



# The MULCH PILE

MGC CLUB NEWS

JUNE 2006

**A Garden Stroll is just the thing,  
To bond with nature and embrace spring!  
- kate coghlan**

## MGC'S FUNDRAISING UPDATES

### MGC'S ANNUAL BULB AND PLANT SALE

Beginning June 15 through mid-August, MGC will again sponsor the Annual Bulb and Plant Sale. We have selected a *grand* collection of unique daffodils and daylilies for your perusal. New varieties have been included this year.

\*\*\*\*\* **We've added more!** Our offerings now include hard- to-find plants and bulbs to include unique varieties of Hosta, Peonies, Winter Aconite and naturalizing Tulips!

We've heard back from many satisfied customers who purchased bulbs from last year's sale – and we thank you all for your *two thumbs up* testimonials! The daffodils were indeed splendid this past April and because the weather was cool, they lasted for so many weeks! *Thank you for planting them. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts!*

Please visit [www.millisgardenclub.org](http://www.millisgardenclub.org) to view the collection of Bulbs and Plants. They are available to order now and receive in September. How can you order? Just print the order form from the web and mail the completed form along with a check to MGC, P.O. Box 535, Millis, MA 02054. Forms can also be found at the Millis Public Library (Auburn Road) and Veterans Memorial Building (Clerk's Office). Don't wait – order today!

A limited quantity and variety of Daylily Bulbs will be available for sale at the MGC Fall Harvest Marketplace at the Annual Millis Firemen's Muster, which takes place this year on Saturday, September 9, 2006 from 10 am – 3pm. The event is located at Town Park, which is between Veterans Memorial Building and Clyde Brown School.

Proceeds from the Annual Bulb and Plant Sale benefit our new annual fall civic beautification project called *Catch Our Drift*. (see page 3 for further details). Consider catching our drift! Take advantage of our special quantity orders and plant drifts of daffodils in your yard along the roadside and under trees. We promise you'll be smiling each April when these blooms burst out – as they truly are the first sign of Spring!

## MGC'S PROGRAMMING

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual June Garden Stroll - MGC's Finale for the 2005-2006 Year – A Member's Only Event

The 2nd Annual June Garden Stroll is soon upon us. We hope that you have received your invite and have penned in **Wed, June 21 from 6-9pm** on your calendar. Now, to 1) arrange to bring a Guest; 2) call Heidi Dostoomian (2870) to RSVP for yourself and your guest (we need the names for name tags!), and 3) call Paula Fraser (8734) or Barbara Koman (8959) to let them know how you can best contribute to the hospitality for the evening. Think **Garden Party** appetizers and desserts. If you feel more comfortable bringing wine, punch, seltzers or water, then that is fine with us.

Our hosts have been working on their gardens **for a year now**, preparing for our visit. This is an enjoyable evening for gardeners and beginners alike. Please consider inviting a Guest who is thinking about joining our club. It is a great way to introduce the Millis Garden Club to a potential new Member!

Many Special Guests have been invited to celebrate the end of our 2<sup>nd</sup> successful year and the First Day of Summer, including Town Officials, Millis Community Leaders and Federation Officials. Please help the Executive Board make them feel welcomed while acknowledging their efforts in supporting the Millis Garden Club throughout this past year.

## MGC'S COMMITTEES

Another year means new volunteers joining different committees. What are you interested in? Which committee best fits your time needs and expertise? We are seeking Task Leaders and committee members for the following committees: Programs; Hospitality; Nominations; Annual Scholarship Program; and Bi-Annual Tree Planting Program. Please see Nancy Sitta for more details.

### CIVIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

**CALLING ALL WATERING ANGELS!** Members and Millis Community Members- help support our civic projects by volunteering to water for one week (or more than one week throughout the summer if you would like), based upon your own schedule. The Sites that need watering are at the Millis Public Library (the Vietnam/Korean Monument and the Containers); the *Let Freedom Ring* Tree at VMB; and the Container at Hardin's Island (at Exchange and Route 109 which should be planted shortly) and by July we'll have planted the bed which connects the *Let Freedom Ring* Tree with the Holbrook Bell.

Watering takes place as needed, based upon Mother Natures' watering schedule. Please contact Civic Co-Chair Beverly Temple for more details of how to and where to by calling her at (1014) or emailing her at [HMT3245@aol.com](mailto:HMT3245@aol.com). This is so easy - and a great way to connect with our community.

