



The MULCH PILE

MGC CLUB NEWS

JULY 2006

JUST FOR SUMMER KICKS!

http://www.ezprezzo.com/crazypics/tree_art.html

Hot and hazy and rainy summer greetings to MGC Members and our Web Visitors. This is the July issue of the MGC's monthly newsletter, The Mulch Pile. There are lots going on this summer as we prepare to enter our 3rd year in September. Please read on to learn more about our current fundraising project, the **2nd Annual Bulb and Plant Sale**, now in progress through August 14, which benefits our new civic beautification project **Catch Our Drift**. And we've organized the first official MGC Ice Cream Social at the Black Cow Café on Tuesday, July 25 at 7pm, and there is so much more happening in between that you just have to read The Mulch Pile and save the dates of events that you don't want to miss! Happy weeding ☺

MGC'S FUNDRAISING NEWS

Millis Garden Club's Annual Bulb and Plant Sale in Full Bloom – Now through August 14, 2006

Members – we are only able to support community projects through our fundraising events. This great fundraiser is chaired by Member Mike Ambrose with support from Members Lucy Schneider and Debbie Lane Lesbirel. We ask that you support the project in anyway you can. This fundraiser 100% benefits our new civic beautification project - *Catch Our Drift*, an annual Fall bulb-planting program in the town of Millis. In September, hundreds of daff bulbs will be planted along town land. Each year a different site will be selected, and come April, the Millis Community and visitors will reap the benefits of our labor.

About the 2ND Annual Bulb and Plant Fundraiser. Now through August 14, MGC Members, Millis community members and those who live beyond can participate in our Annual Bulb and Plant Sale. We have selected a *grand* collection of unique daffodils and daylilies for your perusal. New varieties have been included this year. Bulbs and plants are ordered now and are delivered in September and October, just in time for planting. All the information is on our website and we ask that you view the Plant and Bulb Sale information now, before it is too late! Just visit www.millisgardenclub.org and click on the pencil for more details! (Orders within 15 miles of Millis will be delivered at no-charge. Shipping arrangements can be arranged for those orders received beyond the 15 mile range.)

How can you support the MGC Annual Bulb and Plant Sale?

1. Consider ordering Bulbs and Plants for your own landscape, or for friends and family. And if you would like to participate in the *Catch Our Drift* Bulb Planting Program, we are offering larger quantities of Daff's at really nice prices. Consider planting a drift of daff's along your property for all to view and admire.
2. Tell everyone you know about this Annual Bulb and Plant Sale. Give them our web address. Print an order form and hand it to them. Help them select what would be fitting for their yards. Tell them that order forms can also be picked up at Veterans Memorial Building (Clerk's Office 1st Floor), 900 Main Street (Route 109) and the Millis Public Library (Auburn and Main). *Any and all support will benefit this fundraising project.*

How do you order Bulbs and Plants from MGC?

We've made it so easy! Simply visit www.millisgardenclub.org to review the blooms and plants being offered. Next, download the four-page order form sheet. Simply complete the order form and mail with check by August 14 to MGC, P.O. Box 535, Millis, MA 02054.

Special Note: A limited quantity and variety of daylily bulbs, ready to plant, will be available for sale at MGC's Fall Harvest Marketplace @ the Annual Millis Fireman's Muster, Sat, Sept 9, 2006 from 9am – 3pm. The event is located at Town Park (between Veterans Memorial Building & Clyde Brown School), off 900 Main Street, Route 109, Millis.

The Next Fundraiser: MGC's Annual Fall Marketplace at the Fireman's Muster, Saturday, September 9, 2006, 9 am – 3 pm, Town Park, off 900 Main Street, Millis.

Another FUN! fundraising event – MGC's 2nd Annual Fall Marketplace which offers hand-made products (mostly from our gardens), such as bread and butter pickles, jellies, jams, salsa, soaps, fudge and more. Consider donating a small quantity (5 – 8 units) of something you have made this summer for us to sell in September. **ALSO!** Looking for home made 9" inch pies or small one-serving pies in all different flavors. Last year, our 3 pies were made by Master Baker Tress Downs, which FLEW out of our booth first thing– so we know we can sell many more! Please contact Co-Chairs Cathy Dugan at cduganmgc@hotmail.com or Lynn Morse at morselm@hotmail.com to chat about potential products to sell at our fundraiser or how you can volunteer that day to support the event.

