



The MULCH PILE

MGC CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER 2005

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.

Upcoming Events

Annual Community Civic Project

Saturday, October 15th, 8 am-12 noon
Children's Garden at Oak Grove Farm

The Winter Garden with Geri Sprague

Wednesday, October 19th, 7-8 pm
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 18

The Winter Garden: A Field Trip to a Private Garden in Millis, led by Geri Sprague, Sprague Garden Designs

Saturday, November 12th, 9:00 am - 10:30 am
Members and Guest Only

Boxwood Tree & Topiary Workshop with Anita Cross

Saturday, November 19th, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Registrations starts Oct 1.

Boxwood Tree, Boxwood Topiary, Greens Centerpiece and Wreath Making Workshop

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday,
November 28 - 29 - 30, 2005
Workshops are for Members and Guests
Location of Greens Making Workshop TBA.
Day and Evening Hours

Festival of Trees & Holiday Green Sale

Friday, December 2nd through Sunday,
December 4th, 11 am - 5 pm daily

MGC/MHS Holiday Party

Friday, December 2nd, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Oak Grove Farm House during Festival of Trees. A Members and Guest event.

MGC Annual Fall Civic Project

Saturday, October 15, 2005, 8 am-12 noon
Children's Garden at Oak Grove Farm Playground

Dear Millis Garden Club Members,

October 15th is fast approaching—the date of our Fall Civic Project: Clean up of the Children's Garden at Oak Grove Farm Playground. Sign up now to help clean and prepare the area for planting a newly designed garden in Spring 2006. The more we can accomplish now, the easier our task will be in the spring.

What should we expect? Well, shock and disbelief were the unanimous sentiments of President Nancy Sitta, Project Chairman Scott McPhee, and MAGIG co-chairs Diane Hubbard and Beverly Temple when they met and viewed the "garden" site in late August. The enormity of the task became quickly apparent and Scott suggested the use of a backhoe to demolish the area, leaving the row of sumacs, and the crabapple tree. Dave McCarter, with his backhoe and dump truck, agreed to take on the challenge and is scheduled to complete the demolition before we arrive on the 15th. **THANK YOU DAVE!**

Volunteers should plan to wear heavy work gloves and preferably boots and long pants and sleeves. Tools that will be needed include: iron rakes (not leaf rakes), hoes, shovels, pickaxe with wide blade, pruning shears, loppers, pruning saw, wheelbarrows and shovels, etc. Ken Nowak of Nowak Landscaping is providing 6 yards of compost and 6 yards of leaf mulch, which will be spread that morning. The reward for the hard work—in addition to good exercise and camaraderie—will be an education by Scott McPhee on pruning the crabapple tree.

So we can determine the man and woman power we have and how to schedule and utilize it, please sign up and indicate your time availability as soon as possible. While the project is slated to begin at 8 am and run until noon, volunteers can arrive and depart as they wish..so stay for the duration or stay as long as you can although we know the heavy labor will begin about 10 am with the composting and mulching. Coffee, muffins and donuts will be provided.

Special Note: Family safety is first with all community projects. Because of the use of the above mentioned equipment, it would be best to have mature hands only at this project. Thank you for understanding.

For more information, or to sign up for duty, contact Beverly Temple at HMT3245@aol.com or 508-376-1014.

Thank you for supporting our largest civic beautification project to date- the Children's Garden at Oak Grove Farm Playground, Millis, MA.

Sincerely,
Beverly Temple
Diane Hubbard
Co-Chairs MAGIC
Millis Garden Club's Civic Beautification Committee

Important Dates for MGC

On **October 1**, MGC filed for 501(c) 3 not for profit status under the umbrella of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. The process usually costs \$150 and requires loads of paperwork, but as a member of the Federation, we took advantage of their \$25.00 filing cost and their required expense reports, etc. The state will take months to process and we shall know more in the Spring 2006.

On **October 5**, MGC will officially become a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, joining 192 other garden clubs throughout the state.

