



The MULCH PILE

MGC CLUB NEWS

MAY 2006

Spring has sprung..the grass has ris...I wonder where the sunshine is???

- Child's proverb

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Civic News

The Millis Garden Club will plant the **Let Freedom Ring Tree on Thursday, May 4 at 1pm at Veterans Memorial Building**, 900 Main Street, Millis, in honor of those who have served our country. . Join us if you can for this historical moment. A second tree ceremony will be planned on a Saturday in June so that more members of our community are able to attend.

The **Yellowwood tree** will be sited on the grounds of VMB in the grass along Route 109, near to the Holbrook Bell and the Memorial. MGC Industry members were instrumental in selecting the tree for its fragrance, flowers, leaf color and presence. In the near future, a garden bed will be designed by Member Chris Gavin, uniting the bell and the tree.

This is the first tree the club has donated and planted in our town, thanks to the generous support of the Principal Financial Group Foundation, Inc, National Garden Clubs, Inc, and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. The Millis Garden Club is one of twenty-three garden clubs in the Metro West District of the Federation to participate in the *Let Freedom Ring* tree planting program. A total of nine trees will have been planted in the towns of Wellesley, Norwood, Westwood, Sherborn, Dover, Medfield, Natick, Needham and Millis. Come visit the tree!

Millis to receive a donation of metal benches and planters, courtesy of Equity Office and Construction Manager and Millis Resident Mike O'Shaughnessy. A total of 7 benches and 16 planters will be transported by Millis DPW and distributed to various areas in the town. We greatly appreciate the generous donation by Equity Office, and hats off to Mike for thinking of his town. This is a huge contribution to our community!

Membership

Welcome new Member Sue Kuphal! Sue and her family supported Millis Beautification Day by rallying her Farm Street neighbors into helping Site Leader Geri Sprague in cleaning up the Farm / Hammond Street site. We look forward to growing the club with you, Sue!

Just a reminder, Membership dues for the 2006-2007 year will be collected in June. Please bring your check with you to the June Garden Stroll on Wed, June 21. Our MGC Yearbook, which contains members' information, will be printed in July so it is very important that you renew your membership in June. Please make check payable to Millis Garden Club for \$30.00. It is going to be a great year – our third!

Educational Programming

Container Gardening Workshop, Sat, May 6, 10 am – 12 noon

LAST CHANCE! Some spaces are still available for the **Container Gardening Workshop with Alison Campbell of Alison Campbell Designs, Natick, on Saturday, May 6 from 10 am -12 noon**. Workshop will be held at Oak Grove Farm at the future site of MGC's Children's Garden. This is a very unique opportunity for anyone who wants to learn more about container gardening, at a much-reduced cost than other programs offered by other organizations. Cost to Non-Members is \$65.00 and Members' Cost is \$60.00. You bring nothing except a 14" container, and go home carrying a gorgeous garden in your arms. Please help us spread the word about this fantastic opportunity. A final counted is needed on Thursday.

MGC's May Annual Meeting, Wed, May 17th, 7-8:30 pm

Calling all Members to MGC's May Annual Meeting, **Wed, May 17th at VMB, Room 18, 7-8:30 pm**. We all have so many ideas and projects that we wish to explore, and your attendance at this meeting will support our growth. Please make every effort to attend. Let's share, discuss, and explore past, present and future projects together.

The May Annual Meeting is also when elections take place for MGC Officers. If you haven't received a copy of the Slate of Officers, please email nancysitta@comcast.net. The Annual Elections of Officers, another very important reason to attend this May Annual Meeting.

The Hospitality Table will need sweet and savory selections, so please connect with Heidi Dostoomian if you wish to bring a plate. (There is no educational programming at this meeting. It is strictly a business meeting that will start promptly at 7pm. Hospitality begins at 6:45 pm).

Annual Garden Stroll, Wed, June 21, 6 – 9 pm

Come Celebrate Summer Solstice and the conclusion of a very successful year. **On Wed, June 21, 2006, from 6-9pm**, MGC Members and their Guest, plus several Very Special Guests will tour three very unique gardens tended by Members. Appetizers, Wine and Refreshments, and Desserts will be offered along the way.

