



The MULCH PILE

MGC CLUB NEWS

August 2006

Just living is not enough, said the butterfly. One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.
~Hans Christian Andersen

TIME SENSITIVE MESSAGES #1

Millis Garden Club's Annual Bulb and Plant Sale – Last Date to Order is August 14, 2006

There is still time to 1) place an order for bulbs and plants and to 2) tell your friends and family about our fundraiser. We need all members to give one more “push” – as it benefits the *Catch Our Drift* bulb planting project.

How do you order Bulbs and Plants from MGC?

We've made it so easy! Simply visit www.millisgardenclub.org to review the bloom and plant mages being offered. Next, download the four-page order form. 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 10 am- 3 pm. The event is located at Town Park (between Veterans Memorial Building & Clyde Brown School), off 900 Main Street, Route 109, Millis.

TIME SENSITIVE MESSAGES #2

Members – You are invited to the MGC August Social! Why wait until September to gather and connect?

When: Tuesday, August 22, 7 – 9 pm

Host/Where: Home of Members Judy and Jim Murphy, 83 Forest Road (off Village), Millis

What to bring: You and a Summer appetizer

Cocktails and beverages will be provided

Members had so much fun gathering at the Black Cow in July that we decided to gather again in August. Our Hosts, the Murphy's, moved to Millis this past fall and have enjoyed playing “guess the perennial” which are growing in the existing raised beds. Arrive when you can.. Bring a friend who wants to join us. Please park in the drive way and along street.

TIME SENSITIVE MESSAGES #3

MGC's Annual Fall Marketplace at the Fireman's Muster- Still Looking for Products to Sell! Saturday, September 9, 2006, 9 am – 3 pm, Town Park, off 900 Main Street, Millis.

This is such a FUN! fundraising event – MGC's 2nd Annual Fall Marketplace will offer hand-made products (mostly from our gardens), such as pickles, jellies, jams, salsa, soaps, medicinal salves, 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. Please contact Co-Chairs Cathy Dugan at cduganmgc@hotmail.com or Lynn Morse at morselm@hotmail.com to chat about products to sell at our fundraiser or how you can volunteer that day to support the event.

TIME SENSITIVE MESSAGES #4

Pot People Workshop scheduled for Wed, August 16 at 8:30 am – 12 noon. What is a Pot Person? Definition - a decorative 3-D ornament made from terra cotta pots, rope and embellishments. Visit this site to see more: <http://www.the-artistic-garden.com/terra-cotta-pot-crafts-potpeople.html>.

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 20th program. If you want to make one at home –pre-order the pots at wholesale costs thru our workshop leaders, Members Chris Gavin and Judy Murphy. Please call #5727 ASAP if you are able to attend or need more information.

MGC'S CIVIC PROJECTS

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

Members, we are still in need of **Watering Angels** to help over August and September with our beautification sites. These include the two containers at **Hardin Island** (Exchange and Main Streets); the **Let Freedom Ring Tree** (VMB); and the **Vietnam/Korean Memorial** and the **three new containers (Millis Public Library)**. If you haven't volunteered to water and deadheading 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.

Catch Our Drift Bulb Planting Program. Chair Heidi Dostoomian is in the final stages of planning where our first site will be located along town owned land. In September, Members will be asked to help prepare the soil and plant daffodil and daylily bulbs along the site. Proceeds from the Annual Bulb and Plant Sale will allow us to purchase bulbs and materials needed for this civic beautification project. Stay tuned for more details.

And the next time you see Mary Payson – thank her for contributing \$20 to the **Catch Our Drift** Program. If you'd like to support our project, please send a check to MGC, Catch Our Drift, P.O. Box 535, Millis, MA 02054.

MGC's 2006 Civic Award – Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 7pm, VMB

At the May 2006 MGC Business Meeting, Members unanimously voted to recognize the **Potpourri Garden Club of Millis** for their outstanding work towards civic beautification projects in the town of Millis. President Kathleen Pueschel and several members of the club will accept the award at the September 20, 2006 meeting. Please put this date on your calendar so that MGC Members can warmly acknowledge PGCM Members.