On **October 26**, MGC will be announced and welcomed as the newest Member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. This will take place at the Annual Fall Meeting held in Mansfield, MA, and we encourage MGC members to participate in this one-day event (see below for more details)

Calling all MGC Members to the Garden Club "Federation" of MA Fall Conference Oct 26, 2005, 8:30 am - 2:45 pm Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield

Let's make history! A great opportunity for our Club Members to attend, as the Millis Garden Club will be announced and welcomed as the newest Member of the Garden Club Federation of MA. Join Federation Executive Board Members, Club Presidents and Club Members from 192 garden clubs throughout Massachusetts, and Guests for a day of education, networking and more. This meeting will feature reports from the Brockton Garden Club, a member of the South Shore District and a program on "Trees: A Community Treasure" presented by the South East District. Other programs to be presented are "What's New at Heritage Plantation", and "Partnering with Sister Garden Clubs Across the Sea". There will be a special floral design demonstration with Mr. On Thai entitled "Floral Imagination, Inspiration and Innovation".

Event includes lunch (choice of Yankee Pot Roast or Broccoli Quiche with fresh fruit).

MGC Member Sharon Bennette will be a vendor at the Federations' "Boutique" shopping area, selling our Club's favorite product for planting and weeding, the Gardener Kneelers from Bennette Designs.

Cost to Members is \$40, if registration is received by GCFM prior to October 10. (Registration fee is non refundable). Carpooling arrangements from Millis will be organized. Departure time 7:45 am.

If you plan on attending, acknowledge your commitment via email to Nancy Sitta now, then mail or drop off your check (made payable to GCFM, Inc. for \$40) to her at 12 Walnut Hill Road, Millis, prior to October 10. (She will be away most of the week of October 3).

The Winter Garden with Geri Sprague Sprague Garden Designs Wednesday, October 19, 2005. 7-8 pm Veterans Memorial Bldg. Room 18 900 Main Street, Rte. 109, Millis MA

Gardeners who strive for year-round interest do not ignore the months of dormancy, instead choosing plantings to seamlessly link the four landscape seasons. We will explore plants for the winter garden discussing evergreen and persistent foliage, winter buds, colorful winter twigs and bark, winter flowering plants, grasses as well as the use of contorted plants as sculptural elements. Architectural elements such as walls, fences, hedges, topiary, sculpture, and rocks will be explored as they enrich the experience of the winter garden.

This will be an outstanding presentation for anyone interested in horticulture, so please consider inviting guests to the program. Hospitality begins at 6:30 PM. Join us for coffee and a savory or sweet bite. Come meet our membership and other horticultural friends from the surrounding communities. The educational element of the program begins at 7-8:00 PM. Millis Garden club Members' Business Meeting takes place from 8-8:45 PM.

Members no charge; non-members are asked for a \$5 donation fee, payable at the door, to assist in our programming costs. For more details, please call the Millis Garden Club at 376-2676 or visit our website at www.millisgardenclub.org.

A Winter Garden Field Trip, led by Geri Sprague, Sprague Garden Designs A Member's and Guest Only Event Saturday, November 12, 9:00 am - 10:30 am. Millis, MA

Members and a Guest are invited to meet and visit with the owners of a very private and very extraordinarily landscaped garden, right here in Millis. This landscape reinforces Geri's lecture and slide presentation from October 19th, as the entire garden is planted and designed with "winter interest" in mind. The landscape also emphasizes the points learned from Gary Koller's presentation on "Organizing Garden Spaces", as our host gardeners have designed numerous rooms throughout the property. You will be amazed when you see the "move-in" pictures - the landscape was nothing but grass and the house ordinary. Today, you wouldn't even know it was the same house nor on the same land. And, it was designed and planted by our hosts, Sharon and Rob Bennette. Enjoy coffee and homemade scones, which will be served under the Pavilion at 8:50am. This is a led garden tour so please be prompt - as you don't want to miss a thing! Directions and parking details will be sent via email by November 1. Carpooling is suggested. Please RSVP to Nancy Sitta if you are attending. **Note: Originally this Field Trip was scheduled for Saturday, October 22. Please change your schedule to reflect the new date of Saturday, November 12. Thank you. See you there!**

Upcoming and Ongoing Millis Fundraisers

Halloween Hay Ride

Friday October 21st and Saturday October 22nd

Tangerini Farm

138 Spring Street, Millis

4:30 - 8:30 PM

Come join the Halloween fun at Tangerini Farm! Along with the spooky Halloween Hayride, also available for purchase will be painted pumpkins, fried dough, cotton candy, hot dogs by Skip Dog's, and Halloween movies.

