



The MULCH PILE

MGC CLUB NEWS

February 2006

Programming

We encourage our Members to become involved with growing the organization. Attend the educational programs that are designed around your requests. Participate in the business meetings that follow so that ideas can be shared and discussed, and decisions can be made on our future. Only with your participation can we continue to exist in our community.

Members, if you would like to bring a savory or a sweet to the Feb, March or April meetings, please contact Hospitality Chair Heidi Dostoomian at (508) 376-2870.

Members, we provide outstanding educational opportunities to the community. Please consider inviting a friend to our programs. \$5.00 Non-Member donation fee at the door unless otherwise noted.

Wed, February 15, 7-8 pm. Registration and Hospitality opens at 6:30 pm.

The Fall Perennial Garden with Tess McDonough Ward. Autumn is a long and glorious season in New England. Our gardens deserve more than short mums and fading summer perennials. Come for a glimpse of the wide array of plant choices we have to make autumn the highlight season in your perennial garden! She'll present a slide show and lecture and will provide an extensive plant list hand-out.

Last year Tess sold out the room with her *Non-Stop Bloomers* Program so be prepared to arrive early for better seating!

Wed, March 15, 7-8 pm. Registration and Hospitality opens at 6:30 pm.

Small Trees and Shrubs for the Woodland Garden with Thomas Ward, Manager of the Dana Greenhouses, Arnold Arboretum. Our Speaker will show us a number of different forms of woodland gardens and will suggest a number of small trees and shrubs that can add beauty and interest to these gardens year round. Tom will present a slide show and lecture and will provide an extensive plant list hand-out.

Wed, April 19, 7-8 pm. Registration and Hospitality opens at 6:30 pm.

The Dirt on Dirt with Kathi Gariepy, Head Master Gardener, Mass Horticulture Society. Lecture and demonstration. More information to follow.

Sat, May 6, 2006, 10 am – 12 noon, Container Garden Workshop with Alison Campbell, Alison Campbell Designs.

Ever stroll through downtown Wellesley and experience window box envy while you gaze at all the gorgeous and artistically designed window boxes in front of all the shops? Learn from the master herself as Allison Campbell teaches us her *tricks of the trade* in this hands-on workshop on how to create and maintain a gorgeous container garden for your home. This workshop is open to all and is sponsored by the Millis Garden Club.

Bring with you your favorite plant container, work gloves and a small gardening trowel and Alison will provide the rest, including the inspiration. Containers to measure 14" diameter or less, and must have proper drainage. To best select the right plants for your container garden, decide on final destination for the container prior to the workshop, keeping in mind the conditions: full sun, partial sun/partial shade, or all shade area, and water source. Workshop fee includes the following supplies: soil, fertilizer, a selection of plants, soil moist and complete instruction from Alison Campbell

Limited Seating of 25. Advance registration and payment required. For more information or to register by phone, please call Nancy Sitta (508) 376 2676. Workshop fee is \$ 65 to non-members and \$60 for Millis Garden Club Members.

Registration confirmations will be sent in advance with complete workshop details including directions to the workshop.

Civic

Sat, April 15, 8:00 am - noon. **Millis Beautification Day.** A Member and Community civic project to benefit our town. Selected town sites will be raked, and debris will be picked up. All civic and community groups, businesses and community members are encouraged to participate. Registration begins at Veterans Memorial Building at 7:30 am. For more details. call MGC Chair Debbie Lane Lesbirel at (508) 376-4265 Co-Sponsored with the Millis Lions Club.

Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. News

Thur, April 6, 2006, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm, Massachusetts Horticulture Society at Elm Bank, Wellesley MGC Members are invited to attend *A Picnic at Elm Bank*, the Garden Club Federations' Metro West and Metro East Annual Luncheon. This year's program includes morning coffee, presentations by the Wellesley Garden Clubs (there are 6 of them!), a picnic lunch (choice of 3 meals), and a one hour fresh floral demonstration entitled *Designs for Al Fresco Dining*. After lunch there is an optional one-hour private tour of Elm Bank to include the recently restored Italianate Gardens, designed and planted by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1926. Please RSVP to Nancy Sitta **by March 15**. The cost is \$25 per person payable in advance. This is a great opportunity to hear what other clubs are doing and to meet fellow garden enthusiasts from other towns. Please consider attending if your schedule permits. Our very own Sharon Bennette of Bennette Design Group will be selling the famous Garden Kneeler at this event.

Noanett "Gold" Now Available to MGC Members and the Community

Dover is home to the Noanett Garden Club which is part of the Metro West District of the Federation. They have numerous civic projects, and include maintaining a garden at Mass Hort. Their annual spring fundraiser is offering "Noanett Gold" to other garden clubs and the public. What is "Noanett Gold" you ask? Well, we hear that it is an outstanding organic manure product and a healthy way to improve the garden's soil. The product comes from a Western MA organic dairy farm so we'd be supporting both the farm and another garden club if we purchase bags. The stuff is wet and ready to put on the soil. Several garden clubs say it is the best product to use for civic sites and your own garden. Cost is \$6.00 for a 50 lb. bag, a true bargain. If you wish to order bags for yourself, please contact Nancy Sitta at (508) 376-2676. The order forms will be available at the Feb and March Meetings. Pre-paid orders must be in by April 14. Pick up date for bags is between Monday, April 24 through Saturday, April 29th.

pretty pieces for the Gardener!

pretty pieces was a great supporter of Festival of Trees this past year. And this spring, owner Jane Liotta has selected some unique gifts for the garden or gardener, such as plant containers; hand painted garden tools; "wet garden", "dirt", and "rain" cologne and lotion; felt tulips; floral aprons; oil lamps and more. Help support our local businesses and MGC supporters. Consider visiting **pretty pieces** new home decor and garden items, located at 1132 Main Street, Millis, next to the Harkey's Fine Wines and Spirits. Store Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 5.