### MGC'S WINDOW BOX PROJECT HAS LAUNCHED BEFORE OUR VERY EYES

Have you driven by Curves on Exchange Street this week? Or the Millis Post Office? Well, check it out- because they have gorgeous window boxes up in front of their businesses! Curves began thinking of putting up window boxes this April, to support Millis Beautification Day. And the Post Office had window boxes up last year - we just knew the staff needed a tiny bit of help from the Garden Club to make them more full and colorful. As our civic contribution to the community, we went shopping with both businesses and helped them select the plantings that were right for their site. Curves planted on their own with our instructions (learned from the master container gardening guru herself, Alison Campbell) using Organic Soil, Osmocoate and Soil Moist. The post office has 6 boxes so we offered to instruct and help plant. And it was a fun time – and a great networking and connecting opportunity. Now, our hope is that a few more businesses might catch on with the idea that Millis can be more beautiful with more window boxes.



**One of the two new window boxes at Curves, 18 Exchange Street, Millis. Great job, Kelli and Patti 😊**

One way our members can help- suggest the idea when you go into one of the businesses (if the building can support window boxes). The business purchases and installs the window boxes, purchases the materials and maintains over 3 –4 season. MGC can help to design, select and plant the box(s) and help with any of their questions. If you are interested in working with a business to help them with this civic beautification project, please let us know! Many thanks to Kelli and Patti of Curves, and Donna at the Millis Post Office. *Great job, everyone!*

### BENCHES AND CONTAINERS DONATED

Through the generosity of Mike O'Shaughnessy, Millis Resident and Millis Lions Club Member, and the Equity Office Properties in Wellesley Park, the Town of Millis has been given a gift that will last a lifetime.

Several months ago, Mike called MGC to let us know that his company was changing over the buildings' outdoor matching benches and containers, and asked if the Town of Millis be interested in acquiring them. After a discussion with Jim McKay, Millis' new Assistant Director of Public Works and Town Business Manager Charlie Aspinwall, we all agreed that the 7 benches and 16 containers could be put to good use throughout our town. (We are grateful to the DPW who were kind enough to retrieve each piece – and boy are they heavy.)

One or two benches have been earmarked for the library, to replace the splintered bench that sits right outside the main door. Picture two containers filled with plantings and foliage, placed adjacent to the library door and bench(s) - now that makes for a pretty picture! Two additional containers will be going to Hardin Island (at Exchange and Main Street); two also are proposed for Veterans Memorial Building, by the stairs at the front door. If they accept the new containers, the Potpourri Garden Club would maintain those throughout the year.

The pieces are made of heavy grade aluminum and are currently painted black. Each piece does need a bit of refurbishing, and we are looking for an angel or two to help support the sandblasting and refurbishing that needs to be done to get the pieces in tip top shape. Estimated cost of refurbishing *all* the pieces is around \$1,000. MGC and Jim McKay hope to get out at least 1 bench and 6 containers this summer.

## **ARBOR COMMITTEE**

At the May 17, 2006 Annual Meeting, MGC Members proposed and voted to pursue a new civic project - a bi-annual tree planting program in our community. This civic beautification project comes directly at the heels of the *Let Freedom Ring* Tree Planting Program, a Metro West District project led by District Director Betty Sanders. On May 4, MGC planted a native yellowwood tree on the grounds of Veterans Memorial Building, very near to the Holbrook Bell (how fitting!). Over forty community members attended the ceremony to include the Veterans, Millis Lions and Garden Club Members, Town Officials and more. (Photos were printed in the *Country Gazette* and *Our Town*, and shortly can be viewed on our website [www.millisgardenclub.org](http://www.millisgardenclub.org)). We are currently looking for a committee of three to help develop and organize our new civic beautification program. No prior tree knowledge is necessary as we have the support of our Industry Members who are professionals in the field. In addition, the Millis Garden Club will accept direct contributions to our tree-planting program throughout the year. Checks can be made payable to the Millis Garden Club for any amount and sent to MGC, P.O. Box 535, Millis MA: Attention: Arbor Fund.

Get creative! We are looking for a title for our new tree-planting program! If you have any suggestions, please email them to Beverly Temple [HMT3245@aol.com](mailto:HMT3245@aol.com) or Diane Hubbard [dmhub@verizon.net](mailto:dmhub@verizon.net), MGC's Civic Co-Chairs.

