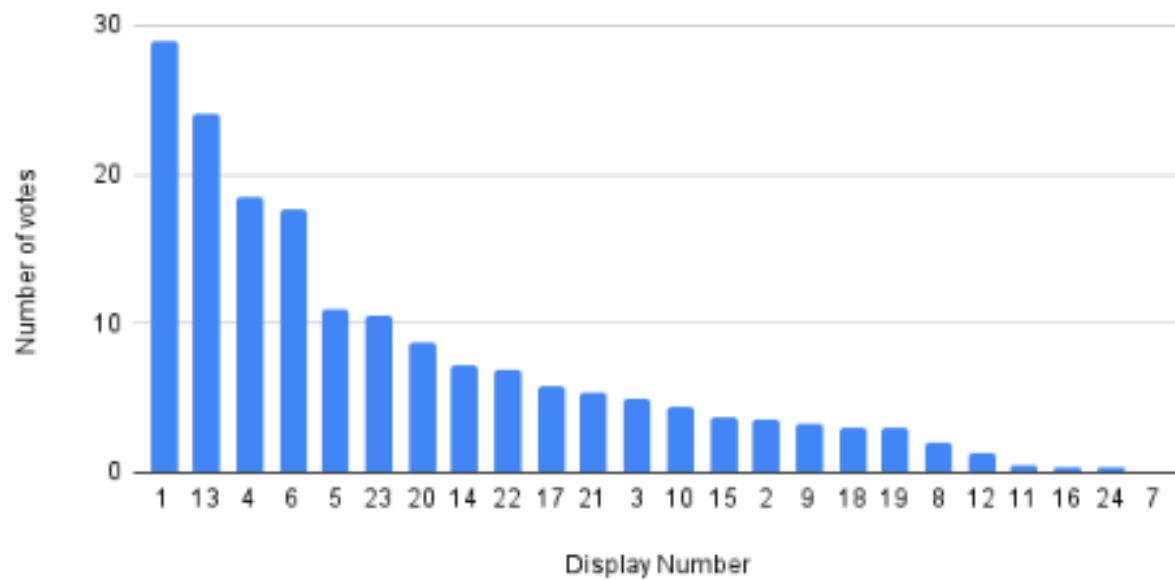
3rd place Members Choice:

