

Clippings from the Garden

News from the Maudslay State Park Garden Committee

After a virtually snowless winter and despite the chaotic weather we had this spring, the MSPA Garden Committee was back in the gardens on April 3rd. The first major project of the season was assisting Tammy (park staff) in pruning all the boxwood hedges down to 14 inches. This entailed a lot of measuring, trimming and cleanup, but the task has been completed and the results are wonderful. Thank you Tammy!

The Rose Garden is very fortunate to have attracted the attention of Dave Dylewski who works at Fuller Gardens in North Hampton, NH three days-a-week tending to their 1,000⁺ roses. Dave has pruned all of our roses in the Rose Garden according to their type, weeded the garden, spread compost and had a soil test done. He plans to continue helping us with a fertilizing and pruning schedule.

We are also lucky to have created a relationship with the ever-willing and energetic Women In Transition group from Salisbury. They have helped us clean up the gardens a few times this season already and will be joining us monthly to assist with our ongoing needs.



Next time you are in the gardens you will notice four new large terra cotta-like, weather-resistant pots. After much thought, planning, and assistance from Lillian Newbert's connections, we were able to purchase the pots and plant them with pyramidal boxwood at the main axis of the garden. The Newburyport Garden Club and others contributed to this long-awaited improvement. These pots are stunning and make a tremendous difference to the look and feel of the garden. You may also notice a series of compost bins that several volunteers constructed outside the garden walls. With this new area we will no longer have to leave our waste in a pile for the park staff to move. Plus, we will be making compost for future use in the garden.

New volunteers are welcome! We can always use more help in the gardens. You will enjoy the garden's serenity, beauty and the companionship of other enthusiastic gardeners. Please join us to experience the magic of Maudslay. Check our website for volunteer days.



Award Winners!

On Sunday, May 20, 2012 the MSPA Garden Committee was presented with an award for Historic Landscape Restoration by the Newburyport Preservation Trust for our work in rehabilitating and protecting Maudslay's historic character. Congratulations to all our volunteers, with special thanks to our founding members Lindsay Cavanagh, Stefanie Hufnagel, Sandee Liversidge, Lillian Newbert and Karen Wakefield for their vision and tireless efforts.

Soon we will be planting annuals and our famous dahlias – ‘Otto’s Thrill.’ Stay tuned, as there may be some extra ‘Otto’s Thrill’ for sale along with phlox and astilbe in late May or early June.

Over the winter, several of us worked on creating a slide show about Maudslay and its gardens which was presented to the Newburyport Garden Club in January. The presentation sparked much interest in the gardens and its future. One result is that we have been asked to apply for a grant from a local bank. If we are given this grant, we will use it to create a website where people can view and listen to material related to Maudslay. This will include a large collection of pictures and documents, collected by members of the garden committee, of the gardens and landscape before Maudslay became a state park. The ability to listen to recordings of individuals’ recollections of Maudslay from years past will be a unique feature of the website.

It has always been a goal of the MSPA Garden Committee to provide an educational component to our volunteer work at Maudslay. This potential grant money will help us work toward that goal. We hope other groups will request to view the slide presentation and more interest will be generated in preserving Maudslay’s future.

*Sandee Liversidge
MSPA Garden Committee Chair*