## **CATCH OUR DRIFT! OUR NEW CIVIC PROJECT**

MGC has just introduced a new annual civic beautification project entitled *Catch Our Drift*, a bulb-planting program in our community. Starting this fall, MGC will plant hundreds of daffodil bulbs in *drifts* along the roadsides and in islands. As a result, every spring, Millis residents – as well as our neighbors visiting or driving through town – will be able to enjoy early splashes of golden splendor. Heidi Dostoomian will chair this program for the 2006-2007 year. Proceeds from our Annual Bulb and Plant Fundraiser will be used to purchase the bulbs for this project. Town Officials have given this project the *two thumbs up* as it parallels the successful Sherborn Daffodil Trail, which was instituted in 1982. The two garden clubs of Sherborn have planted thousands of bulbs throughout the town to honor a family who had generously donated monies to build their new library.

The Millis Garden Club will accept direct contributions to our *Catch Our Drift* bulb-planting program throughout the year. Checks can be made payable to the Millis Garden Club for any amount and sent to P.O. Box 535, Millis MA: Attention: *Catch Our Drift* Fund.

## **Membership News and Updates**

*Welcome new Members, Charlene Heard and Judy Murphy who joined at the May 17th meeting. We look forward to growing the club with you both!*

If you know of someone who is interested in joining, but hasn't done so already, why don't you invite them to be your Guest for our 2nd Annual June Garden Stroll? What a great way to show a potential new member who we are and what we are about!

Just a final reminder to our Members that dues are due in the month of June. You can either mail your \$30 check to MGC, P.O. Box 535, Millis, MA 02054, or, hand your check to Cathy Dugan, Membership Chair, at the 2nd Annual June Garden Stroll on Wed, June 21, from 6-9pm. The MGC Yearbook will be printed in July so having up to date membership information is the most efficient way to move into the new year. We thank you for your efficiency!

Going to **Tower Hill** this summer? You should! MGC purchased a one-year membership for its Members and the Town of Millis to use. The passes are kept at the Millis Public Library's front desk. Either call the Library or stop down to reserve your pass for the day you wish to visit Tower Hill's heavenly orangerie, the lovely and extensive gardens, Twig's Cafe and the Gift Shop. There is always something happening at Tower Hill so visit their website and make plans with friends and family now! You can even sign up for their email blasts - a great and easy way to be on top of their happenings!  
[www.towerhillbg.org](http://www.towerhillbg.org)

It's official! Barbara LeBlanc is MGC's new Treasurer. Chris Gavin is MGC's new Secretary. Debbie Lane Lesbirel is MGC's new Vice President. And Nancy Sitta is still MGC's President. Our successes in only two years is tremendous, but only with the support of our membership can we grow the club even stronger in the 2006-2007 year. Please share with us your suggestions, ideas, and thoughts for this year and beyond.

**Members, if you have changed your email address in the last year, please update Cathy Dugan via email immediately so we can update our records as we go into our new year. Cathy can be reached at [CDuganMGC@hotmail.com](mailto:CDuganMGC@hotmail.com).**

## **MGC LIBRARY**

The MGC Library is almost official - and it is a great way to further extend educational outreach opportunities to our community and beyond. Barbara LeBlanc is spearheading this new program with the assistance of MGC Secretary Chris Gavin, and Millis Public Library Director, Linda Stetson. MGC has acquired, through private gifts, several collectable horticulture books and annual magazine subscriptions, and we anticipate the collection will grow through the generous support of our membership and community. This collection will be housed in a separate bookshelf, located adjacent to the ship model at the base of the stairs which leads to the 2nd floor. Our collection will be available for Millis Garden Club Members and library patrons to enjoy. Members will be invited to the official ribbon cutting ceremony of MGC's Library at the Millis Public Library. Stay tuned for more details.

The Millis Garden Club will also accept direct contributions to our library program throughout the year. Consider making a donation in honor of, or in memorial of a loved one. Specific titles or topics may be suggested. The donor's name and or the honoree's name will be printed on our bookplate, which has been professionally designed by MGC Member Candi Orsi. 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 P.O. Box 535, Millis MA: 02054 Attention: MGC Library Fund.