This is THE perfect event to invite those who might be considering joining our club, so Members, let us know who your guest will be. Invites with directions will be mailed to Members by May 14. Also, please connect with Paula Fraser at (508) 376-8734, afraser3@yahoo.com, or Barbara Koman (508)376-8959, to discuss what is best for you to bring, a **Garden Party** type appetizer, or a dessert, or a bottle or two of white or red wines. And Members who plan on rejoining MGC for its '06-'07 year, membership dues of \$30 will be collected that night.

MGC Committees

A MGC Committee Needs You!

Heidi Dostoomian is joining the Civic Committee and is therefore stepping down from the **Hospitality Chair**. We are asking **1 - 2 -3 Members** to share Hospitality duties for our monthly meetings. This is a **fred-free** responsibility and an easy way to contribute to the club. We all enjoy having a cup of coffee, a cold refreshment, a savory or a sweet at the meetings, all of which we share in contributing. This is what is involved: Arrive at VMB at apx 5:30 pm to set up the Coffee, cream and sugar. Maybe make a few phone calls to rustle up treats for the table. THAT IS IT! SIMPLE!

We are also seeking Chairs for the following committees: Nominations, Club Year Book, MGC's Newsletter, The Mulch Pile. Please see Nancy Sitta before the May meeting for more details.

FEDERATION NEWS

On JUNE 7, 2006, 9 AM - 3 PM. The GCFM Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held June 7 at the Wakefield Sheraton Colonial. The program will feature Metro West, Metro East and East Middlesex district clubs. Barbara Charlton of the Wellesley Council of Clubs will do a slide show on the Wellesley flower festivals, awards will be handed out and an internationally known flower designer Gilda DeGarcia will provide a look at innovative (and very, very large) floral arrangements. Millis Garden Club Members are encourage to attend - this is a great networking opportunity. Luncheon tickets will be on sale shortly. Please see Nancy Sitta if you have an interest in attending.

On Sat, June 10 and Sun, June 11, 10 am - 4 pm, Mass. Garden on Tour 2006 will be held at Mass Hort Society's home at Elm Bank, Wellesley. During the weekend event, the public will be able to tour 10 private gardens in Wellesley, Sherborn, Dover, S. Natick and Medfield, and view a Standard Flower show in the Mansion at Elm Bank. Consider volunteering 2 hours either day and enjoy a discounted ticket for both the flower show and the garden tour. Regular ticket price is \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. See Nancy Sitta for more information.

Workshop Opportunity For Members

On **Thursday, June 1 from 9- 12 noon**, Chris Gavin and Heidi Dostoomian will host a **Hypertufa Workshop** for 10 MGC Members. If you are interested or wish to know more about what "hypertufa" is, please call Chris or Heidi immediately as seating is limited . Cost: TBD. Location: Heidi's yard. Rain date: Friday, June 2.

Advance Billing! In August, Chris Gavin and Cynthia Prescott will lead a *Container Pot People* Workshop. We'll have fun making whimsical human and animal *pot people* to sell at Firemen's Muster, Saturday, September 9, 2006!

AROUND THE TOWN

On Saturday, May 6, 2006 at 7:30 pm, The Charles River Choral will present their Annual Spring Concert featuring **Music of Broadway** including selections from "Les Mis", "Hello Dolly", "Wonderful Town" plus others. The Concert takes

place at the Millis High School. Tickets are available at the door. Our very own member Helen Daly thoroughly enjoys singing with the Choral. She welcomes everyone to celebrate the Chorale's 21st Annual Spring Concert with her.

Tangerini's Farm, Spring Street, Millis will be hosting a series of Friday night **hort programs**. This **Friday May 5, from 6-8pm**, Andrew Magee, a certified landscape architect and a graduate of Harvard's Graduate School of Design will be at Tangerini's Spring Street Farm to give a lecture on "**The Perennial Garden**". "The Perennial Garden" lecture will cover: What do I want to achieve? Matching site conditions to plants. Exploring Partnerships. Realizing the Ideas. Details, combinations, patterns, structures and lighting. Problem Solving. Color Throughout the Year. Question and answer period to follow

Next Friday, May 12, will be a program on Container Gardening. Please come bring a friend. Refreshments will be served. This is the beginning of a six week lecture series which is FREE to the public. . R.S.V.P.'s would be greatly appreciated.

