



MAUDSLAY VIEWS - SPRING 2016

74 CURZON MILL ROAD, NEWBURYPORT, MA
<http://www.maudslayassociation.org/>

Letter from the President of MSPA

Keeping our Park Open to All users

Most of us realize just how lucky we are to have such a beautiful park in our community. Maudslay State Park consists of 480 acres of forest, fields, ponds, Merrimack River frontage, wildlife, historic gardens and buildings, and miles of mixed- use trails that are open to the public until sunset, 365 days per year, with an average of 120,000 visitors per year!

In 2003, Governor Romney merged the Dept of Environmental Management (DEM) with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the new Agency became the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Since then, DCR has become the largest land holder in MA, consisting of 450,000 acres, 165 Parks (including beaches/reservations/seasonal pools, ice rinks, etc), 52 historic Parkways, 37 Bridges, and 5 Dams. In 2008, the DCR state budget for Parks and Recreation was \$102 million; in 2010 it was \$72 million, and now in 2016 it is \$57.2 million.

I know this is boring stuff!!! However, I feel that it's important to understand just how vulnerable our state parks are. Almost 10 years ago, DCR implemented parking fees, or "user fees" at many of the state parks in order to help offset their shrinking budgets. However, the parking fees that you pay at Maudslay are not guaranteed to come back to Maudslay, the fees are collected by DCR first.

The Commonwealth/DCR has a number of unused, historically significant buildings that have fallen prey to the elements and vandalism. Hence, in 1994 the Historic Curatorship Program was established to preserve these buildings. Through an extensive application process a Curator is chosen who agrees to restore, renovate, manage and maintain the historic property while providing a Public Benefit in return for a long-term lease (average 20 - 30 years). Currently, Maudslay State Park has 3 active Conservatorships. One is the Farm House



across from the Parking Lot and the Park Headquarters, the second is the Bell House on Pine Hill Rd with a 20 year lease, and the third, which is in negotiations for a 40 year lease, is the Coachman's House which consists of a historic home, Tea House, Boat House and Pump House all located on 7 acres abutting the Merrimack River. Two more Maudslay properties are slated for the Curatorship Program, the Maudslay Art Center on Curzon Mill Rd and The Gate Lodge on Spring Lane.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION
OF OFFICERS FOR MSPA
MARCH 17, 2016 AT 7 PM
AT OBER HOUSE PARK OFFICE AT
MAUDSLAY STATE PARK
74 CURZON MILL RD, NBPT**

ALL ARE WELCOME !

I bring all this to your attention because we need your support, both physically and financially. We, the Maudslay State Park Association, are a 501(c)3 non-profit, 100% volunteer group devoted to restoring and maintaining park facilities in a time of tight state budgets. In recent years, through fundraising and the generosity of so many, we have had the opportunity to apply for matching grants for restoration of the Spray Shed, the Iron Gate at the Main entrance, the brick walls at the entrance of the formal gardens, and are in

the final phases of the Restoration of the Flowering Pond. Sadly, we were not able to raise funds in time to save the old chicken coop by the Farm house or the Potting Shed in the Formal Gardens. This is why we need your help....I believe that we all want the park to remain accessible to the public, historic buildings intact, waterways clear, formal gardens maintained and a healthy variety of flora and fauna throughout. The Park maintains a full time staff of 3 employees with a few annual seasonal employees that do a great job maintaining the Park on a daily basis. However, this is not enough. We need your help.

We have a "Maudslay State Park Association" Facebook page which keeps park users up to date on what's happening and news alerts. Our website at "MaudslayAssociation.org" is more informative, listing our programs, fundraisers and membership options. Please note that we have added new membership levels, more ways to donate, participate and support Maudslay. Please consider a tax deductible donation to Maudslay State Park Association so that we may continue to advocate and support this wonderful park. Please contact us through our website at www.MaudslayAssociation.org for more information.

Thank you!!

Terry Berns

President, Maudslay State Park Association.

Maudslay Garden Committee

The MSPA Garden Committee needs you!

The Garden Committee is gearing up for the 2016 season, which will begin sometime in mid-to-late April, and we need your help. Whether you have just an hour to give, or can come regularly during the season, this is an opportunity to enjoy the formal gardens, learn more about horticulture, find out who Martha Brookes Hutcheson REALLY was, and meet others who enjoy these same activities.

The group meets regularly at the garden, and keeps track of the flowers and shrubs that bloom all season long, from the Lemon Glow daffodils in April to the white wisteria, the rhododendrons, the white peonies, the phlox, the roses and of course the spectacular pink

Otto's Thrill dahlias in mid-summer. Bring your favorite gardening tool, listen to the fountain plashing, the birds singing and the summer breeze whispering in the trees---a truly lovely way to spend a few hours. Please join us to help keep the garden looking its best, and restore your spirit!



You can contact us for more information about the schedule of weekly meetings for the upcoming season, by sending an email to Stefanie Hufnagel (sshuf@mit.edu) or calling the headquarters (978-465-7223). We look forward to seeing you there.