**The MGC Library is in need of a bookcase to store our collection at the Millis Public Library.** This bookcase will be used to display all books and periodicals donated or purchased by the club. The size needed is **24"w x 36 L or no larger than 34"w x 36" L**. Stained or unfinished. Anyone interested in donating this item, please contact [barbaraleblanc@comcast.net](mailto:barbaraleblanc@comcast.net)

## **FEDERATION NEWS**

### **MASS GARDENS ON TOUR 2006**

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 this weekend event, the public will be able to tour 10 private gardens in Wellesley, Sherborn, Dover, S. Natick and Medfield. In addition, attendees are invited to enter the Mansion at Elm Bank to view a Standard Flower. Advance ticket price is \$25.00 and \$30.00 at the door the day of. To purchase advance tickets please visit [www.masshort.org](http://www.masshort.org) or [www.qcfm.org](http://www.qcfm.org). See you there!

### **ANNUAL FEDERATION MEETING**

Beverly Temple, Debbie Lane Lesbirel and Nancy Sitta will all be attending the Annual Federation Meeting on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton in Wakefield, MA. This is a day long program which involves a morning business

meeting, a floral design program, shopping (Sharon Bennette will be there with the Garden Kneelers!) and more. The best part of these meetings is the networking – as other clubs share all that they do. The five Wellesley Garden Clubs will be featured at this meeting and they will present a slide presentation on their Annual Fall Harvest Event.

## **Gardening Tips for the Summer**

Last year a few of us traveled up to Salisbury, MA to visit Rita Wollmering, well, let us tell you - it was worth the trip! Rita's the owner and grower of over 500 varieties of certified organic herbs and flowers and veggi plants! We came home with a truckload of very unique varieties of herbs and flowers, including gorgeous heirloom tomatoes. The Herb Farmacy is open 7 days a week from 9 am - 5pm and is located at 30 Elmwood Street, Salisbury, MA 01952 (might want to bring a map book with you and plan on having lunch before you head home). Contact: (978) 834-7879 and [thymeout@earthlink.net](mailto:thymeout@earthlink.net).

Alison Campbell of Alison Campbell Designs swears by Fran's in Natick. Haven't heard of Fran's? Well, he has a little set-up adjacent to the Building 19 off Routes 27 and 9. Fran and his brothers have run this stand for years now and he has many happy repeat customers. He maintains the plants well and the turn-over is quick. Curves of Millis purchased all of their plantings for their window boxes with Fran, and look how gorgeous they are! Mention Alison Campbell and the Millis Garden Club to Fran while you are shopping!

Got weeds? Got beetles and grubs? But what kind and what to do? you ask. Know what you are dealing with in your garden by visiting [www.yardcare.com](http://www.yardcare.com). Sponsored by Toro, this free online weed and pest library can be accessed 24/7 and offers photographs and descriptions of damage, any preventative measures available and solutions to the problems.

The Centers for Disease Control has approved oil of lemon eucalyptus as a mosquito repellent, which can be found in many different product lines that use plant-based ingredients.

What fights black spots, mites, powdery mildew and rust on your roses? Introducing, *Rose Pharm*, made from USDA-certified essential oils, this organic spray is hard-working without being hard on the environment. The combination of peppermint, cottonseed and canola oils fights insects while pharmaceutical-grade potassium bicarbonate acts as a fungicide. For best results, spray a light mist on stems and leaves at dusk so that it has time to dry overnight. Use it weekly to help prevent disease and deter mites. To order on line visit [www.pharmsolutionsinc.com](http://www.pharmsolutionsinc.com) or call (805) 927-7400 or visit [www.gardengatestore.com](http://www.gardengatestore.com).

## **Suggested Summer 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](http://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](http://www.newportflowershow.org).

BTW- all attendees must park in a satellite parking lot and you are shuttled over to the mansion.

### **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. 7/15/2006 - 7/16/2006. Statewide RI and Southeastern MA. 401-658-4547 [www.tranquilwatergardens.com](http://www.tranquilwatergardens.com).



**KD growing the  
Club into a full-  
blooming success!**

*The MGC Executive Board wishes to express its gratitude to Miss Kathy Doyle, the 2005-2006 Editor of The Mulch Pile. We appreciate her patience in learning how to use text boxes and such ☺, and most importantly, her dedication to the monthly newsletter. We dedicate this issue to Miss Kathy Doyle, recipient of the President's Award in 2004-2005.*

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#### **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](http://www.millisgardenclub.org)**

**P.O. Box 535  
508 376 2676**

**Millis MA 02054**