



The MULCH PILE

MGC CLUB NEWS

APRIL 2006

**I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose
I would always greet it in a garden.
- Ruth Stout**

Civic

Sat, April 15, 8:00 am - noon. Millis Beautification Day.

CALLING ALL MGC MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS!! Please join us for this Member and Community civic project, to benefit our town. In only four hours and with many hands, we can transform our town to look more charming. 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. Before you proceed to your sites, all Volunteers must meet at Veterans Memorial Building at 7:30 the morning of the event for assignment tasks. Work gloves are mandatory for all Volunteers. Rakes and Tarps will be helpful. Children 3rd grade and older may participate. To pre-register or for more information, please contact Deb Lesbirel at (508) 376-4265. Co-Sponsored with the Millis Lions Club.

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, 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. And if you would like to bring a savory or a sweet to the April 19th meeting, please contact Barbara Leblanc at 508 376 9022.

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.

"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 will complete 9 soil samples from our gardens. Please place soil in a zip lock baggie with your name and bags will be selected at random. This program is open to the public with a \$5.00 donation fee at the door.

Kathi is 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. 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.

Workshop Details: 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

Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. News

MASS GARDENS ON TOUR, June 10 – 11, Mass Hort Society and the Federation are co-sponsoring a Standard Flower show which will take place inside the Mansion, and a self-guided garden tour thru private gardens in Medfield, Wellesley, Sherborn, Dover and Natick. Advance tickets are available thru www.masshort.org at a reduced price. Tickets can be purchased during the weekend event. Millis Garden Club Members are encouraged to volunteer for this event either at Mass Hort or at one of the garden sites. Only a two hour minimum is required. Please contact Nancy Sitta at 508 376 2676 for more details.

Millis Public Library

The grassroots response to the threat of closing the Millis Public Library was a success – the Finance Committee has backed off its original recommendation to close the Library. Your passionate outpouring of support for your Library has been heard!

Should the \$1.1 million override fail, the Finance Committee’s recommendation is to reduce the Library’s budget by \$49,000.00 – an 18% cut. The Library’s hours and staff would be reduced; the book and periodicals budget would be approximately \$9,000.00 less; and our ability to provide great Library service to Millis residents would be at risk.

What can you do now? There are several options for speaking out about your Library:

1. A Town-wide Forum, hosted by “Invest in Millis,” is being held on Tuesday, April 11, at 7:30 pm at the Middle/High school auditorium. This will be broadcast on local cable.
2. The Town election is on Monday, May 1, where the override question will be voted.
3. Town Meeting is the following Monday, May 8, where final action on the Library’s budget could be made.

Your participation in these events is vital. Please feel free to call Linda Stetson at 376-8282 or email at her lstetson@minlib.net with questions about the Library, the override, or the Town meeting process.

Thank you for your support of the Millis Public Library

Programs and Events around Town

On Tuesday, April 18, 2006, at 7:00 pm, Dr. Matthew Gardner will speak on global warming issues and how human activities are altering the planet. This event takes place at the Sherborn Community Center, 3 Sanger Street, Sherborn. Dr. Gardner is executive director of Earth System Initiative, an environmental research and education center at M.I.T, Cambridge. The program is co-sponsored by the Sherborn Garden Club and the Boggestow Garden Club. Admission is free and open to the public. For further information call Peggy Sacuto (508) 651-4941 or Nancy Rosenthal (508) 651-9274.

Oak Grove Farm Playground Fund Raiser

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, they have decided to hold another Wine Tasting event this year. And this year, they 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.

This two town event is scheduled for the evening of [Friday, June 2, 2006](#) at Primavera's Restaurant in Millis, so please save the date. For those who missed the event last year, there is a cash bar, Silent auction and wine and foods to match from the various wine regions of the world. After sampling the wines, local wine vendors are set up to accept any orders you want to make to enlarge your personal wine cellar. 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. Tickets will be on sale soon, so mark your calendars now!

SUGGESTED FIELD TRIPS, GARDEN TOURS, AND SUCH

Secret Garden Tour of Newport, RI

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. Event Dates: 6/16/2006 - 6/18/2006 Advance ticket purchase will save you some money. Tickets available on site. For more information please call 401-847-0514 or visit www.secretgardentour.com

The Newport Flower Show, Newport, RI

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. Event Dates: 6/23/2006 - 6/25/2006 at Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave, Newport, RI. For more information please call 401-847-1000 or visit www.newportflowershow.org.

Tranquil Water Gardens Parade of Ponds

A Self-guide tour of some of Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts' most spectacular water gardens. Seminars, giveaways, snacks and more. Event Dates: 7/15/2006 - 7/16/2006. This is a Statewide tour to include Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. For more information please call 401-658-4547 or visit www.tranquilwatergardens.com.

Through the Back Bay Gates and Doors

A self-guided walking tour of some of the loveliest gardens and historic homes in the Back Bay. Event date: Tuesday, June 6, 2006, Rain or Shine. Visit www.gardenclubbackbay.org for info on advance sales tickets and times. Proceeds benefit the Bank Bay Garden Club.