The club was founded in 1945 and today consists of 9 active members from the town. Today, they maintain a Butterfly Garden at Veterans Memorial Building, plus two garden containers at the steps leading to VMB. In the past and for many years they maintained a garden site in front of Anne and Hope. Kathleen Pueschel is also a member of the MGC. In 2005, Cheryl Pruffer and Jean Maier were recognized by MGC for their years of dedicated civic beautification service to the town.

MGC'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND WORKSHOPS

Complete Educational Programming Information for 2006-2007 is now listed on www.millisgardenclub.org. Please mark your personal calendars with our meeting, workshop and fundraising dates now for the entire year. You do not want to miss-a-thing! In mid-August, all current members will receive a MGC Yearbook listing all our program details, membership lists and more.

Don't forget our educational programs are open to the public. For a small donation fee of \$5.00, we welcome Guests to attend any of our events. Workshop fees will be more due to material fees.

SAVE THESE 2006 DATES NOW!!!

Sat, September 9, 10 am – 3 pm. MGC Annual Fall Harvest Marketplace at the Firemen's Muster.

Wed, September 20, 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, 7-8pm. **Composting 101 with Anne McGovern, MASSDEP. Veterans Memorial Building. Guest Donation Fee: \$5.00.**

Sat, November 18, 2:00 – 5:30 pm. Pine Cone Topiary Workshop. Make a unique centerpiece in this hands-on workshop and demonstration. Veterans Memorial Building. Advance registration necessary. More details to follow.

Month of November – Various Workshops to make products to sell at the MGC Annual Greens Sale.

Sat, December 2, 10 am – 2 pm, MGC Annual Green Sale and Wreath Raffle, Veterans Memorial Building.

MGC'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND WORKSHOPS, continued...

Wed, December 6, 7 – 10 pm. MGC Annual Holiday Gathering. More details to follow.

Please visit www.millisgardenclub.org for 2007 Programs and Community Event details.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New MGC Members! A warm welcome is extended to Edna Neville, Linda Stetson, Ed Koman and Steve D'Innocenzo who joined in July. We look forward to growing the club with you!

Great news! Although Anne Parker moved in Franklin, she still wishes to be involved in MGC as a member! So now we have members residing in Upton, Franklin, Mendon and Holliston!

Membership Outreach Program. Although we work diligently 24/7 to get the word out that we exist, and that we do "good things" for our town, we know we still need to do more outreach. How do we reach newcomers? On July 1, 2006, we instituted a new program called **Welcome to Millis** and we are excited about this project. On a monthly basis, we mail newcomers a packet of material that includes MGC's programming information and a certificate to attend, with a guest, one educational program on a complimentary basis. In the month of July, 22 packets were sent out by the Membership Committee. We think this is a good way to make new friends and increase our network. If you know of a family new to the neighborhood, please let us know their name and address, so that we can send them a *welcome to the neighborhood* packet.

MGC Member Chris Gavin, MGC President's Award Recipient for 2005-2006.

On June 21, at the June Garden Stroll, MGC Member Chris Gavin was recognized for her significant contributions to the growth and development of the club during this past year. Awards Chair Pat Thompson offered a fitting tribute to Chris with 80 Members and Special Guests in attendance. Chris received a MGC President's Award Plaque, a floral decorated tote bag and an urn for planting. The MGC Executive Board unanimously selected Chris as this year's recipient because of her dedicated and generous assistance with MGC's projects and club operations. Chris will serve as the Corresponding/Recording Secretary for the 2006-2007 year. This fall, Chris will be designing a garden bed to encompass the Let Freedom Ring Tree and the Holbrook Bell at VMB. She is a professional landscape designer and a graduate of the Arnold Arboretum's Landscape Institute, Harvard University. In 2004-2005, Kathy Doyle was the recipient of the President's Award. Thank you Chris, and Bravo!



Chris Gavin at Veterans Memorial Building, July 2006

MGC LIBRARY NEWS

August Update

By September 1, our community can visit The MGC Library Collection, which will be found at the Millis Public Library. Thanks to Linda Stetson, Library Director and new MGC Member, MGC will have its own designated area where our collection will be stored for the public to use. The MGC Library Collection consists of garden books and horticultural magazines. This is a great way to further extend educational outreach opportunities to our community and beyond. The collection will be housed in a separate bookshelf, located adjacent to the model ship and managed by the MGC Secretary who is currently Chris Gavin. 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 is prepared to 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 be written 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. (We are also prepared to suggest book and magazine titles).

