



April 2010

Maudslay Views

News from the Maudslay State Park Association

The Maudslay State Park Association (MSPA) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of the natural, historical and horticultural resources of Maudslay State Park.

All community members are invited to contribute to the park's care by attending the bimonthly MSPA board meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the park headquarters.

The 2010 meeting dates are 5/27, 7/22, 9/23, and 11/18.

MSPA CONTACTS

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ADOPT-AN-ACRE

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Park Suffers Extensive Damage from February Storm

The damage at Maudslay was extensive following a powerful windstorm that hit the region on February 25th. The storm, which saw wind gusts of more than 90 mph, downed two hundred trees.

Some of those trees were more than 100 feet tall and close to 100 years old. And this we know, not only by looking at the size of the trees, but also by

researching park history. Records show that in 1910 a serious fire burned through the park's oak and pine groves. Mr. Frederick Moseley ordered the purchase of 20,000 seedlings to replant the grove.

A local story has it that these young trees were brought to the park via a barge on the Merrimack River. What a sight!

Today, visitors to the park will see that many trees have fallen across, or near walking trails. The MSPA is organizing a volunteer group to assist the park staff in clearing brush off the trails. Although this will be a great help, Rob Kovacs, park supervisor, expects the work to continue into the summer, as the damage is severe and widespread.

Clippings from the Garden

Last summer many of you may have noticed that the Rose and Italianate Gardens never looked better. This was due to a very generous donation, supported by hours of enjoyable work by Garden Committee volunteers.

The donation provided the funding to replace 45 deer-ravaged yews with a tall boxwood hedge, and also replace numerous small boxwood plants that had died over the years. These two plantings – a fresh, healthy looking hedge separating the Italianate from the Rose Garden, and the low boxwood hedges within the Italianate Garden – truly reestablish the bones of Martha Brookes Hutcheson's 1903 garden design.

New hosta 'Wide Brim' and Astilbe 'Bridal Veil' were planted in the two shady beds by each entrance to the gardens, both on the upper and lower levels. The dahlia 'Otto's Thrill' was once again planted in the two beds across from the new wall fountain, blooming in tones of pink, apricot and salmon until a frost in late October.

This year's objectives for the garden include replacing the vandalized birdbath; replacing four long gone arborvitae – again eaten by deer; and purchasing four spiral boxwood and weather-resistant pots to take the place of terracotta ones that disintegrated. To accomplish these goals, the Garden Committee

needs to raise close to \$2,000.

If you enjoy watching Maudslay's gardens come to life in the spring and bloom throughout the summer and fall, please donate to the MSPA Garden Committee. Donations should be sent to the MSPA Garden Committee, 74 Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport, MA 01950.

New garden volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in working in the gardens, please contact Sandee Liversidge at 978-462-4731 or email: gardenwork2@earthlink.net.

Upcoming work days include April 17 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and April 19 and 26 from 10 a.m.-noon. Please join us the gardens!

Donations to the Adopt-An-Acre Program Exceed Expectations

In 2009, donations to the **Adopt-an-Acre Program** surpassed all expectations with a record number of participants and acres sponsored.

Funds raised by the **Adopt-An-Acre** program will be earmarked for the General Fund of the Maudslay State Park Association to maintain and enhance the park and to provide community programs.

The MSPA Board of Directors is most grateful for the generous donors noted here. It is through their contributions and from annual member dues that the park is able to provide such a memorable visitor experience for all who come to Maudslay.

The adoption fee is \$50.00 per acre. Information is available at the park or send an email to: amyking11@comcast.net.

Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors



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DCR Awards Grant to Maudslay

The MSPA continues to make great progress toward restoring the historic character of Maudslay.

We are excited to announce that at the end of March the MSPA was awarded a matching partnership grant in the amount of \$4,000 from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) through its Partnerships Matching Funds Program.

This grant will go toward repairing and repointing the brick wall surrounding the courtyard on the way to the formal gardens.

Park supervisor Rob Kovacs and DCR will oversee the project. The MSPA will contribute \$2,000 toward the project, which is expected to be completed this summer.

Save the Date for Park Serve Day

The DCR's fourth annual Park Serve Day will be held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to noon, in state parks and beaches across the Commonwealth, including Maudslay.

Since 2006, thousands of volunteers have participated in numerous projects such as picking up litter, clearing debris from trails, planting flowers, and painting.

Last year, the tremendous response to Park Serve Day illustrated just how much Massachusetts residents value their state parks and are willing to join in the shared stewardship of these important natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Please contact the park at 978-465-7223 for more details.

Thank You for Your Annual Support!

Your personal investment in the Park continues to enhance and improve this wonderful natural resource. Over the past year, the MSPA has assisted the park by helping with interpretive programs for children, maintaining the beautiful flowers in the formal gardens, planting new trees, and purchasing a computer for archiving historic park photographs. Your annual membership shows that you share our goal of preserving and protecting the natural beauty of this unique state park. Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you at Maudslay.