The cost for the Hayride is \$8 per person and tickets are for a specific 1 hour time period. Monies raised will benefit the Oak Grove Farm Playground Renovation Project.

The "Spookie Meter" for the Halloween Hayride will read low from 4:30-6:30 PM, then high from 6:30-8:30 PM so plan accordingly.

For more information, or to schedule a large group or party, please call 508-376-5024. Come and join in the fun!

MGC Holiday Cards Well Received and Selling Fast!

When friends, family and neighbors ask where to buy the MGC Holiday Cards, tell them to visit JB Designs, 971 Main Street, Millis, (right across from the new Mobile on the Run Station/Marhino's Pizza, in the white with blue shutter building). JB is open Tues - Fri, 10-6; Saturday, 10 - 1.

From what we've heard and seen, everyone just loves that Millis has its own holiday card, and we wish to thank Jean Maier again, who created the original artwork for Festival of Trees, depicting the inside parlor of the revered town landmark, the Oak Grove Farmhouse, as imagined during our upcoming holiday event. These cards are beautifully printed and come with matching envelopes. Buy now as the price increases on October 15. And the more you buy, the more savings. Currently a package of 10 costs \$7.50. If you buy six or more packets, the price drops to \$7.25 a package. And who just sends out 10 holiday cards? And what easier way to show your community spirit and pride than by sending cards from the town where you live. After October 15, other retailers will carry the cards, so stay tuned for more details.

MGC Hand-Painted Galvanized Pails

There are only a few left - and they are of our beautiful club flower, the Oak Leaf Hydrangea, so mention to friends and neighbors. These pails make great gifts. So many uses: wine carafe; container to hold fresh and dried flowers (the pail is just lovely with dried hydrangeas), or soil and plants; use instead of a gift bag; use on your front door or on a table inside. Endless uses. They are all currently at JB Designs, address is noted above. Please send the word to friends, neighbors and family that only a few pails are left and when they are gone, there will be no more.

Boxwood Tree and Boxwood Topiary Workshop with Anita Cross

Saturday, November 19, 2005 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Millis Location and Cost TBA.

Members will remember Anita Cross, our very enthusiastic and creative wreath workshop leader from last November, who effortlessly demonstrated how to create multiple decorations for the holidays. Anita returns this year and will teach us how to make a boxwood tree, a boxwood topiary, and will again show us how to perfect the bow.

Boxwood trees are easy to make once you have the technique. They make great holiday gifts and with daily watering, these decorations will stay green for months. MGC will supply boxwood and oasis and registrants will go home with a completed box wood tree ready for display. If you wish, bring small ornaments, lights and a topper, or add on later.

Seating is limited. Advance Registration and workshop payment begins October 1st. When the class is filled, a wait list will be started. Refunds only if we are able to fill your space. Guests are welcome. Call Nancy Sitta today at (508) 376-2676 if you wish to register for this great workshop.

Boxwood Tree, Boxwood Topiary, Greens Centerpiece and Wreath Making Workshop Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday, November 28 - 29 - 30, 2005

Workshops are for Members and Guests
Location of Greens Making Workshop TBA.
Day and Evening Hours.

We'll already have learned "how to" at Anita Cross' Workshop - now we have the chance to make what we learned! To support the upcoming MGC Greens Sale, which is potentially one of our biggest fundraising opportunities to date, Millis Garden Club Members and Guests are invited to participate in the Greens Workshop, held Monday through Wednesday, November 28 - 29 - 30. Members and Guests will make boxwood trees and topiaries, greened centerpieces, and decorate wreaths, all to be donated and sold at the MGC Greens Sale held at Festival of Trees, December 2-4, 2005 at the Oak Grove Farm House. All materials provided by MGC. Greens courtesy of the Oak Grove Commission and Oak Grove Farm. Sign-Up sheet for specific dates and times will be available at our October 19th meeting. Any questions, please call Debbie Lane Lesbirel. This is going to be fun, social and very entertaining. Consider inviting a friend. We'll all get in the spirit, and it is all to benefit the Children's Garden at Oak Grove Farm Playground!

