



The MULCH PILE

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF COMMUNITY

MGC CLUB NEWS

September/October 2006

"Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas." - Elizabeth Murray

MGC'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING, WORKSHOPS & FUNDRAISING EVENTS

These are all time sensitive MGC opportunities and dates. We ask that you review, respond where needed, and your mark calendar accordingly!.

Tues, October 10, 7 pm

Annual Greens Sale Committee Meeting

Members, consider contributing to the success of the upcoming Annual Greens Sale by lending a hand on the Greens Sale Committee. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct 10 at 7pm at the home of Debbie Lane Lesbirel. We'll start the preliminary discussion and planning for MGC's Annual Green Sale, scheduled for Sat, December 2, 2006 from 10 am – 2 pm. This is a four hour event only, so with the proper planning, this project has the potential to be our most successful fundraising event each year. Call Debbie, Greens Committee Chair, at 508 376 4265 to RSVP, or to find out more. Meeting location is at 199 Farm Street, Millis.

DEBBIE SAYS - COLLECT PINE CONES NOW – WE'LL MAKE PRODUCTS TO SELL FOR THE GREENS SALE!

While your out walking or biking or just in your yard, consider collecting a bag of pine cones so that we can use at our Greens Workshops. The condition of the pinecone is important. Must be dried (found on the ground); in whole condition, must be bug free. Skip the White Pine Cones and gather more interesting specimens, please! Where to unload, you ask? Transport in paper bags and drop them off at Debbie's front door (there is an overhang) morning, noon or night! Pinecones are needed from October 1 – November 28. Also, if you would like to relieve yourself of baskets, please consider dropping them off at Debbie's – which will be used to create centerpieces for the Greens Sale. The baskets must be of sturdy, natural material and in perfect condition – must be able to take the weight of a greened centerpiece. Thank you to Dottie Santos who donated 20 baskets for our Greens Sale!

Wed, October 18, 7-8:30 pm, Room 130, First Floor

Composting 101 with Ann McGovern, MASS DEP

Join us for this 1.5 hour educational program – and learn why *black gold* is the most valuable resource for your gardening success. Bring a friend to this power packed educational program. They will appreciate the invitation! Non-Member Donation Fee: \$5.00.

Consider bringing a sweet or a savory to the meeting – please confirm the details with Mary Vecchio at 508 969 9949.

Sunday, October 22, 2:00 – 5:30 pm. PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS A DATE CHANGE.

Holiday Pine Cone Topiary Demo and Workshop with Nancy Gustafson, Floral Designer

Members and Guests will learn how to create a pinecone topiary – perfect to take home with you for the holiday season. Join Nancy Gustafson, Floral Designer and MGC Member, as she talks about topiaries in the history of floral design. She'll demonstrate many creative ways to embellish a pinecone topiary. MGC will provide a decorative base and all the other materials. Registrants may bring specific embellishments to match the décor of their house. Seating is limited to 25. Advance registration and payment only. Members: \$20. Non-Members \$25. To register, please call Nancy Sitta at 508 –276 2676. More details with registration.

Thur, October 26, 6 – 9 pm

Decorative Gift Box Workshop with Jeanne Maier

Do you remember the decorations in the bathroom at Festival of Trees last December? Do you specifically recall Jeanne Maier's dried floral materials embellishing the decorative boxes in the Oak Grove Farm House? Well, all who saw them flipped over them and wanted to buy them all -- so let's learn how to make them and sell them at the Annual Greens Sale this December!!! Join Jeanne Maier, creator of those elegant boxes, as she instructs us how to use dried materials from her garden to embellish gift boxes to use, or for display. Attendees will learn Jeanne's techniques and make a collection that night to sell on December 2- MGC's Annual Greens Sale. LIMITED SEATING - ONLY 8 SEATS ARE AVAILABLE for this hands-on workshop. Please call Jeanne Maier directly to register or to learn more about the workshop. Her number is 508 376-2652. (Registrant must enjoy detail-oriented craftwork, and enjoy working with dried materials. Learning *how to* in this workshop allows you to contribute to the Greens Sale and lets you bring the technique home to share with others).