Stefanie Hufnagel

Maudslay Garden Committee

<http://www.maudslaygardens.org/>

Maudslay Equestrians

Year after year equestrians from all over New England

gather in November to get in that one last ride "chilly" ride before winter sets in at our beautiful park and 2015 was no exception. The ride was held on November 8th and attended by over 50 trail riders, all enjoying a



spectacular New England fall day. Maudslay's beautiful equine trails offer a variety of terrain ranging from water views to forest trails and elevated vistas. We have it all.

As usual, our wonderful volunteers, assisted by park personnel, marked the trails and prepared hot food and beverages for all of our hardy riders. Many thanks to Derry Trail Riders for breakfast. Mike's "famous" chili warmed up the souls of our dedicated riders, walkers and volunteers. Our event was also well attended by non-equestrians, who wanted to come and enjoy the

food and conversation and offer their support to our very well loved park.

Many thanks also to all of the volunteers and to all of the people who brought or made food and to all that helped spread the word. Thank you for your attendance and thank you for your very generous donations on behalf of our equine community. Thank you also to our Garden Committee who donated special holiday greens awarded to the lucky founder of the "hidden" ornament search which we had again this year.

Plans are in the works now to hold our event on Sunday November 20th 2016. It will be our traditional "chili" ride on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We are hoping to be able to offer some different routes that may only be available on that day through special permission so stay tuned and save the date!

Hope to see you all this riding season enjoying Maudslay with your special equines. I know you love our park just as much as I do and hope to ride there for many years to come.

Kim Hackett-Ort

www.maudslayequestrians.info

Theater in the Open



"Theater in the Open is looking forward to another magical season in Maudslay State Park. In June look for another free and family friendly Panto in the Open, and in July and August we will be taking on Shakespeare's *King Lear*. In the Fall we'll be partnering with the Oak Hill Cemetery and the Newburyport Cultural District to present *Poe*, our own adaption of some of Edgar Allen's most haunting poems and stories. Our Summer Arts Workshop continues to grow and provide more local youth with quality arts education in the splendor of

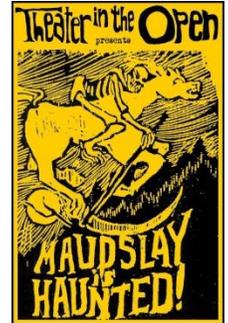
Maudslay, at a time when our public schools are struggling to provide arts education and children are spending more time inside and inactive than ever before. We are grateful to DCR, the Park staff, and the Maudslay State Park Association and its members for everything they do for our home in the Open! For more information about our programs you can visit us at

www.theaterintheopen.org"

Edward F. Speck

Artistic Director

Theater in the Open



Membership in Maudslay State Park Association

We have revamped our yearly memberships for those wanting to support the Maudslay State Park Association and in an effort to increase membership in the association.



There is a range of membership levels with something for everyone. At the \$25 level members receive a reusable tote bag in an effort to support the Newburyport ban on plastic shopping bags. The \$35 level includes a MSPA Member T-shirt. The \$50 level includes either one Adopt an Acre or a Newburyport.com card with over 180 discounts and deals to shop, eat and stay in Newburyport. The \$100 level includes a 2016 Annual MassParks Pass for frequent visitors to the park.

With our partnership with Newburyport.com they have also listed Maudslay State Park Association as one of their non-profit members. For every card purchased through the Maudslay State Park page, \$10 is donated to the MSPA.

The Flowering Pond Restoration Update

After years of fundraising and planning, the work of The Flowering Pond is moving forward to the culmination of its restoration. Many of the early phases are complete -- establishing rain gardens to catch runoff, breaching dams so water can flow freely, securing permits from Federal, State and local agencies for dredging, and applying for matching funding through the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The final steps are in sight. The Army Corp of Engineers has some testing to do in the spring so dredging is scheduled to begin in November of 2016. While dredging, workers will also be repointing the Three-Arched Bridge and replacing the drainage valve and spillway at the dam. Finally, in 2017, all dead or damaged Flame and Pink Shell Azaleas and Flowering Dogwoods will be replaced to complete the historical plantings of this restoration project.



With all work completed, The Flowering Pond will reflect its original beauty for all visitors to Maudslay State Park to see - this historical focal point back in its glory. Thank you all for your support and generosity. We are continuing to accept donations for any amount made payable to MSPA Pond Fund.

Best,

Marlys Edwards

Chair, Pond Restoration Committee

<http://maudslayprojects.info/>

The Maudslay State Park Association is a volunteer group devoted to restoring and maintaining park facilities in a time of tight state budgets.

OUR MISSION - To assist in the operation of Maudslay State Park and to serve as liaison between the nearby communities and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. To promote the wise use of the natural and historical resources of the Park, foster its use and enjoyment by the public consistent with the protection and preservation of its environment, and engage in such educational, scientific and civic activities as will assist the State in the formation and operation of the Park.

The Association is a 501(c)3 organization in the State of Massachusetts and all donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.