On Wednesday, May 10, 6-9 pm, join the **Norfolk Garden Club for their annual "Arts Books and Blossom"** event. Join Members and their community for a display of original artworks paired with fresh floral designs created by members of their club. Refreshments and Raffles. Free. Open to the public.

On Saturday, May 13, 9:00 am - 12 noon, **The Holliston Garden Club** is holding their **Annual Plant Sale** on the Congregational Church Green, Washington Street, Holliston. Member's own perennials, hanging baskets for Mother's Day and annuals will be for sale. Their club members have been asked to hold off on their buying so that the more unusual perennials from member's gardens will be available to the public, so it should be worthwhile. Come early for the best selection!

Oak Grove Farm Playground Fund Raiser, Fri, June 2, 6:30 pm - ?

Last year's OGF playground [Wine Tasting Night](#) was a great time and helped raise a significant amount of money. Word of the fantastic wine, great food and amazing silent auction prizes spread so fast, and far, the Playground Committee have decided to hold another Wine Tasting event this year. And this year, we are holding the event as a joint venture with the Friends of Choate Park from Medway, who are in the process of renovating their playground (proceeds 50/50 split).

This two-town event is scheduled for the evening of [Friday, June 2, 2006](#) at Primavera's Restaurant in Millis. Tickets are available now at \$65.00 per person, which includes the wine tasting and a full dinner. Primavera will once again be providing appetizers and three food stations, which will include a paella station, a carving station, and a pasta station. This year, we have live music which will include a double barbershop quartet during cocktail hour (6:30 to 7:30), and a two piece jazz ensemble from 9:30 on. The wine tasting portion of the evening will run from approximately 7:30 to 9:30. The Silent auction items included private wine tasting parties, hot air balloon rides, Red Sox tickets, Patriots tickets, Hotel stay in Boston, golf outings, local artwork, Gold's gym memberships, plus many others. Please call Carol Baker to purchase your tickets at (508) 376- 9178

On Thursday, May 18, 7-9 p.m. *Creative Landscape Design Solutions to Capture and Use Rainwater.* Would you like to solve runoff problems and reduce watering – by creating lovely gardens that attract wildlife? Learn how to integrate rain gardens, rain barrels, roof gardens, and other features into a residential landscape. Program offered by Dori Smith, Gardens for LifeSM with Kale Kalloch, landscape designer, wetlands delineation consultant, and Conservation Agent. Sponsored by the Nashua River Watershed Association, 592 Main Street, Groton, MA. For more information, contact Mark Archambault at 978-448-0299 or marka@nashuariverwatershed.org

Buy your Veggies at the Local Post Office!

Have you seen the new 39 cent "Crops of the Americas" stamps yet? We'll, get your peppers and Indian corn and sunflowers and beans and squash at the Post Office! Pick some up on your next visit - they are colorful and they scream "GARDEN CLUB"!

Suggested Garden Tours

Secret Garden Tour

Enjoy a stroll through the extraordinary gardens of Newport's most exclusive homes. On this self-guided walking/driving tour, visitors will be privy to the seldom seen gardens of seaside estates and Colonial homes with private gardens of marvelous displays. 6/16/2006 - 6/18/2006. Point section, Bellevue Ave., Ocean Dr. Newport, RI. 401-847-0514
www.secretgardentour.com

The Newport Flower Show

The eleventh annual Newport Flower Show celebrates "the Pleasures of Summer" with elegant floral designs, magnificent horticulture displays, lectures and workshops, children's programs and an oceanfront cafe, all on the grounds of one of Newport's most beautiful Gilded-Age mansions. 6/23/2006 - 6/25/2006 Rosecliff 548 Bellevue Ave., Newport, RI. 401-

847-1000 www.newportflowershow.org

Tranquil Water Gardens Parade of Ponds

Self-guide tour of some of Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts' most spectacular water gardens. Seminars, giveaways, snacks and more. 7/15/2006 - 7/16/2006 Statewide, Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts
401-658-4547 www.tranquilwatergardens.com