Month of November -

Greens Workshops scheduled during the day and evening, for MGC Members and Guests. Sign up to make/create products to sell for the Annual Greens Sale. Schedule to be announced. There is no cost!!

Sat, December 2, 10 am – 2 pm.

MGC's Annual Green Sale at Veterans Memorial Building.

Members are asked to volunteer time during this four-hour fundraising event. More details to follow.

Wed, December 13, 7- 10 pm. PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS A DATE CHANGE.

MGC's Annual Holiday Gathering at the home of Jane and Jeff Hardin

Members and a Guest are invited to celebrate the Holiday Season with great food and great cheer! It is not too early to search for a fabulous holiday savory or sweet recipe to enjoy with holiday punch and wine! More details to follow, but SAVE THAT DATE!!!!

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

MGC'S CIVIC PROJECTS

To MGC Members – Our Watering Angels are Saviors!

MGC Civic Co-chairs Beverly Temple and Diane Hubbard were able to individually acknowledge our Watering Angels at the September 20th Business Meeting. Even though Mother Nature was kind to us this summer, we could not have survived without our Watering Angels watching over our container gardens and tree. Thank you to each and everyone of you for transporting and carrying water; for watering and weeding. Our efforts were very much noticed this summer!!!!

2006 Catch Our Drift Bulb Planting Program. Chair Heidi Dostoomian reports that Phase 1 of planting daylilies went flawless, and that she is looking forward to planting Phase 2 – daffodils. On Saturday, September 16, fifteen MGC Members participated in the first planting and it went quickly. We even had time to clear up unwanted brush along the buildings' edge and limb up on the maple tree – thanks to Tom Krimmel. Many kudos go out to Mike Ambrose, MGC Member and Garden Designer, who designed the traffic island at Route 115 at Norfolk and Village. The daffodils will be arriving shortly and Heidi will be calling on a few members to help plant.

Proceeds from the 2006 Annual Bulb and Plant Sale allowed us to purchase bulbs and plants needed for this civic beautification project. Private donations also came in to help support this annual event where each year, a different town owned site will be selected. Anyone can support this project year round. Just send a check made payable to Millis Garden Club, P.O. Box 535, Millis, MA 02054 Attn: Catch Our Drift. Thank you-- and we can't wait till spring to see the brilliant color from the Daffs to include the varieties *Sorbet, Ice Follies, Hillstars!*

MGC Scholarship Fund Update

When MGC Member Debbie Lane Lesbirel mentioned this past April that *it would be really nice for our community if we offered a scholarship* – well, in May 2006, Members voted unanimously to initiate this annual project to award one student wishing to study flora or horticulture a \$500 scholarship in the Spring of '07. Susan Vecchi, Scholarship Fund Chair and Committee Members Shefali Desai and Barbara LeBlanc will be meeting in September to define the scholarship funds' parameters.

The first scholarship fundraising event took place on Saturday, September 9th at the Firemen's Muster where \$126 was raised, thanks to the donations of Judy Murphy, Sharon and Rob Bennette and MGC. Our second fundraising event occurred at the September 20th meeting – and our Scholarship Fund to date has reached \$200.00. MGC is hoping to

MGC Scholarship Fund Update, continued..

complete the fundraising by the end of December 2006, so several more raffles will take place at our upcoming events to include the *Composting 101* Educational Program on Oct 18; the Pine Cone Topiary Workshop on Oct 22; and the Member's Holiday Gathering on December 13. Each year, MGC will accept contributions to the MGC Annual Scholarship Fund. Please send your check payable to Millis Garden Club to P.O. Box 535, Millis, MA 02054, Attn: Scholarship Fund.

If anyone would like to donate a garden related raffle item to the Member's Holiday Gathering on December 13, please contact Debbie Lane Lesbirel with the details.

The Millis Potpourri Garden Club of Millis, Recipients of the 2006 MGC Civic Award

On Wed, September 20, to kick off MGC's 3rd year, the Millis Potpourri Garden Club was recognized for their outstanding contributions towards civic beautification projects in the town of Millis. MPGC Members Betty Barrett and Vivien Westwater represented their club and were presented with yellow rose corsages, a one year subscription to Garden Gate Magazine, the 2006 Civic Award, and a check for \$100. Kathleen and Wayne Pueschel, Leader and a Spouse of MPGC contributed greatly to the event, sharing the history of the club, its projects and photographs of the Members. Briefly, MPGC was founded in 1945 and today consists of 7 active members from the town. They maintain a Perennial Garden at Veterans Memorial Building, plus two garden containers at the steps leading to VMB. Prior to the Award Ceremony, we showed a wonderful power point presentation to our audience, created by MGC Member Charlene Heard, which captured MPGC's blooming garden from June –September 2006.

