

THE TWIG

Brandon Herwick has been appointed by the executive board to fill the position of Activities Director. As an educator in his daily life, Brandon brings an enthusiasm for learning and growth to this role. We are excited to see what his tenure brings!

Make sure you are current with your 2026 dues. Pay for dues on paypal here: [MHBS Payments](#)

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January Activity: Virtual Michael Hagedorn



Join us!

Monday, January 19th at 4:00 pm
on ZOOM for our monthly meeting
and a virtual presentation with
Michael Hagedorn,
“Repotting: An Underview”

Click the link below on Monday to
open zoom

[PRESENTATION LINK](#)

If you have any worry about your ability to log on to zoom please contact Jonathan Stewart as soon as possible 518-879-9789, troubleshooting issues at the time of the presentation may be challenging and we want to make the most of our time with Mr. Hagedorn.

If you are unable to attend the zoom meeting, the presentation will be made available at a later date on our club youtube channel.



February @ Faddegons Nursery

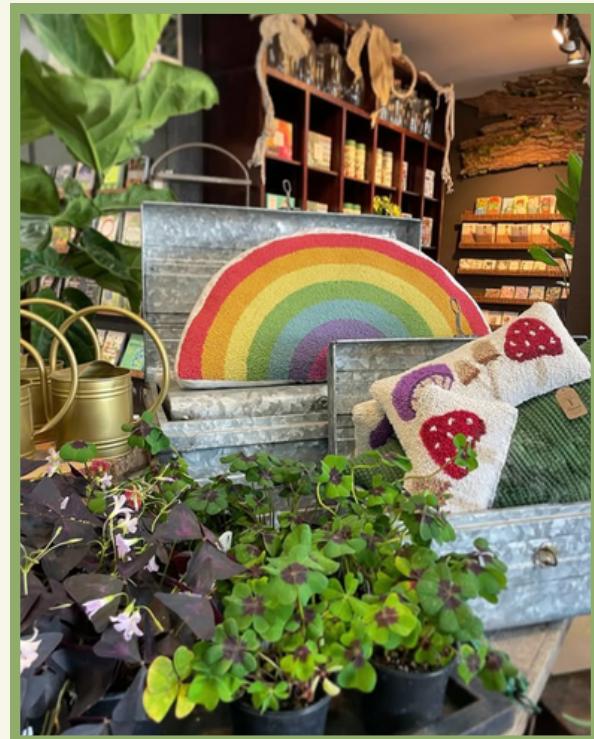
The February Meeting and activity will take place at Faddegon's Nursery.

No registration is required. Feel free to bring trees to work on and show off while we hang in the greenhouse, and dream of spring. This activity is a great opportunity to introduce people to the club who are bonsai-curious so reach out to friends and family. Make sure you leave yourself time to explore the goodies in the greenhouse and the shop.

All are welcome, hope to see you there!



Sunday February 22nd
11 am – 3 pm
1140 Troy-Schenectady Rd
Latham, NY 12110



[Faddegon's Instagram](#)



2026 MABS Spring Festival

The 2026 Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival will be here before we know it!

Dates: Friday, April 17 – Sunday, April 19, 2026

Location: Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, Grantville, PA 17028

This event includes Workshops, Critiques, a vendor area and a wonderful exhibition, which will include MHBS entrants!

Our March meeting will revolve around putting together displays for our submission to the MABS exhibition. Start thinking about trees in your collection and other accoutrement you may want to bring that day for consideration. Also as repotting season is upon us, its not a bad time to be thinking of moving those display worthy trees into some stellar pots.

Even if you don't want to display – we still want you to participate in the fun! As a member club of MABS, MHBS benefits from our members registering and attending the event, the more the merrier!

Workshops this year include:

Dwarf Japanese Maple Tree
with Jonas Dupuich

Satsuki Azalea Tree
with Peter Warren

Japanese Black Pine Tree
with Kaya Mooney

If you are interested in registering to attend, please visit the new [MABS site](#)

Festival Registration Details

Early Bird Pricing ends at midnight on Friday, March 20, 2026.
Online registration closes at 5:00pm on Friday, April 10, 2026.

On-site ticketing is available at a higher rate than advance registration.