FEDERATION NEWS

MGC Members are invited to attend the Garden Club Federation of MA's Fall Annual Meeting, which takes place on Wed, October 25, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Mansfield. The event includes a short business meeting, luncheon and floral design program. MGC Members are encouraged to attend. Advance ticket purchase only. More details to follow.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, WEBSITES AND EVENTS AROUND AND ABOUT

Thru September 3, 2006 at the Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, MA. *Feast Your Eyes: The Unexpected Beauty of Vegetable Gardens* traces the transformation of veggie gardens over the years from productive and attractive areas to sites that were out of view from the masses – replaced by flowers and well-groomed lawns – and how they have come full circle again. This is a Smithsonian Institute touring exhibit. Visit www.plimoth.org for more details.

Tues, September 12, 2006, 7- 8:30 pm, Beth Shalom Garden Club presents Penny Decker, with *Don't you just love a Bargain*, a floral design program at Temple Beth Shalom, 670 Highland Avenue, Needham. Five advance tickets available for \$10 a piece. At the door, \$12. Please see Nancy Sitta for tickets.

Wed, September 13, 7 - 8:30 pm. Norfolk Garden Club presents David Epstein, meteorologist for WCVB who does the *Extreme Garden* makeover segment on the weekends. He will present a program of garden hints & helps – a potpourri of information from cool Fall plantings to bulbs that create Spring wow! Meeting takes place at the Norfolk Public Library's Community Room, Main Street, Norfolk. Guest fee is \$5.00. Reminder – on Wed, March 14, 2007, MGC will cosponsor with Norfolk Garden Club: Paul Rogers on *Invasives* at the Norfolk Community Room.

The Summer 2006 issue of People, Places, Plants (PPP) magazine has an article on *Organic Lawns: Seeing is Believing* which offers weekly video instructions. For more details, visit www.SafeLawns.org. Other topics in this issue include "Invasives 101", "Unusual Maples", and more. PPP promotes organic gardening in the North East and is published by Paul Tukey. Visit their site at www.ppplants.com, and consider subscribing to this educational and worthy publication.

What's Happening This Month in Our Garden



Mike Ambrose's Magnolia grandiflora,
'Bracken's Brown Beauty'

What's Happening in Your Garden is a new feature introduced this month. We ask members to participate by sending in images and descriptions of what is currently growing in their garden. Wild life photos are also of interest.

This month, Member Mike Ambrose is sharing what is going on at his Village Street garden, which is lovingly designed and planted with very interesting plantings that are usually found more south and west than in our zone 4.

This flower image is the Magnolia grandiflora bloom, 'Bracken's Brown Beauty' and there are several planted along the roadside in front of his house. The leaves are as magnificent as the flower, and if you are lucky enough to be there when the flower is in bloom, you are in for a "lemony perfumed" treat. Mike Ambrose is a landscape designer and the Chair of MGC's Annual Bulb and Plant Sale. Mike always welcomes MGC Members in his driveway!

For additional images from Mike Ambrose's garden, please visit www.millisgardenclub.org and click on the August issue of the Mulch Pile.

Please send your captioned images to nancysitta@comcast.net for consideration in future editions.

MORE.....

**Additional Photographs from the Garden of Mike Ambrose, Millis, MA,
taken from May to August 2006**



Agastache x 'Firebird', July 2006



Crape myrtle 'Hopi' – 1st season in the ground, has yet to go through a winter but this is the hardiest crape myrtle there is. Mike Ambrose. August 2006.



Apricot Beauty daylily *in dew*, bulbs are on sale now thru August 14 thru MGCs 2nd Annual Bulb and Plant Sale. July 2006. This was bulb purchased and planted from MGCs 1st Annual Bulb Sale, 2005.



Cacti flourish year round in the front garden bed of Mike Ambrose's home. Photo taken May 2006.

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