Collaborative Shohin Display by Arika Adams, Brandon Herwick and Jon Stewart



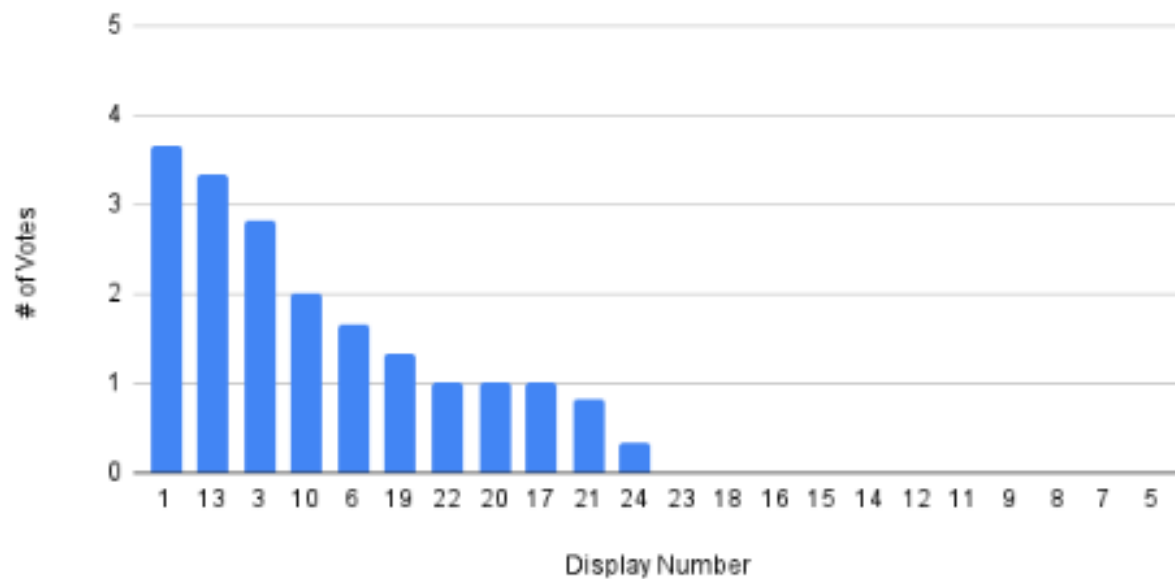
## Peoples Choice Award 2025

175 total votes



## Members Choice Award 2025

20 total votes

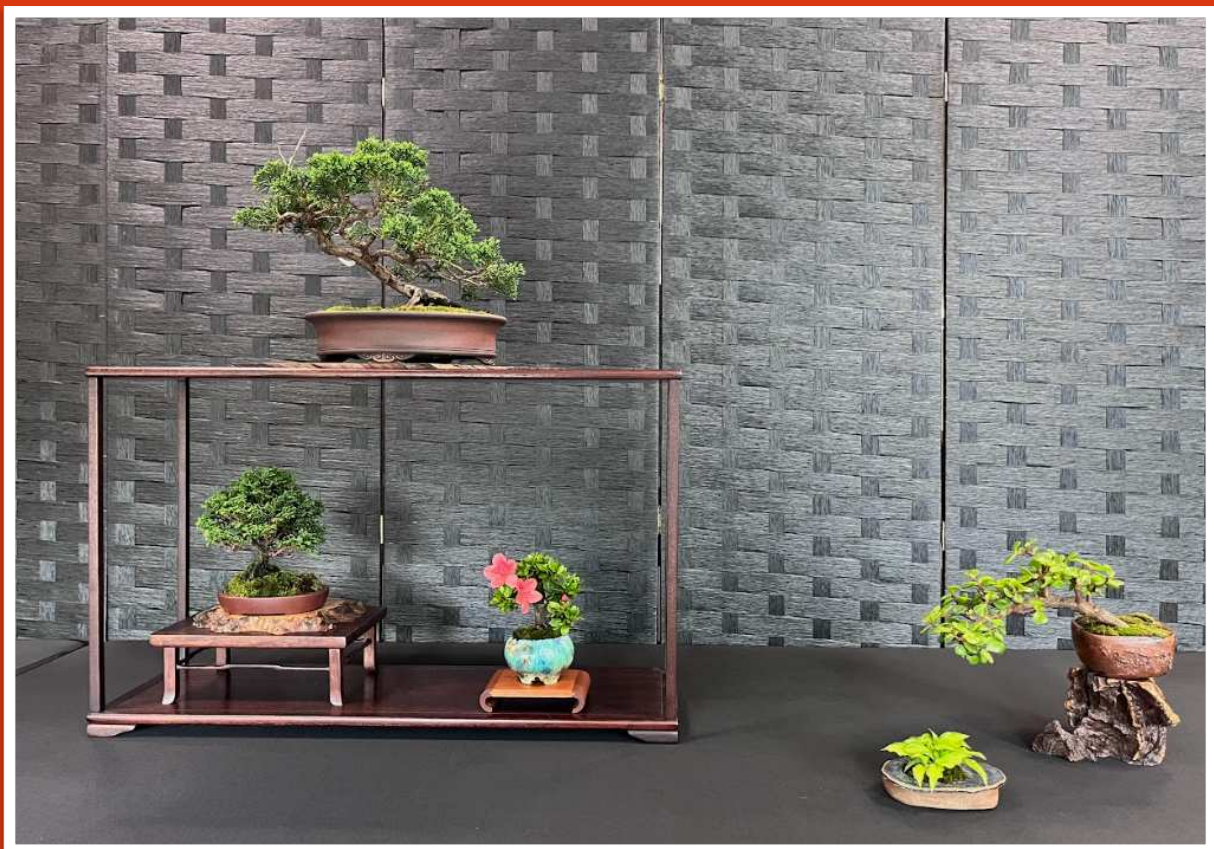


Eligible material did NOT include Kusamono, pot displays, or trees 'in training'





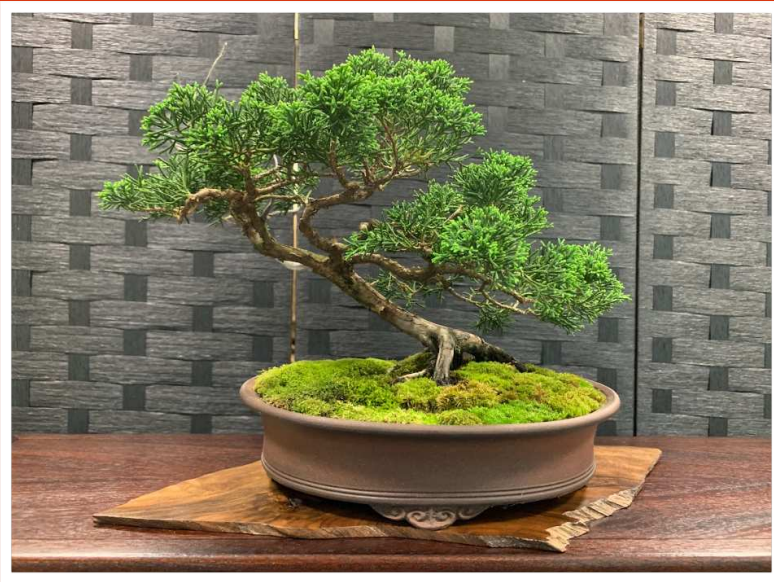














## Bonsai by Month by Dave Hodgetts

### July Outdoors

As temperatures rise, watering and shade management become ever more important. I apply the same approach described in last month's column, when possible checking my trees every 3 to 4 hours during daylight hours. If I am not present, a layer of sphagnum moss on the soil surface helps prevent the soil from drying out quite so fast and both 30% shade cloth and direct shading of the tree's pots also help. Direct shading of the pots can also prevent temperature related root damage. Special attention must be paid to those trees under shade cloth but not protected when the sun's rays come from the side, rather from directly overhead. Warm and windy days are especially demanding and shelter from the wind can help.

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). I ask them to water each tree until water is coming from the pot's drain holes. There are sometimes trees (usually in need of repotting) where the water pools on the soil surface or runs right off. In that case the water must be allowed to pool, sink in and the pot rewatered as many times as necessary. Underwatering in that situation is common. Another rare occurrence to watch out for is a tree that has been blown, or knocked off (darn chipmunks), the bench. If not spotted, the tree can dry out, especially if the pot breaks and/or the roots are exposed.

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.

Larch continue to push new growth in response to earlier pruning, vigorous trees being capable of 3 or 4 flushes each season. On refined trees the new growth can simply be pinched in half once it reaches 1-1/2 to 2 inches in length. On trees in development though, I leave the new growth to harden off. At that point the 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.

On broad-leaved deciduous material the first flush of growth, pruned earlier in the season, has also been followed by a second flush, and when this has hardened off, it too is pruned back, typically to two leaves, utilizing directional pruning as needed. Additionally, to increase the light reaching the inner foliage, each remaining outer leaf can be cut in half. On Japanese maples, one of each pair of outer leaves is typically removed. Rotating each tree periodically permits equal foliage sun exposure.

As transpiration demands increase, some of the inner foliage on junipers typically yellows and dies. This can be removed and any 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.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:LHodgetts46@gmail.com)

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