Bonsai by Month, January (Mid-Winter)

This month's piece has a lot in common with last month's, because not much has changed. In the Northeast many bonsai and bonsai artists are dormant. The daylight hours are slowly increasing, since the winter equinox, but as I write the garden is still mostly snow covered, and the sky is grey. The kind of grey, I suspect, Douglas Adams had in mind when he wrote *The Long, Dark Tea-Time of the Soul*. More snow is likely, as historically, January is our snowiest month. Then we can move on to the grimness that is February. (No S.A.D. here! Well, maybe a smidgin.)

The hardy bonsai and material in development remain in storage, hopefully protected from desiccating winds, root temperatures below 25 degrees F, repeated freeze-thaw cycles and vermin. If frozen and/or dry, (the bonsai, that is) I apply snow to the soil surface to provide moisture on those days when the pots might thaw. Weak/tender material and trees grafted or heavily worked in the last year remain in frost free storage, along with any larch and pine wired in the last month or two. They are only watered when their soil surface is dry, typically every week to ten days or so. Tropical and semi tropical trees are managed with the lighting, humidity and temperatures they prefer.

Pines can be wired, and Larch work continues as described in last month's piece. For those with little material to work on until spring, the following activities may provide an outlet for any unrequited bonsai energy:

List and/or mark your trees that will require repotting in spring.

If necessary, revisit your notes or preferred reference sources to brush up on the nuances of pot selection. I recommend David de Groot's book: *Principles of Bonsai Design*, 2nd edition (available at DJH Bonsai) and articles regarding this topic on *Bonsai Tonight*, the blog and sales website of Jonas Dupuich, a knowledgeable bonsai artist and all-round good egg.

Select, find or purchase the required pots. Hours can fly by admiring pots you don't have trees for whilst looking for the pot(s) you do need, on Facebook, e-bay and other websites. (WARNING: The lure and subsequent purchase of small, exquisite bonsai pots, regardless of whether you will ever have a tree to put in them, can become an expensive addiction. I am told families have been ruined. The U.S. Surgeon General would surely mention this if his/her minions brought it to their attention.)

Stocking up on the other required repotting materials could also be considered, but truly, you have at least another month, or possibly longer.....

Cleaning and sharpening your tools is also a worthwhile pastime. On a personal note, if you elect to mark your tools for identification purposes, please don't use orange paint, as that color is already spoken for by your truly.

You could also give some thought to the tree(s), display layout(s), scroll(s) and accent plant(s) you will exhibi(t) at M.A.B.(S) or your club(s) show this yea(r). (Sorry, got a bit carried away there.)

Lastly, as I also mentioned in last month's piece, you may wish to consider the quality of your bonsai in general. Are you satisfied with them? Have they improved in the last year? Do you have a plan to take them to the next level? Do you need or want one? Food for thought, I hope.

Keep Growing,
Dave



Meetings and Activities

Month	Time	Activity	Registration Information
January 1/19/2026	4:00 PM	Michael Hagedorn, Virtual presentation. No on-site meeting ZOOM LINK	No Registration Required
February 2/22/2026	11 AM - 3 PM 12 PM Meeting	Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) to Faddegon's Nursery just meet us there!	No Registration Required
March 3/29/2026	10 AM Start 12 PM Meeting	MABS Display Prep Details TBA	No Registration Required
April 4/26/2026	12 PM	Activity TBA	TBA
May 5/30/2026	Saturday Time TBA	Full day maple workshop with Sergio Cuan (material included with registration)	Registration Required, details TBA
5/31/2026	Sunday 12 PM meeting	Half-day maple workshop with Sergio Cuan Meeting Demonstration & Raffle	Registration Required for half-day workshop details TBA



MHBS Executive Board & Contact Information

Position	Name	Phone	Email	Term
President	Jonathan Stewart	518-879-9789	stewarjm192@gmail.com	2029
Vice President	Dan Bee (they/them)	339-204-1312	danny.bravo.cso@gmail.com	2028
Secretary	Nancy Castillo	518-321-6913	twocat106@gmail.com	2029
Treasurer	Lori Hodgetts	518-369-7243	LHodgetts46@gmail.com	2028
Activities Director	Brandon Herwick			2028
Communications Director	Arika Adams	518-813-0695	arikaadams@gmail.com	2029
Webmaster & Outreach Director	Guy Pastena	518-227-0198	MHBS.outreach@gmail.com	2026
Immediate Past President	Bill Papura			
MABS Directors MHBS reps	Jonathan Stewart & Dan Bee			



Our Mission

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 each page of the newsletter. 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