Introducing, Pot People! Definition - a decorative 3-D ornament made from terra cotta pots, rope and embellishments. We hope to make a bunch of *pot people* to sell and a few to raffle off during the Fireman's Muster and at our September program. There will be a workshop in August for whoever would like to make *Pot People* –Members Chris Gavin and Cynthia Prescott will be leading this workshop so if you are interested in learning, please contact Chris Gavin at cyg@gavinstudio.com for more details.

The MGC Scholarship Committee is Looking to Fund Our New Program Through Raffle

Proceeds. At the '06 May Annual Meeting, the MGC Membership voted to initiate a new scholarship program for those students wishing to study all forms of horticulture. To successfully raise \$500 for our first scholarship for May'07, MGC needs dedicated fundraising opportunities throughout the year. We believe we can raise the money through a planned raffle program. The first raffle will be held at the Fireman's Muster on September 9 – and we will be offering an adorable *Pot Person*. We will continue to offer raffle items throughout the year at our programs and special events. If you have a garden oriented item to donate, or if you know of a business that is willing to donate a gift certificate or item for our raffle, please contact Debbie Lane Lesbirel at dlesbirel@comcast.net.

DEBUTING MGC'S NEW DAZZLING WEB SITE AT WWW.MILLISGARDENCLUB.ORG

MGC is sporting a more eye-catching look for its 3rd year, and we are grateful to Bill Gavin, a graphic designer and our new webmaster, who has spent hours redesigning our website for a fresh, new look. Members and visitors will notice our home page is cleaner and easier to navigate. Bill added many new features, including on-line membership registration form and an active slide show, currently featuring the blooms from our Annual Bulb and Plant Sale. In the near future, the website will list our MGC Library Collection which will be available to borrow from the Millis Public Library. Our website is used as a resource for many people and we can expand from what we have at the current moment. If you are interested in contributing to the web site, please contact Nancy Sitta at nancysitta@comcast.net.

MGC'S CIVIC PROJECTS

MGC Members – Watering Angels are Requested to Report to Summer Civic Duty!

Members, we are in need of **Watering Angels** to help over the summer with our beautification sites. These include the two containers at *Hardin Island* located at Exchange and Main Streets; the **Let Freedom Ring** Tree located at VMB; and the Vietnam/Korean Memorial and the three new containers at the Millis Public Library. If you haven't signed up yet to water for a week, please contact Bev Temple at 508 376 1014 or HMT3245@aol.com. Remember, watering takes place as needed, based upon Mother Natures' watering schedule.

New Civic Beautification Project! Member Heidi Dostoomian will be chairing the 2006 **Catch Our Drift** Program. In the month of July, she will be riding around with Jim McKay, Assistant Director of Public Works, in search of town land, which will lend itself to planting drifts of daffodils in September. The Bulb Planting date is set for a Sat or Sun in September and will be announced in August. All members will be notified by phone. If you have any suggestions of where to plant, or if you would like to help support the project by preparing the soil and planting bulbs, please email Heidi at hdostoomian@comcast.net. This project will reap great rewards each April!

New Garden Containers at the Library! Three of the sixteen containers that were recently donated by Equity Office Properties of Wellesley are now shiny and brand new looking! They were recently planted by Member Jeannie Maier and are now greeting visitors at the front door. Our sincere gratitude goes out to Mr. Auerr, a Millis resident who donated \$150 to MGC for Millis Beautification Day. With that money, we were able to hire Steve D'Innocenzo to sandblast, prime and paint the steel containers. We are seeking donations to refurbish the balance of the containers, which will be placed in other areas of the town. Cost per container is \$50. Also, soon, the Library will be sporting new benches, which match the containers. These will be installed and maintained by the DPW and the Town of Millis.

MGC'S MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New MGC Members! Several new members joined in June and we extend a warm welcome to Mary Anne Andrey, Cherylann McFetridge, Lynne Kusleika, Lynn Kulesza and Nancy Gustafson of Mendon. In May, Judy Murphy and Charlene Heard joined us and they had a blast at the June Garden Stroll. We look forward to growing the club with you all!

