



The MULCH PILE

MGC CLUB NEWS

MARCH 2006

Membership

Three new members have joined the Millis Garden Club. We extend a warm welcome to **Cynthia Prescott, Lucy Schneider and Jim Stetson**, and we look forward to growing our garden club with you!

Programming

Members, 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.

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.

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

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

Veterans Memorial Building, Room 18, 900 Main Street (Route 109), Millis
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.

Veterans Memorial Building, Room 18, 900 Main Street (Route 109), Millis
The Dirt on Dirt with Kathi Gariepy, Head Master Gardener, Mass Horticulture Society.
The Dirt on Dirt takes a look at the most important part of your garden- the soil. The talk touches on the importance of soil pH, why our gardens need lime, organic versus synthetic fertilizers, soil texture and why compost is truly 'black gold'.

Kathi Gariepy's first memories are of walking through her Great-Grandmother's garden and she hasn't wanted to be far from one since. Kathi is now Principal Master Gardener at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Co-Chair of the Master Gardener Advisory Board, proctor for the Master Gardener classes, Head Docent for Elm Bank- home of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society-in Wellesley, Landscape Design Consultant, Associate, Garden Studies Consultant and attended RISD landscape design school, has presented at the Marshfield Fair and the New England Spring Flower Show. She is also on the GCFM board as the Trees/Arbor Day Chair and President of her local garden club

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 **Container Garden Workshop continued..**

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. 2nd Annual Millis Beautification Day.

Registration Opens at 7:30 am under the tent at Veteran's Memorial Building.

Final Plans are in the works for this "feel good" community civic project, sponsored by MGC and the Millis Lions Club, all to benefit our town. Selected town sites will be raked, and debris will be picked up. We will again select two residential sites of two elderly community members who's yard needs some loving care. Many MGC Members, civic and community groups, businesses and community members have already confirmed their participation. Groups and Individuals can pre-register in advance or register on site All Volunteers must visit the MBD Head Quarters before they move on to their site. Children in third grade and older may participate when accompanied by a parent. Work gloves must be worn at all times.

How can MGC Members participate?

Spread the word! Invite neighbors, friends and family members to join in with you.

Schedule a MBD anytime during the month of April! Demonstrate your community pride by organizing a MBD project in your own neighborhood or at a location within the town that needs a little sprucing up.

To Volunteer, please contact Deb Lesbirel at (508) 376-4265.

Thanks are being sent out to Lion Steve Campbell, Lion Brooks Corl and all the Millis Lions Club Members for their support in MBD. What a great team we make!

Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. News

Save the Date!

Mon, April 24, 9:30 am – 12 noon, **Horticulture Morning** featuring "Sensational Dahlias" and "Tools and Tips" with the Walt Nicke Company. \$2.00 admission. Please contact Nancy Sitta if interested in attending. Car pool leaving at 8:30.

Wed, June 7, 2006, 9 am – 3 pm; **Garden Club Federation of MA's 78th Annual Meeting**, Luncheon and Floral Design Program at the Sheraton Colonial, Wakefield, MA. Tickets will be available to purchase shortly. Millis Garden Members are invited to attend. Please see Nancy Sitta for more details.

June 10 & 11, 2006, 10 am – 4 pm daily; **Mass Gardens on Tour 2006** at Elm Bank. Enjoy a tour of 11 private gardens located in Sherborn, Dover and Wellesley, and enjoy a Standard Flower Show located in the mansion at Elm Bank. Co-sponsored by the Garden Club Federation of MA and Mass Hort Society. Advance Tickets can be purchased at a reduced rate. Volunteers are needed throughout the weekend. Please see Nancy Sitta for more details.

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

Order forms will be sent in directly after the March 15 Meeting so please order now if you are interested. 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. **FYI: Millis Garden Club is purchasing 6 bags for their upcoming civic projects.** 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. Pick up date for bags is between Monday, April 24 through Saturday, April 29th. A group collection will be scheduled and a drop off point in Millis will be available to you.

pretty pieces for the Gardener!

pretty pieces was a great supporter of Festival of Trees this past year. And she has generously donated two gorgeous items for our March and April raffle. New 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.

New England Flower Show

A few members will attend The New England Flower Show on Thursday, March 16th. Anyone interested in carpooling with us, please contact Nancy Sitta. Still available to the first caller: one \$15 reduced price ticket for any time, any day. Call (508 376 2676). Think Spring!!!

March is Martha's Month to Shine!!

March is Martha's month to shine with her annual gardening issue, and this month's issue is exceptional. Partial topic list includes: different styles and how to make your own water features; dahlias; caring for and propagating begonias, working with herbs and much, much more. Either borrow the issue or visit the Millis Public Library. And did you know that Martha Stewart Living Radio (Sirius 112) has a "Home Grown" call in show that focuses on gardening and sharing? At any time, you can leave your question at 866-675-6675 or email your question in to homegrown@marthastewart.com. And surprise, surprise, Martha's got a blog! You can also post your questions or solutions there at blogs.marthastewart.com.

Lyman Estate Greenhouses Photo Show

Take an on-line tour of the beautiful Lyman Estate Greenhouses. A perfect pick me up for this time of year!

<http://photoshow.comcast.net/watch/XR2FE3WM>

Thank you Debbie Lane Lesbirel for setting up this fantastic slide show for us!

Norfolk's Aggie 2006 Shrub, Tree and Plant Sale.

For anyone who is interested in ordering Trees and Plants from the Aggie's Annual Plant Sale, an order form will be at the March 15 Meeting. **Deadline to order, March 24.** Pick up of order is Friday evening, April 21 from 5-8pm and Sat, April 22 from 9 am - 12 noon. Pick up location is Norfolk County Agricultural School, Walpole.

Organic Product Information

As stewards of our land, we must consider organic products for weed and grass killer; deer repellent and fungicides. Paul Tukey, Organic Gardener and Editor/Publisher of People, Places, Plants Magazine is highly recommending products from "Pharm Solutions, Inc", the next generation of Pesticides and the Best Organic Solutions for the Home and Garden. These organic products virtually challenge all that we face during the growing season. Mildews, Molds, Rusts and Blackspot; Insect Pests; Weeds and Grasses; over wintering Eggs and Larvae. Visit www.pharmsolutions.com for additional information, and visit your nursery for the products. (While attending the Rhode Island Flower Show last week, a few of us snuck in to hear Paul address the Members of the Rhode Island Nursery Association. He speaks on organic products and organic methods of gardening).