For those unable to attend, we invite you to visit www.millisgardenclub.org to experience the ceremony. We have posted the award speech and a photo of the MPGC's Members receiving the 2006 Civic Award from Pat Thompson, MGC Awards Chair. Please help us congratulate Kathleen Pueschel, Leader, and the Members of the Club for their years of dedication to civic beautification in the Town of Millis.

The 2006 Civic Award Ceremony can be seen in its entirety on the Millis Cable Station during the taped program, *Ask The Experts* which will start to air on Friday, September 29th at 8:30 pm. The Award Ceremony begins the one-hour educational program taped on September 20, 2006.

MGC MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New MGC Members! A warm welcome is extended to Loretta Fitzgerald and Mary Vecchio, both of Millis. Loretta was very active with her New Orleans garden club as program leader for the Jr. Gardening Club. And Mary's garden is on the 2007 June Garden Stroll. **Welcome both of you!**

Got history? If you happen to be saving any bits and pieces of MGC history – such as newspaper clippings, photos, etc, please bring to the meetings so that Marilyn Sullivan, MGC's Historian, can file them for safe keeping. And speaking of press clippings – if you happen to see any mention of MGC **anywhere** – please cut the entire page out for Marilyn. The page must have: the name of the Newspaper/Magazine, the date, and the entire article with MGC mentioned. Bring these clippings to each meeting. Multiple copies are needed so that we can apply for Federation Awards!!

Welcome to Millis Membership Outreach Program. Cathy Dugan reported that over thirty *Welcome to Millis* packets were sent out in July and August, with great results. One of the recipients, Loretta Fitzgerald, attended the September meeting with her Free Program Coupon – and joined that night! And several recipients purchased bulbs from the Annual Bulb and Plant Sale this past Summer. We believe we are reaching newcomers and warmly sharing who we are, what we do and what we have to offer – so the **Welcome to Millis Membership Outreach Program** will continue.

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. This is a great way of welcoming someone to the neighborhood!

MGC LIBRARY NEWS

The Millis Garden Club's Library Collection Now At The Millis Public Library

It is official – and how exciting is this! On Monday, September 25, 2006, our Members and Community can visit *The MGC Library Collection at the Millis Public Library*. The MGC Library Collection consists of gardening books, horticultural magazines and soon, DVD's taped from our educational programs. Anyone with a library card may borrow these publications, to be returned to MPL. This is a great way to further extend educational outreach opportunities to our community and beyond. The collection is housed in a separate bookshelf, located adjacent to the model ship and managed by the MGC Secretary who is currently Chris Gavin. We have Barbara LeBlanc to thank for getting the project rolling and for finding the most perfect bookshelf, and Candi Orsi for designing the MGC Book Plates, which will be placed in each publication.

The Millis Garden Club's Library Collection Now At The Millis Public Library, continued...

We wish to acknowledge Linda Stetson, Library Director (and new MGC Member) and the Library Staff for all of their support. Please visit www.millisgardenclub.org to view our current Library Collection offerings, and our Wish List of Titles we would like to see available in the Library Collection.

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 someone. Specific titles or topics may be suggested. The donor's name and the honoree's name will be written on the bookplate. 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 and Educational Opportunities

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. Please call Nancy Sitta at (508) 376-2676 to register prior to October 12.

Mass Hort Society is offering MGC Members a special membership rate for being part of the Federation. Only applies to new or lapsed memberships. \$5 off individual and family membership plans. If you sign up for a 2-year membership, there is a \$11 savings. Includes tickets to the New England Spring Flower Show and a 1-year subscription to Horticulture. Offer expires October 1, 2006. Act now by calling Nancy Sitta at (508) 376- 2676 for more details.

