

## CLIPPINGS FROM THE GARDEN

MARCH 2009

The Garden Committee would like to thank those who have supported, volunteered their time, and contributed generously to the preservation of the Italianate and Rose Gardens at Maudslay over the past year. Without you, the gardens would slowly fade into a lovely memory.

The Garden Committee kicked off the 2008 season by working in the garden on April 14th and closed on November 22nd. We enjoyed one of our most productive years to date. During this time 379 hours of volunteer time was logged. Thanks to the constant efforts of Wanda Blanchard and Kim Jurney, all but a small section of the low boxwood hedges have been clipped down to a much neater and flattering size. With the assistance of the Community Service Work Crew from the Essex County Sheriff's Department, an entire day was spent revitalizing the courtyard area. An old stone border running the length of the courtyard was unearthed from beneath years of built-up soil and relayed creating a long, straight edge. The quality of the Crew's work was more than anticipated and we hope to invite them back to the gardens this year to assist with more projects.

Several years ago, a large donation from Mona Spaulding was received and earmarked for a wall fountain. Last year after much anticipation, we were able to purchase the fountain from Lynch and Sons of Wilton, CT and have it installed by Richard Irons, of Limerick, ME. To provide the water flow, we purchased a solar pump and battery that was installed by Heath Eastman of Kingston, NH. Then, on a beautiful October day, a Fountain Celebration was held. With the new wall fountain in place, the garden is beginning to acquire the unique style and feeling of Martha Brookes Hutcheson, the garden's original designer. If you would like to read more about Martha Brookes Hutcheson and see wonderful photographs of the gardens from the 1900s, you can purchase her book [The Spirit of the Garden](#). The book is for sale at the park headquarters for \$40.

The Garden Committee has already held its first meeting of the 2009 season. Among our goals for this year are replacement of 42 boxwood that are either dead or missing from the rows of formal hedges. Purchasing and planting hosta 'Wide Brim' and astilbe 'Bridal Veil' in the shadier sections of both the Rose and Italianate gardens is another goal. Replacing the arborvitae, which the deer had eaten years ago, with juniper, which the deer do not eat, is also on the list. Then there are 84 phlox 'David' (the white ones), that need to be dug up and divided.

To reach our 2009 goals, in addition to meeting the garden's annual maintenance and planting needs, the Garden Committee needs hands-on volunteers and donations. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at 978-462-4731 or [gardenwork2@earthlink.net](mailto:gardenwork2@earthlink.net). If you would like to make a donation, please send it to the MSPA Garden Committee, 74 Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport, MA 01950. With generous financial support and time, so much has been accomplished since the Garden Committee received its first permit in 1999. Wouldn't it be wonderful if 2009 were the best year yet for the gardens?

Again, thank you for all that you do to support Maudslay and the gardens.

Sandee Liversidge  
Garden Committee Chair  
Maudslay State Park Association