MGC/MHS Holiday Gathering
Friday, December 2nd
7:00 – 9:00 PM
Oak Grove Farm House

Come and join us as we enjoy the beauty and festivity of the fully decorated Oak Grove Farm House during the Festival of Trees. This Holiday gathering is open to the Members and spouses of MGC and MHC, the sponsors of Festival of Trees. Also, the sponsors who generously donated trees and wreaths will be invited to join us.

We will be asking Members to bring an appetizer or dessert. Time to dust off those traditional family holiday recipes and start cooking and baking!

To RSVP and to discuss what you would like to contribute, please contact Barbara Koman at 508-376-8959 or Paula Fraser at afrazer3@yahoo.com by November 14th.

Horticultural Events

The first program in the 2005-2006 UMASS Extension Workshop Series will be :
 "Protecting Watersheds from Landscape Chemicals"
 November 3rd, 9:00 AM to Noon,
 at Regis College, Weston, MA.

Ron Kujawski of the Forestry Program will be leading this program. When used in the wrong place at the wrong time, landscaping chemicals can harm the environment. Learn to understand the use, movement, and fate of pesticides and fertilizers and how they can pollute our water resources.

To register or for more information, please contact the Landscape, Nursery, and Forestry Program at eweeks@umext.umass.edu

University of Massachusetts Extension announces the availability of its ever-popular Garden Calendar for 2006. The theme for the Garden Calendar is "Garden Images".

The calendar includes, along with their favorite garden images, each month will include information on garden pests and management, daily gardening tips for northeast growing conditions, daily sunrise and sunset times, phases of the moon, 2006 regional flower show dates, and plenty of room for notes on the easy-to-write-on low gloss paper.

Each calendar costs \$11 with a discount for bulk orders.

For more information, or to order a calendar, please contact the UMASS Outreach Bookstore at (413)-545-2717 or eweeks@umext.umass.edu

MGC Honors First Civic Recipients at September's Meeting

At our Fall 2005-2006 kick-off meeting on Wednesday, September 21 with Gary Koller, Awards Committee Member Pat Thompson eloquently recognized two Millis Community Members for their dedicated civic beautification service to our town.

Cheryl Prufer, a resident of Orchard Street, was the recipient of MGC's Civic Award for her six years of dedicated service to the traffic island on Orchard Street and Middlesex. Through speaking with Marc Prufer, Cheryl's husband, we learned that wherever the Prufer's have lived, Cheryl has created lush gardens where nothing was planted before. We are in hopes that come Spring, after construction has been completed and the town follows through on their promise for new loam, fertilizer and grass seed, the traffic island will return to a beautiful 3 season garden for all to enjoy.

Unbeknownst to MGC Member Jean Maier that night, she too was a recipient of a civic award, for her fifteen years of dedication to the gardens at Clyde Brown School, Millis Middle and High School, and the Millis Public Library. It is amazing that most Millis Community Members never realized that it was Jean who quietly planted and maintained these garden spaces all these years, without ever asking for assistance from anyone. We learned from her husband Peter, that Jean "just wants things to look nice". And thank goodness this town has community members like Jean Maier and Cheryl Prufer who dedicate years of service, just to make things look nice for us all.

Cheryl Prufer and Jean Maier are both very grateful for this recognition. Each received a framed Award, hand-calligraphied by Mary of Photo Site, Millis, and a \$50 Gift Certificate to Weston Nurseries. Thanks to the Millis Lions Club, they have been recognized at the town's marquee in front of Veterans Memorial Building, and they will be recognized soon in our local papers.



Jean Maier receiving her award from Awards Committee Member Pat Thompson

Heart-felt Thanks and Well-deserved Recognition:

There are SO many generous and talented members and community residents that step-up and offer their support. Only with the help of these individuals can we grow as a Club and succeed in our mission. We would like to take this opportunity express our appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the success of the MGC.

MGC wishes to express its appreciation for the work of two artists. Marianne Cerullo of Millis, for hand-painting all the beautiful flowers and fruit on the Galvanized Pails, which are almost all sold out (only a few Oak Leaf Hydrangeas are still left at JB Designs). And on the day of our September 21st meeting, Mary from Photo Site painted an Oak Leaf Hydrangea and MGC's name in script on the banner that hung outside of St. Thomas' Large Hall.