FINAL REMINDER to those Members who Wish to Support the MGC as an Active Member. Your Dues are DUE NOW!!!!!! Please mail your \$30 check to MGC, P.O. Box 535, Millis, MA 02054. The MGC Yearbook will be printed in July so having up to date membership information in our Yearbook is the most efficient way to move into the new year. We appreciate your promptness in renewing!

Members, if you have changed your email address in the last year, please update Cathy Dugan via email immediately so we can update our records. Cathy can be reached at CDuganMGC@hotmail.com.

Introducing MGC's Ice Cream Social. We invite you to gather with fellow MGC members on Tuesday, July 25 at 7pm for a little ice cream or coffee or fudge, and a little social! Meet at the Black Cow Cafe, 1397 Main Street (almost at the Medway line) and order what you are craving most (my fav is the black raspberry Oreo.) If you know someone who is interested in joining, please bring them along too! We have so much fun together – why wait until September!

Know someone who is interested in joining MGC? Suggest they visit www.millisgardenclub.org to learn all about us. Or, contact Cathy Dugan, Membership Chair, and she will deliver or mail out a membership brochure. Membership is open to all who wish to contribute to our club's projects and to our community. Our by-laws state that we can maintain a membership of 75, and we are around the 50 at this moment.

MGC'S PROGRAMMING

SAVE THE DATES! Educational Programming Information for 2006-2007 is now listed on our website. Please mark your personal calendars with our meeting and fundraising dates now for the entire year. You do not want to miss-a-thing! In August, all current members will receive a MGC Yearbook listing all our programs, dates and events. Don't forget to pass the information on to those interested in gardening. For a small donation fee of \$5.00, we welcome Guests to any of our educational programs. Workshop fees will be more due to material fees.

A Fall Preview of Year 3! Full details of the year (September - June) are on www.millisgardenclub.org.

Wed, September 20, 2006, 7-8pm. *Ask the Experts: A Panel Discussion with MGC Professional Members and Questions from the Audience.* Veterans Memorial Building, 900 Main Street, Millis. Guest Donation Fee: \$5.00

Wed, October 18, 2006, 7-8pm. *Composting 101 with Anne McGovern, MASSDEP.* Veterans Memorial Building. Guest Donation Fee: \$5.00.

The Reviews Are In! The 2nd Annual June Garden Stroll was an Outstanding Success!

On Wednesday, June 21, 2006, eighty members and guests strolled through three fabulous gardens in Millis, all while enjoying gourmet appetizers, desserts, wine and refreshments. The gardens were beyond magnificent and will be forever remembered. Our Garden Hosts, The Gilkey's, The Maier's, and the Bennett's all deserve standing ovations for their accomplishments and their generous hospitality. Other special guests included Selectman Charlie Vecchi, Assistant DPW Jim McKay, and three Executive Members of the Garden Club Federation of MA: Kathy Thomas, President; Celeste Wilson, 1st VP; and Betty Sanders, Metro West District Director. Images will soon be up on our website as Wayne Pueschel shot 84 digital images that night.....Thanks, Wayne!

We always like to mix education with social, and we applaud Member and arborist Scott McPhee for leading our walking tour through each garden. The exchanges between Scott, our Garden Hosts and our Members and Guests offer invaluable insight to garden design and planning. Members say this element of the program is so beneficial. Many thanks go out to Scott for his generosity in leading these educational tours. So Scott, we acknowledge you, your kindness, and your willingness to share your vast wealth of knowledge with us and the community.

How can we top this year's event? Member Jean Lavoie is already on the search for 2 or 3 unique gardens in Millis who would consider hosting our event next June. If you know of any gardens that would fit the bill, please contact Jean at jmlavoie@verizon.net. Criteria: homes in close proximity so we can stroll; have safe parking for 50 cars; would allow 80

guests to visit them for an hour. In order to give our Garden Hosts ample time to plan for our visit, we would like to confirm the gardens by September 1.

Thank You to All the Members who Attended and Contributed to the Hospitality Tables. We heard from more than one person that night – that we should start a cookbook with all the gourmet recipes from that evening! Thank you Members, for your contributions! Special acknowledgements are being sent out to Heidi Dostoomian for overseeing the event; Paula Fraser and Barb Koman for helping to organize the food and beverages; to our Garden Stroll Hostesses, Cathy Dugan, Barb LeBlanc, Helen Daly and Sharon's parents, Thank you! It was fabulous weather – it was a wonderful night, and Jean Lavoie gave it a **20** on a scale of 1-10! Now, that is saying something!