The Federation sponsors Horticulture Morning – a series of educational program open to all MGC Members. On October 30 from 9:30 am – 12 noon, Join Carol Stocker, former Boston Globe garden writer who will talk about her new book The Boston Globe Illustrated New England Gardening Almanac. Also speaking is Matt Foti on Trees and People Around the World: A Historic Perspective. Cost is \$2.00. No pre-registration necessary.

Ever thought about taking some classes in Landscape Design? The Federation, through the National Garden Clubs, offers a series of four courses on an annual basis and all MGC members are eligible to register, based upon space. The course textbook is Stewards of the Land. An exam is given after each of the four courses. The next session (Course I Session 13) starts on Oct 19, 20, 21, 2006. These courses can be taken in any order. The Program is held at Regis College in Weston. Consider this great opportunity and call Nancy Sitta at (508) 376- 2676 for more details.

Want to learn the basics of floral design at a very reasonable cost? The Federation sponsors “**Design Workshops**” – a hands-on way to learn floral design and the programs are entertaining and educational. Consider signing up for the program which includes four sessions on Fridays from 10 am – noon. Dates for 2006-2007: Oct 6, Nov 17, April 13, May 4. Program is held at the Espousal Center in Waltham. Fee is \$120 for all four programs and includes all materials: flowers, oasis, containers, and instruction. Registration deadline is Oct 5 so register ASAP by calling Nancy Sitta at (508) 376- 2676 for more details.

Want to learn more about the principles of good floral designing? The Federation sponsors “**Designing Principles**” - 3 workshops where top-notch floral designers are brought in and will teach you the elements of the design they have selected. Interactive. Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon at the Espousal Center, Waltham. Dates for 2006-2007: Oct 31, Jan 23 and April 17. Fee is \$20 for all 3 sessions. Limited seating so register ASAP by calling Nancy Sitta at (508) 376-2676 for more details.

MILLIS COMMUNITY NEWS

Millis Theatre Group's *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Fri & Sat. Oct 27 & 28, and Nov. 3 & 4, 7:30 pm, Millis High School

Millis Theatre Group's annual Fall production is coming up and this year they have selected *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Consider supporting our local theatre group by attending one of their performances, which takes place at the Millis High School, Plain Street (Route 115), Millis. Tickets are available at the door the night of the performance and individually cost \$12.00 for Adults, \$10 for seniors and students.

Break a leg Kathleen and Wayne Pueschel and Cast, as we are happy to support this great community group!

What's Happening This Month in Our Garden



Spectacular color from Kathleen and Wayne Pueschel's daylilies.

Wayne and Kathleen Pueschel share their images from the month of August 2006.

Kathleen is a MGC Member, as well as the Leader of the Millis Potpourri Garden Club. She and her husband Wayne keep very busy with KCP Caricatures, a freelance caricature service which can be engaged for private parties, corporate events, store openings, special events and more.

The Millis Potpourri Garden Club members received the 2006 MGC Civic Award at the September 20, 2006 Educational Program, *Ask the Experts*.

Member Mike Ambrose sent in a beautiful collection of photographs that captured the fall season in his garden. They were taken after the *Catch Our Drift* civic planting on September 16 and in the month of August. See below for his spectacular images of his garden and the wildlife that abounds.

What's Happening in Your Garden is a new feature to [The Mulch Pile](#). We ask members and friends to participate by sending in images and descriptions of what is currently growing in their garden. Wild life photos are also of interest. Please send your captioned images to nancysitta@comcast.net for consideration in future editions.



Butterflies abound in the Pueschel's Garden
Images taken by W. Pueschel.

Photos from Member Mike Ambrose's Garden, Millis, MA.



7-Sons Flower w/ bee taken on
09/16/06 by M. Ambrose.



Salvia=Reptans Sept Flower w/ bee
taken on 09/16/06 by M. Ambrose.



Sedum-metrona w/ bee taken on
09/16/06 by M. Ambrose.

Photos from Member Mike Ambrose's Garden, Millis, MA.



Magnolia Flower – Lemon Scented,
taken in 08/06 by M. Ambrose.



Agastache-ava with bee taken on 09/16/06
by M. Ambrose.

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

www.millisgardenclub.org

P.O. Box 535

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