We are grateful to Reverend Chambers who gave us the gift of meeting space at St. Thomas Large Hall for our September kick-of meeting. This space allowed us to host over sixty attendees from as far away as Chelmsford, Somerville and Sharon. It also allowed us enough space to set up the MGC Fall Harvest Marketplace where we continued to sell hand-made products from our gardens and day lily roots. In return for this gift, we performed a few maintenance projects inside and beautification acts on the outside.

And we thank each and every Member for contributing to the success of our first meeting. The meeting space had flora every where you looked. Everyone knew where to park and was graciously greeted and attended to. We had the proper equipment for the evening. The hospitality table was voted #1 for best selection of goodies. We created awareness of our Civic Projects and Fundraising Events. We raised additional monies for civic beautification. And we were honored to have this caliber of a speaker at our meeting. Thank you all - your support is everything to this growing club.

Joyce Boiardi, Millis resident and owner of JB Designs, greatly deserves loads of recognition for supporting MGC. She allowed us to purchase products through her business, at wholesale costs, for our fundraisers; she helped us dig and gave us all the plants from her front bed, including beautiful peonies, roses and more which were sold at Firemen's Muster; she has given us a retail outlet to sell the MGC Cards and Hand-Painted Galvanized Pails; she is on the Festival of Trees Decorating Committee and will be making beautiful swags and jabots for the parlor and the dining room of Oak Grove Farm House. Joyce, THANK YOU!

Norman LeBlanc, husband of Member Beverly, kindly offered his CPA services to MGC and gave us the thumbs-up with all of our expense reports which were submitted in the 501 (c) 3 application to the Federation on October 1, 2005. He kindly offered his services at any time, and we greatly appreciate his support.

Thanks Continued.....

HUGE THANKS goes to Mike Ambrose, for organizing, purchasing and executing the MGC First Annual Day Lily and Daffodil Sale. This fundraiser alone raised \$694 which includes pre-orders, sales at Firemen's Muster, and sales at our September 21st meeting. Thanks to our Members who supported this fundraiser, and non-members took advantage of this sale as well. Orders were placed from Dover, Wellesley and Reading! Imagine if we outreach just a bit more beyond our club - how much money can be raised for future civic beautification projects!

The Membership would like to acknowledge all the hard work put forth by the Firemen's Muster Committee. We are grateful to Joanne McCarter, Cathy Dugan and Lynn Morse for all their efforts in making this fundraising event a great success. And we all had fun that day!

To all the Members who made and donated products to sell at the Firemen's Muster. We raised \$198 alone on fudge, jellies, jams, salsa, pumpkin bread, soaps, and herb sachets. A special thanks goes to Master baker Tress Downs for making and donating 3 warm apple pies. One pie was sold whole - right away and the other two pieces were sold as slices.

Scott McPhee has again agreed to lead our Annual Fall Civic Project, this year scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 8 am - 12 noon. This project is the beginning stage to revitalizing the Children's Garden at the Oak Grove Farm Playground. Thanks to Scott, Hartney Greymont will graciously loan us a chipper, tree equipment and more. Prior to us arriving that Saturday morning, Dave McCarter, husband to Member Beverly, offered to help raze the ground with his equipment, which will begin the first steps to prepare the garden for planting, slated for Spring 2006. Chris Gavin presented an educational poster on our Civic Project at our September 21, 2005 meeting, which showed the current state and rough design plans of the site. The poster will again be on view at our October 19 meeting. Thank you Chris for creating the poster, which makes our project very real.

Thanks to Jeanne Murphy Romano who has taken over all publicity for Festival of Trees, which is already under way. And to Anne Parker who continues to offer her graphic design talent - look for the upcoming Festival of Trees postcards - a beautifully designed marketing tool - which will be available at businesses, public spaces or it can be mailed out.

The Festival of Trees Fundraising Committee has been working diligently since January and we wish to thank each and every one of you for your contributions to the event. The Committee consists of Millis Historical Commission Members, Millis Garden Club Members, and Millis Community Members. We hope to increase the Committee by bringing in additional Millis Community Members. Please call Nancy Sitta at (508) 376-2676 for more details.