For those members who contributed food and are missing their plates, Heidi has placed a Rubbermaid container in front of her garage at 17 Walnut Hill Rd (off Middlesex & Brookview or off Middlesex & Bullard) with 4 trays and plates that she collected from the Garden Stroll. Please stop by to gather your plate or give her a call at 376-2870 if you need it returned to you.

MGC LIBRARY

MGC's WISH LIST:

The MGC Library is in need of a bookcase to store our collection at the Millis Public Library. This bookcase will be used to display all books and periodicals donated or purchased by the club. The size needed is 24"w x 36 L or no larger than 34"w x 36" L. Stained or unfinished. Anyone interested in donating this item, please contact barbaraleblanc@comcast.net.

The MGC Library is almost official - and it is a great way to further extend educational outreach opportunities to our community and beyond. Barbara LeBlanc is spearheading this new program with the assistance of MGC Secretary Chris Gavin, and Millis Public Library Director, Linda Stetson. MGC has acquired, through private gifts, several collectable horticulture books and annual magazine subscriptions, and we anticipate the collection will grow through the generous support of our membership and the community. This collection will be housed in a separate bookshelf, located adjacent to the model ship at the base of the stairs which leads to the 2nd floor. Our collection will be available for Millis Garden Club Members and library patrons to enjoy. In the Fall, Members will be invited to the official ribbon cutting ceremony of MGC's Library at the Millis Public Library. In the near future, our library offerings will be listed on our website.

The Millis Garden Club will also accept direct contributions to our library program throughout the year. Consider making a donation in honor of, or in memory of a loved one. Specific titles or topics may be suggested. The donor's name and or the honoree's name will hand calligraphied on our bookplate, which has been designed by Member Candi Orsi. Checks can be made payable to the Millis Garden Club for any amount (or for the exact cost of the specific book/magazine subscription) and sent to MGC, P.O. Box 535, Millis MA 02054 Attention: MGC Library Program.

FEDERATION NEWS

MGC Applies for Award from Federation. All federated MA Garden Clubs are eligible to apply for a multitude of awards and recognitions offered by the Garden Club Federation of MA. The MGC Exec Team recently submitted a proposal with support materials documenting the history of our web site and what the site is currently offering. The winners will be announced at the Federation's October Annual Meeting and each will be presented with a certificate of merit. MGC will next prepare support materials (called a *Book of Evidence* in Federation speak) for Millis Beautification Day. Many of these types of civic beautification projects come with cash prizes, which would greatly help support our annual project.

MILLIS COMMUNITY NEWS

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED ON A WALKING TOUR OF VERDERBA FARM, MILLIS, MA

On Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at 11 am, The Millis Conservation Commission is offering a guided nature tour through the landscape of Verderba Farm, Millis. Now known as Pleasant Meadows Bluebird Farm, this beautiful tract of land borders Spring Street Farm and Pleasant Street. This is a free event and open to the public. Please enter Verderba Farm through the marked entrance on Pleasant Street.

At this event, members of Commission will conduct an interpretive educational nature walk with a focus on the importance of wetlands, wet meadows and the surrounding upland terrain in its relationship with the diverse wildlife present on the farm. The group will identify plants, insects, birds, animals, and their tracks. We will discuss the different habitats present, and the needs of the creatures that use them.

The walk will last about 1 1/2 - 2 hours. At the conclusion, cold drinks and assorted snacks will be offered as we review the discoveries made during the walk. Please wear comfortable walking shoes. A camera and binoculars are optional. To register in advance please contact: George W. Trumbour, Co-Chair, MCC at 508-376-4805 after 6pm, or E-mail at gnctrum@verizon.net.

OUR MISSION

Founded in 2004, The Millis Garden Club strives to enhance the natural beauty of our own surroundings and that of our community through the horticultural education of members – while cultivating new friendships in the process.

Millis Garden Club P. O. Box 535 Millis MA 02054
www.millisgardenclub.org 508 376 2676